



**BRAND NEW LUXURY HOTEL SUITES**

**STARTING Q.R 5500**  
1BEDROOM

**BOOK NOW**

+974 4419 1000 +974 3990 0200

**Central Inn Al Sadd**



**talabatmart**

**Shop Win Win Win**



Get a chance to win when your order is worth over 75 QAR!

Shop with Confidence 15001

**Sky Vision Real Estate Offer**

**Labour Room 1,350/- per Room @ Industrial Area, Street-38,43,44,37 (5,10,20,30 Rooms available)**

**Warehouse 300sqm-Qrs.13,000/-**

**Warehouse 600sqm-Qrs.19,500/-**

**Call: 33598672, 52038746, 50576993**

**homesrus**

**MEGA OFFER**

NEW PRICES ON ALL ITEMS  
15 AUG - 30 SEPT 2023

Hyatt Plaza | Place Vendôme (Lusail) | Ezzan Mall - Al Wakra  
Mall of Qatar | Now Open - City Center Doha

800 4787 7048 5999

SHOP online: [www.homesrus.qa](http://www.homesrus.qa)

**GULF TIMES**

TUESDAY Vol. XXXXIII No. 12779  
September 26, 2023  
Rabia I 11, 1445 AH

[www.gulf-times.com](http://www.gulf-times.com) 2 Riyals

[www.gulf-times.com](http://www.gulf-times.com) [gulftimes](#) [GulfTimes\\_QATAR](#) [gulftimes](#) [GulftimesVideos](#)

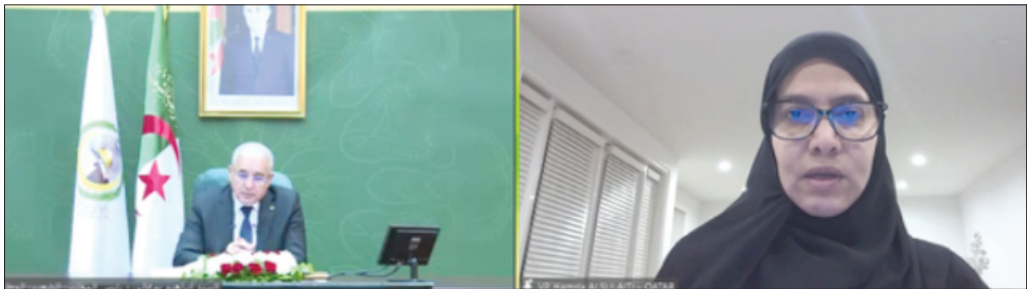
Together we can **vodafone** You know it's a GigaHome **G** when speed starts at 1Gbps  [vf.qa/GigaHome](http://vf.qa/GigaHome)

An advertisement for the Gulf Times Education supplement. The background is a solid blue. On the left, white text reads: "Today's **GULF TIMES** includes a 52-page supplement on **Education**". Below this, a QR code is labeled "Scan here To Read ONLINE". On the right, a photograph shows a young boy in a blue shirt watering small plants in pots. He is holding a white watering can. The plants are in brown pots, some with green seedlings. The text "IMPORTANCE OF ME TIME FOR CHILDREN" is visible on the left side of the photo, and "MASTERING WORDS IN THE DIGITAL AGE" is on the right. The word "Education" is written in a large, white, serif font at the top of the photo. In the foreground, a woman with long blonde hair is smiling and looking at a book. A young girl with dark hair is sitting next to her, also smiling and looking at the book. They are both holding pens and appear to be studying or reading together. The book they are looking at has a red cover. The overall scene is bright and positive, suggesting a focus on learning and education.





# Shura deputy Speaker says Qatar at forefront of interfaith dialogue



**H**E the Shura Council Deputy Speaker, Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti, has asserted that Qatar is one of the world's most influential countries in dialogue and communication among followers of religions and civilisations, which enabled it to achieve internal societal harmony among its residents who hail from a variety of nationalities, as well as in holding conferences of interfaith dialogue and alliance of civilisations that has gained popular support.

This came during her remarks yesterday before the conference of councils of OIC member states that was virtually held, to discuss and study ways to prevent recurrent desecrations of the Holy Qur'an.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti said Qatar has issued numerous regulations and laws that overtly combat discrimination, hatred and acts that lead to fomenting racial feuds and has hosted several conferences and events in interfaith dialogue and alliance of civilisations, in addition to establishing centres and their relevant committees, and launched initiatives for global awards.

She outlined that the last two decades witnessed a growing pace of internal conflicts, as well as religious and ethnic violence in many countries, pointing out that over 50 countries witnessed bloody confrontations that targeted religious and ethnic minorities.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti called on the international community to strive essentially and diligently to find avenues to criminalise the practices that lead to these criminal acts through enacting international legislation and efficient implementation mechanisms.

She regretted over faltered endeavours to issue an international legislation that criminalises blasphemy and compromising religious symbols due to the discrepancy in attitudes of nations on the trade-off between upholding the value of freedom of expression and individual freedoms, and the right to freedom of belief and protection of religious sanctities and symbols.

She recalled that many Islamic countries, governments, and organisations have laid out initiatives and proposals to achieve equilibrium between criminalis-

ing blasphemy, offending religious sanctities and protecting human fundamental freedom.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti pointed to the endeavours that the Shura Council pursues to present an urgent article to be included in the agenda of the 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly held in Bahrain last March, on criminalising blasphemy. She called on nations to never give up in keep issuing international laws and legislations that criminalise Islamophobia and infringement of Islamic and religious sanctities, symbols, adding that parliamentarians are vested with the responsibility of protecting Muslims and non-Muslims, as well as preserving religious sanctities and symbols everywhere, particularly in the Islamic communities, as well as in strengthening the tools that solidify their unity and cohesion and repudiating everything that poses a threat to them, such as conflicts, disputes and religious and ethnic wars.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti urged all parliamentarians to reject blasphemy and offending religious sanctities, in addition to setting regulations and solutions to preclude social media from fomenting feuds or seditions.

She said Muslim parliamentarians can request issuing an international law that overtly criminalises Islamophobia instead of blasphemy, because some countries are more interested in freedom of expression than freedom of worship and religious conversion, and they are more interested in criminalising hate speech and racism than the desecration of religious sanctities and symbols.

During her remarks, HE Dr al-Sulaiti proposed for the union of councils of member states of OIC to communicate and co-ordinate among Arab and Islamic parliaments through their legislative councils to issue a joint statement officially directed to the secretary-general of the UN including condemnation of the provocative acts perpetrated by extremists in several European countries, represented in burning of the Holy Qur'an and offending Muslims' feelings and values, under the pretext of freedom of expression. **(QNA)**

## Qatar condemns tearing of Qur'an copies in Hague

**Q**atar has strongly condemned the tearing of copies of the Holy Qur'an in front of a number of countries' embassies in the Dutch city of The Hague, considering this vile incident as a planned act of incitement and a serious provocation intended to stir up public opinion and to inflame the feelings of Muslims.

In a statement on Sunday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned that allowing infringement of the Holy Qur'an under the pretext of freedom of expression fuels hatred and violence and threatens

peaceful coexistence. The ministry stressed Qatar's complete rejection of all forms of hate speech based on belief, race or religion, and also warned that hate campaigns against Islam and Islamophobic speech have witnessed a dangerous escalation with the continued systematic calls to repeatedly target Muslims in the world.

The ministry renewed Qatar's full support for the values of tolerance and its keenness to establish the principles of international peace and security through dialogue and understanding. **(QNA)**

## Qatar's strides in digitalisation earn praise at ISA Automation Conference



**S**peakers at the International Society of Automation (ISA) Automation Conference 2023, which kicked off yesterday in Doha, hailed Qatar's major digitalisation strides, especially in oil and gas industry, underscoring the importance of coping with digital transformation developments amid rapid AI changes.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), ISA Vice-President - Europe Middle East & Africa, Dr Solomon Almadi, hailed Qatar as the first Middle East country to host such a gathering of international automation leaders, an event which used to be convened in Europe over the past 75 years.

He commended Qatar's achievements in digital transformation and organisation of major global events such as the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, prompting ISA to select Doha as a venue for this year's conference.

Almadi added the attendees seek to develop industrial standards that take into account the multi-field transformations thanks to intelligence and cybersecurity, including in oil and gas industry, and to connect ME-based industrial and academic institutions and experts.

The event is being held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha, under the theme of 'Digitalisation in Oil & Gas Industry' and it brings together over 200 automation specialists from various oil and gas companies in Qatar and those interested in the oil industry around the world.



ISA Qatar Section Member and Chairperson of IMCO, engineer Nasser Jeham al-Kuwari, highlighted Qatar's advanced digital transformation efforts in all fields, stressing the importance of digital systems in raising the efficiency of oil and gas industry at the level of production, maintenance, security and for cutting costs and carbon emissions.

ISA Qatar Section President Nialangshu Dey lauded Qatar's accelerated automation growth in the oil, gas, petrochemical and energy industries in line with the country's multi-field rapid economic growth.

In a bid to maintain global oil

and gas sustainability, the event included an exhibition of the cutting-edge digital programmes and solutions as well as nine papers presented by industry experts selected from various countries.

ISA sets the exclusive engineering standards for automation for various industries by helping over 50,000 worldwide members and other 300,000 automation professionals. It also develops industry standards, certifies industry professionals and provides education, training, publishes books and technical articles and hosts conferences, exhibitions for automation professionals worldwide. **(QNA)**

## Minister says Qatar's Digital Factory aims to blend cutting-edge technology into societal ethos

**H**E the Minister of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) Mohamed bin Ali al-Mannai said that the launch of the "Digital Factory" in Qatar embodies the country's commitment to seamlessly blend cutting-edge technology into our societal ethos.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has formally announced a significant initiative — the Digital Factory. Originating from a strategic partnership with the global professional services company Accenture, the Digital Factory aims to fundamentally transform the modality through which government digital services are delivered, pivoting from the existing multi-channel framework to a more integrative, unified model.

The minister said that this step heralds a phase characterised by unparalleled innovation, operational efficiency, and user-centricity.

MCIT explained that the launch of the "Digital Factory" comes within the framework of digital transformation in Qatar and aims to provide more integrated and comprehensive digital services.

The primary goal of the factory's work is to refine digital governance by delivering solutions that are consistent with the requirements of a modern digital society.

The "Digital Factory's" approach is comprehensive, encompassing state-of-the-art infrastructure, advanced data aggregation, government data exchange, and core segments such as the Data & Intelligence Hub, Human Experience Design, and Innovation Delivery.

Integrating sophisticated technologies like AI and blockchain, the Digital Factory is poised to assert its primacy in the realm of digital service development.

Over an articulated span of three years, the Dig-

ital Factory has outlined its operational trajectory. The commencement year is dedicated to enhancing services predominantly for citizens and residents. By the subsequent year, the agenda broadens to address the digital requisites of businesses and visitors, anticipating tangible benefits including an augmentation in Total Factor Productivity, initiation of citizen opportunities, and a substantial enhancement to the digital contribution towards Qatar's GDP.

The ministry explained that the present challenges underscore the Digital Factory's need. With 35% of government services encountering procedural delays, 45% poised for full-scale digitisation, and a mere 27% of the population currently utilising e-services, the Digital Factory manifests as Qatar's strategic response, underscoring MCIT's unwavering dedication to elevating the digital service standard for all stakeholders.

Emphasising the importance of the strategic role of the digital factory, research reveals that 41% of government services are designed to coincide with relevant life events and user interactions. Moreover, 95% are oriented towards proactive digital citizen engagement, with 64% able to adjust to changing digital needs, and 53% able to adapt to new societal needs and rules.

Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Accenture, Julie Sweet, said: "Through innovative technologies and our combined expertise, we will work together to create a modern, model digital infrastructure that will help Qatar more effectively serve its citizens, businesses and visitors." Beyond its immediate objectives, the Digital Factory's vision is to equip government agencies with a robust platform and state-of-the-art tools for forthcoming endeavours, thus helping them create or adjust services as society's needs change. **(QNA)**

**Micro Health Laboratories**  
.....for precious life

**GULF TIMES**

*You are cordially invited..*

**Introducing the Department of Genetics & Genomics to Qatar's Medical Community & Grand Launch of Cytogenetics Department**

**Launching of Dept. of Cytogenetics at Micro Health Laboratories-Qatar:**  
**Prof. Badreldeen Ahmed**  
FRCOG, MD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Weill Cornell Medical College, Director of Feto Maternal Centre

**FOR REGISTRATION**

**Keynote Presentation:**

**Dr. Justin Carlus**  
Consultant Clinical Scientist & Human Molecular Geneticist, Micro Health Laboratories

**Ms. Surabhi Ganga**  
Cytogeneticist & Operations Manager, Micro Health Laboratories - Kozhikode

**Join us for the Grand Launch of Cytogenetics Department**

**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 @ 06:30 PM**

**Al Diwan Hall, Gulf Paradise Hotel (Sarmad Holiday Home Doha) Gulf Street, Doha Qatar**

**Panel Discussion on New Trends in Clinical Genetics & Genomics**

**Board of Clinical Expertise**

**Dr Atiyeh Abdallah**  
FHEA, FIBMS, ASCPI  
Assistant Professor & Graduate Program Coordinator, College of Health Sciences, QU Health, Qatar University

**Dr. Regi Sukhmani**  
HSG, Qatar

**Dr. Shikant**  
HSG, Qatar

**Dr. Sagit Khan**  
HSG, Qatar

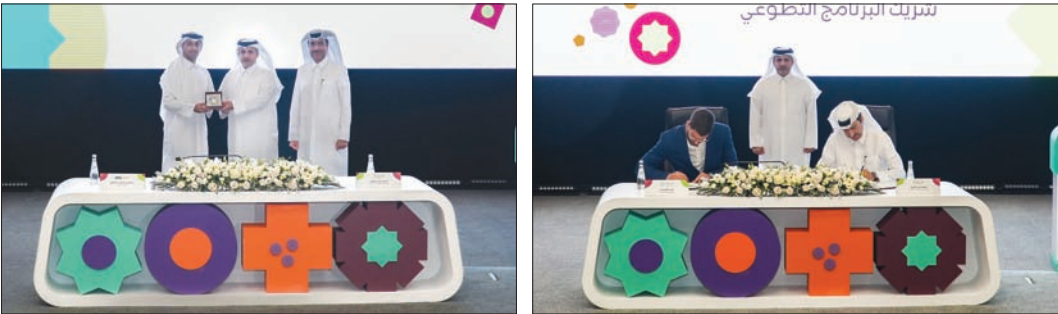
**Dinner will be served after the session**

**VISION MICRO 2025**

INDIA | QATAR | DUBAI | GHANA | BANGLADESH



# Expo 2023 Doha announces four new partnerships



Expo 2023 Doha yesterday announced partnerships with QNB, Mazzraty, Al Abdulghani Motors and Floward in the presence of HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie.

Expo 2023 Doha secretary-general Mohamed Ali al-Khouri signed separate agreements with QNB Group chief operating officer Ali Rashid al-Mohannadi, Mazzraty board member and Al Mana Group business development manager Saad al-Mana, Al Abdulghani Motors CEO Abdulghani Nasser al-Abdulghani and Floward's chief growth officer Mohamed al-Areifi.

QNB is the strategic banking partner, Mazzraty the sustainable food partner, Al Abdulghani Motors the exclusive transport partner and Floward the volunteer programme partner.

Al-Khouri said the partnership agreement with Mazzraty enhances the commitment to highlight sustainable initiatives through Expo 2023 Doha.

Al-Mana said the new partnership agreement between Mazzraty and Expo 2023 Doha aligns perfectly with Mazzraty's commitment to sustainability in all aspects of our operations.

Participants and visitors in Expo 2023 Doha can enjoy a variety of sustainable food options provided by Mazzraty in line with



their commitment to providing a unique and environmentally conscious experience for everyone.

The new partnership agreement will contribute to launching several sustainable food initiatives, from fresh, ready-to-consume agricultural products to measures to reduce food waste. This will ensure that Expo 2023 Doha leaves a legacy of responsible consumption and sustainable production.

"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Al Abdulghani Motors. This collaboration is set to drive a future of innovative transportation, aligning with our mutual aspirations and vision for seamless mobility experiences," Expo 2023 Doha tweeted.

Al-Areifi, said: "Floward is committed to supporting positive change in the volunteer programme and at the exhibition, especially considering the pivotal role of volunteers in the success of the expo. Our collaboration aims

to provide a sustainable, productive, and impactful volunteering experience."

Expo 2023 Doha, being held from October 2, 2023 to March 28, 2024, is expected to have participation from 80 countries and the arrival of 3mn visitors to Doha. Entry to Expo 2023 Doha is free for all visitors, according to information available on Qatar Tourism application Visit Qatar. It was also announced recently that the Hayya Card option will be in place for the visitors to the six-month expo.

The Hayya Card was launched during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 as a Fan ID that allowed ticket-holders' entry into Qatar and the stadiums, while giving them free access to metro and bus services.

The Ministry of Interior extended the validity of the Hayya Card, allowing the card holders from outside the country to enter Qatar until January 24, 2024.

## QNB Group joins Expo 2023 Doha as strategic banking partner

QNB Group has announced its "strategic banking partnership" of Expo 2023 Doha Qatar, the first A1 International Horticultural Exhibition in Qatar, the Middle East, and North Africa, being held from October 2 to March 28, 2024, at Al Bidda Park.

QNB Group chief operating officer Ali Rashid al-Mohannadi and Expo 2023 Doha Qatar secretary-general Mohamed Ali al-Khouri signed an agreement highlighting the strategic partnership.

The signing took place in the presence of HE the Minister of Municipality, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie and QNB Group CEO Abdulla Mubarak al-Khalifa.



QNB Group chief operating officer Ali Rashid al-Mohannadi and Expo 2023 Doha Qatar secretary-general Mohamed Ali al-Khouri signed the agreement yesterday in the presence of HE the Minister of Municipality, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie and QNB Group CEO Abdulla Mubarak al-Khalifa.

This partnership comes as a clear testament to QNB's continuous efforts to take an active part in projects of sustainability. It also aligns with one of the major Group's Corporate Social Responsibility pillars to advocate and help build a better society and contribute to a better world.

As a strategic banking partner, the Group's partnership plays a vital role in the ethos of Expo 2023 Doha Qatar, which will explore the theme of "Green Desert, Better Environment" to support sustainable practices and to face global challenges.

Commenting on the partnership, al-Mohannadi said: "We are extremely pleased to participate as a strategic banking partner of Expo 2023 Doha Qatar, which marks the importance of our role and dedication to promote sustainable innovations. "We believe that this partnership will solidify our brand's positioning when it comes to sustainability agenda and for us to be an active part in one of the largest international events of the year"

Al-Khouri stated: "We are

pleased that QNB Group is joining Expo 2023 Doha Qatar, a landmark event in our nation. Our shared values, objectives, and vision for our country's future align perfectly. Emphasising sustainability is vital to guarantee a prosperous and healthy future for upcoming generations. Expo 2023 Doha Qatar will serve as a global platform for official entities to collaborate, exchange ideas, and formulate strategies to combat desertification and climate change."

QNB Group is committed to positively impacting the environment and society for a more diverse economy. The Group's sustainability framework consists of three pillars: sustainable finance, sustainable operations, and beyond banking, and more specifically through its corporate social responsibility due to its long-term effect on the communities it serves and operates at.

It is worth noting that QNB Group Strategy Committee is responsible for managing all matters relating to the sustainability programme, including the

Group's initiatives and efforts in the sustainability framework.

By integrating sustainability into the Group's core business operations and leveraging innovation, it strives to impact the environment, society, and governance practices positively. This approach aligns the business with the broader goals of sustainability and responsible banking and embeds sustainability into the Group's business and operating model.

Some of the sustainable operations that the Group successfully executed include Cutting GHG emissions, QNB Finansbank fully operating on renewables, and the Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) policy framework.

When it comes to green financing, QNB Qatar has executed green mortgages and loans, as well as Corporate and Institutional Green Banking, which plays a crucial role for QNB in terms of sustainable finance due to its significant impact on financing and the ability to drive positive environmental and societal change.

## Qatar, Bahamas sign air services deal

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Investment and Aviation of the Bahamas Isaac Chester Cooper signed yesterday an air services agreement between Qatar and Bahamas. The agreement comes in the context of connecting Qatar with air services agreements that open airspace for the national carrier to fly to more destinations around the world.

Following the signing ceremony, al-Sulaiti held talks with Cooper, Minister for Grand Bahama Ginger Moxey, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Zane Lightbourne and discussed aspects of Qatari-Bahamian co-operation in the areas of transport, civil aviation, marine navigation and ports, and ways to further develop them. The meeting discussed avenues of co-operation between Qatar and the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in transport and communications, civil aviation, maritime navigation, and ports. (QNA)



## Qatar holds workshop in preparation for COP28



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change organised a workshop as part of its preparations to participate in the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which will be held in the UAE, in co-operation with the Office of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

The workshop, held on Sept 25-26, is aimed at building capabilities for climate change negotiation processes, and to provide stakeholders and participants with knowledge about the scientific, strategic aspects of climate change issues, in addition to providing insights that enable them to achieve an impact on global climate change negotiations, as well as including practical training on strategies to enable participants to make the most of COP28.

Assistant Undersecretary for Climate Affairs Eng Ahmed Mohamed al-Sada explained that climate change is a global challenge that requires co-operation and joint effort in order to preserve the planet Earth, pointing out the effects of climate change that represent a threat to the future generations, and added that COP28 represents an opportunity to enhance co-operation between countries to achieve real progress in combating

climate change at the global level. Eng al-Sada reviewed the achievements of Qatar in combating climate change, by taking many measures over the past years for the Qatar National Vision 2030, which represented in developing a national strategy for environment and climate change, and preparing a detailed national action plan to combat climate change (NCCAP) continuing until 2030, and the National Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% from all sectors by 2030. He noted that Qatar is currently implementing many initiatives, such as improving energy efficiency, operating renewable energy plants, and introducing carbon capture and storage technologies.

He added that COP28 is considered the most prominent annual climate event in the world this year, expecting the conference to strengthen global efforts to confront climate change, by focusing on important issues. For his part, Chiden Balmes, Programme Lead of the Global Green Growth Institute in Qatar, stressed the importance of the workshop in spreading awareness about climate change issues and increasing ambition to address its impacts, noting that understanding the details of the climate change negotiation processes at the conference is crucial. (QNA)

باسمعة جورتاون قطر  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY QATAR



HIWARAAT CONFERENCE SERIES  
**GLOBAL HISTORIES & PRACTICES OF ISLAMOPHOBIA**

**September 30 – October 1, 2023**  
**Four Seasons Hotel Doha - Qatar**

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

**Experts speaking at the conference include:**  
With Arabic Translation



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool**  
Founder of the World for All Foundation



**John Esposito**  
Georgetown University



**Salman Sayyid**  
University of Leeds



**Sana Saeed**  
AJ+



<https://hiwaraat.qatar.georgetown.edu/islamophobia/>



HIWARAAT  
مجلس الحوار  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IN QATAR  
الجامعة الدولية لجورجتاون في قطر





# PHCC Wellness Centre provides tailored plans

The Wellness Centre at the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) works to help adults with obesity, unhealthy lifestyles and chronic diseases to make positive lifestyle choices and behavioural changes to achieve a balance in physical, mental, and emotional health.

People may benefit from the services by visiting their family doctor who will conduct clinical assessments and understand the health, psychological and environmental factors associated with unhealthy lifestyles to determine the level of risk and initiate the correct referral pathway, either directly to the gym or to health coach and exercise physiologist clinics.

The Wellness Centre offers a 12-week physical activity programme, which includes three checkpoints: initially, six weeks and 12 weeks, a statement said yesterday. Monitoring indicators including body measurements, body composition analysis, and assessment of flexibility, balance, posture, cardiopulmonary fitness, and muscular endurance will enable corrective action to be taken and modify the programme based on need and progress.

Dr Sarah Rashid Musa, community medicine specialist and wellness in charge at Rawdat Al Khail Health Centre, explained that the top priority for the centre is to ensure the



Dr Sarah Rashid Musa

safety of patients through various precautions and measures.

Mokhtar Ahmad Edrees, a gym instructor at Rawdat Al Khail, stressed the importance of a pre-programme clinical assessment that includes the input of a doctor and an exercise physiologist to develop an appropriate wellness plan.

He said that a clear, comprehensive picture of the patient's background and circumstances guides in designing and monitoring

the effectiveness of the programme.

"By the end of the 12th week, as sports coaches, we are obligated to write a discharge summary consisting of the goals achieved in terms of improvement in symptoms of the condition, lifestyle, physical activity performance/adherence, any incidents encountered during the programme and assess the overall improvement in quality of life."

Beya al-Saddiq Kacem, a gym instructor at Rawdat Al Khail, added that, she has received patients from diverse medical backgrounds, which makes every day a challenge to evaluate the risks and benefits, and plan a programme to enhance functionality and reduce risk of injuries.

For example, clients with diabetes or high blood pressure should start with supervised exercise sessions, low to moderate intensity exercises such as yoga or Pilates focusing more on resistance exercises, learning/improving movement techniques, working with body weights, and flexibility and breathing.

For patients who suffer from joint problems and back pain, they must stay away in the first stage from some sports equipment and classes with high intensity, jumping, or heavy weights. Resistance exercise should be light, with body weight or elastic bands, and with supervision and well-proven techniques.

## Amir condoles with Amir of Kuwait

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah on the death of Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah. (QNA)

## QCS chief receives WHO representative



Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jabor al-Thani, chairman of Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), received yesterday Dr Rayana Bou Haka, World Health Organisation representative in Qatar. They discussed ways of co-operation through joint programmes and shared QCS's progress and programmes.

The meeting highlighted the latest developments in cancer control and in supporting, empowering, and advocating those living with

cancer as well as professional development and scientific research in cancer. The meeting also presented the health care services available in Qatar concerning cancer, especially the charity.

Dr Bou Haka toured the QCS Cancer Awareness Centre and was given a brief of the programmes. She, praised QCS efforts in promoting the culture of early detection of the disease, raising awareness, and supporting people living with cancer.



# Cinfa hosts event in Doha to celebrate achievements

The European pharmaceutical laboratory Cinfa organised a gala dinner in Doha in the presence of a number of dignitaries, a statement said yesterday.

Spanish ambassador Javier Carbajosa Sánchez, Khalid Group/Khalid Scientific Group CEO Dr Hisham al-Hout, representatives from the Qatari medical community and officials from the Economic and Commercial Office of the Spanish embassy in Qatar were present.

Dr al-Hout said: "Khalid Scientific Pharma Division, as Cinfa's exclusive partner in Qatar, celebrate our collective achievements and unwavering dedica-

tion to healthcare excellence."

Ambassador Sánchez said that the embassy is fully committed to supporting business initiatives that will strengthen the private sectors of both countries, as well as the commercial relations between Spain and Qatar.

"As a 100% Spanish-owned enterprise, Cinfa has consistently demonstrated its dedication to improve healthcare accessibility while maintaining the highest quality standards. In its home country, it dominates the pharmaceutical market, leading both in terms of product value and the number of treatments dispensed in retail pharmacies," the statement explained.

"Cinfa, which operates in over 100 countries, has dedicated \$440mn for research and development over the past decade, and collaborates with more than 80 universities and research centres across the globe, fostering an environment of continuous improvement and advancement.

"Cinfa's product range is comprehensive, covering prescription medicines, Consumer Health Care (CHC) Solutions, mobility, and personal care products. In the Middle East, Cinfa has made a significant impact, collaborating with more than 8,500 medical centres and pharmacies in Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," the statement added.

## HMC performs 417 surgical procedures to treat spinal injuries since 2022

Surgeons at the Bone and Joint Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) have performed 417 surgical procedures to treat spinal injuries or deformities from the beginning of 2022 until mid September 2023, using the latest therapeutic techniques and medical devices.

Dr Alaa Zaqout, spine surgery consultant at Bone and Joint Centre, said: "There were 100 surgical procedures for spinal fracture fixation, 233 for cervical spine conditions, including 65 vertebral fixation surgeries, in addition to 38 for the thoracic and lumbar spine, and 43 for correcting spinal deformities along with three surgical procedures for cases of spinal cancer."

Dr Mohamed al-Ateeq al-Dosari, senior consultant and head, Orthopaedic Surgery Department, and director of the Bone and Joint Centre, said that the centre performs various types of surgical procedures using advanced surgical techniques, which offer many advantages and positive results in treating patients.

Dr Zaqout said the success rates match global standards and meet the highest quality and safety criteria. These surgeries included scoliosis correction for children before puberty without affecting spinal growth using magnetic devices.



Dr Mohamed al-Ateeq al-Dosari



Dr Alaa Zaqout

Dr Zaqout noted: "We have performed surgeries for patients who previously had surgeries abroad, and it is known that surgical intervention on a previously operated spine injury is technically challenging due to scarring and adhesions, which increase the surgical complications. We recently performed a specialised surgery that involved the complete removal of a vertebra and spinal fixation."

He said that individuals at risk of spinal injuries are drivers, and most cervical and lumbar disc degeneration cases are related to lack of physical activity, weight gain, and poor neck posture, especially in front of computers and mobile phones.

He noted that HMC is preparing to launch a joint programme

with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to raise awareness and conduct early detection of spinal injuries. This programme aims to provide better treatment opportunities and reduce disability rates based on data from at least 500 patients with spinal deformities in Qatar.

Dr Zaqout said that these surgeries were previously performed by visiting doctors, or patients were sent abroad for treatment. "However, today, they are conducted at Hamad Medical Corporation as part of a systematic scientific advancement of medical teams, continuous training, and missions for medical staff, along with the enhancement of medical capabilities and the provision of state-of-the-art equipment," he added.

## QatarEnergy LNG

### Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/IRE/6281/23 PROVISION OF CIPS & DCVG SURVEYS FOR CATHODICALLY PROTECTED PIPELINES	25/09/2023 to 02/10/2023	0	0	16/10/2023

**Scope of Work:**  
Contractor shall provide on call-off basis Provision of CIPS & DCVG Surveys For Cathodically Protected Pipelines at Qatargas facilities (South, North, Barzan, NFPS and NFXP). Contract duration will be for period of 7 years with an option to extend for 3 years.

**Bid Validity:** Bid should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

**Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:**  
ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

**Note:** Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that have been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/US>

## Sidra Medicine publishes paediatric oncology report

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has published its "Paediatric Oncology Report 2022", sharing the epidemiological data of nearly 400 paediatric patients to give researchers insights into the distribution of the various types of cancers. It also presents the research departments sampling of the eight most prevalent cancer types by year of diagnosis.

With haematological (33%) and solid tumours (67%) similar to other countries, the report highlights leukaemia (80%) as the most common blood cancer in young patients, while brain tumours (32%) and lymphoma (15%), are the most common types of solid tumours. The report is a synergetic initiative between the research and clinical services at Sidra Medicine to enable personalised medicine strategies for children and young people with cancer.

In addition, the report features the multidisciplinary pathways across cancer care and research, and how pathology, genomics, bioinformatics are integrated into the hospitals speciality services such as oncology haematology, neurosciences, neurosurgery. It also highlights examples of molecular based precision oncology reports on somatic mutations, fusion genes and cancer predisposition.

Division Chief of Hematology and Oncology at Sidra Medicine Dr Ayman Saleh said: "We firmly believe that our programmes will empower paediatric patients to benefit from the seismic shift in cancer treatment, led by targeted and immunotherapy trials. This is what makes paediatric cancer care at our hospital so unique where diagnosis, care, treatment and finding the best therapies are initiated at the same time." (QNA)

### Public Announcement

To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners  
Offshore Construction, Surveys & Miscellaneous Activities

Offshore activities of Horizon Echo to perform NFXP Offshore Project Pre-Construction Anchor Clearance Geophysical Survey, Various Surveys (Including Recovery & Re-deployment of Wave Rider Buoys for Maintenance) & other Miscellaneous Activities from 04 September 2023 to 01 December 2023.

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Registration and Seafarers Affairs, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen that QatarEnergy LNG intends to undertake the NFXP Offshore Project Pre-Construction Anchor Clearance Geophysical Survey, Various Surveys (Including Recovery & Re-deployment of Wave Rider Buoys for Maintenance) & other Miscellaneous Activities in the area bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the project installations area and survey area during the whole period of operation.

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

للمعلومات بهذا الشأن يرجى الاتصال على ٤٤٧٣ ٦٠٠٠

**For Queries call 4473 6000**



# Wellkins to open its first healthcare facility tomorrow

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

The Wellkins Medical Centre will be formally inaugurated tomorrow after a soft launch was held some time earlier.

Dr Sameer Moopan, with decades of healthcare legacy and 23 years of experience in Qatar, has launched his new healthcare brand “Wellkins.”

The first Wellkins medical centre, adjacent to Radisson Blu and Salwa Road, will be dedicated to the citizens, residents and visitors of Qatar, officials announced yesterday.

The announcement was made at a press conference chaired by Dr Sameer Moopan, chairman and managing director along with Senil Jaffer, co-founder, Nikhil Joseph, chief operating officer and Dr Jacob Neil medical director.

The first unit of Wellkins Medical Centre will initially provide outpatient facilities in different medical specialties including Internal Medicine, General Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics,



Officials of Wellkins at the press conference yesterday. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Orthopaedics, ENT, Dermatology, Dental along with Radiology, Laboratory and Pharmacy.

Dr Moopan said: “We have poured our hearts and souls into creating a healthcare destination that prioritises patient care, innovation, and holistic wellness. The core of our endeavour will always be to provide quality healthcare for everyone at an affordable cost. It’s a momentous occasion for each one of us. I am excited to welcome everyone to the dedication ceremony of our first centre on 27th morning.”

Talking about the facility, Joseph said, “We have added new innovations like AI to make our service easier for everyone. Our integrated digital health locker allows our patients to get their test results, prescriptions, and appointments through WhatsApp and our website from anywhere in the world. We’ll be working as a naturally friendly office where we use paperless documentation and only use 100% recycled paper in Qatar for letterheads, visiting cards among others.”

According to Dr Neil the centre

will mainly focus on providing primary care services for all ages.

“We also offer an array of specialised facilities, including health checkups, corporate medical solutions, vaccinations, dental care, and cosmetology procedures. We’ll have continuous development of the quality of services provided to meet the needs of patients and ensure their access to quality healthcare in a safe, professional environment and according to the best standards.”

## Wellkins offers QR100 inaugural promo

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

Wellkins Medical Centre has launched an inaugural promotion offer of unlimited doctor consultations for a year for just QR100, as its first facility formally opens tomorrow, a top official said.

Wellkins will expand to other locations in the country with two branches to be set up in the near future, the official added.

“To mark the occasion, we are offering a privilege card for QR100, which provides unlimited doctor consultation in any department for a year and it will also provide 30% discount on all other services except pharmacy. Residents can apply for this privilege card till October 31, 2023 by visiting our facility,” said Dr Sameer Moopan, chairman and managing director, Wellkins.

Dr Moopan noted that the

current facility offers services in Internal Medicine, General Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Orthopaedics, ENT, Dermatology, Dental.

“We have also plans to add more departments in the very near future which include Cardiology, Urology, Gastroenterology among others. We have a well set team of physicians, nurses and other paramedical staff who have a great wealth of knowledge and experience,” he explained.

Dr Moopan said two locations have already been identified for expansion of the brand Wellkins.

“We have made the feasibility studies and two locations have been identified for the expansion of the services. One is Ras Laffan in Al Khor where there is a significant population and the other location is Industrial Area. We are working on the projects and hopefully in 2024 they would be operational,” added the official.

# QU wins big in UREP competition

Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a division of the Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council, held the 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Experience Programme (UREP) competition yesterday.

Qatar University (QU) won most positions.

In the poster presentation category, QU secured the first three places. The first place went to the project, ‘Microbiota and Mycotoxins in Arabic Coffee and Their Biological Control by Using Bacterial Volatiles’.

The second-place winners were two projects: ‘Investigation of Putative Transcription Factors That Can Improve Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Generation’ and ‘Exploring the Influence of Power Paradox on Driving Behaviour and Traffic Safety’.

The third place was for ‘Smart Multilayered Polymeric Coatings for Corrosion Protection of Steel’.

In the oral presentation category QU won the first three positions.

‘Cyclist Safety on Local Roads: Quantitative & Qualitative Assessment’ claimed first place. The second place was awarded to ‘Investigation of the Prevalence of Fungi (Aspergillus, Penicillium, and Fusarium) and Mycotoxins in Qatari Date Palm Fruits’, while the third place went to ‘Gene Expression Profiling of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Stem Cells’.

The competition also recognised the winners of the Best Representative Image of an Outcome which celebrates visual communication of scientific concepts and research in Qatar through art.



Three winners from the competition.

The contest received 24 entries and garnered more than 1,500 votes from the public and Qatar’s scientific and academic sector.

The top three contest winners were Hend Salah Fayed from Hamad Bin Khalifa University for ‘Lab-Grown Blood Vessels Photo’, Dr Mohsin Alanasi from QU for ‘Largest Herd of Dugong Sighted off Qatar’, and Adnan Khan from Texas A&M University at Qatar for ‘Methane Reformer Microstructure’.

A panel of 16 judges, comprising industry and academic experts, evaluated the poster presentations. Projects were assessed based on their significance, research outcomes, student learning experience, and presentation quality.

The annual competition aimed to encourage undergraduate students in Qatar to strengthen the country’s research infrastructure through participation in research projects led by their academic supervisors.

Dr Hisham M Sabir, execu-

tive director, QNRF Programme Office, said, “Through the 15th UREP competition, we celebrate the boundless potential of our student researchers in Qatar. As we award these outstanding projects, we also invest in Qatar’s research future, nurturing the catalysts of innovation that will drive our RDI ecosystem forward. Together, we forge a path toward excellence in scientific research, ensuring the enduring strength of Qatar’s knowledge landscape.”

Students from other academic institutions in Qatar, such as University of Doha for Science and Technology, University of Calgary in Qatar, and Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar, also showcased their research projects. The topics spanned a wide spectrum, including environment and energy, social arts and humanities, biomedical and health, and information and communication technology.

This year’s UREP competition featured 29 poster presentations from six academic institutes and five oral presentations from QU.

## talabat joins hands with Enavra

The region’s leading platform for everyday deliveries, talabat, has joined hands with Enavra, the first premium and high-quality bioplastic manufacturers in Qatar, a statement said yesterday.

The collaboration supports talabat’s long-term commitment to supporting homegrown businesses and local entrepreneurs, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Enavra was established in 2019 by Qatari entrepreneurs Abdullah Shaat and Saoud al-Emadi, who had the vision of building and promoting large-scale manufacturing and distribution of indigenous, sustainable and biodegradable line of cutlery products in Qatar.

Several restaurants availing the services of talabat app have already started benefiting from Enavra cutlery and by the end of 2023, many more restaurants are set to join hands with Enavra.

In a press statement, talabat managing director Francisco



Miguel Condeco Caetano De Sousa said: “As a prominent incubator in the community, talabat is delighted to extend its steadfast commitment to the local entrepreneurial spirit, going beyond our regular operations. We are dedicated to nurturing and empowering local visionaries and facilitating the growth and establishment of Qatari businesses in this fast-evolving industry. This partnership with Enavra is merely the start of a long-lasting collaboration, and we are wholeheartedly enthusiastic about providing unwavering support every step of the way”.

Shaat, Enavra co-founder, expressed his delight on the occasion, saying: “It has always been a dream of ours to make a difference by contributing to the community in Qatar through creating a niche line of products which complement Qatar’s long-term sustainability goals.

“We are excited to join hands with talabat, which has given us the perfect space, resources and connections to grow our business further. Together we can make a positive and work towards serving the Qatari community and changing the way in which the Qatari population uses bioplastics”.

Enavra’s cutlery products are crafted from bioplastics, engineered for an eco-friendly decomposition, leaving no ecological footprint. talabat also collaborates closely with a diverse array of local brands, including Mazraty, Baladna, Ghadeer, Q bake, Dandy, and many more, the statement added.

## QIB, Visa announce grand winners of ‘Summer Spends’ 2023 campaign

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) and Visa have announced the winners of the Summer Spends campaign, which offered QIB Visa cardholders the chance to win prizes, including three BMW iX40 electric vehicles as the grand prizes.

Over an 11-week period (from June 25 to September 9, 2023), a total of 77 winners were awarded a total cash prize of QR770,000. The grand prize winners Abdulla Nasser al-Hajri, Masoud Ibrahim al-Marri, and Essa Ali al-Muhannadi were welcomed at the Al Sadd Branch to collect their electric vehicles and experience the hospitality of QIB.

In addition to the grand prizes, 77 lucky winners who qualified for the draw by spending a minimum of QR500 during the campaign period received cash prizes amounting to QR10,000 each. These draws were conducted through an electronic process overseen by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

D Anand, QIB general manager – Personal Banking Group, said: “At QIB, our commitment is



to provide our esteemed Visa cardholders with exceptional benefits and unforgettable experiences. We are pleased to once again partner with Visa to introduce this opportunity to win prestigious prizes, all while contributing to a more environmentally sustainable future.”

Shashank Singh, Visa VP and general manager for Qatar and Kuwait, added: “Our collaboration with QIB for this summer promotion is a source of great pride, underscoring our commitment to delivering outstanding rewards and creating memorable experiences for Visa cardholders in Qatar.

## UDST team wins at Huawei Seeds for the Future 2023

A team of students from the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) received the Innovation Ignition Crown at the second phase of Huawei Seeds for the Future 2023, held in Dubai recently, in collaboration with the UAE’s Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) and the ICT Fund.

The UDST team comprising Sumaiya Rizwan, Sarra Chouk, Mary Villanueva, Faraz Chowdhury and Sadia Hafez received the award from ICT Fund CEO engineer Omar al-Mahmoud.

Their project “tactobril: A touch away”, aimed at addressing the needs of 20mn people who suffer from vision loss in Asia, and 15mn hearing and vision impaired individuals worldwide, a population that depends almost entirely upon Braille to read and communicate.

“Tactobril” features an ARM processor integrated into a wrist device housing an Optical Character Recognition camera located on the middle finger. The camera functions in real time to translate physical and digital text character by character into Braille and produce it using haptic actuators directly on the user’s index finger.

The efforts of the UDST students earned the second position and



the Innovation Ignition Crown. As a result, they were granted a virtual office, training opportunity, workshop and mentoring support, enabling them to further develop and operate their project in preparation for the Huawei Global Competition.

Student Ali Eisa M A Almehaizaa from Community College of Qatar (CCQ), attending the second phase of Seeds for the Future programme, bagged the best performer award for achieving the highest scores in the programme mandatory courses.

The regional event, which witnessed the participation of 175 students from elite universities across the Middle East and Central Asia, aims to develop local talent, share knowledge, increase the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector awareness, and foster a digital community for young ICT talents.

Alex Zhang, CEO, Huawei Qatar, said: “We have witnessed some of

the best minds from the Middle East and Central Asia in action in Dubai and we congratulate all the well-deserved champions for their excellent effort.”

Dr Zakaria Maamar, dean of the College of Computing and Information Technology at UDST stated: “UDST students have proved the importance of relentlessly pursuing innovation and excellence and have clearly shown the transformative power of applied learning.”

Dr Khawla Alzoubi, dean of Science and Technology Division at CCQ, lauded the efforts of the students from Qatar in the competition. “The “Innovation Ignition Crown” award was won despite the intense competition with six teams representing the elite in their respective countries, which drives pride and contributes to enriching the knowledge and skills of participants in the ICT field, which is a key enabler of the Qatar National Vision 2030,” she added.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SHUWASHINI SELVAKUMARAN

holder of

Malaysian Passport No. A51708633  
QID No. 30845800164

hereby change my name

from

SHUWASHINI SELVAKUMARAN

to

NORUFAIRAH SHUWASHINI

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT

I, PHAWATHAARANI SELVAKUMARAN

holder of

Malaysian Passport No. A51708632  
QID No. 30745800199

hereby change my name

from

PHAWATHAARANI SELVAKUMARAN

to

NORFAIHA PHAWATHAARANI

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





QRCS delivered 80 tonnes of food aid to Sudan.

# QRCS delivers food aid to Sudan

**Q**atar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched a humanitarian aid convoy aimed at helping families in Sudan, affected by the war and recent flooding.

The 80-tonnes of relief goods, according to QRCS, will be distributed to beneficiaries in Gezira and River Nile States of Sudan.

A ceremony, held in Sudan, was attended by Mohamed bin Ibrahim al-Sada, Qatar's ambassador to Sudan; the staff of the Qatari embassy in Sudan; and Dr Salah al-Mubarak Youssef, federal commissioner of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). In a press statement, al-Sada said the humanitarian aid, set to be deployed and distributed in Port Sudan, Red Sea State, was part of the support provided by Qatar to Sudan through QRCS to help the conflict-affected people in displacement destinations.

Dr Salah Daak, head of QRCS office in Sudan, said the aid shipment contained food parcels for the families affected by war and



floods in River Nile State, in addition to the victims of war in Gezira State. Daak noted that the distribution is co-ordinated with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and HAC, under the direct supervision of Qatar's ambassador to Sudan.

Dr Youssef thanked Qatar for its constant and continuous support to Sudan, with its airlift making a big difference in the

situation in the war-torn country. Since the eruption of war in mid-April, QRCS has reached out to 12 Sudanese states, distributing food and non-food aid to thousands of families, in co-ordination with SRCS and HAC.

It also provided medicines, medical equipment, and consumables for many hospitals, in co-ordination with Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health.

# Unveiling Wellness: The Synergy of Laboratory Diagnostics and Lifestyle Medicine

**I**n today's dynamic healthcare environment, attention is increasingly turning from reactive treatments to proactive wellness. Lifestyle medicine addresses disease root causes through interventions in physical activity, nutrition, stress management, sleep, and other habits. A pivotal aspect of this paradigm shift is the individualized care championed by Lifestyle Medicine. Amplifying its effectiveness is its collaboration with Laboratory Diagnostics. Let's explore the synergy between these pillars and their combined potential in advancing health.



**Dr. Noushad Ck**  
Global CEO  
Micro Health Laboratories

## Objective Insight into Health Status or Personalized Health Assessment:

Understanding a patient's current health is the starting point for any intervention. Laboratory screenings give objective insights into parameters like blood sugar, cholesterol, and inflammation markers. Such data is essential for a comprehensive health assessment. Beyond standard guidelines, diagnostics can unveil specifics such as genetic predispositions or nutrient deficiencies, ensuring that recommendations cater to unique individual needs.



### Tailored Lifestyle Interventions:

Everyone's physiological response to health interventions differs. Genetic tests, as a part of the broader diagnostic toolbox, can hint at an individual's fat metabolism or responsiveness to certain exercises. Armed with this knowledge, practitioners can devise more effective strategies.

### Progress Tracking, Validation, and Behavioral Reinforcement:

A significant motivator in lifestyle medicine is observing tangible health improvements. Through diagnostics, these transformations become quantifiable. Observing a decline in markers like the high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) can be as rewarding as weight loss milestones. Laboratory evidence of better health acts as a powerful catalyst, encouraging adherence to positive habits. Moreover, for anyone questioning the efficacy of their new lifestyle regimen, diagnostics provides the answers. Blood glucose or cholesterol trends, for instance, can either validate progress or suggest necessary refinements.

### Identifying Potential Deficiencies and Risk Stratification:

Lifestyle medicine aims to ensure optimal nutrient intake. Testing can highlight gaps, such as deficiencies in Vitamin D, iron, or B12, paving the way for specific interventions. Comprehensive diagnostic evaluations help categorize individuals based on risk, enabling targeted care and resource allocation.

### Early Detection & Disease Prevention:

Catching health anomalies early on can dramatically change disease trajectories. Periodic screenings, for conditions like prediabetes or hormonal imbalances, play a crucial role here. While the emphasis is on prevention, early identification is indispensable in holistic health management. For instance, regular screenings can catch the early stages of kidney dysfunction, facilitating interventions before the onset of full-blown diseases. And when certain challenges persist despite best practices, diagnostics illuminate the path forward. A continuous Vitamin D deficit, even with proper sun exposure, can then be managed through tailored supplementation.

### The Power of Laboratory Diagnostics:

As we transition to a health model focused on prevention and natural interventions, the role of diagnostics becomes even more critical. It not only ensures that strategies are effective and individualized but also validates the principles of lifestyle medicine. Together, these disciplines pave the way for a healthier future.

In essence, while Lifestyle Medicine sketches out a blueprint for health, Laboratory Diagnostics provides the tools to bring that plan to life, offering insights into unseen challenges and potential risks.

# 'Iskan' portal launched to boost housing services for govt employees

**By Tawfik Lamari**  
Staff Reporter

**T**he Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CSGDB) yesterday announced the launch of the "Iskan" (housing) portal in its first phase.

Present on the occasion were Jassim Mohamed Talfat, director of Housing and Government Buildings Affairs; Abdullah Issa al-Hammadi, director of the Housing Planning Department; Nasser Nasser al-Nuaimi, director of the Allocation and Follow-up Department, and Nouf Abdullah al-Marri, director of the Information Systems Department at the CSGDB.

The officials indicated during a press conference that "Iskan" confirms the CSGDB's commitment to its pursuit of achieving the highest levels of organisational development and modernisation, and as part of its efforts to facilitate housing services for government sector employees and to consolidate digital transformation in its services. The "Iskan" portal is at the core of the mission and responsibility of the CSGDB to care for the civil servants, develop them, enhance their comfort, and invest in them, which ensures better-quality performance.

They announced that the portal at this stage will be available to a number of government agencies, with other agencies to be added later. It currently includes all gov-



Officials during the launch of the 'Iskan' portal.

ernment agencies' employees under the Human Resources Law No 15 of 2016, institutions that use the "Mawarid" (human resources) system. The CSGDB will gradually co-ordinate with the rest of the government agencies to update their employees' data in the portal database to benefit from its services. The portal will also be updated later and new services added, in line with the efforts of the Housing and Government Buildings Affairs Department to provide digital services and make it easier for civil servants and landlords to benefit from them at all times.

The speakers discussed the procedure for civil servants to benefit from "Iskan" services and its stages. Government agencies currently can address requests to the Department of Housing and Government Buildings Affairs for the allocation or change of housing via the government correspondence system (Tawasul), then the

Civil Service and Government Development Commission will soon grant them the authority to enter the portal to register their employees' requests directly. While employees of government agencies registered on the "Mawarid" system can use the portal directly.

The speakers emphasised the advantages of the portal, in particular its contribution to achieving transparency. It allows all landlords to display their residential units, then the selection is made based on the needs of government agency employees. In addition, it saves time and effort and eliminates the need for complex government transactions.

In addition, the "Iskan" portal enables real estate owners to register new properties directly and without intermediaries. The system has been developed so that landlords and real estate agents could inquire and obtain information immediately.

## Qatar Charity distributes aid to Libya flood victims



Qatar Charity began providing urgent relief assistance to flood-affected people in eastern Libya, as part of its "Libya Appeal" campaign. The campaign seeks to alleviate the victims' suffering, and to provide them with basic and urgent needs including food, shelter, and health. The campaign comes in view of the scale of the disaster that has struck eastern Libya, especially the city of Derna, and in line with the humanitarian duty dictated by the bonds of brotherhood and solidarity with the Libyan people. (QNA)

# QSW workshop focuses on global CSR trends

**Q**atar Social Work Foundation (QSW), in collaboration with the Regional Network for Social Responsibility, organised a workshop on "Modern Global Trends in Corporate Social Responsibility and their Applications in the Social Sector."

The workshop was presented by Dr Ali Abdullah al-Ibrahim, vice-president of the Regional Network of Corporate Social Responsibility CSR, and an international expert and consultant in the field of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

The workshop coincided with the World Corporate Social Responsibility Day.

Around 50 employees from QSW and its affiliated centres,



as well as several partners and supporters, participated in the workshop.

The programme included a comprehensive study of corpo-

rate social responsibility, spanning from its historical evolution to the era of modern professional standards, besides other related topics.

# Army strikes Hamas post after violent protest in Gaza

**AFP**  
Gaza City

**T**he Israeli army said it hit yesterday a Hamas military post, in the latest in a series of drone strikes on Gaza, after its troops were shot at during a violent protest.

The latest strike comes amid daily demonstrations at the border by Palestinians after Israel closed the Erez crossing from Gaza.

Two protesters were wounded by "Israeli bullets" in the clashes yesterday, the Hamas-controlled health ministry in Gaza said in a statement.

The army meanwhile said a drone "struck a mili-

tary post belonging to the Hamas organisation".

The post was located near an area from which fighters shot at soldiers "during a violent protest", an army statement said.

The "soldiers responded with live fire toward a fighter... and hit him".

Gaza has been rocked by daily protests since Israeli authorities closed the Erez crossing, the only gateway for pedestrians entering Israel from the coastal enclave.

The closure has prevented thousands of workers from the enclave from entering Israel.

Yesterday, protesters burned tyres and threw rocks at soldiers who responded with tear gas, an AFP journalist reported.



**imalco**  **إمالكو**

**COOPER TIRES**



DISCOVERER AT3<sup>™</sup>    DISCOVERER STT PRO    DISCOVERER S/T MAXX<sup>™</sup>

☎ 4441 8030    📞 800-1999    @ info@imalco.com    🌐 www.imalco.com

## Elevate Workforce Excellence Here

**Garage Available at Industrial Area, Al Khor**

Open Garage  
📍 Al Khor, Qatar  
Total Area : 200 Sq. Mtr  
License : Boat Repairing

**Furnished Rooms Available At**  
📍 Ras Laffan  
06 Rooms with Attached Toilet and Laundry Room

**Camps Available At**  
📍 Al Khor Industrial Area  
18 Rooms, 15 Rooms  
11 Rooms, 8 Rooms


**HABARI REAL ESTATE**  [www.habari realestate.com](http://www.habari realestate.com)  
Building No: 92, Zone 74, Street 880, Al Khor, Qatar  
☎ +974 303 00 880

## TO POPULARISE YOUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**ADVERTISE in our TUESDAYS Special Advertising Page**

Contact us for ATTRACTIVE PACKAGES on [gtadv@gulf-times.com](mailto:gtadv@gulf-times.com) or 444 666 21

We offer special prices on **TUESDAYS SPECIAL ADVERTISING PAGE** with Complementary Digital Media Postings.



**137 degrees**

**THE NUT MILK SPECIALIST**



## ALL-NEW F-150 RAPTOR

THE ULTIMATE BEAST

**BUILT Ford TOUGH**

STARTING FROM **QAR 379,000**

SCAN NOW 

**7 Years** OR **200,000 KM WARRANTY** | **5 Years** OR **100,000 KM MAINTENANCE PACKAGE** | **5 Years** OR **100,000 KM ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE** | **WINDOW TINTING**

**FORD PERFORMANCE**

The Offer is valid from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep. to 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2023

**Shop with Confidence**  
For Complaints and Suggestions: 16001  
License number: 6781/2023

**Almana Motors Company W.L.L.**  شركة المانع للسيارات ذ.م.م.

Showroom Timing: Sat - Thu 8:30 am - 9:00 pm

TOLL FREE 800 7551

📍 Ford Qatar    📱 ford.qatar    🐦 ford\_qa    🌐 fordqatar    📍 ford.qa    📱 fordqtr

**Ford**



CONTROVERSY

UN concerned as Vietnam arrests energy expert

The UN human rights office has expressed concern about the arrest of a Vietnamese green energy expert, who had collaborated with UN and US agencies, just days after President Joe Biden signed business and human rights deals with Hanoi on a visit. Hanoi police on September 15 detained Ngo Thi To Nhien, executive director of the Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition (VIET), an independent think tank focused on green energy policy. “We are aware of the arrest and are following the developments with concern,” Ravina Shamdasani, a spokesperson for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said.

DECISION

China sentences Uyghur scholar to life in prison

China has sentenced a high-profile Uyghur academic to life in prison on charges of “endangering state security”, a US-based rights group said, citing a Chinese government source. Rights advocates have accused China of launching a mass internment campaign targeting Uyghurs, along with abuses such as forced sterilisation and cultural repression, termed “genocide” by some government bodies, including the US state department. China vigorously denies such accusations. In a statement, the Dui Hua Foundation said Rahile Dawut, 57, lost her appeal against her original conviction from December 2018.

LAW AND ORDER

Thai police raid top cop’s home in corruption probe

Thai police yesterday swooped on the home of one of the kingdom’s most high-profile officers as part of a series of raids targeting an illegal online gambling network dubbed “Betflix”. Most forms of betting are illegal in Thailand, with authorities striving recently to shut down the illicit gambling sites, often foreign-owned, that have sprung up. A sprawling investigation across six provinces saw SWAT teams raid some 30 locations – including deputy national police chief Surachate Hakparn’s central Bangkok house. Surachate, well known in Thailand for his regular appearances in the media, denied any involvement in the alleged gambling ring.

CLAIM

Two allies of Myanmar junta chief face graft allegations

Two close allies of Myanmar’s top general have been removed from the junta’s ruling council and are being investigated for corruption, a military source said yesterday. Soe Htut, a former home affairs minister, was “returning to military duty,” according to state broadcaster Myawaddy, which announced a reshuffle of the State Administration Council – as the junta calls itself. The military source also confirmed local media reports that Moe Myint Tun, a former chairman of the junta’s investment commission, was similarly facing a graft probe. The reshuffled list of council members broadcast by Myawaddy did not include Moe Myint Tun.

US-South Korea naval exercise



US Navy’s USS Robert Smalls (left) and South Korean Navy’s destroyer Yulgok Yi I (centre front) sail in formation during a combined naval exercise against growing military threats from North Korea in the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan.

Australia Indigenous referendum ‘likely to fail’

Reuters  
Sydney

Support for a referendum to constitutionally recognise Australia’s Indigenous people slipped further, with the landmark proposal set to fail in a national vote roughly three weeks away, two opinion polls showed yesterday.

Support for a “Voice to Parliament”, an Indigenous committee to advise parliament on matters affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, fell to 33%, down 15 points since May, the Australian Financial Review (AFR)/Freshwater poll showed. The ‘No’ vote had reached 50%.

Despite the Anthony Albanese-led Labor government’s campaign drive to win undecided voters, opposition to the

referendum rose three points to 56%, a Newspann conducted for *The Australian* newspaper showed. Support dipped to 36% from 38% in the previous poll on September 3.

Altering the constitution requires a national referendum in Australia and only eight have passed since 1901 when the country was formed.

The proposal must get a majority of votes nationwide and at least four of the six states must back the change. Australia, which will hold the referendum vote on October 14, has no treaty with its Indigenous people, who make up about 3.2% of its 26mn population. They were marginalised by British colonial rulers and are not mentioned in the 122-year-old constitution.

The referendum debate has divided opinions with support-

ers arguing the Voice will bring progress for the Aboriginal community, while opponents say it would be divisive. Others have described it as tokenism and toothless.

Voters who had switched their stance to reject the proposal in the past five months said the Voice was creating distraction from their top two issues – the cost of living and the cost of housing, the AFR survey said. It also showed the approval ratings for Albanese, who has staked significant political capital on the referendum, fell 5 points to 46%.

In the Newspann survey, Albanese’s ratings improved slightly to 47% though that remained at historically low levels, while on a two-party preferred basis, Labor enjoyed a 54%-46% lead against the conservative opposition coalition.

New Zealand populist party could be kingmaker: poll

Support fell further for New Zealand’s incumbent Labour party in an opinion poll released yesterday, with the populist New Zealand First party emerging as a potential kingmaker in next month’s general election. In the October 14 vote, the centre-right National led by Christopher Luxon is expected to emerge as the largest party in a coalition government. National leads Prime Minister Chris Hipkins’ Labour 31.9% to 26.5%, the Newshub-Reid Research poll showed, though no single party will have enough support to form a government alone. New Zealand elects lawmakers using a mixed-member proportional (MMP) system that has made coalitions the norm since it was introduced in 1996. The biggest winner from yesterday’s poll was Winston Peters and his populist New Zealand First party, which crossed the 5% threshold required to elect lawmakers from the centralised list.

Thailand welcomes Chinese tourists



A Chinese tourist takes selfie with Thailand’s Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, during a welcome ceremony of the first batch of Chinese tourists under a five-month visa-free entry scheme at Bangkok’s International Airport, Thailand, yesterday.

barrier “in compliance with presidential instruction”.

“The barrier posed a hazard to navigation, a clear violation of international law,” it added.

China, which seized Scarborough Shoal from the Philippines in 2012, deploys coast guard and other vessels to patrol the fishing ground. The floating barrier prevented fishing boats from entering the shoal’s shallow waters where fish are more abundant.

Philippine officials previously accused the Chinese coast guard of installing the barrier before the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ship arrived at the shoal last Wednesday.

Several media outlets were on board the BRP Datu Bankaw and saw the barrier.

“We will take all appropriate actions to cause the removal of the barriers and to protect the rights of our fishermen in the area,” Ano said in a statement yesterday.

Ano said the Philippines condemns the installation of barriers, arguing it “violates the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen whose rights... have been affirmed by the 2016 Arbitral ruling”.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin hit back yesterday, saying Scarborough Shoal was “an inherent part of China” and China had “indisput-

able sovereignty over it and its surrounding waters”.

Scarborough Shoal sits 240kms west of the Philippines’ main island of Luzon and nearly 900kms from the nearest major Chinese land mass of Hainan.

Under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which China helped negotiate, countries have jurisdiction over the natural resources within about 370kms of their shore.

China claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea, while several other countries, including the Philippines, have overlapping claims to parts of it. Beijing has ignored the 2016 international court ruling that its claims have no legal basis.

The Philippine foreign ministry said yesterday it would “take all appropriate measures to protect our country’s sovereignty and the livelihood of our fisherfolk”, without elaborating.

Filipino fishermen say that China’s actions at Scarborough Shoal are robbing them of a key source of income and a place to shelter safely during a storm.

The Philippine Coast Guard said on Sunday that Filipino fishermen had reported seeing Chinese coast guard install floating barriers when there was a “large number” of Filipinos fishing near the shoal.

Indonesia president’s son named youth party chair

Reuters  
Jakarta

Indonesian President Joko Widodo’s son was yesterday named chief of a political party, a move many analysts view as strengthening the outgoing leader’s bid to build a political dynasty ahead of elections next year.

Jokowi, as the president is popularly known, will complete his second and final term in office next year but his manoeuvres to install his relatives in positions of political influence have raised eyebrows in a country that only 25 years ago broke free of authoritarian rule.

When he took the top job in 2014, Jokowi, a former furniture salesman, had won praise for his meteoric rise through a landscape dominated by military

and moneyed elite and political dynasties. However, political analysts say Jokowi has in recent years tried to ensure a legacy of continuing influence through his children. His oldest son now leads the city of Solo, where Jokowi himself was once mayor, while his son-in-law is the mayor of Medan.

The youth-oriented Indonesian Solidarity Party (PSI) late yesterday named Kaesang Pangarep, 28, as chair.

Kaesang paid tribute to Jokowi in a speech.

“I’d like to forge his path in politics for the good,” he said.

Though PSI is a small party established only in 2014 and is not represented in parliament, its young and social media-savvy members can play a vital role in galvanising support for its preferred candidate in the February 2024 presidential election.

Taiwan expects to deploy two new subs by 2027: security adviser

Reuters  
Taipei

Taiwan hopes to deploy at least two new, domestically developed submarines by 2027, and possibly equip later models with missiles, to strengthen deterrence against the Chinese navy and protect key supply lines, the head of the programme said.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has made the indigenous sub programme a key part of an ambitious project to modernise its armed forces as Beijing stages almost daily military exercises to assert its sovereignty.

President Tsai Ing-wen, who

initiated the programme when she took office in 2016, is expected to launch the first of eight new submarines on Thursday under a plan that has drawn on expertise and technology from several countries – a breakthrough for diplomatically isolated Taiwan.

Admiral Huang Shu-kuang, Tsai’s security adviser, who is leading the programme, said a fleet of 10 submarines – which includes two Dutch-made submarines commissioned in the 1980s – will make it harder for the Chinese navy to project power into the Pacific.

“If we can build up this combat capacity, I don’t think we will lose a war,” Huang this month told an internal briefing on the project.

Huang said the first submarine, with a price tag of T\$49.36bn (\$1.54bn), will use a combat system by Lockheed Martin Corporation and carry US-made MK-48 heavyweight torpedoes. It will enter sea trials next month before delivery to the navy by the end of 2024.

For subsequent models, Taiwan will leave space for submarine-launched anti-ship missiles, but adding those weapons depends on production availability in the US, where capacity was already tight, Huang said, without naming the companies that might be involved.

He called the submarines a “strategic deterrent” to Chinese warships crossing the Miyako Strait

near southwestern Japan or the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan from the Philippines.

Huang said Taiwan’s diesel-electric submarines can keep China at bay within the first island chain, referring to the area that runs from Japan through Taiwan, the Philippines and on to Borneo, enclosing China’s coastal seas.

“This was also the strategic concept of the US military – to contain them within the first island chain and deny their access,” Huang said. “If Taiwan is taken, Japan will definitely not be safe, South Korea will definitely not be safe.”

China’s defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment. The Chinese navy, including its

Shandong aircraft carrier, has become increasingly active in recent months off Taiwan’s eastern coastline, prompting worries that China could launch an attack from that direction. Eastern Taiwan is where planners have long envisioned the island’s military regrouping and preserving its forces during a conflict.

Huang said the submarines can help maintain the island’s “lifeline” to the Pacific by keeping ports along Taiwan’s eastern coast open for supplies in a conflict.

“The submarines will keep their ships away from our eastern shores,” he said.

Chieh Chung, a military researcher at Taiwan’s National Pol-

icy Foundation think tank, said the fleet would have trouble with that task, because China could position warships in the Pacific before launching an attack.

But he added that the submarines could occupy strategic ambush points in the region and “greatly harm (China’s) combat ability” by targeting high-value ships such as carrier groups or landing fleets.

Taiwan has quietly sourced technology, components and talent from at least seven nations to help it build submarines, a Reuters investigation has found.

Getting foreign assistance was particularly challenging for Taiwan, which doesn’t have official ties with most countries.



PROTEST

State water row to keep staff at Bengaluru firms home today

Calls for protests over a river water sharing dispute between two states have forced firms including Walmart and Alphabet's Google to ask employees in Bengaluru to work from home today. Farmers and activists have called for a strike in Bengaluru demanding state authorities to refrain from releasing more water from the Cauvery river to the neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Google, Walmart, IBM and Accenture have advised employees to work from home and avoid any non-essential commuting during the strike. The dispute over who gets access to the water has been a source of friction between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for more than a century.

PEOPLE

UK child-killer nurse set to face retrial

A British nurse jailed for life for murdering seven babies and attempting to kill six others will face a retrial on an outstanding charge of attempted murder, prosecutors said yesterday. Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted last month of killing five baby boys and two baby girls, making her Britain's most prolific child serial killer in modern times. But the jury in the months-long trial at Manchester Crown Court were unable to reach decisions on six counts of attempted murder relating to five babies. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said it will seek a retrial on a charge that Letby attempted to murder a baby girl in February 2016.

DATA

Irish net migration rises to near record levels

Net migration to Ireland rose to its second highest level since records began in the 12 months to April. With Ireland's economy judged to be at or very close to full employment, where just about everyone who wants a job has one, net migration is a key determinant of potential additional labour supply and how that may ease future wage pressures. There was net migration of 77,600 in the year to April, up from 51,700 in the same period a year ago. Since 1951, net migration was only higher in 2007 when it hit 104,800 at the tail end of the Celtic Tiger economy. Of the 141,600 immigrants - also a 16-year high - almost 42,000 were from Ukraine.

REGULATION

Diversity, misconduct rules for UK financial firms proposed

Britain's financial regulators yesterday proposed guidance for financial firms to tackle sexual harassment and bullying, along with new requirements for large banks and insurers to set targets to improve diversity and inclusion. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Authority said their proposed measures would support healthy work cultures, reduce groupthink and unlock talent. "The proposals set flexible, proportionate minimum standards to raise the bar, placing more requirements on larger firms," Bank of England Deputy Governor Sam Woods said.

Indian Air Force welcomes new aircraft



India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (centre) and Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari (third right) attend the induction ceremony of the military transport aircraft C-295 MW of the Indian Air Force at the Hindon Air Base station in Ghaziabad yesterday.

India 'planning \$7.2bn housing loan interest subsidy scheme'

Reuters

New Delhi/Mumbai

India is considering spending Rs600bn (\$7.2bn) to provide subsidised loans for small urban housing over the next five years, two government sources said.

Banks are likely to roll out the scheme in a couple of months, ahead of key state elections later this year and general elections due in mid-2024.

Last month, the country cut cooking gas prices for house-

holds by about 18% to rein in inflation ahead of elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the plan in a speech in August to mark the country's Independence Day, but its details have not been previously reported.

The scheme will offer an annual interest subsidy of between 3-6.5% on up to Rs0.9mn of the loan amount. Housing loans below Rs5mn availed for a tenure of 20 years will be eligible for the proposed scheme, the sources said.

"The interest subvention will

be credited upfront to the housing loan account of beneficiaries. The scheme proposed till 2028 is close to finalisation and will require approval of federal Cabinet," one government official said.

The scheme could benefit 2.5mn loan applicants in low-income groups in urban areas but the quantum of subsidised credit will depend on demand for such homes, the official said.

"We are coming up with a new scheme in the coming years that will benefit those families that live in cities but are living

in rented houses, or slums, or chawls and unauthorised colonies," Modi had said in his August speech.

The officials did not want to be named as the scheme is under finalisation.

Mails sent by Reuters seeking a response from the ministry of housing and urban development and the ministry of finance remained unanswered.

Lenders have not been provided any specific lending targets but a meeting with government officials is likely soon, two bank officials said.

Sunak visits Wormley Community Centre



Britain's Prime Minster Rishi Sunak talks with members of the community attending a breakfast club at Wormley Community Centre in Broomfield, north of London, yesterday.

India to auction Kashmir lithium reserves soon

Reuters

New Delhi

India's federally administered region of Jammu and Kashmir will auction its lithium reserves over the next few weeks, a government source with close knowledge of the matter said yesterday.

India, which has been exploring ways to secure supplies of lithium, a critical raw material used to make electric vehicle batteries, in February found its first lithium deposits in Jammu and Kashmir with estimated reserves of 5.9mn tonnes.

"The auction will happen soon and some overseas miners have shown interest," the source said, declining to be identified because of the sensitive nature of discussions.

The federal mines ministry

did not immediately reply to a Reuters email seeking comments.

The source also said that KABIL, a state-owned joint venture formed to scout for minerals overseas, was in the "final stages" to secure a few lithium blocks in Argentina.

Discussions with the Chilean government were also underway to secure lithium blocks although talks were still in early stages, the source added.

KABIL, short for Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, was formed in August 2019 to identify, acquire, develop and process strategic minerals overseas for use in India.

India, among the world's top greenhouse gas emitters, has been pursuing overseas pacts to secure key minerals in resource-rich countries such as Australia, Argentina and Chile.

Punjab's Sikhs fear Canada-India row threatens them at home, abroad

Reuters

Bharsinghpura, India

A bitter row between India and Canada over the murder of a Sikh separatist is being felt in Punjab, where some Sikhs fear both a backlash from India's Hindu-nationalist government and a threat to their prospects for a better life in North America.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a plumber who left the north Indian state a quarter-century ago and became a Canadian citizen, was shot dead in June outside a temple in a Vancouver suburb where he was a separatist leader among the many Sikhs living there.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week Ottawa had "credible allegations" that Indian government agents may be linked to the killing.

India, which labelled Nijjar a "terrorist" in 2020, angrily rejected the allegation as "absurd", expelled the chief of Canadian intelligence in India, issued travel warnings, stopped visa issuance to Canadians and downsized Canada's diplomatic presence in India.

Sikhs make up just 2% of India's 1.4bn people but they are a majority in Punjab, a state of 30mn where their religion was born 500 years ago. Outside of Punjab, the greatest number of Sikhs live in Canada, the site of many protests that have irked

India. An insurgency seeking a Sikh homeland of Khalistan, which killed tens of thousands in the 1980s and '90s, was crushed by India, but embers from the flame of the independence drive still glow.

In the village of Bharsinghpura, there are few memories of Nijjar, but his uncle, Himmat Singh Nijjar, 79, said locals "think it was very brave of Trudeau" to accuse Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government of potential involvement in the killing.

"For the sake of one ordinary person, he did not need to take such a huge risk on his government," the uncle said, sitting on a wooden bench by a tractor in his farmhouse, surrounded by lush paddy fields and banana trees.

Still, though, the elder Nijjar said he is worried about deteriorating diplomatic relations with Canada and declining economic prospects in Punjab.

The once-prosperous breadbasket of India, Punjab has been overtaken by states that focused on manufacturing, services and technology in the last two decades.

"Now every family wants to send its sons and daughters to Canada as farming here is not lucrative, said the elder Nijjar.

India is the largest source for international students in Canada, their numbers jumping 47% last year to 320,000.

"We now fear whether Canada will give student visas or if the In-

dian government will create some hurdles," said undergraduate Gursimran Singh, 19, who wants to go to Canada.

He was speaking at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The temple became a flashpoint for Hindu-Sikh tension when then-prime minister Indira Gandhi allowed it to be stormed in 1984 to flush out Sikh separatists, angering Sikhs around the world. Her Sikh bodyguards assassinated her soon afterward.

Ties between Sikh groups in Punjab and Prime Minister Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government have been strained since Sikh farmers led year-long protests against farm de-regulation in 2020 and blocked the

capital, forcing Modi to withdraw the measure in a rare political defeat for the strongman.

Modi's government has created "an atmosphere of fear", especially for young people, said Sandeep Singh, 31, from Nijjar's village. "If we are doing a protest, parents wouldn't like their child to participate because they are afraid their children can meet the same fate" as Nijjar in Canada, he said.

Kanwar Pal, political affairs secretary for the radical separatist Dal Khalsa group, said: "Whosoever fights for Khalistan fights for right to self-determination, rights for plebsicite in Punjab. India perceived those Sikhs as their enemies and they target them."





CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar  
✉ editor@gulf-times.com  
☎ 44350478 (News),  
☎ 44466404 (Sport),  
☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)  
☎ 44350474  
📘 facebook.com/gulftimes  
✉ twitter.com/gulftimes\_Qatar  
📷 instagram.com/gulftimes  
📺 youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

GULF TIMES

## Fixing global governance

After India's G20 summit and the UN General Assembly this month, world leaders will attend the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Marrakesh, before heading to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai. But there is little optimism that these summits will deliver meaningful progress in tackling our greatest challenges, not because of any lack of resolve, but because the global rulebook we have been following since the end of World War II is no longer fit for purpose.

The world's growing fragmentation was confirmed at the G20 summit. Though the meeting signalled India's arrival as a major power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's moment of triumph was fleeting. The summit did little to prevent the 2020s from almost certainly becoming a low-growth decade.

Despite the African Union's admission as a full member of the G20, the Global South received scant relief for its crushing debts. And though G20 members are responsible for 75% of global carbon emissions, the summit failed to address the scale of the climate financing gap. Acting on the findings of the G20's Capital Adequacy Review, the Biden administration has committed to secure an additional \$25bn for the World Bank; but that figure falls far short of the \$260bn annual fillip that former US Treasury Secretary Lawrence H Summers recommended in the Singh-Summers report to the G20 this year.

Instead, the summit concludes a year in which China and the West have been erecting new "iron curtains" in technology, trade, investment, and data – foreshadowing a future of "one world, two systems."

With this new protectionism came a downgrading of the G20. Whereas former US president Barack Obama recognised the G20 as the premier forum for global economic cooperation, current US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan sees the G7 (Europe, America, and Japan) as the "steering committee of the free world."

### Today's leaders must not wait for a catastrophe before being forced into action

economics determined political decision-making. Now politics – and nationalist politics at that – is driving policymaking. Zero-sum politics is triumphing over "win-win" economics.

In 1999, American hegemony was at its peak, and the US Federal Reserve and US Treasury were happy to be called "the committee to save the world."

When the global economy unravelled in 2008, the United Kingdom and others called on G20 member-state heads of government to come together for the first time. At the London G20 in 2009, UK was keen that China join with the West in buttressing the global economy with \$1tn of support. The world was heading in a more multipolar direction.

The London summit also commissioned India's then-prime minister, Manmohan Singh, to oversee a review of the prevailing international architecture. Then, at the Pittsburgh summit in the Fall of 2009, the G20 agreed on a global compact for growth, to be spearheaded by the IMF, which would publish annual assessments to identify both the risks facing the global economy and the opportunities for coordinated action.

But as the West retreated into austerity policies and embraced new forms of protectionism, these initiatives fizzled out. Under Donald Trump, the United States broke from its tradition of (usually) acting multilaterally, and pursued unilateralism even as a multipolar world was coming into play.

However, climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the energy and food crisis of 2022 confirm that the issues we face today are truly global problems in need of global solutions. Progress cannot be achieved by bilateral and regional interventions alone; it requires globally coordinated action.

In elevating the G7 at the expense of the G20, we need to ask what happens the next time there is a global financial crisis and we cannot find a way to bring all the major players together. What chance will we have of progress in reducing global emissions and preventing "free riders" in a world of "everyone for himself"? What chance do we have of dealing with global inequality if countries see the world only in terms of "us versus them," and where there are no forums in which to find common ground?

These rare moments where preparation meets opportunity are when we must act together. Today's leaders must not wait for a catastrophe before being forced into action. – Project Syndicate

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621  
☎ 44418811

Classified

☎ 44466609 ☎ 44418811  
✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2023 Gulf Times. All rights reserved

REYNOLD  
GULFTIMES  
26-09-2023

International Day for the  
Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.



## Roots of water crisis

It is imperative to hold accountable those who are exploiting the planet for personal gain



By Joshua Castellino  
London

In March 1977, representatives from 116 countries gathered in Mar del Plata, Argentina, for the inaugural United Nations Water Conference. At the time, the event received very little attention. Global politics was dominated by a handful of powerful countries, most of them in temperate regions where water scarcity, severe pollution, and flooding were not considered major issues.

The atmosphere at this year's UN Water Conference, which took place in New York in March, was markedly different. Instead of apathy, there was a palpable sense that the water crisis is a global problem. Today, every country in the world faces water-related challenges, underscoring our collective vulnerability as the planet's most vital natural resource is increasingly threatened. The robust engagement of the scientific community and civil society was also instrumental in shedding light on the far-reaching consequences of this crisis.

Unsurprisingly, the countries that were most at risk in 1977 are even more vulnerable today. The reckless exploitation of the planet has accelerated humanity's breach of planetary boundaries. The long-anticipated sea-level rise is now submerging vast areas, while deserts are expanding at an alarming rate as water sources diminish and aquifers become depleted. Meanwhile, pollutants from human waste, along with the byproducts of industrial activities, contaminate our rivers, lakes, and oceans. At a time of growing scarcity, our seemingly insatiable thirst for consumption has aggravated these trends.

The fact that some remain unaffected by this crisis attests to their privilege. While many experience environmental degradation on a spiritual level, some of the world's poorest populations face immediate and tangible consequences as they try to adapt to rapidly changing conditions.

Much like the response to the

climate crisis, the response to the water crisis suffers from a lack of global coordination and opposition from entrenched interests seeking to prevent crucial reforms. As the Indian environmental activist Vandana Shiva puts it, "when the rich, powerful, and dominant economic forces of society" exceed their fair share of Earth's resources, "indigenous communities and minority groups are deprived of their share of water for life and livelihoods." This, she writes, forces entire communities "to carry the heavy burden of water poverty."

A recent petition proposed by prominent water-rights activist Rajendra Singh offers a potential path forward. Singh, chairman of the People's World Commission on Drought and Flood, outlines ten critical transformations required to restore water harmony. By transcending anthropocentrism, his proposed pledge aims to rejuvenate the global water cycle and harness its immense power to promote the well-being of all living things.

At the heart of Singh's pledge lies the bedrock principle of climate-oriented thinking: a complete system overhaul. This perspective views humanity as part of a much larger whole that encompasses the diverse species with which we share our planet. Instead of commodifying natural resources for profit and relentless consumption, this ethos encourages people to be mindful of the potential consequences of their actions and commit to repairing any damage they cause.

This raises three fundamental questions. First, what actions are required to address the global water crisis? Second, which key stakeholders must step up? Third, how can we ensure that these stakeholders implement vital systemic changes?

For too long, policymakers have emphasised minor changes in household consumption habits, thereby unfairly shifting the burden to families and communities whose contributions to the water crisis have been negligible. The root causes of water scarcity are large-scale industrial production, lack of attention to quality, and the failure to address rampant pollution. At the macro level, extractive industries and an economic system centred on profit maximisation drive the increase in global temperatures, further disrupting water cycles.

While reducing household consumption is important, it pales in comparison to the potential impact of forcing corporations to adopt sustainable practices. But the increasingly symbiotic relationship between politics and big-business interests complicates this task. Instead of pursuing systemic changes, the world's most powerful governments have opted for incremental reforms to create the appearance of commitment.

The recent UN Water Conference underscored the urgency of today's crisis. If governments are unwilling or unable to pursue the necessary structural reforms, they must be replaced by political leaders with the vision and determination

to overhaul the systems that jeopardise the natural resource sustaining all life on Earth.

Growing up in India, I observed the country's relentless drive to catch up with wealthier economies. By investing in higher education, building roads and hospitals, and boosting economic growth through consumption and increased production, the thinking went, India could become richer and eliminate poverty. The mainstream education system frequently championed the commodification of nature, anthropocentric dominance, and extractivism. It revered the architects of our flawed economic system, treating their words as sacrosanct.

Indigenous communities have long warned that such "progress" was misguided, but they were dismissed as hidebound and out of touch with reality. As climate change disrupts water and food systems around the world, many now recognise the prescience of these warnings. Given that we might be the last generation capable of mitigating the worst effects of the water crisis, it is our responsibility to hold accountable those who are exploiting the planet for personal gain.

– Project Syndicate

● Joshua Castellino, Co-Executive Director of Minority Rights Group International, is Professor of International and Comparative Law at the University of Derby and Founder of the School of Law at Middlesex University London, where he served as dean from 2012-18.



"When the rich, powerful, and dominant economic forces of society exceed their fair share of Earth's resources, indigenous communities and minority groups are deprived of their share of water for life and livelihoods. This forces entire communities to carry the heavy burden of water poverty"

– Vandana Shiva, Environmental activist



# Thousands flee into Armenia after Baku retakes enclave

AFP  
Goris

Thousands of refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh streamed into Armenia yesterday, as the leaders of Azerbaijan and ally Türkiye hailed Baku's victory over the rebel enclave at a summit.

While Azerbaijan showcased its regional alliances, Russia hit back at embattled Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan after he blamed Moscow for the swift defeat of the breakaway territory.

Several days after the fighting, the first refugees arrived in Armenia on Sunday and 6,650 people have so far entered, Yerevan said yesterday.

AFP reporters saw the refugees crowding into a humanitarian hub set up in a local theatre in the city of Goris to register for transport and housing.

"We lived through terrible days," said Anabel Ghulasyan, 41,

from the village of Rev, known as Shalva in Azeri.

She arrived in Goris with her family by minibus, carrying her belongings in bags.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought two wars in the last three decades over Nagorno-Karabakh, a majority ethnic Armenian enclave within the internationally recognised border of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan launched a lightning operation on September 19 to seize control of the territory, forcing the separatists to lay down their arms under the terms of a ceasefire agreed the following day.

It followed a nine-month blockade of the region by Baku that caused shortages of key supplies.

The separatists have said 200 people were killed in last week's fighting.

Baku announced two of its soldiers also died when a mine hit their vehicle on Sunday.

Azerbaijan's state media said officials held a second round of peace talks with Nagorno-Ka-

rabakh's ethnic Armenian community aimed at "reintegrating" them.

But on the road heading to Armenia, more and more residents from the region appeared to be trying to get out as the witnesses said cars were snarling up in traffic. At the refugee centre in Goris, Valentina Asryan, a 54-year-old from the village of Vank who fled with her grandchildren, said her brother-in-law was killed and several other people were injured by Azerbaijani fire.

"Who would have thought that the 'Turks' would come to this historic Armenian village? It's incredible," she said, referring to the Azerbaijani forces.

She was being housed temporarily in a hotel in Goris and had "nowhere to go".

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lauded Baku's "historic success" at a meeting with Azerbaijan's leader Ilham Aliyev in the country's western exclave of Nakhichevan.

"The window of opportunity



A girl sleeps in a street in the town of Stepanakert yesterday. Ethnic Armenian refugees began to leave Nagorno-Karabakh for the first time since Azerbaijan launched an offensive designed to seize control of the breakaway territory. (AFP)

has opened to settle the situation in the region. This opportunity must not be missed," Erdogan said. Aliyev vowed that the rights of ethnic Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region would be "guaranteed".

"Karabakh's residents – regardless their ethnicity – are citizens of Azerbaijan," he said.

Armenia's premier on Sunday sought to deflect blame for the outcome on long-standing ally Russia, signalling a breakdown in the countries' security pact.

In nationally televised comments, the Armenian leader said the security agreements between the two countries had proved "in-

sufficient", suggesting he would seek new alliances.

Moscow on Monday slammed Pashinyan's comments in an angry broadside, accusing the premier of trying to "absolve himself" from responsibility.

"The leadership in Yerevan is making a huge mistake by deliberately trying to destroy Armenia's multifaceted and centuries-old ties with Russia," Russia's foreign ministry said.

Pashinyan later held a meeting with Russia's interior minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev where he "underlined the importance of consistent cooperation" of law enforcement in the two countries.

Washington said yesterday that Russia had shown it is not a reliable partner.

"Russia has shown that it cannot be relied on as a security partner," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters.

Armenia is a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) – a Russian-dominated group comprising six post-Soviet states that had pledged to protect each other if attacked.

Russia, bogged down in its own war in Ukraine, refused to come to Armenia's aid, arguing that Yerevan had recognised the disputed region as part of Azerbaijan.

## Imran Khan to be moved to prison in garrison city

Pakistani authorities were preparing yesterday to move former prime minister Imran Khan (**pictured**) to a prison with better facilities after a court order, his party said.

His legal team and party had been pleading with several courts to issue orders for Khan to be shifted to Adyala Jail in garrison city of Rawalpindi, which they argued was more appropriate for a former premier.

"Arrangements are taking place," Khan's close aide Zulfikar Bukhari said in a message to journalists, referring to preparations to move the former premier after Khan's lawyer, Naeem Panjutha, said a high court in the capital had ordered the move.

Panjutha later wrote on social media platform X that Khan had been moved to the new prison but then deleted that post. Khan has been detained in a low-key, colonial era prison in the northwestern Attock district that lacked facilities



like attached bathroom and television and made it harder for family and friends to visit or send newspapers, books or food.

The former prime minister has been in jail since early August after being controversially convicted on hotly disputed corruption charges. The judge cantered to Britain for a workshop after announcing a verdict without hearing the defence witnesses.

A court suspended his three year prison term, but his release on bail did not happen as authorities charged him in another case related to "leaking state secrets".

The Intercept, an American news outlet known for its investigative mien, last month published the full contents of the cipher at the heart of the case, which appeared to strongly back Khan's claim of US involvement in his removal from power by orchestrating a no-confidence vote in the parliament for not siding with Washington in the Ukraine war.

Khan says the charges are designed to stop him running in an election early next year, an allegation the authorities deny. From moving as a free citizen until last year, he has been charged in over 150 cases. Most opinion polls this year give him an edge over his rivals by a country mile, but he has been barred from contesting after the court verdict last month.

# Time ticking on US deadline to avert shutdown

AFP  
Washington

Millions of Americans braced yesterday for pay and welfare checks to stop within days as Congress careened toward a damaging government shutdown, with Republican right wingers blocking attempts to pass a budget.

Four months after barely avoiding the more serious prospect of a credit default, the world's largest economy is once again on the verge of a convulsion, with the lights due to go out at the weekend.

Republicans leading the House of Representatives – hamstrung by hardline rebels demanding deep spending cuts – have been unable to pass the usual series of bills setting out departmental budgets for the next financial year.

The party's leadership does not even have the votes to advance a short-term funding bill at 2023 spending levels – known as a continuing resolution – to keep the government open past midnight on Saturday.

A shutdown would put at risk the finances of workers at national parks, museums and other sites operating on federal funding, but it could also carry significant political risk for Biden as he runs for re-election in 2024.

The White House warned yesterday that seven million people

who rely on the food aid programme for women and children known as WIC could also see their money stopped.

"During an Extreme Republican Shutdown, women and children who count on WIC would soon start being turned away at grocery store counters, with a federal contingency fund drying up after just a few days and many states left with limited WIC funds to operate the program," a spokesman said in a statement.

The deadlock arose after House Republicans refused to support the government spending levels agreed between Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy, the top Republican in Congress, that would keep government gears turning.

Another major sticking point has been a request for additional aid for Kyiv, after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Congress last week pleading for more weapons to battle Russian forces 18 months into the war.

Both parties in the Senate support the \$24bn aid bill. But a handful of hardline Republicans in the House are threatening to block any funding measures that include the aid.

"UNLESS YOU GET EVERYTHING, SHUT IT DOWN!" former president Donald Trump demanded in a post on his Truth Social platform late Sunday as he led calls for the Republican hardliners to dig in.

The budget vote in Congress

regularly turns into a standoff, with one party using the prospect of a shutdown to seek concessions from the other, usually without success.

Trump, who is also running for re-election, forced a 35-day shutdown over border controls in 2018 but ended up reopening the government after failing to secure a single concession from Democrats. The impasse is invariably resolved before the standoffs become crises but this year the shutdown is exacerbated by new levels of polarisation on Capitol Hill.

In the Senate, debate is led by two political heavyweights, Democratic majority leader Chuck Schumer and Mitch McConnell, his Republican counterpart.

Congress was out yesterday but Schumer has been paving the way for a continuing resolution, including Ukraine aid, in talks with McConnell and the White House.

A measure that would keep the government open through early December has support on both sides of the Senate – but would likely not be ready for a vote before the shutdown and would not have the support of the Republican right.

The shutdown prospect comes just four months after the United States came dangerously close to defaulting on its debt, which could have had disastrous consequences for the American economy and beyond.

## Probe into cancer drug distributors as patients go blind

Pakistan said yesterday it was investigating two local distributors of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche's Avastin cancer drug after 12 diabetic patients injected with the drug went blind.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) said the health authorities in Punjab, the most populous province, had launched the investigation into local use of the drug Avastin, which is licensed for use in Pakistan.

"Incidents of loss of vision in diabetic patients have been reported following treatment with Altered/Dispensed/Diluted Avastin injection," the regulator said in a statement.

Javed Akram, the province's Minister for Specialised Health, said police were questioning two men they believe to be the drug's distributors in the state.

"A high level committee has been constituted to probe the issue. A case has been registered against

the distributor and his aide," Akram said.

Following the incidents, the DRAP instructed the importer to recall the suspected batches of Avastin 100mg injection, which it said had been created illegally.

"The sale/distribution of registered Avastin injection has been put on halt till verification of its quality through sampling and laboratory testing to safeguard public health," it said in a statement on its website.

On its website, Roche said Avastin was approved in more than 130 countries, including the United States, to treat several types of cancer.

"Roche strongly condemns this criminal act of counterfeiting and is doing everything in its power to co-operate with the authorities to protect patients from counterfeits," said Roche in a statement to Reuters.

# Mafia boss Denaro dies, taking secrets with him

AFP  
Rome

Sicilian Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro (**pictured**), captured in January after three decades on the run, died yesterday in hospital in central Italy, taking to the grave the secrets of his brutal reign.

The 61-year-old had been treated for colon cancer while detained in a high-security jail in L'Aquila but was moved last month to hospital after his condition deteriorated.

L'Aquila mayor Pierluigi Biondi confirmed the mobster's death in hospital overnight "following a worsening of his illness".

His death "puts the end to a story of violence and blood", Biondi said and thanked prison and hospital staff for their "professionalism and humanity".

It was "the epilogue of an existence lived without remorse or repentance, a painful chapter in the recent history of our nation", the mayor added.

Messina Denaro was one of the most ruthless bosses in Cosa Nostra, the real-life Sicilian crime syndicate depicted in the *Godfather* movies.

He was convicted of involvement in the murder of anti-Mafia judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino in 1992 and in deadly bombings in Rome, Florence and Milan in 1993.

One of his six life sentences was for the kidnapping and subsequent murder of the 12-year-old son of a witness in the Falcone case.

"No-one should be denied prayers. But I cannot say I'm sorry," Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said of the mobster's death.

Messina Denaro disappeared

in the summer of 1993 and spent the next 30 years on the run as the Italian state cracked down on the Sicilian mob.

But he remained at the top of Italy's most-wanted list and increasingly became a figure of legend.

It was his decision to seek treatment for his cancer that led to his capture. He was arrested on January 16, 2023, when he visited a health clinic in Palermo.

He was initially treated in his jail cell, but was moved to the inmates' ward of the hospital in L'Aquila in August, where he remained under heavy security.

Since Friday night, he had been reported to have been in an "irreversible coma". Medics had stopped feeding him and he had asked not to be resuscitated, Italian media reports said.

His arrest may have brought some relief for his victims, but the



mob boss always maintained his silence.

In interviews in custody after being arrested, Messina Denaro even denied he was a member of the Cosa Nostra.

"Unfortunately his capture did not help the search for truth and justice," Borsellino's brother, Sal-

vatore, told LaPresse news agency.

After a routine autopsy, Messina Denaro's body is expected to be transferred to his hometown of Castelvetro in western Sicily.

But there will likely be no funeral, religious or otherwise, as police normally ban such ceremonies for mafia bosses.

The *Corriere della Sera* newspaper had previously reported that Messina Denaro could be buried in the family tomb, alongside his father, Don Ciccio.

Don Ciccio was also head of the local clan. He was said to have died of a heart attack while on the run, his body left in the countryside, dressed for the funeral.

After Messina Denaro went on the run, there was intense speculation that he had gone abroad – and he probably did.

But in the months before his capture, he had been staying near his hometown.

Castelvetro mayor Enzo Alfano said he hoped the "suffocating cloud" hanging over his town would now lift.

"It will take decades to eradicate the mentality, the sometimes rampant culture of lawlessness, of impunity" that Messina Denaro "cultivated for so long", he said.

Investigators had been combing the Sicilian countryside for Messina Denaro for years, searching for hideouts and wiretapping members of his family and his friends.

They were heard discussing the medical problems of an unnamed person who suffered from cancer, as well as eye problems – a person who detectives became sure was Messina Denaro.

They used a national health system database to search for male patients of the right age and medical history, and eventually closed in.



# Islamic culture highlighted at ministers’ meet in Doha

From Page 1

He affirmed that the World Cup was not merely a tournament, but rather it proved that culture is the bedrock of global events whatever their types are, pointing out that Qatar broadcasted all cultural, Arabic, and Islamic messages that gained respect of world nations and identified the richness of Qatari values and abilities to build a civilized world.

HE the Minister of Culture called for safeguarding the cultural identity and protecting the new generations from subversive ideologies.

HE Sheikh Abdulrahman sent his earnest condolences to the families of victims and peoples of Morocco and Libya who were traumatised in the aftermath of the earthquake and floods, respectively, this month. He said Arab cultures are deep rooted in the Islamic values and make the nations one body; if a member of it is afflicted,

the whole of the body is affected.

In his inaugural remarks, Director-General of the Icesco, Salem bin Mohamed al- Malik, thanked His Highness the Amir, the government, and the people of Qatar for hosting this tremendous cultural event in Doha which has been the capital of culture in the Islamic world.

Qatar has demonstrated an incredible proficiency and rose to the challenges of hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, where culture gained ample space in the history of the global tournament, al-Malik said.

He underlined that Icesco discharges its duty in the cultural action, since culture is not merely a hobby or a badge of social identification, but it is the pulse of nations in advancing civilisation, reviewing Icesco's efforts and initiatives to upgrade and renew the cultural action in the Islamic world through leveraging applications of



artificial intelligence (AI), including young people in the efforts of preserving and valuing heritage, setting a number of projects and programmes, as well as innovating new concepts for civilised communication.

Former Unesco Director-General Irina Bokova, who attends the conference as guest of honour, hailed Islam as a religion of peace and Islamic civilization as a driver for rapprochement among cultures. She said that Islamic values promote science, culture, and civilisational interaction.

Praising Qatar's hosting of FIFA World Cup 2022, Bokova said Qatar had turned the global mega event into a dialogue of cultures. She also expressed appreciation for Qatar's cultural renaissance and its cooperation with Unesco in various fields including heritage, with Doha having hosted the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2013.

Bokova lauded Icesco's efforts in preserving heritage, supporting youth and women, and partnering with Unesco to achieve many goals. The inauguration featured a docu-

mentary on the achievements during the Celebration of Doha as the Arab Region's Capital of Islamic Culture for 2021, which was held in March, 2021 under the theme of "Our Culture is Light". There was another documentary on Icesco's achievements and initiatives.

After the inaugural session of the conference, HE the Minister of Culture, the director-general of Icesco and the participating ministers of culture toured the exhibition accompanying the conference. The display showcased plastic arts, artistic works, manuscripts and

exhibits of several centres affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, in addition to a special Icesco pavilion that featured its most important publications.

The conference took stock of the most important initiatives and final outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Consultative Council for Cultural Development in the Islamic World, which was held on Saturday.

The conference adopted Qatar's Lusail City as the Capital of Culture in the Islamic World 2030, documents for developing the Icesco Programme for Capitals of Culture in the Islamic World, and the most important countries nominated to host Capitals of Culture in the Islamic World.

Also among the outcomes were discussing Icesco's efforts to support cultural work in line with its vision and strategy, the Islamic World Heritage Committee report and the guidance document for cultural policies.

# Largest museum exhibition of Dan Flavin, Donald Judd in Qatar in a Mena first

Qatar Museums (QM) will open on October 25 at QM Gallery Al Riwaq, the largest museum exhibition outside of the US – and the first in-depth presentation worldwide in nearly two decades – of the work of the closely linked American artists Dan Flavin (1933–1996) and Donald Judd (1928–1994).

The exhibition will also be the first major presentation of Flavin and Judd's works in the Mena region. The artists were considered two of the founders of minimalism, the widely influential art movement that broke free from traditional notions of painting and sculpture to focus on experiencing real space and materials.

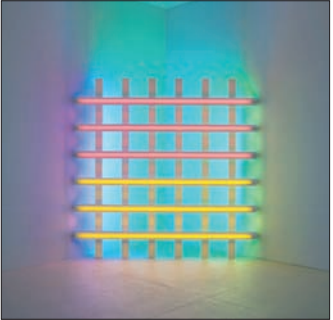
Flavin and Judd met in 1962 in New York, and quickly became central figures among a cohort of artists including Lee Bontecou, John Chamberlain, Yayoi Kusama, Sol Lewitt, Claes Oldenburg, and Frank Stella, who were charting the new terrain between painting and sculpture.

The Dan Flavin | Donald Judd: Doha exhibition is organised by QM, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Lacma) and is curated by its CEO, Michael Govan, director Wallis Annenberg, and Contemporary Art associate curator Jennifer King.

The exhibition is part of Qatar Creates, the year-round national cultural movement that curates, promotes, and celebrates the diversity of cultural activities in Qatar and connects residents and global audiences with Qatar's creative industries.

Featuring 34 works by Flavin and 25 by Judd, the show focuses on the artists' shared engagement with material, colour, and form. Spanning the 1960s through the 1990s, the exhibition will highlight works from the collection of QM, as well as important loans from other museums, private collections, the Dan Flavin Estate, and the Judd Foundation.

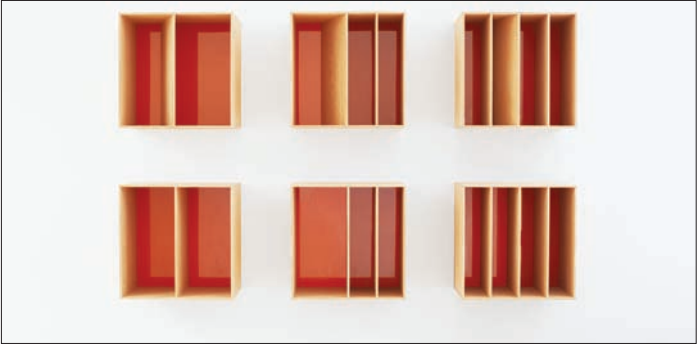
"We are grateful to Michael Govan and our partners at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for working with us to bring this landmark exhibition to Qatar, where we are introducing the works of two icons of contemporary art, Dan Flavin and Donald Judd, not just to



Dan Flavin, untitled (in honour of Harold Joachim) 3, 1977, pink, yellow, blue, and green fluorescent light.



Dan Flavin, untitled (to Don Judd, colourist) 1-5, 1987, pink, red, yellow, blue, and green fluorescent light, five parts.



Donald Judd, untitled, 1986, Douglas fir plywood and orange plexiglass.

Qatar but to the entire region.

"The lasting influence of these artists is not limited to the visual arts. Their work continues to be a touchstone in fields as diverse as architecture, design, and furniture. It is especially fitting that this exhibition opens during Qatar Creates Week, when we celebrate all artistic disciplines and consider how art has the power to transcend boundaries," QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani said in a press statement.

Govan said: "Dan Flavin and Donald Judd are often described as the founders of American minimalism. They were as innovative as European painters Picasso and Braque in the early part of the twentieth century. In the 1960s in New York, Flavin and Judd imagined a new art made of common industrial materials ubiquitous in our modern culture.

"In the end, their artworks are anything but minimal. On the contrary, the works in this exhibition from all periods of the two artists' careers demonstrate their mastery of colour, form, materials, as well

as their attention to their artworks' relationship to their surrounding architecture."

The exhibition is organised with works by both the artists installed in the three central galleries, demonstrating their intersecting concerns and practices. The galleries flanking this central section are dedicated separately to each artist. Highlights of Dan Flavin | Donald Judd: Doha include:

- Flavin's early lightwork the diagonal of May 25, 1963 (to Constantin Brancusi), 1963, inspired by the Constantin Brancusi sculpture Endless Column
- Works from Flavin's "monument" for V. Tatlin series using cool white florescent lights of different lengths in varying arrangements
- A number of the works that were shown in the landmark exhibition dan flavin: fluorescent light in 1964 at New York's Green Gallery
- A large-scale installation by Flavin, alternating pink and "gold," 1976
- A landmark Judd work, untitled, 1964, that marks the artist's

transition between painting and sculpture

● A group of metal progression works intended to be shown in buildings Judd designed, but never completed, in Marfa, Texas at the Chinati Foundation, which have never been exhibited as a group outside Marfa

● Judd's vertical stack works, one in galvanized iron and one brass and green plexiglass, each demonstrating his mastery of material and color

● Judd's untitled, 1986, the artist's largest wall work in plywood and plexiglass comprised of thirty units.

The exhibition is a legacy project of the 2021 Year of Culture between Qatar and the US, a yearlong cultural exchange designed to deepen the understanding between two nations and their people.

The Year of Culture Qatar – US also featured exhibitions of the works of Jeff Koons and Virgil Abloh in Doha and an exhibition of extraordinary textiles and portraits on loan from the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) at Washington, DC's Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art.

A robust public programme will accompany the exhibition and include in-person and digital panel conversations and lectures, special tours, and more.

QM and Lacma share a history of collaboration and professional exchanges going back to 2012 with the presentation of Lacma's exhibition, Gifts of the Sultan: The Arts of Giving at the Islamic Courts at MIA. In 2018, the partnership was later expanded through a joint collaboration with the Yuz Museum in Shanghai.

# QNL donates 1,000 specially curated reading packages to Indonesia libraries

In a move that highlights Qatar National Library's commitment to global literacy and cultural exchange, Qatar Reads presented 1,000 specially curated reading packages to five prominent community libraries through The Library Forum for Society in Jakarta, Indonesia.

This donation is part of a larger initiative to raise literacy levels amongst children in Indonesia and foster a cultural collaboration. This effort is part of Qatar's annual "Years of Culture" initiative – an international cultural exchange that deepens understanding between nations and their people.

Furthermore, as part of the Family Reading Programme in Qatar, 1,000 children in Doha received packages about Indonesia, an endeavour which culminated in a cultural celebration at the Indonesian embassy in Qatar.

Indonesian ambassador to Qatar Ridwan Hassan said: "We chose the children because they are the owners of the future and the leaders of tomorrow. With reading, they can broaden their knowledge and experience, positioning themselves as agents of change for the enhancement of our future initiatives. Thank you Qatar Reads and Qatar National Library."

Association of Southeast Asian Nations Fauziya Edrees Salman al-Sulaiti said: "It fills me with immense joy to observe young Indonesians embracing

the culture of Qatar, just as Qatari children are doing with Indonesia. The celebration of the Years of Culture between our nations has been a testament to our mutual appreciation. I remain optimistic that this spirit of collaboration will only deepen with time."

Director General of Culture in the Ministry of Education and Culture in Indonesia Hilmar Farid said: "Facilitating the union of Qatar Reads and The Library Forum for Society in Indonesia has been a rewarding endeavour. Their combined dedication to foster a culture of reading is a vivid reminder that literature is a lifelong pursuit, one that continually refines and uplifts us."

The contribution included titles such as Hayy Ibn Yaqdhan, written in Arabic for children by Qatari author Asma AlKuwari, translated into Indonesian by Hadija Rima, and published by Dar Nabjah. It also featured the English-language "Hayakom", an in-depth look at Qatar by HBUK Press, and the Welcome to Qatar booklet, showcasing unique comics from Qatar Reads which was made available in Arabic and Indonesian.

Additionally, the collection contained Ambassador of My Country, a comic about Qatar penned in Arabic by Khalid Al-Subaiy, a primary student from Qatar Academy Sidra, and translated into Indonesian by Hadija Rima. (QNA)



# Verstappen favourite to clinch championship at Qatar Grand Prix

From Page 1

But even a perfect weekend won't help Perez's cause, as Verstappen will be champion if he leaves Qatar with a 146-point gap. Regardless of what Perez does on Saturday, Verstappen will be crowned by finishing sixth in the F1 sprint.

In order to keep his championship 'hopes' alive going into Sunday's (October 8) race, Perez needs at least a third-place finish in the sprint, regardless of Verstappen's result.

In the worst-case scenario for Verstappen, with Perez winning on Saturday and him failing to score, the two-time champion will be crowned with an eighth-place finish on Sunday, regardless of his teammate's result.

Perez, in contrast, needs to win Sunday's race in order to delay Verstappen's celebrations. Any other result will not be enough for the Mexican. Should Perez tie Verstappen's points tally, the latter would still be champion based on the amount of victories scored.

# Qatar gears up to host the ultimate motor show

From Page 1

Welcoming the world to the ultimate automotive festival is a testament to our dedication to creating unforgettable experiences for residents and visitors.

"Hosting large-scale, globally recognised events such as GIMS Qatar exemplifies our commitment to our strategic vision of becoming the fastest-growing destination in the Middle East by 2030."

GIMS CEO Sandro Mesquita said: "We are extremely pleased to welcome a prestigious line-up of exhibitors to the inaugural edition of the GIMS Qatar. For over a century, GIMS has been at the forefront showcasing automotive innovations and technology. Today, GIMS is excited to expand its legacy in the Middle East, venturing for the first time outside Geneva, by partnering exclusively with a dynamic and progressive country like Qatar".

Taking place at NMOQ in a closed event, and

in close partnership with the upcoming Qatar Auto Museum and Car Design News, GIMS Qatar will host a forum for the future of car design, which will include a programme of keynote speakers, exclusive panel discussions and a networking lunch.

The Sealine Adventure Hub, located at the luxurious Outpost Al Barari, will offer adventure seekers the opportunity to explore the surrounding dunes and see first-hand the skills and capabilities of automotive brands participating in GIMS Qatar 2023 as they conquer the toughest terrains.

In collaboration with the Qatar Motor & Motorcycle Federation (QMMF), GIMS Qatar will also host four exclusive Track Days at Lusail International Circuit. Guests will be invited to enjoy premiere access with the unique opportunity to drive on the newly renovated circuit directly following the F1 champions.

The Urban Playground at Lusail Boulevard will bring the passion and energy of GIMS

Qatar to life with engaging performances and interactive activities. A special Parade of Excellence will take place on October 12 at 7pm, which will feature up to 100 dream cars and unique models cruising along Lusail Boulevard's 1.3km iconic strip.

At the DECC, a Classics Gallery will offer visitors an opportunity to discover an exclusive line-up of the world's greatest and finest motorcars. Showcasing some of the best cars ever made and top concourse winners, this exhibit is a must-attend event for all discerning classic car buyers, collectors, and enthusiasts. The exquisite display also shines spotlight on the automotive jewels from Qatari and Arabian private collections.

GIMS Qatar will be open daily at the DECC from 2pm-10pm, and 10am-10pm on Saturdays. The event will see free entrance during weekdays and ticketed entrance, QR50, during weekends. Tickets, including those for free entry, are available on the Virgin Megastore website.