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Amir, S Africa president agree to enhance ties



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa held yesterday an official talks session at the Amiri Diwan.

His Highness the Amir welcomes Ramaphosa upon his arrival at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa held yesterday an official talks session at the Amiri Diwan.

At the outset of the session, His Highness the Amir welcomed President Ramaphosa and his accompanying delegation, noting the visit comes in light of the shared keenness to

consolidate co-operation between the two countries in various sectors.

His Highness the Amir also expressed his satisfaction with the current level of relations between the two countries, which paves the way for further co-operation and bilateral partnership in the future.

His Highness the Amir pointed out that the outstanding relations between Qatar and South Africa are an extension of years of mutual collaboration, constructive co-operation, and mutual respect. In this context, he

pointed out that the two countries will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year.

For his part, President Ramaphosa expressed his profound appreciation to His Highness the Amir for the warm reception extended to him and his accompanying delegation, pointing to the progress witnessed in bilateral relations across various fields and looking forward to further enhancing these relations into broader horizons.

During the session, they discussed the relations between

the two countries, particularly in the fields of economy, energy, investment, and education. Additionally, they discussed several issues of mutual interest, especially the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, regional and international diplomatic efforts calling for an immediate ceasefire and the protection of civilians in Gaza, and serious efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian issue fundamentally and conclusively to ensure security and stability in the region.

To Page 3



His Highness the Amir and the president of South Africa witnessed the signing of several memoranda of understanding between the two governments.

Cabinet lauds Amir's efforts to help Gazans

The Cabinet yesterday expressed its pride in the intensive efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in order to reach an immediate ceasefire, stop bloodshed, protect civilians in Gaza Strip, and ensure flow of relief convoys and humanitarian aid to the besieged Palestinian brothers, as well as the release of captives. As part of these efforts, the Amir took part in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh, and held in-depth discussions in Abu Dhabi, Cairo and Riyadh. **Page 4**

Qatar slams bombing of Jordan field hospital

Qatar has condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli bombing of the Jordanian field hospital in Gaza, in which seven of its staff were injured as they attempted to provide medical assistance to wounded Palestinian citizens. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that this is a new chapter in a series of heinous Israeli crimes targeting hospitals and civilian objects, and a flagrant violation of international law and conventions, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. It expressed Qatar's solidarity with Jordan in all political and legal steps it could take to address this brutal crime. **(QNA)**

Thundery rain today, tomorrow

The Met office has forecast thundery rain associated with strong wind and poor horizontal visibility today and tomorrow. The offshore forecast adds high seas too. Today the wind will be northeasterly 8-20kt, gusting to 40kt with thundery rain, while tomorrow it will be northeasterly-southeasterly 8-18kt, reaching up to 40kt with thundery rain.

Sheikha Moza attends 'Peace in Palestine' summit in Istanbul



QNA
Istanbul

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation, and SDG advocate, participated yesterday in a high-level summit entitled "United for Peace in Palestine".

Hosted in Istanbul by the Turkish First Lady, Emine Erdogan, the summit brought together first ladies and government officials from around the globe to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine and call for a ceasefire.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza thanked Emine Erdogan for her staunch and unwavering support of the Palestinian people. She applauded all those who raise their voice in support of the people of Palestine and their cause, particularly in the face of threats of silencing, misinformation and false news. She encouraged global supporters of Palestine to "counter false narratives, whether through the media, through intellectual or cultural means, or through official channels". She urged everyone to "promote the truth wherever we can".

Her Highness Sheikha Moza detailed the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza strip stating: "According to the WHO, a child dies in Gaza every 10 minutes, which means that by the time I conclude my speech a child will have lost his life, and by the end of this session, a further 18 children will be dead."

She emphasised the moral imperative to

Sheikha Moza withdraws from role as Unesco goodwill ambassador

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser has withdrawn from her position as goodwill ambassador with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco). According to Al Jazeera, the move came after Sheikha Moza said Unesco had failed to carry out its role in rescuing and providing relief to the children of Gaza, who are the main victims of Israel's ongoing bombardment campaign. Al Jazeera said Her Highness Sheikha Moza announced her decision during a summit in Istanbul earlier yesterday. She has worked with the UN to support global education since 2003.

provide immediate humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, noting: "For as long as two opposing intentions exist - the intention to build and the intention to destroy - there is no other option for us - whether moral, legal or ethical - but to stand with those who intend to build. For Qatar's part, we will continue to support the education sector in Gaza through the Education Above All Foundation."

Her Highness Sheikha Moza commended the role played by Qatar. "A bright image of Qatar will be preserved in the memory of Arab and Qatari generations. It may be a small country in population and size, but it is great in its ambition, morals, and principles." **To Page 3**

Israel's Gaza hospital raid stokes alarm

AFP
Gaza Strip

Israeli soldiers yesterday raided and then combed through Gaza's main hospital before withdrawing, which has raised fears for patients and other civilians trapped inside.

Israeli soldiers, some wearing face masks, shot in the air and ordered young men to surrender, at the start of what the army described as a "precise and targeted" operation at the facility.

About 1,000 male Palestinians, hands above their heads, were in the vast hospital courtyard, Israeli soldiers checking them for weapons or explosives.

Washington, the Red Cross and World Health Organisation urged utmost caution with civilian lives.

A source said that Israeli troops had withdrawn from the facility and redeployed around its outskirts.

Israel said the raid was executed based on "an operational necessity".

A White House spokesman pushed back against Hamas claims that US President Joe Biden was "wholly responsible" for the raid by Washington sharing its assessments that militants were using Al-Shifa complex.

"We did not give an OK to their military operations around the hospital," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters, adding that such decisions were for the Israeli military. **Page 8**



Israeli soldiers carrying out operations inside Al-Shifa hospital.

4,710 children, 3,160 women among 11,500 massacred

The Gaza Strip's Hamas-run government said yesterday the death toll from the war between Israel and Palestinian fighters had reached 11,500 including at least 4,710 children and 3,160 women. Some 29,800 people have also been wounded in the fighting, according to the government.

Qatar calls for urgent international probe

In an official statement released yesterday, Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called for an immediate and comprehensive international investigation into the Israeli occupation army's assault on healthcare facilities in Gaza.

It said Qatar vehemently denounced the egregious actions of the Israeli occupation forces in forcefully entering the Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza. "This investigation, it asserted, should involve dispatching independent UN investigators." **Page 3**

Security Council calls for 'humanitarian pauses'

The UN Security Council yesterday called for "extended humanitarian pauses" in the Gaza Strip, the first time it has broken its silence since the start of the bloody conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The resolution, prepared by Malta and adopted with 12 votes in favour, "calls for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days" to allow aid to reach civilians in the besieged territory. Three states abstained - the United States, Britain and Russia.



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Political, economic ties to be expanded

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani stressed that he agreed with President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa during their talks yesterday to expand the scope of the political and economic relations between the two countries. The Amir said in a post on his official X account that during the talks with President Ramaphosa, they agreed to

expand the scope of their political and economic relations. The Amir added that they also discussed the Israeli war against Gaza and its repercussions on regional and international security. In this context, the Amir praised the stances of South Africa and its president that support and stand by the Palestinian people and their just cause. **(QNA)**

Amir, S Africa president seek to expand ties to new horizons

From Page 1

His Highness the Amir and the president of South Africa witnessed the signing of several memoranda of understanding between the two governments, including a memorandum of understanding for co-operation in the field of education, a memorandum of understanding for bilateral co-operation in empowering women and persons with disabilities, and a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a mechanism for bilateral consultations.

The session and signing ceremony were attended by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Head of the State Security Abdullah bin Mohamed al-Khulaf, HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, and HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi along with several senior officials.

On the South African side, Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Thandi Modise, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga, Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, and several members of the official delegation accompanying president attended the session and signing ceremony. Also, His Highness the Amir and the president of South Africa held a bilateral meeting where they discussed the overall co-operation between the two countries, in addition to addressing several issues of mutual interest.

His Highness the Amir hosted a luncheon banquet in honour of the South African president and the delegation accompanying him.

The president was accorded an official reception ceremony upon his arrival at the Amiri Diwan.

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa left Doha last evening. The president and the accompanying delegation were seen off upon departure at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and ambassador of South Africa to Qatar Ghulam Hoosein Asmal.

Qatar calls for international probe into Israeli attacks on hospitals in Gaza

Qatar has vehemently denounced the egregious actions of the Israeli occupation forces in forcefully entering the Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza. This invasion resulted in the tragic loss of several patients, including innocent children, an act deemed a war crime and a blatant violation of international laws, most notably, the Fourth Geneva Convention.

This incursion follows a disturbing pattern of the occupation's deliberate targeting of hospitals, schools, and civilian establishments within the Gaza Strip.

In an official statement released yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called for an immediate and

comprehensive international investigation. This investigation, it asserted, should involve dispatching independent UN investigators to meticulously examine the circumstances surrounding the Israeli occupation army's assault on healthcare facilities. The ministry further urged the international community to take swift and decisive measures to hold Israel accountable, acting as a deterrent against further crimes targeting civilians. This is particularly urgent in providing necessary protection for the multitude of displaced individuals seeking refuge within the Al-Shifa Medical Complex, alongside the wounded, sick and medical personnel.

The ministry warned that the international community's silence on the blatant crimes against humanity committed by the occupation forces against the Palestinian people could embolden Israel to perpetuate more atrocities. Such a scenario, it cautioned, not only poses a direct threat to regional stability but also erodes trust in the international community and its institutions.

The ministry underscored Qatar's unwavering stance on the justice of the Palestinian cause, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and the imperative establishment of their independent state on the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. **(QNA)**

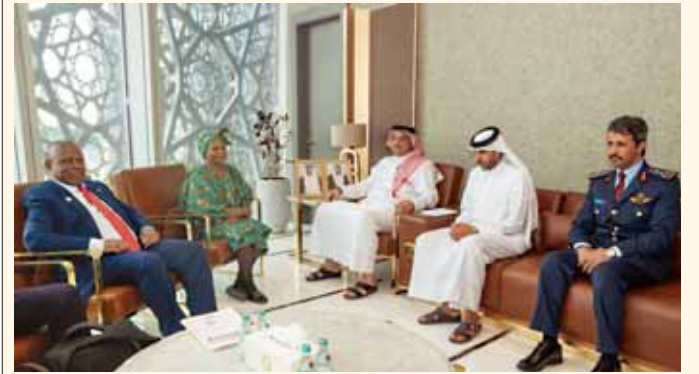


Sheikha Moza attends 'Peace in Palestine' summit in Istanbul

From Page 1

Her Highness Sheikha Moza concluded the speech stating: "All that we do, we do for the people of Gaza, but it can never be as much as is owed to them. At this wretched moment in history, the people of Gaza represent the dignity of the Ummah." Emine Erdogan condemned the ongoing aggression in Gaza stating: "What we are witnessing today is not a war; This is an attempt to impose a world order in which only the strongest and cruellest survive and other lives can be easily wasted." **(QNA) PICTURE:** Aisha al-Musallam

Defence minister in Doha meetings



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met with South African Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Thandi Modise and her accompanying delegation, during the current state visit of President Cyril Ramaphosa to the country. The meeting discussed topics of common interest and co-operation relations between the two sides and ways to strengthen and develop them. Several senior officials and officers from both sides attended the meeting.



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met with Commander of the US Central Command Lieutenant-General Michael Corella. The meeting discussed the latest developments in the region, in particular the Israeli war on Gaza Strip. The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel al-Nabit, and senior officials and officers from both sides. **(QNA)**

Interior minister meets chief of French National Gendarmerie



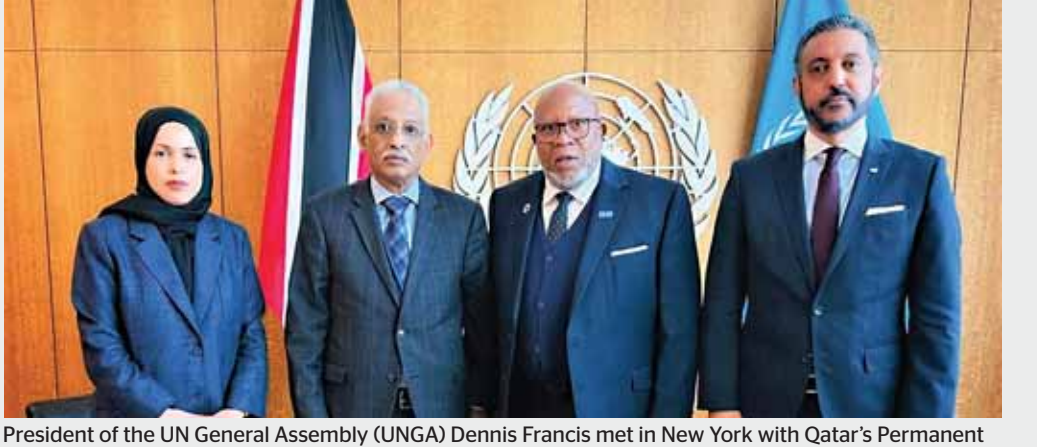
HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met in Paris with the Director-General of the French National Gendarmerie Lieutenant-General Christian Rodriguez. The two sides discussed a host of topics of common interest, besides bilateral relations in the security fields, and ways to support and develop them. HE Sheikh Khalifa also attended part of the military shows performed by the Gendarmerie Forces. **(QNA)**

UN chief meets GCC ambassadors



Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN HE Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani participated in the meeting of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres with the ambassadors of the GCC countries in New York. The meeting discussed the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip as a result of the ongoing Israeli attacks. For his part, the UN secretary-general praised the active role of the GCC countries in delivering the relief aid and their efforts to provide protection for the civilians in Gaza. **(QNA)**

UNGA asked to hold briefing on Gaza



President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Dennis Francis met in New York with Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN HE Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, the Permanent Representative of Libya as Chairman of the Arab League Group, and the Permanent Representative of Mauritania as Chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) Group. The three delegates formally submitted, on behalf of the Arab League and the OIC, a request for the UNGA to hold a briefing on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. **(QNA)**



QATAR

Al-Sulaiti meets Italian deputy minister

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti met yesterday with Italian Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Edoardo Rixi. The meeting discussed bilateral co-operation in transport, ports, and civil aviation, and ways to enhance it. **(QNA)**



Al-Ansari meets Canadian official



Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari met yesterday with Canada's Representative on Hostages Issues Julie Sunday, who is visiting the country. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and the developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. Dr al-Ansari stressed Qatar's continued efforts to mediate the release of hostages, noting that the continued bombing doubles the humanitarian catastrophe in the Strip and complicates the efforts being made. The Canadian official expressed her country's thanks to Qatar for its mediation efforts to release the hostages and evacuate Canadian citizens from Gaza. **(QNA)**

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Israeli bombing of QCRG HQ a gross violation of rights: Cabinet

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held at its seat at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

After the meeting, HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs issued the following statement: At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet expressed its pride in the intensive efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in order to reach an immediate ceasefire, stop bloodshed, protect civilians in Gaza Strip, and ensure flow of relief convoys and humanitarian aid to the besieged Palestinian brothers, as well as the release of captives.

As part of these efforts, His Highness the Amir took part in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh on Saturday, and held earlier in-depth discussions in Abu Dhabi, Cairo and Riyadh focused on the developments in Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, joint efforts to stop the Israeli aggression and ensure a continuous flow of humanitarian aid, and anything that would support security and stability in the region.

The Cabinet applauded the historic speech of His Highness the Amir at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which was comprehensive, sincere and clear in affirming Qatar's firm position in support of the steadfastness of the brotherly Palestinian people and their just cause, and in expressing



The Cabinet meeting held at Amiri Diwan yesterday.

the feelings of the Arab and Islamic peoples demanding deterrent steps in the face of the Israeli war crimes, and not being satisfied with statements of condemnation and denunciation, as well as denouncing the inability of the international community and its failure to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities, and the contradictory positions of some countries that claim to protect international law and the world order but do nothing while watching the scenes of indiscriminate killing of Palestinian civilians, including children or women.

The Cabinet reiterated Qatar's strong condemnation of the Israeli occupation bombardment of the headquarters of the Qatar Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza (QCRG), in a gross violation of international law, and in a extension of the policy of targeting the human, especially since this committee has worked

through its projects to alleviate the suffering of the population in Gaza Strip who has been suffering from a stifling siege and continuous aggression for years, which has now reached its peak by the killing of thousands of innocent, defenceless people, and the destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, population centres and shelters for displaced persons, which requires urgent action by the international community to hold Israel accountable for the horrific crimes it commits and its serious violations of international law and international humanitarian law.

The Cabinet then considered the topics on its agenda as follows:

First, the Cabinet approved a draft law on public and private state property, and decided to refer it to the Shura Council.

Second, the Cabinet approved a draft law promulgating Child's Rights Law,

and decided to refer it to the Shura Council.

Third, the Cabinet took the necessary measures to ratify:

1- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in the cultural field between the ministries of culture of Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

2- An MoU in the field of training between Qatar Aeronautical Academy and the Kyrgyzstan Aviation Institute named after Ishembay Abdraimov.

Fourth, the Cabinet approved a draft protocol amending some provisions of an air services agreement between the governments of Qatar and Jordan.

Fifth, the Cabinet approved hosting of the informal meeting (Retreat) of the Executive Council of the World Health Organisation (Doha 4-5/12/2023).

Sixth, the Cabinet reviewed the following topics and took appropriate decisions thereon:

1- Periodic report prepared by the Ministry of Municipality on Doha Horticultural Expo 2023.

2- Report on the results of the participation in the 34th General International Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs on cyberspace and modern means of religious discourse between rational use and deviation from seriousness (Cairo – September 2023).

3- Report on the results of the participation in the meetings of the 4th session of Qatari-Tajik Joint Economic, Commercial and Technical Committee (Doha – September 2023). **(QNA)**

Harley-Davidson, Mitsubishi, Porsche models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with NBK powered sports, has announced the recall of Harley-Davidson Touring and CVO Touring, 2023 model, as contact between the brake line and the exhaust could over time lead to a hole in the brake line and a loss of rear brake fluid. The MoCI, in co-operation with Qatar Automobiles Company, announced the recall of Mitsubishi Outlander 2.5, 2023 model, as Arabic language is not displayed on the display unit. The MoCI, in co-operation with Porsche Centre Doha Al Boraq Automobiles, also announced the recall of Porsche Carrera, 2021-2024 models in campaign No: APB3, as a malfunction in the opening mechanism of the side airbags can result in their failure to deploy in case of accidents in affected vehicles. The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The MoCI said it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, X (formerly Twitter) - @MOCIQATAR, Instagram MOCIQATAR. The MoCI mobile application available on iPhone and Android devices MOCI.QATAR



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

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period		Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	LT23108100	16.11.2023	22.11.2023	11.12.2023	75,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: ECOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT AROUND PS-2, PS-3 AND NFA								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required						
2	LT23107100	16.11.2023	22.11.2023	11.12.2023	65,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VESSEL TRAFFIC SYSTEM AT RAS LAFFAN PORT								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required						
3	LT23MT0082	16.11.2023	22.11.2023	04.12.2023	2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: SALE & REMOVAL OF IT , HEALTHCARE, OPERATIONS & FACILITIES ITEMS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required						
4	LT23MT0101	16.11.2023	22.11.2023	04.12.2023	2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: SALE & REMOVAL OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS & HEALTHCARE ITEMS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required						
5	LT23MT0132	16.11.2023	22.11.2023	25.12.2023	15,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FURNITURE RECREATIONAL AND CATERING DINING FURNITURE FOR QATARENERGY AT DUKHAN.								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required						

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Transport Company MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-036-MTS-2023	Purchase of 13-Seater (LCV) Vans	QAR 2000	16 to 22 November 2023	NA	5 December 2023

CONDITIONS:

- Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:

- Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address)) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: tenders@mowasalat.com

- Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested (i.e., 23 November 2023)

- Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond: Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents.

- Tender validity: Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.

- Tender documents submission: Bids must be submitted in 1 sealed (IN RED WAX) envelopes addressed to Secretary - Tender Committee clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
- Envelope #1 must include all product data sheets and specifications along with commercial bid (1 Original + 1 Non-Editable copy in a USB).

- Bid Closing Date: Bid submission deadline is 12.00 noon Doha Local Time as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Beneficiary Name	MOWASALAT-KARWA COMPANY
A/C No.	0013 - 011272 - 060
IBAN	QA07 QNBA 0000 0000 0013 0112 7206 0
Swift Code No.	QNBAGAGA
Branch Address	Corporate Branch, P.O Box 1000, Doha - Qatar
Currency	QAR
CR No.	24887



Supplier Registration



Mowasalat Location



Britain's electronic travel scheme opens for Qataris

The UK's Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme has officially opened for Qatari nationals, who need an ETA to travel to the UK, the British embassy announced yesterday in a statement. Qataris have been able to apply for their ETA since October 25 this year, with most using the mobile app, which allows for a simple and fast application.

Last year, the UK welcomed almost 800,000 visitors from the Gulf, 45,000 of whom came from Qatar, with this set to increase over the next few years. British ambassador to Qatar, Jon Wilks, said: "I am delighted to announce the official opening of the Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme for Qatari nationals, who will be the first in the world to benefit from the scheme."

"This initiative not only simplifies the travel process for Qataris visiting the UK but also reflects the strength of our bilateral relationship. We look forward to welcoming more visitors from Qatar, further building the human bridge between our two countries."

Nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan will need an ETA if they're visiting the UK from February 22, 2024, and can apply for their ETA from February 1. ETAs are replacing Electronic Visa Waivers (EVW) which the majority of Gulf nationals currently apply for. An ETA is an improvement from the EVW, being a third of the price at £10 and allowing unlimited visits to the UK over two years, or until the holder's passport expires - whichever is sooner.

The move to the ETA scheme means that the visa requirement will be removed for short stays to the UK for nationals from the Gulf and Jordan. When applying for an ETA, applicants need to provide biographic and biometric information, and answer questions on suitability and criminality, the statement explained. The application process ensures that those who pose a danger to the UK's security, such as criminals, are not allowed to travel here, the statement said. Once individuals have successfully applied, their ETA is digitally linked to their passport. While the standard processing time for an application is three working

days, the majority of applications so far have been decided within hours.

VisitBritain CEO, Patricia Yates, said: "It's great to see the Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme pilot underway in Qatar, making travel to the UK easier, cheaper and more flexible for Qatari visitors. We look forward to the scheme rolling out to more Gulf nations from February 2024 which, combined with our strong airline connections, will further boost our competitive tourism offer and our welcome to visitors from the region."

To ensure the scheme is implemented smoothly, the UK government is working closely with global airline, maritime and rail carriers, who are crucial to the successful delivery of the scheme. In the future, the scheme will apply worldwide to those who do not currently need a visa to visit or transit through the UK or who do not hold a UK immigration status, including nationals from Europe and America. Other nationalities do not need to apply yet and timings for when the scheme opens for them will be confirmed in due course, the statement added.

Amir appoints ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No 92 of 2023 appointing Mubarak Hussein Mohamed al-Saeedan al-Marri as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cote d'Ivoire. The decision is effective starting from its date of issue, and is to be published in the official gazette. (QNA)

Qatar team takes part in Milipol Paris 2023



A delegation from Qatar's Ministry of Interior and the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) is taking part in Milipol Paris 2023 exhibition which is being held from Nov 14 to 17. The exhibition is showcasing leading products of companies from various countries worldwide, technology and innovative solutions in the field of security. (QNA)

MoPH workshop trains school nurses on detecting visual impairment in students

The Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Primary Health Care Corp, recently conducted a three-day training workshop for over 120 nurses working in governmental, private, and community schools. The workshop focused on the theme "Protect Our Children from Visual Impairment Risks."

The workshop's main objective was to raise awareness about the common causes of visual impairments in school students, emphasising consequences that could occur in children such as visual defects, strabismus, and lazy eye. Nurses received comprehensive training on the correct methods for assessing students' vision and accurately completing screening forms.

The Blindness Prevention Pro-



gramme at MoPH aimed to screen low vision among the targeted students in Qatar (1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th) and to identify and refer cases of low vision and lazy eye. Lazy eye poses a significant risk to risky complications of visual impairment in children, as it results from a defect in the develop-

ment of the visual system in one eye and may negatively affect the child's academic performance and ability to learn.

Regular vision examinations, adherence to ophthalmologists' instructions, and the use of corrective glasses are recommended to mitigate these

risks. The Ministry of Public Health carries out surveys to discover cases of visual impairment among students, revealing that 10% of students suffered from abnormal visual acuity (less than 6/6) during the academic year 2022-2023 compared to 14% in 2021-2022. (QNA)

DECLARATION OF LIQUIDATOR

THE LIQUIDATOR

Linsar Karupamveetil Shamsudheen of Kreston SVP Chartered Accountants Declares

LIQUIDATION OF GRUPO REVENGA INGENIEROS W.L.L
With Limited Liability (Under Liquidation)
CR No. 65853

That the company's activities will be liquidated as per the provisions of article (312) and following articles of the commercial companies law no. (8) for the year 2021.

Anyone has claims or pending issues against the company must contact the liquidator within 45 days from this notice

At 7712 9898 or 6668 8575 or info@krestonsvp.com

Qatar attends GCC meeting



The 25th Meeting of the Committee of Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Transport and Communications in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) was held in Muscat. The State of Qatar's delegation to the meeting was headed by Adviser to the Minister of Transport Hassan al-Hail. During the meeting, developments regarding the GCC Rail Authority were reviewed including the progress of the project and the time specified for the execution and operation of the GCC Railway. Topics related to the land transport strategy, the unified system for international land transport between the GCC countries, as well as maritime transport and ports, were also discussed in the meeting. (QNA)

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Ministry of Commerce and Industry
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CONTACT

NBK powered sports
Phone: 44632429
aali@nbks.com



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Tender - Waseef

Waseef Asset Management (Waseef) would like to invite competent Service Providers for the below Open Tender:

Tender Number: GTC/WSF/MAD/GYM/36/2023

Subject: TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF PROFESSIONAL GYM EQUIPMENT IN FIVE (05) CLUB HOUSES AT MADINATNA FOR BARWA REAL ESTATE

Bid Bond: 47,000 QAR

Non-refundable Tender Fee: 500 QAR

Bid Submission Closing Date: November 30, 2023

The Tender Document will be available from November 16, 2023 onwards upon submission of the below documentation to tender@waseef.qa

To collect please provide the following:

1. Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid Identification of the representative.
2. Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name - Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number 0002-105222-200 with Masraf Al Rayan Bank.

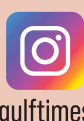
Please note the following:

1. Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date.
2. Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in sealed envelopes and delivered to the below mentioned address:
10th floor, Waseef Head Office, Al Owaina Tower, Old Salata, Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar.



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NHRC inaugurates pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha

HE the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah, inaugurated NHRC's pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha at Al Bidaa Park, in addition to the exhibitions "Human Rights in Islamic Culture" and "Human Rights and Football."

The pavilion aims to spread awareness of human rights in general, emphasise a better and more sustainable future, and raise awareness of the need to address global challenges such as climate change and environmental degradation.

The inauguration of the pavilion coincides with the activities of Qatari Human Rights Day and the 21st anniversary of the founding of the committee to emphasise the right to enjoy a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In her speech on the occasion, HE al-Attiyah said the opening of the committees' pavilion alongside the two exhibitions, and the awareness and educational activities that the committee will organise within the work of Expo 2023 Doha, are in line with the objectives of the exhibition, which cannot be separated in any way from human rights.

Rather, it is at the core of human rights, HE al-Attiyah said noting Doha hosted the World Expo, which was organised for the first



time in the Middle East and North Africa region.

She added hosting the event affirms that transforming the desert into green land has become possible, while it previously constituted a major challenge, and it contributes to finding solutions to global challenges related to water, energy and food shortages, and climate change.

She stressed the pavilion, which displays several publications, receives visitors and delegations of varying age groups, including children, women, people with disabilities, and the elderly. It will contribute to spreading the culture of human rights in society, work to consolidate sustainable development, and make young people aware of their rights and

duties towards future generations.

HE al-Attiyah pointed to the studies and publications related to the right to the environment that were prepared by the committees' experts, the most prominent of which is "Protecting the Right to a Healthy Environment in Qatar". This comes at a time when the world is exposed to many environmental threats and chal-



lenges that affect human rights.

The committee also displays an Arabic calligraphy exhibition on "Human Rights in Islamic Culture", which consists of creative paintings of Arabic calligraphy that include Holy Qur'anic verses and noble Prophetic Hadiths that are consistent with modern human rights principles to reflect Islam's adoption of human rights principles over 1,400 years ago, to build bridges of co-operation and dialogue between different cultures and civilisations, to search for common human heritage and values and highlighting them, and to confront speeches of intolerance and hatred.

The exhibition has received praise in many European and Arab capitals. It was shown in Madrid,

Berlin, Athens and Paris. It was also organised twice at the UN headquarters in Geneva, at the European Union headquarters in Brussels, in Kuwait, and in Tunisia on the sidelines of the Arab Interior Ministries Council (AIMC).

The "Human Rights and Football" exhibition, which is being organised next to the NHRC pavilion, links human rights and humanitarian concepts, football, sustainability, and the rights of vulnerable groups.

The exhibitions' paintings reflect awareness messages to consolidate the concepts of the right to sport for all, the importance of achieving sustainable development goals, preserving the environment, and deepening friendship between people. (QNA)

Delegates from 75 nations to attend Doha Forum: Youth Edition 2023

Doha Forum, renowned as a global platform for engaging dialogue between decision-makers, is set to host the third edition of the Doha Forum: Youth Edition 2023, powered by the QatarDebate Centre.

Set to take place in a revamped format between November 17 and 19, the event will gather bright minds and aspiring future leaders from around the world to engage in thought-provoking discussions on issues which impact today's generation.

The event will bring together more than 100 delegates from more than 75 countries to express various opinions, perspectives, and interests. The delegates will later form part of the centre's strong alumni network of more than 250,000 from more than 100 countries.

This year's forum is being held under the theme, 'Building Shared Futures' and encompasses crucial global topics, including International Relations and Defence, Economic Policy and Development, Cyber Security, Data Privacy, Artificial Intelligence, and Sustainability.

On the sidelines of the forum, delegates will benefit from skills workshops and roundtable discussions designed to help them learn how to formulate policy-based recommendations to address contemporary global challenges.

Influential youth keynote speakers, known for their active involvement in debate and advocacy activities, will enlighten participants by sharing their experiences and thoughts.

Additionally, the participants will benefit from panel discussions featuring experts from diverse backgrounds, including renowned authors, academics, entrepreneurs, law professionals, journalists, scientists, and political commentators from around the world, who will lead discussions focusing on the forum's themes.

In a press statement, Abdulrahman al-Subaie, programmes director at QatarDebate, said: "Such forums can also enable innovative minds to be part of prominent global discussions. As a precursor to Doha Forum next month, the Youth Edition will provide valuable insights into how young minds envision the future."

Sessions will be held at different locations including Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Georgetown University in Qatar, and the National Museum of Qatar. Additionally, foreign delegates will have the opportunity to experience and learn from the local culture, adding a unique dimension to the forum's global perspective.

1,000 healthcare providers to take part in QCS international gastrointestinal cancer congress

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) will host the International Congress of Gastrointestinal Cancers 2023 from December 1-2 with the participation of over 1,000 healthcare providers academics and researchers from around the world.

QCS founder and chairman HE Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jabr al-Thani and vice-chairman Dr Abdul-Azim Abdul-Wahab Hussein who shared details of the congress at a press conference yesterday, also cautioned that the incidence rate in gastrointestinal cancers in Qatar is likely to increase significantly by 2030.

Held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the conference will be held at Ritz-Carlton, Doha, with the participation of healthcare providers, researchers, academics and specialists in the field of gastrointestinal cancers worldwide.

Sheikh Khalid said: "The importance of the International Congress of Gastrointestinal Cancers comes from the fact that this type of cancer rep-



HE Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jabr al-Thani and Dr Abdul-Azim Abdul-Wahab Hussein announce details of the Congress yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen

resents a significant burden globally, both in terms of incidence and mortality. Gastrointestinal cancers account for one in four cancer cases and one in three cancer deaths globally.

"The Qatar National Cancer Registry at the Ministry of Public Health predicts an increase in the disease. The incidence rate in gastrointestinal cancers is projected to increase from roughly 18 per 100,000 right now to 34 per 100,000 by 2030," he added.

Dr Hussein explained: "Gastroin-

testinal cancers encompass a wide range of malignancies, including cancers of the esophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, gallbladder, bile ducts, small intestine, colon, among other organs. Yet, the burden they pose is matched by the opportunity they present - a chance to radically transform the lives of millions through medical breakthroughs, innovative research, and collaborative care."

He noted that the conference is a global platform that brings together an

elite group of specialists and experts in various fields related to gastrointestinal cancers from several countries, including the US, Austria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Lebanon, Jordan. Qatar is represented by the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation and the Primary Health Care Corporation among other organisations.

Sheikh Khalid said that the conference will include two-panel discussions, the first concerned with raising community awareness about preventing gastrointestinal cancers.

"There will be a medical exhibition in co-operation with health authorities to provide free consultation services to the public. The second session is concerned with people living with cancer and their families to talk about the importance of food and other aspects during the treatment and recovery period by hosting an elite group of specialists in this field."

In 2020, colorectal cancers ranked second in cancer incidence in the country. Amongst the Qatari population registered in the Qatar National Cancer Registry, there were 635 cases diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Of these, 28% have died and 72% have survived.

Karwa announces conclusion of Joint Committee elections 2023

The Mowasalat (Karwa) Joint Committee, consisting of elected representatives from diverse transport departments and the administrative team, has celebrated the successful conclusion of its elections, a statement said yesterday.

In a significant move towards fostering inclusivity and amplifying employee voices, 10 members were appointed from the pool of self-nominated drivers and support staff across all relevant departments.

The elections, according to an official statement from Karwa, was conducted entirely electronically. They demonstrate Mowasalat (Karwa)'s commitment to embracing digital solutions throughout the organisation, streamlining processes, and ensuring a 100% transparent and efficient voting system.

In co-operation with Qatar's Ministry of Labour, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the Joint Committee has been instrumental in shaping the workplace culture and driving continuous

improvements for all blue-collar employees of the company.

The committee's achievements throughout the past two years underscore the company's dedication to include employees' ideas and feedback into the decision making process on all levels.

"The Joint Committee Election is a testament to our commitment to a workplace where every voice holds weight. It's a reflection of our unwavering dedication to continuous improvement and stands as a top priority for our company's leadership. Ultimately, we aim to make Mowasalat the go-to choose in Qatar's job market," said Ahmed al-Muftah, chief administrative officer.

So far, the collaborative efforts of the Joint Committee have yielded remarkable achievements. The establishment of a dedicated welfare team ensures that feedback is promptly addressed, demonstrating a commitment to responsiveness and employee well-being.

The introduction of the "CONNECT" portal on Microsoft Teams pro-



vides a centralised platform for seamless communication and collaboration among core employees, enhancing the internal communication network.

Substantial enhancements to staff living conditions and accommodation facilities contribute to a more comfortable and productive work environment.

Recognising the importance of work-life balance, Mowasalat has organised a variety of entertainment and sports activities over the past two

years. These initiatives provide staff with ample opportunities for relaxation and building personal connections outside of their regular duties.

As Karwa continues to lead Qatar's transportation industry, the company aspires to redefine the standard for excellence in employee relations and engagement. The Joint Committee remains a cornerstone in this journey, working hand in hand with the exceptional team that drives Karwa's success, the statement added.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **JOSHUA ALUMMOOTTIL KOSHY KOSHY GEORGE**

holder of

INDIAN Passport No. MO124328
QID No. 28135666104

hereby change my name

from

JOSHUA ALUMMOOTTIL KOSHY KOSHY GEORGE

to

JOSHUA ALUMMOOTTIL KOSHY

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



Closure of signals at Ahmed Bin Saif Al Thani Intersection

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a closure of signals at Ahmed Bin Saif Al Thani Intersection on Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor for eight hours to the traffic towards and from Bu Hamour from tomorrow 2am-10am while keeping traffic open at the intersection's right turns. During the closure in co-operation with the General Directorate of Traffic, road users will be required to use the intersections near Ahmed Bin Saif Al Thani Intersection to reach their destinations as per the map.



Qatar reiterates its support to set up Middle East WMD-free zone

Qatar has reiterated its support and readiness for full co-operation to establish a weapons of mass destruction (WMD)-free zone in the Middle East to rid the region of the spectre of wars and unrest, looking forward to a serious and fruitful work in the 4th session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

This came in a statement delivered by Vice-Chairman of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW) Saad Abdul Hadi al-Marri at the conference in New York.

He said the project to establish a Middle East WMD-free zone is considered a unique challenge to rid the region of WMD of all three types, noting that it is an extremely complex task, given that the Middle East is still a hotbed of conflict and fraught with conflicts. Al-Marri stressed the importance of strengthening efforts to make the Middle East region free of WMD as it is an essential step for consolidating the non-proliferation system and achieving the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and their facilities, stressing that the goal of establishing a region in the Middle East free of nuclear weapons is a common goal for the people of the region and for the entire international community.

He reiterated Qatar's firm



stance on justice of the Palestinian cause, the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people, and the establishment of their independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He also reiterated Qatar's condemnation of the extremist Israeli statements regarding dropping a nuclear bomb on the besieged Gaza Strip, which is considered a dangerous incitement to a war crime and a disregard for international values and laws and is an admission that Israel possesses this destructive weapon, which contradicts with the Middle East WMD-free zone.

Al-Marri called for accelerating the establishment of the Middle East WMD-free zone in accordance with Security Council resolutions, and the relevant General

Assembly resolutions.

He said that the Middle East region is still witnessing a state of instability, which makes it possible for the international community now to discover options for reviving the arms control process in the Middle East.

He added that Qatar supports all initiatives aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, and all other weapons of mass destruction, and the means of delivering them in the Middle East, without further delay. Al-Marri reiterated Qatar's affirmation that the path towards establishing a WMD-free zone passes through all countries of the region, whose facilities and activities must be subject to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards as a criterion for verification. (QNA)

QIIB hosts career day for HBKU students

QIIB hosted a career day for students from the Master of Science in Islamic Finance programme of the College of Islamic Studies (CIS) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU).

The event was part of the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) and commitment to supporting education and co-operation with reputable higher education institutions.

Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei, CEO of QIIB, met with the students, and Dr Mustafa Disli, associate professor of Economics and Finance, CIS, programme co-ordinator.

During the event, al-Shaibei emphasised that the bank attaches exceptional importance to contributing to supporting education and academic activities, especially those that connect universities to the labour market, which provides real added value to various economic sectors.

Al-Shaibei lauded the prominent role of the CIS and HBKU: "Hamad Bin Khalifa University offers advanced academic initiatives and programmes that adhere to international standards. This is evidenced by the excellent reputation it has garnered in various academic and educational institutions, both locally and internationally."

Also, al-Shaibei provided a historical overview of Islamic banking, explaining the circumstances that led to its emergence and its development up to the present time. He also highlighted that the Islamic banking industry is currently experiencing significant growth in numerous countries, with Qatar taking the lead. He stated that the Qatari Islamic sector has consistently strengthened its position, ultimately reaching a leading level



The event was part of QIIB's corporate social responsibility (CSR) and commitment to supporting education and co-operation with reputable higher education institutions.

both regionally and globally.

"Islamic banking has opened horizons for innovation and creativity. It is dynamic, keeping pace with global banking developments, as well as the technological and digital revolution, which provides us with exceptional flexibility that we are keen to capitalise on to the maximum," said al-Shaibei, who was accompanied by Jamal Abdullah al-Jamal, Deputy CEO, and Ali Hamad al-Mesaifri, chief of Human Resources & Administration, during the meeting.

Al-Shaibei added: "Our meeting with students from the Master of Science in Islamic Finance programme has special significance. It indicates that we are moving in the right direction when it comes to developing our educational, academic and professional tools. Synergy among the different parties involved in progress is of great importance to us, and we are delighted to support it and be part of it."

"QIIB will continue to support education and its vari-

ous initiatives, including joint events and activities, career days, and training programmes. It will also spare no effort to enhance and develop the Islamic finance experience through effective and prompt collaboration with various academic and educational institutions."

As part of the career day's activities, the students conducted a tour of several departments and divisions, where they received explanations from executives about Islamic banking operations and details of various banking services and products.

Several interactive discussion sessions were held between the students and senior management officers at QIIB. They were attended by Omar Abdulaziz al-Meer, chief of Corporate Sector; Mohamed Khair Barhoumeh, chief operating officer; Hossam Khattab, chief financial officer; Mohamed Jamil Ahmad Hamad, chief risk officer; and Khaled Abdul Rahman al-Shaibi, chief business development officer.

MoT participates in GCC transport undersecretaries' meeting in Oman



The Ministry of Transport (MoT) has participated in the 25th Meeting of the GCC Undersecretaries of Ministries of Transport, held in Muscat, Oman. The Qatari delegation, according to an official statement from MoT, was headed by Hassan al-Hail, adviser to the Minister of Transport. The meeting discussed the latest updates regarding the GCC Railways Authority and the work progress on the GCC railway project and the scheduled date to carry out and operate the project. The meeting also tackled several topics relative to the land transportation strategy, the GCC uniform system for universal land transportation, and other topics related to maritime transportation and ports.

Juvenile Police Dept holds forum on social media impact on youth



A panel of officials.



Brig Ibrahim Issa al-Bouainain addressing the event. **Right:** A view of the audience.



The Juvenile Police Department yesterday held an interactive forum titled 'Social Media and Its Impact on Youth', the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said. Department director Brig Ibrahim Issa al-Bouainain and students from various schools attended the session at the Civil Defence Officers' Club.

The aim was to stress aware-

ness regarding challenges posed by modern communication platforms, and to discuss innovative solutions for youth safety and to explore best practices to mitigate negative phenomena in their lives. Brig al-Bouainain highlighted the department's commitment to educating youth and parents through workshops and discussions in schools, sports

clubs and youth centres.

The workshop yielded recommendations, emphasising the need for enhanced partnerships and awareness about the safe use of social media. It also stressed the importance of digital education, raising children's awareness and empowering parents to guide their children to safe and positive social media use.

Qatar Charity kitchen aids Turkiye quake victims

Qatar Charity (QC) continues to deliver assistance to those affected by the Turkiye-Syria earthquakes that occurred in February.

With funding from the philanthropists of Qatar, QC operates a mobile charity kitchen in the Nizip camp on the outskirts of Gaziantep province in southern Turkiye.

The project benefits approximately 1,381 Syrian refugees who have lost their homes due to the earthquakes and took shelter in the camp. The kitchen provides breakfast, lunch and dinner, on a daily basis free of charge, for the families residing in the camp.

The residents expressed their happiness with this project, which contributes to alleviating their suffering. Murad, director of the Nizip camp, said: "Thanks to the project implemented by Qatar Charity, food has been provided



The kitchen provides breakfast, lunch and dinner, on a daily basis free of charge, for the families residing in the camp.

ed to the earthquake victims whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged due to the disaster."

The project eased the burden on the families benefiting from

the daily meal, bringing smiles to the faces of those with limited income. He expressed his gratitude to the philanthropists in Qatar and QC for their support for the project.

The mobile kitchen operated by QC was provided by the Qatar Fund for Development for the benefit of those affected by the earthquake at the onset of the disaster. It had previously distributed free meals to the earthquake victims in northern Syria.

More than 8mn people have benefited from the humanitarian interventions carried out by QC for those affected by the Turkiye-Syria earthquake to date. These interventions cover the areas of food supply, shelter, non-food items, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), protection and psycho-social support.

Eighth Qatar Malayali Conference tomorrow



The 8th edition of Qatar Malayali Conference will take place tomorrow (Friday) at Aspire Sports City, according to the organisers. Renowned orator, Gopinath Muthukad, will be the guest speaker at the opening session. Other dignitaries at the event include Indian Parliament members K Muraleedharan and John Brittas. Panakkad Syed Sadigali Shihab Thangal, Rajiv Shankaran, Dr Jamaluddeen Farooqi, Dr Geevarghese Mar Coorilose, Alankode Leelakrishnan and Dr Mallika MG, among others will take part in various programmes.



Algeria, Libya condemn Israeli bombing of Qatar committee HQ in Gaza

Algeria has strongly condemned the Israeli occupation's bombing of the headquarters of the Qatar Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza, considering it a new violation and challenge to all provisions and norms of international law, and in conflict with the principles and values of humanity, QNA reported from Algiers.

Algeria also called for the pro-

tection of civilians and opposed targeting buildings of a civilian and humanitarian nature.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria said in a statement that this attack on a humanitarian facility concerned with rebuilding what was destroyed at the hands of the occupation, is conclusive evidence of the intention of the occupation, which knows only the language of intransigence and

destruction, of every possibility for peace or dialogue to end its series of attacks. The statement expressed Algeria's full solidarity with Qatar and with the Palestinian brothers against the blatant aggression, and stressed that the responsibility to stop the aggression and in ensuring the protection of the Palestinian people falls entirely on the Security Council, which cannot shirk responsibility

and the consequences of its inability to end the injustice, and which cannot be justified in any way against the Palestinian people. Libya has also condemned the Israeli occupation's bombing of the premises of the Qatari Committee for Reconstruction of Gaza, QNA added from Tripoli.

In a statement, Libya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Collaboration said that

targeting a leading institution that serves the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip through its development projects, indicates the intention of the Israeli occupation to destroy all institutions that work to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians. It pointed out that this attack comes within the clear Israeli occupation policy of destroying all civilian and service facilities in Gaza.

In the statement, the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Collaboration renewed its call to the international community to protect civilians and civilian establishments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, in compliance with the provisions of international law and all international treaties related to protection of civilians. (QNA)

UN 'fears the worst' if war expands beyond Gaza



United Nations humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths speaks during a press conference on the situation in Gaza, at UN Building in Geneva, yesterday.

AFP
Geneva

The UN humanitarian chief said yesterday he and Iran's top diplomat had discussed fears of what an expansion of the Gaza war might entail, and had agreed it "would not be good".

At a Geneva press briefing, United Nations humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths voiced deep concern Israel's war against Hamas could expand beyond Gaza, "into the north".

"If there is to be a war in the north with Hezbollah and Israel, then I fear the worst," Griffiths said. "We can easily imagine the worst because it will be a war that makes even Gaza with its awful horrors of daily struggle look like just a beginning."

He said he had discussed these concerns with Iranian Foreign



Palestinians inspect the destruction following the Israeli bombardment of the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, whose country supports Hamas and Hezbollah fighters in neighbouring Lebanon.

"Naturally, the worry about expansion was the topic I discussed mainly with him," Griffiths said.

"And of course, he agreed with me that such expansion would not be a good thing."

"It would be a regional war, which would affect so many parts," Griffiths said, pointing out that impacts have already been seen in Syria and Yemen. Israel has vowed to destroy Ha-

mas in response to its storming into the country in the first week of October.

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says Israel's ensuing aerial bombardment and ground offensive has killed 11,320 people, mostly civilians, including thousands of children.

During yesterday's meeting, Amir-Abdollahian had called on the UN to do more to get desperately needed aid into war-battered Gaza.

"The amount of humanitarian aid sent to Gaza is very small and almost zero, and it is necessary

for the United Nations to take immediate and serious action in this regard," he said, according to a readout from Iran's foreign ministry.

He called for "strong and urgent management by the UN to remove the blockage at the Rafah border crossing and get humanitarian aid into Gaza".

Griffiths insisted the UN had 460 aid trucks ready to go, calling for more border crossings to be opened and appealing for co-operation from all parties to ensure the aid can get in and be distributed throughout Gaza.



Rubble lies at the site of a strike on a mosque, amid the ongoing conflict, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.



Mourners react during the funeral of seven Palestinians who were killed in an Israeli raid, in Tulkarm camp in the occupied West Bank, yesterday.

Displaced as a girl and again in old age, Palestinian grandmother relives the Nakba

Reuters
Khan Yunis

Driven from her home by war and sheltering in a tent with no certainty of ever being able to return, elderly Palestinian refugee Abba Awad felt like history was repeating itself in a tragic, never-ending loop.

When she was a girl, she and her family were forced from their village, inside what is now Israel, to Gaza, during the mass displacement of Palestinians in 1948, when Israel was created, an event Palestinians call the "Nakba", or catastrophe.

Now, she has had to abandon her home all over again, fleeing Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza to escape Israeli air strikes, and taking shelter with generations of her family in a tent city in Khan Yunis, in the southern part of the enclave.

"I was five years old and I remember being displaced. Our families carried us along with their bags, and they took us to Gaza. I swear it's the same as what's hap-



Palestinian refugee Abba Awad, who witnessed 1948 war's Nakba and has recently fled from north Gaza to south after Israel's call, rests as she is surrounded by her grandchildren, at a tent camp where they take shelter, amid the ongoing conflict, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

pening today," said Awad, sitting outside her tent on a patch of sand.

"I was a little girl and now I am reliving the same thing... Ever since I can remember, since I was five years old, I have been witnessing wars," she said, as her grandchildren ran around her, playfully darting in and out of the tent.

The latest war, between Israel and Hamas, the group that runs

Gaza, began when Hamas fighters stormed southern Israel in the first week of October.

In response, Israel imposed a total siege on Gaza and launched an air, sea and ground assault that has killed more than 11,000 people, most of them women and children, according to Gazan officials. An estimated two thirds of the enclave's 2.3mn residents have

been made homeless.

"What did we do to them? Every few years they bring a new Nakba on us," said Awad, breaking down in tears.

"They displaced us from our home and brought us to Gaza. Now where will they send us? To Sinai? Where will they take us? Let them throw us in the sea, then they can rest without Gaza and the poor Palestinian people," she said.

The Israeli military has said its current war is against Hamas, not civilians, and that displaced people will be allowed home when it is over, but this has given little reassurance to Palestinians still suffering the consequences of the Nakba.

Most people in Gaza are registered as refugees, after they or their ancestors fled their homes in 1948.

"I can't take this anymore. I'm so tired of this life. We're so sick of this, oh God. Have mercy on us. Countries of the world, please look at us, have mercy on us. We're hungry. We've been displaced. How many more years?" said Awad, her voice full of despair.

Erdogan labels Israel a 'terror state', slams its backers in West

Reuters
Ankara

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday Israel was a "terror state" committing war crimes and violating international law in Gaza, sharpening his repeated criticism of Israeli leaders and their backers in the West.

Speaking two days before a planned visit to Germany to meet Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Erdogan said Israel's military campaign against Palestinian group Hamas included "the most treacherous attacks in human history" with "unlimited" support from the West.

He called for Israeli leaders to be tried for war crimes at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and repeated his view — and Turkey's position — that Hamas is a political party that won past elections.

Ankara hosts some members of Hamas and supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"With the savagery of bombing the civilians it forced out of their homes while they are relocating, it is literally employing state terrorism," Erdogan said of Israel in parliament. "I am now saying, with my heart at ease, that Israel is a terror state."

"We will never shy away from voicing the truth that Hamas members protecting their lands, honour, and lives in the face of occupation policies are resistance fighters, just because some people are uncomfortable with it," he said.

Erdogan's trip to Germany will be his first to a Western nation since Israel began bombing Gaza in response to Hamas' storming of Israel.

Germany has expressed strong solidarity with Israel, while urging a focus on limiting the impact of military operations on Gaza's civilian population. "The West, namely the US, is unfortunately still seeing this issue backwards," Erdogan said, adding he would call leaders of the countries who last month abstained from a vote at the UN General Assembly on an aid truce in Gaza.

Later yesterday, Erdogan spoke to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and told her that Ankara expected Rome's support in achieving a ceasefire



Turkish President and the leader of the Justice and Development (AK) Party Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaks during his party's group meeting at the Grand National Assembly in Ankara, yesterday.

in Gaza, the Turkish presidency said. Meloni's office said she had called for rapid de-escalation in Gaza, adding Turkey had a crucial role in preventing the spread of the conflict. Erdogan also called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to announce whether or not Israel had nuclear weapons, adding that Netanyahu would soon be a "goner" from his post.

Ankara would also take steps to ensure Israeli settlers in occupied Palestinian territories are recognised as "terrorists", he added.

GAZAN CANCER PATIENTS TO TURKIYE

Turkiye has sent 666 tonnes of humanitarian aid, medicine and medical equipment and a medical team to Egypt for Gazans so far. Ankara has said it is working with Egyptian and Israeli authorities as part of a co-ordination mechanism to bring cancer patients and some wounded civilians to Turkey for treatment.

Speaking at Egypt's Al-Arish airport after meeting with his Egyptian counterpart and visiting the hospitals housing wounded Gazans, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said 26 patients and their 13 companions would be flown to Turkey yesterday.

Koca said the 39 people were the first to be brought out to Egypt, and later to another country, since the fighting broke out, adding Ankara wanted to bring as many of the nearly 1,000 cancer patients from Gaza to Turkey as possible.

Footage shared later by Turkish state media showed Koca and officials greeting the patients as they arrived on stretchers at Al-Arish airport before being put on a plane to Turkey.

TRAGEDY

Two killed after blaze sweeps through Nigeria displaced camp

At least two children died when fire swept through an informal camp for displaced people in northeast Nigeria, destroying more than a thousand tents, emergency officials said yesterday, AFP reported from Maiduguri. The fire broke out at the Muna Alamdari camp near the Borno State capital Maiduguri, where thousands of people have taken refuge in recent years fleeing from fighting in rural areas in the country's 14-year war against militants. National Emergency Management Agency official Mannir Gidado said the cause of the fire was still under investigation, though fires are quite frequent in the camps. Gidado said the fire was suspected to have started because of people cooking in their tents, near their clothes and their beds. Residents of the camp said four people had died in the blaze, though officials did not confirm that figure. Fighting in northeast Nigeria's conflict has ebbed in recent years with militants losing the territory and towns they once held. But they still strike at army patrols and rural farming communities. More than 40,000 people have been killed and 2mn more displaced since 2009. More than 100,000 people in recent years have taken refuge in Maiduguri, which is protected by the army and security trenches. Most of them came to live in official camps run by government authorities, who began closing the sites more a year ago, saying the countryside was now safe for them to return.

ACCIDENT

Zimbabwe minibus crash leaves 22 dead

Zimbabwean police said 22 people were killed and two injured late on Tuesday after a minibus collided with a truck on a highway, which links the country to the South African border, Reuters reported from Harare. The fatal accident, on the Bulawayo-Beitbridge road, involved the minibus, which was carrying 21 passengers, and the truck with one passenger on board, police said on X, formerly known as Twitter. It was not immediately clear if bystanders were also hurt or killed. The two people who were wounded were receiving treatment in the southwestern city of Bulawayo. Road accidents are frequent in Zimbabwe, where transport operators are often accused of overloading vehicles that are then driven on pothole-ridden roads.

LAW AND ORDER

Prosecutor summons Duterte over death threat

A Philippine prosecutor has summoned former president Rodrigo Duterte to respond to an accusation that he threatened to kill Filipino congresswoman France Castro. Duterte is alleged to have committed the crime of “grave threats” under the Cybercrime Prevention Act during an October 10 interview with local broadcaster SMNI. Duterte gave on-air advice to his daughter, Vice-President Sara Duterte, about how she could use intelligence and confidential funds allocated to her office and the education department, which she also heads. “Your first target with your intelligence fund is you, you France. ‘Tell her, it is you communists who I want to kill,’” Duterte said.

PEOPLE

Greta Thunberg denies public order offence

Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg yesterday denied a public order offence, after she was arrested at a demonstration against the energy industry in London. The 20-year-old activist – a key face of the movement to fight climate change – was among 26 people charged at the October 17 demonstration in the British capital. Inside Westminster Magistrates Court, Thunberg, who was mobbed by photographers and camera crews as she arrived, giggled with other defendants as she waited for the hearing to start. She spoke only to confirm her name, age and correspondence address, and to enter a plea of not guilty.

CRIME

Two 12-year-old boys held for murder in England

British police yesterday said two 12-year-old boys had been arrested on suspicion of murder after a 19-year-old man was stabbed to death in the central English city of Wolverhampton. Shawn Seesahai died on Monday after being stabbed on open land near a street in the south of Wolverhampton, which lies just northwest of Birmingham. “Two 12-year-old boys were arrested from their home addresses on suspicion of murder and remain in police custody,” West Midlands Police said in a statement. “We have increased dedicated patrols in the area as we understand this incident will have caused deep concern in the local community,” the statement added.

OFFBEAT

‘Weird puking bird’ wins avian beauty contest

A “weird puking bird” has won New Zealand’s annual avian beauty contest, triumphing after British comedian John Oliver launched an unlikely global campaign. The unfancied Australasian crested grebe soared to an unexpected victory in the Bird of the Century ballot yesterday, backed by voters from far-flung cities including Tokyo, London and Paris. Oliver used his television show to meddle in New Zealand’s beloved competition, urging viewers to back the species more commonly known by its Maori name “puteketeke”. Baffled organisers were soon in a flap as thousands of votes poured in from countries across the globe, briefly crashing counting systems.

Floods wreak havoc in Vietnam



Flood waters submerge parked cars in Hue city in central Vietnam yesterday. Hue, an ancient city and a world heritage site popular with tourists, was underwater yesterday after heavy rain flooded thousands of homes and blocked highways. Residents navigated flooded streets in boats, while homes and cars were partially submerged.

37 killed in Kashmir as bus falls into gorge

AFP
Srinagar

At least 37 people were killed in Kashmir yesterday when a passenger bus skidded off a mountainous road and plunged into a deep gorge, police said. The accident took place on a remote road in the Doda area, about 200km southeast of the region’s capital Srinagar. Local government official Harvinder Singh said 37 people had been killed. Police said they feared the death

toll could rise, with at least 18 people injured in the crash taken to hospital, officials said. The accident was “caused by the driver’s negligence by hitting the crash bar of the road”, police officer Sunil Gupta said. “The bus tumbled down the mountain some 800 feet,” he said. A video clip from the site showed a grisly scene of several dead bodies, as rescuers tried to help the injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the accident was “distressing” and offered his “condolences to the families who have lost their

near and dear ones” “I pray that the injured recover at the earliest,” he said on social media, adding that government compensation of more than \$2,400 would be offered to the next of kin of those killed and \$600 to those injured. Home Minister Amit Shah said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that he was “deeply anguished to learn about the loss of precious lives” “The local administration is conducting the rescue operation in the gorge where the bus had the accident.”

Sunak suffers major blow as Rwanda migrant scheme declared unlawful

Reuters
London

Britain’s Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the government’s scheme to send asylum seekers to Rwanda was unlawful, dealing a crushing blow to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak before an election expected next year. With his flagship immigration policy in tatters, Sunak said he was working on a new treaty with Rwanda, and said if this did not solve the issue, he would pass new laws and revisit any international treaties which frustrated his plans. Under the scheme, Britain intended to send tens of thousands of asylum seekers who arrived on its shores without permission to the East African country in a bid to deter migrants crossing the Channel from Europe in small boats. But the top court yesterday unanimously ruled that Rwanda could not be considered a safe third country, delighting opponents who said the policy was unworkable and cruel, and infuriating those on the right-wing of Sunak’s Conservative Party. Sunak, whose party is trailing by some 20 points in opinion polls, signalled to those angry lawmakers that Britain could potentially leave the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and other such treaties as some have demanded.

“If it becomes clear that our domestic legal frameworks or international conventions are still frustrating plans at that point, I am prepared to change our laws and revisit those international relationships,” Sunak told parliament. “The British people expect us to do whatever it takes to stop the boats.” The Rwanda scheme has been the central plank of Sunak’s immigration policy as he prepares to face an election next year, amid rising concern among some voters about the numbers of asylum seekers from Europe. The ruling had taken on even greater political significance after Sunak on Monday sacked Interior Minister Suella Braverman, a popular figure on his party’s right whose remit included dealing with immigration. She launched a scathing attack on Sunak on Tuesday, saying he had broken promises on tackling immigration and betrayed the British people. After becoming prime minister in October last year, Sunak vowed to “stop the boats”, one of the five key pledges of his premiership. This year more than 27,000 people have arrived on the southern English coast without permission, after a record 45,755 were detected in 2022. Meanwhile the cost of housing the 175,000 migrants waiting an asylum decision is costing £8mn (\$10mn) a day.

The Rwanda policy was originally drawn up by former prime minister Boris Johnson in an initial £140mn (\$180mn) deal. Critics, ranging from opposition lawmakers as well as some Conservatives to church leaders and the United Nations refugee agency, had argued the policy was flawed, a waste of money, immoral and simply would not work. “He was told over and over again that this would happen, that it wouldn’t work, and it was just the latest Tory (Conservative) gimmick,” Keir Starmer, leader of the main opposition Labour party, told parliament. “But he bet everything on it. And now he’s totally exposed. The central pillar of his government has crumbled beneath it.” Supreme Court president Robert Reed said the five judges involved agreed there were “substantial grounds for believing that asylum seekers sent to Rwanda would be at real risk of refoulement”, meaning being sent back to their country of origin where they could be at risk of ill-treatment. This would be in breach of a number of international treaties, including the ECHR, Reed said. But he left open the chance the scheme could be resurrected, saying “the changes needed to eliminate the risk of refoulement may be delivered in the future, but they have not been shown to be in place now”.

Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy dies at 75

One of India’s most controversial tycoons, Subrata Roy has died aged 75 after a heart attack, his company said, sparking fear by some about recovering their investments. Roy, a household name in India because of his meteoric rise and eventual downfall and disgrace, died on Tuesday in Mumbai from cardiorespiratory arrest, his Sahara Group said. Born in 1948 in Bihar, Roy started Sahara in 1978 with Rs2,000, or \$24 in today’s money, growing the business into a multibillion-dollar company involved in finance, housing, manufacturing and the media. He raised Rs200bn – today worth \$2.4bn – from millions of small savers in rural India via an illegal bond scheme. Roy was taken into custody in 2014 after he failed to comply with a court order to repay money to his investors, but walked out of jail two years later. Sahara insisted it was only helping poor and mainly rural investors, while Roy said he has been a victim of “character assassination”.

Annual Pushkar Camel Fair set to begin



A camel herder walks along with his camels ahead of the annual Camel Fair at Pushkar in India’s desert state of Rajasthan yesterday. The seven-day fair is set to begin on November 20, 2023.

Bangladesh elections to be held on Jan 7

Reuters
Dhaka

Bangladesh will hold a parliamentary election on January 7, the national poll body said yesterday, amid deadly protests by opposition parties demanding the resignation of the prime minister to make way for a caretaker government. At least four people, including a policeman, were killed and hundreds injured in violent protests across the country in the past two weeks. The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), whose top leadership is either jailed or in exile, has already said it will boycott the next national election if Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina does not resign and allow in a caretaker government, two party leaders said early this month. Boycotting the elec-

tion will de-legitimise any win for her, they said. The BNP also boycotted the 2014 election too but participated in 2018. The BNP and other opposition groupings have been calling on Hasina to step down and allow the election to be held under a neutral caretaker government – a demand her administration has rejected. A senior BNP official yesterday said the “unilateral declaration” of the election schedule would further fuel tensions in the country. “We sincerely wish the government would shun this path of violence and coercion of the opposition so that an appropriate congenial environment is created... ensuring peaceful co-existence where people can freely exercise their democratic rights,” Abdul Moyeen Khan, a former minister and member of the BNP’s highest policy-making body, said.

India contacts Thai cave experts in bid to free trapped workers

AFP
Dehradun, India

India has sought advice from the Thai company that rescued children from a flooded cave in 2018 as it races to save 40 men trapped in a road tunnel, officials said yesterday. Excavators have been removing debris since Sunday morning from the site in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand to create an escape tunnel for the workers, all of whom are still alive. Officials have “contacted the Thai company which rescued the children trapped in the cave”, the

state government’s department of public relations said in a statement. The statement was referring to the dramatic operation to rescue 12 boys from a junior football team and their coach who were trapped for more than two weeks in the Tham Luang cave complex. No other details were given. Authorities have also asked for help from engineering experts in soil and rock mechanics at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute as frantic efforts to free the men stretched into a fourth day. Rescuers said on Wednesday they had sent medicine to the 40 men, trapped since the road tun-

nel they were building collapsed on Sunday. “After consultation with doctors, medicine has been sent to the workers through pipes,” police officer Prashant Kumar said from the site. “Contact is being maintained with the workers.” No details were given about the condition of the men or how many of them were sick. Food and oxygen had also been sent to the trapped workers, he said. But as rescue teams removed the vast piles of rubble, more fell from the broken roof of the tunnel and two labourers working to remove the debris were injured overnight Tuesday, Kumar said.

The pace of drilling was “slow because of natural causes”, but efforts were being made on a “war footing”, Uttarakhand state police chief Ashok Kumar said in a statement yesterday. The air force yesterday flew in a second drilling machine on a C-130 Hercules military plane to “speed up rescue work” after the first one broke down, he said. Dozens of colleagues of the trapped workers protested outside the tunnel yesterday, blaming authorities for “slow rescue work”, one of the protesters said. Photos released by government rescue teams soon after the collapse showed huge piles of rubble

blocking the wide tunnel, with twisted metal bars from its roof poking down in front of slabs of concrete. Engineers are using heavy machinery to drive a steel pipe about 90cms wide through the debris, wide enough for the trapped men to squeeze through. “We should keep our patience and trust,” Ashok Kumar said. “I am sure that we will rescue all the labourers.” The 4.5km tunnel was being constructed between the towns of Silkyara and Dandalgao to connect Uttarkashi and Yamunotri. The tunnel is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s road project

aimed at improving travel conditions in the country as well as areas bordering China. Experts have warned about the impact of extensive construction in Uttarakhand, where large parts of the state are prone to landslides. Construction worker Hemant Nayak said he had been in the tunnel early on Sunday when the roof caved in, but he had been on the right side of the collapse and escaped. Small amounts of dirt had been falling into the tunnel but “everyone took it lightly”, he said. “Then suddenly a huge amount of debris came and the tunnel was closed.”

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
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GULF TIMES

Sunak gambles on Cameron to win over moderate voters

Few expected David Cameron's return to government, but his appointment is one that British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hopes will signal to wavering supporters that the Conservatives are not lurching to the right to win an election expected next year.

As well as firing his interior minister, Suella Braverman, after she published an unauthorised article criticising the police's handling of protests, Sunak has used a wider reshuffle to bring back the prime minister who campaigned to remain in the European Union in a referendum on membership he called in 2016.

It's a risky strategy — while welcomed by centrist lawmakers, the party's right senses the end of their increased dominance, built during the wars over EU membership, with one fearing the appointment amounted to a "Brexid surrender".

"He has appointed the man who led the 'remain' campaign and who has got huge problems over his association with Greensill," said a Conservative lawmaker on the right of the party, referring to Cameron's lobbying work for a now-collapsed supply chain finance firm.

"Is he spoiling for a fight with Conservatives?"

The decision to fire Braverman removes from the cabinet one of the most prominent supporters of leaving the EU and means even more of Sunak's top ministers supported remaining in the bloc in 2016. Out of the 29 cabinet roles, at least 16 backed remaining in the EU, compared with 10 who supported leaving.

Sunak backed Brexit.

Since he became Britain's third prime minister in as many months, Sunak has tried to keep all wings of the party happy — reappointing Braverman, a favourite on the right, to her interior minister role just a week after she was fired in the final days of his predecessor Liz Truss's brief premiership.

He has also tried to portray himself as a tough decision-maker and agent of change, ready to take on "establishment attitudes" on the environment and crime despite the Conservatives having been in power for more than a decade.

It's a risky strategy — while welcomed by centrist lawmakers, the party's right senses the end of their increased dominance

illegal immigration and crime.

But centrist lawmakers believe Cameron's appointment is inspired, saying he not only brings a wealth of government experience but is also seen as a moderate, one who can reassure traditional supporters largely in affluent southern England.

"It reassures mainstream Tories," one Conservative lawmaker said on condition of anonymity. Another pointed out that he won two elections, although in his first victory he depended on the Liberal Democrats to form a coalition government.

The appointment has done little to unite a party that has taken in-fighting to new levels over the years, particularly since Cameron announced he was holding the EU referendum.

Another Conservative lawmaker said the appointment of Cameron was about trying to differentiate Sunak's government from the economic chaos under Truss and the scandal-ridden premiership of her predecessor Boris Johnson.

"It is a fascinating and smart move," he said.

But as he was talking, he asked a former cabinet minister to the right of the party for her thoughts. She replied: "I thought we were meant to be looking forward, not back."

Some party commentators said it showed Sunak did not believe he could recreate the circumstances in 2019, when Johnson persuaded many voters in traditional Labour-supporting regions in northern and central England to vote Conservative for the first time.

In any election the Conservatives will take on not only Labour, but also the centrist Liberal Democrats in southern England, where some lawmakers are fearful the Conservatives were once again being seen as "the nasty party".

"In many ways, David Cameron's modern conservatism is the very reason I'm here in parliament today," wrote Dehenna Davison, a former minister in the housing department who previously announced she was stepping down at the next election.

With few Conservatives believing they can win the next election, others might follow her in preparing for a new job.

The reshuffle also prompted a number of junior ministers to resign their posts in departments including health, transport and education. Ministers who lose their parliamentary seats at an election face restrictions on what jobs they can immediately take. Those without ministerial positions do not. — Reuters

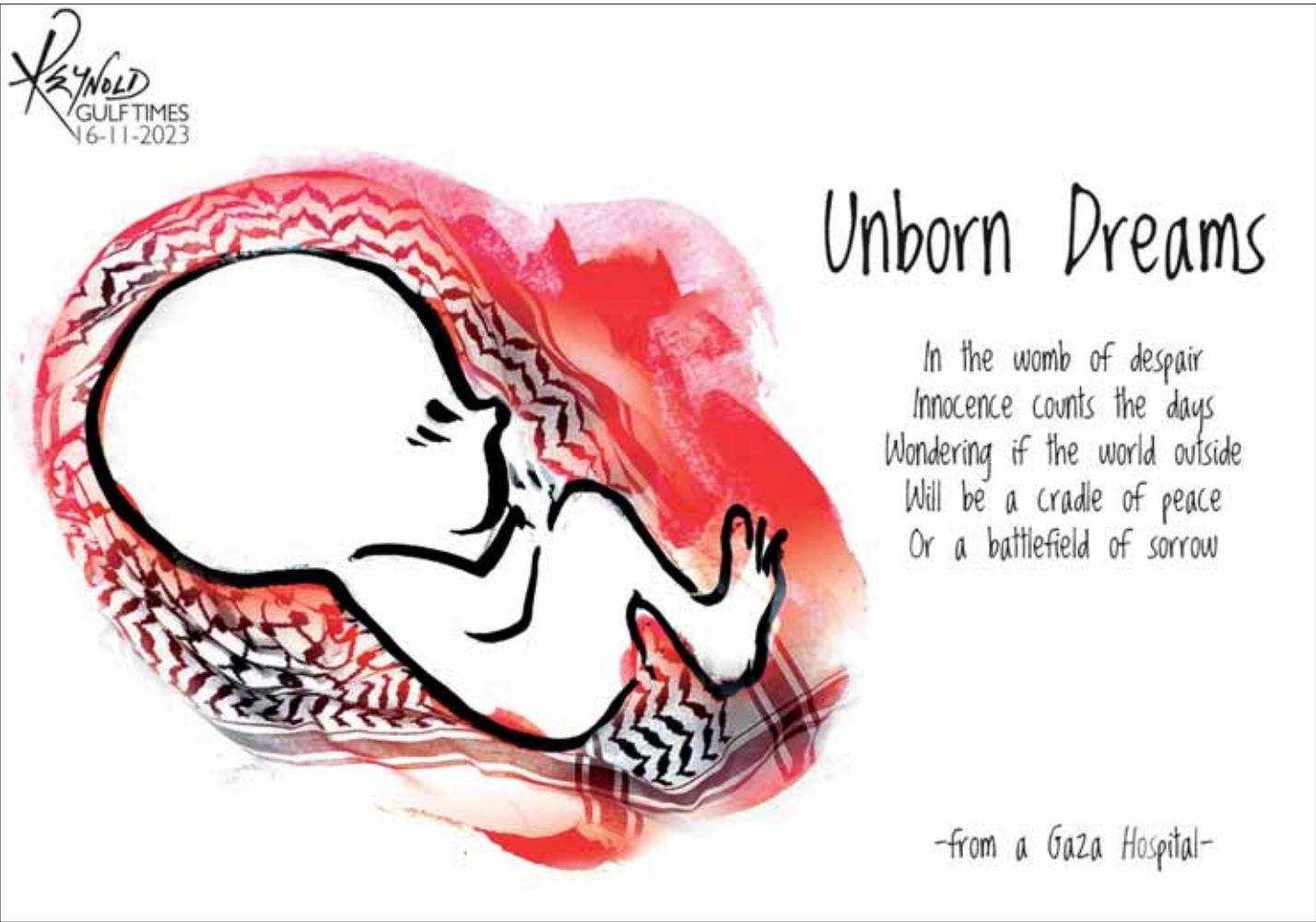
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A victory lap for the transitory inflation team

By Joseph E. Stiglitz
Pisa

As the world was recovering from the pandemic, inflation shot up, owing to widespread disruptions to global supply chains and sudden changes in patterns of demand. While the demand shifts might have posed a challenge to price stability even in the best of times, the breakdown in supply chains made matters worse. The market could not respond immediately to the new demand patterns, so prices increased.

Recall that we initially experienced a car shortage, simply because there was a shortage of computer chips — a problem that took 18 months to correct. The issue was not that we had forgotten how to produce cars, or lacked trained workers and factories. We were just missing a key component. Once it was supplied, automobile inventories expanded, and prices came down — disinflation set in. (Disinflation is a decline in the rate of inflation, not necessarily of the actual price level, and is what matters for central banks monitoring changes in prices. In this and several other cases, prices actually came down.)

Housing provides another example of this temporary, self-correcting phenomenon. Since population size is a major determinant of demand, the

loss of one million Americans under Donald Trump's pandemic mismanagement ought to have lowered housing prices at the aggregate level. But the pandemic also induced people to look for greener pastures. Major cities like New York came to seem less attractive than places like Southampton and the Hudson Valley.

Increasing the supply of housing in such places is not easy in the short term, so prices duly rose. But owing to well-known asymmetries in how prices adjust to changing market conditions, they did not fall commensurately in the cities. As a result, housing-price indices (which capture the average) went up. Now, as the effects of the pandemic have waned, prices (as measured by these indices) have drifted down slowly, reflecting the fact that most leases last for at least a year.

What role did the US Federal Reserve play in all this? Given that its interest-rate hikes did not help resolve the chip shortages, it cannot take any credit for the disinflation in car prices. Worse, the rate hikes probably slowed the disinflation in housing prices. Not only do significantly higher rates inhibit construction; they also make mortgages more expensive, thus forcing more people to rent instead of buy. And if there are more people in the market for rentals, rental prices — a core

component in the consumer price index — will increase.

The pandemic-induced inflation was exacerbated further by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which caused a spike in energy and food prices. But, again, it was clear that prices could not continue to rise at such a rate, and many of us predicted that there would be disinflation — or even deflation (a decline in prices) in the case of oil.

We were right. Inflation has indeed fallen dramatically in the United States and Europe. Even if it has not reached central bankers' 2% target, it is lower than most expected (3.7% in the US, 2.9% in the eurozone, 3% in Germany, and 3.5% in Spain). Moreover, one must remember that the 2% target was pulled out of thin air. There is no evidence that countries with 2% inflation do better than those with 3% inflation; what matters is that inflation is under control. That is clearly the case today.

Of course, central bankers will pat themselves on the back. But they had little role in the recent disinflation. Raising interest rates did not address the problem we faced: supply-side and demand-shift inflation. If anything, disinflation has happened despite central banks' actions, not because of them.

Markets largely understood this all along. That is why inflationary expectations remained tame. While some central-bank economists claim that this was

due to their own forceful response, the data tell a different story. Inflation expectations were muted from early on, because markets understood that the supply-side disruptions were temporary. Only after central bankers repeated over and over their fears that inflation and inflationary expectations were setting in, and that this would necessitate a long slog entailing high interest rates and unemployment, did inflationary expectations rise. (But, even then, they barely budged, reaching 2.67% for the average of the next five years in April 2021, before falling back to 2.3% a year later back).

Before the latest conflict in the Middle East — which again raises the spectre of higher oil prices — it was clear that a "victory" over inflation had been achieved without the large increase in unemployment that inflation hawks insisted would be necessary. Once again, the standard macroeconomic relationship between inflation and unemployment — expressed in the Phillips curve — was not borne out.

That "theory" has been an unreliable guide over much of the past quarter-century, and so it was again this time. Macroeconomic modelling may work well when relative prices are constant and major changes in the economy revolve around aggregate demand, but not when there are large sectoral changes and concomitant changes in relative prices.

When the post-pandemic inflation started more than two years ago, economists quickly divided into two camps: those who blamed excessive aggregate demand, which they attributed to large recovery packages; and those who argued that the disturbances were transitory and self-correcting. At the time, it was unclear how the pandemic would unfold. Confronted with a novel economic shock, no one could confidently predict just how long it would take for disinflationary forces to appear. Similarly, few anticipated markets' lack of resilience, or how much temporary monopoly power supply-side disruptions would confer on select firms.

But over the ensuing two years, careful studies of the timing of price increases and the magnitude of aggregate-demand shifts relative to aggregate supply largely discredited the inflation hawks' aggregate demand "story." It simply did not account for what had happened. Whatever credibility that story had left, it has now been further eroded by disinflation.

Fortunately for the economy, team transitory was right. Let us hope the economics profession absorbs the right lessons.

— Project Syndicate

● Joseph E Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, is University Professor at Columbia University and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.



RIGHT LESSONS: Fortunately for the economy, team transitory was right. Let us hope the economics profession absorbs the right lessons, says the author.

Heat projected to kill nearly five times more people by 2050

Nearly five times more people will likely die due to extreme heat in the coming decades, an international team of experts said yesterday, warning that without action on climate change the “health of humanity is at grave risk”. Lethal heat was just one of the many ways the world’s still-increasing use of fossil fuels threatens human health, according to The Lancet Countdown, a major annual assessment carried out by leading researchers and institutions. More common droughts will put millions at risk of starving, mosquitoes spreading farther than ever before will take infectious diseases with them, and health systems will struggle to cope with the burden, the researchers warned. The dire assessment comes during what is expected to be the hottest year in human history – just last week, Europe’s climate monitor declared that last month was the warmest October on record.

France releases policeman behind killing of teen that sparked riots

French authorities yesterday released from custody a police officer who shot dead a teenager during traffic controls this year in a killing that sparked over a week of nationwide rioting, prosecutors said. The officer fatally wounded Nahel M., 17, during a traffic stop in the Paris suburb of Nanterre on June 27, with massive police deployments unable to contain often violent protests on successive nights that caused significant damage to businesses and property. The 38-year-old officer, identified only as Florian M., has already been charged with murder. While he is no longer in jail ahead of trial, he is under judicial supervision which means restrictions are still placed on his movements. Investigating magistrates agreed to the latest request by the officer’s lawyer for a conditional release, but said he is banned from speaking to witnesses or plaintiffs, going near the scene of the shooting and from carrying a weapon, the office of the Nanterre prosecutor told AFP. Following new questioning of the officer last Thursday, the investigating magistrates ruled that “the legal criteria for the pre-trial detention of the police officer incarcerated since June 29, 2023 no longer appear to be met, at this stage of the investigation.” France deployed 45,000 officers backed by light armoured vehicles during the protests, while special police units and other security forces fanned out across the country to quell violence. Nahel was killed as he pulled away from police who were trying to stop him for a traffic infraction. A video, authenticated by AFP, showed two police officers standing by the side of the stationary car, with one pointing a weapon at the driver. A voice is heard saying: “You are going to get a bullet in the head.” The police officer then appears to fire as the car abruptly drives off. Clashes first erupted as the video emerged, contradicting police accounts that the teenager was driving at the officer. The officer’s lawyer, Laurent-Franck Lienard, said his client had apologised as he was taken into custody. The day after the shooting Nahel’s mother, Mounia, told France 5 television: “I don’t blame the police. I blame one person: the one who took the life of my son.” She said the officer “saw an Arab face, a little kid, and wanted to take his life”. A memorial march for Nahel, led by Mounia, ended with riot police firing tear gas as several cars were set alight in the western Paris suburb of Nanterre, where the teenager lived and died.

It also comes ahead of the COP28 climate talks in Dubai later this month, which will for the first time host a “health day” on December 3 as experts try to shine a light on global warming’s impact on health. Despite growing calls for global action, energy-related carbon emissions hit new highs last year, the Lancet Countdown report said, singling out still-massive government subsidies and private bank investments into planet-heating fossil fuels. Last year people worldwide were exposed to an average of 86 days of life-threatening temperatures, according to the Lancet Countdown study. Around 60% of those days were made more than twice as likely due to climate change, it said. The number of people over 65 who died from heat rose by 85% from 1991-2000 to 2013-2022, it added.

“However these impacts that we are seeing today could be just an early symptom of a very dangerous future,” Lancet Countdown’s executive director Marina Romanello said. Under a scenario in which the world warms by 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century – it is currently on track for 2.7C – annual heat-related deaths were projected to increase 370% by 2050. That marks a 4.7-fold increase. Around 520mn more people will experience moderate or severe food insecurity by mid-century, according to the projections. And mosquito-borne infectious diseases will continue to spread into new areas. The transmission of dengue would increase by 36% under a 2C warming scenario, according to the study. Meanwhile, more than a quarter of cities surveyed by the researchers said they were worried that climate change would

overwhelm their capacity to cope. “We’re facing a crisis on top of a crisis,” said Lancet Countdown’s Georgiana Gordon-Strachan, whose homeland Jamaica is currently in the middle of a dengue outbreak. “People living in poorer countries, who are often least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, are bearing the brunt of the health impacts,” she said. World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told an online conference launching the Lancet Countdown report that limiting warming to the Paris agreement target of 1.5C is a “public health imperative”. “The world is moving in the wrong direction, unable to curb its addiction to fossil fuels and leaving vulnerable communities behind in the much-needed energy transition,” Tedros said. On Tuesday, the UN warned that countries’ current pledges will cut global

carbon emissions by just 2% by 2030 from 2019 levels – far short of the 43% drop needed to limit warming to 1.5C. Romanello cautioned that if more progress is not made on emissions, then “the growing emphasis on health within climate change negotiations risks being just empty words”. However there are “glimmers of hope”, she added. The number of global deaths linked to air pollution from fossil fuels has fallen 16% since 2005, mostly thanks to efforts to reduce the impact of coal burning, the report said. Global investment in green energy rose by 15% to \$1.6tn last year, compared to \$1tn for fossil fuels. And if people changed to healthier, lower-carbon diets it would prevent up to 12mn deaths a year, at the same reducing emissions from dairy and red meat production by 57%, the report said.



US President Joe Biden (left) meets Chinese President Xi Jinping at Filoli estate on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit, in Woodside, California, yesterday. (Reuters)

France issues arrest warrant for Assad

AFP
Paris

France has issued an international arrest warrant for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accused of complicity in crimes against humanity and war crimes over chemical attacks in 2013, plaintiffs in the case said yesterday. In one of the more than decade-long conflict’s many horrors, sarin gas attacks saw more than 1,400 people suffocate to death near Damascus in August 2013. The organisations that filed a legal complaint hailed the move, saying it was the first time a sitting head of state had become the subject of an arrest warrant in another country for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Three other international warrants were also issued for the arrests of Assad’s brother Maher, the de-facto chief of the Fourth Division, Syrian army’s elite military unit, and two generals. The Paris court’s unit concerned with crimes against humanity has been investigating the chemical attacks since 2021. France can prosecute alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed anywhere in the world under the principle of universal jurisdiction. A judicial source, who asked not to be named, confirmed the issuing of the four warrants by investigating magistrates of the Paris court’s crimes against humanity section. The probe followed a complaint filed by the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM) NGO, lawyers’ association Open



UNDER FIRE: Bashar al-Assad

Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) and the Syrian Archive, an organisation documenting human rights violations in Syria. “It’s a huge development,” SCM president Mazen Darwish said of the warrant for Assad’s arrest. “An independent jurisdiction is recognising that the chemical attack couldn’t have happened without the knowledge of the Syrian president, that he has responsibility and should be held accountable,” he told AFP. The case against Assad and the others was backed by first-hand witness accounts and deep analysis of the Syrian military chain of command, Darwish said. “This is a historic moment – with this case, France has an opportunity to establish the principle that there is no immunity for the most serious international crimes, even at the highest level,” Steve Kostas of the Open Society Justice Initiative was quoted as saying in a statement. According to a source close to the investigation, the arrest warrants were the culmination of “painstaking work”

by investigators from France’s specialised OCLCH unit tracking international crimes. The goal was to “go as far up the chain of command as possible,” the source said. “If you stop at the helicopter pilot who dropped the bomb, he will be able to say ‘I only carried out orders! The further back you go, the greater the responsibility.’” Activists in 2013 posted amateur videos on YouTube said to show the effects of the attack, including footage of dozens of corpses, many of them children, stretched out on the ground. Other images showed unconscious children, people foaming at the mouth and doctors apparently giving them oxygen to help them breathe. The scenes provoked revulsion and condemnation around the globe. A United Nations report later said there was clear evidence of sarin gas use. Syria agreed in 2013 to join the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) global watchdog and give up all chemical weapons. The OPCW has since blamed Damascus for a series of chemical attacks during the civil war. The Syrian government has denied the allegations, which have also sparked legal complaints in Germany and other European countries. Syria’s civil war broke out in 2011 after Assad’s repression of peaceful demonstrations escalated into a deadly conflict that pulled in foreign powers and global jihadists. The war has killed more than half a million people and displaced half of the country’s pre-war population.

Biden, Xi vow to reduce tensions

AFP
Woodside, United States

US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping shook hands yesterday and pledged to reduce tensions as they met for the first time in a year at a high-stakes summit in California. A smiling Biden greeted Xi after the Chinese leader stepped out of a black limousine at the scenic Filoli country estate in the California foothills near San Francisco, before the two leaders shook hands on the front steps. The two leaders then headed inside for painstakingly choreographed, closed-door talks on issues including Taiwan, sanctions and trade that have roiled relations between the world’s largest economies. Biden opened his remarks by saying that tensions should “not veer into conflict.” Xi responded by saying that “turning their back on each other is not an option” for the superpowers. Biden was to give a solo press conference to discuss the summit, which was being held on the sidelines of the APEC summit in San Francisco, the White House said. Protesters lined part of the route of Biden’s motorcade from San Francisco, many with pro-Xi signs and red and yellow Chinese flags hung up on security fences. US officials have played down the chance of major breakthroughs although an agreement on restoring a hotline between the Chinese and US militaries on the cards, along with co-operation on stopping supplies of the drug fentanyl. But the main goal of the talks – which are taking place at the setting for the famed 1980s US soap opera *Dynasty – is to restore predictability to the relationship, US

officials say. The last time Biden and Xi met in person was in Bali in November 2022, and relations nosedived after the United States shot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon in February this year. The talks, which come after months of delicate diplomatic negotiations, come against the backdrop of a long struggle for global primacy between the United States and an increasingly assertive China. One of the most sensitive issues in Taiwan, the self-ruling democracy over which Beijing claims sovereignty and which it has not ruled out seizing by force. Biden was expected to tell Xi that the United States will stick to its “One China” policy that emphasises it does not support Taiwanese independence, but that it will continue to give Taiwan military aid. “We do not want to see the tensions across the Taiwan Strait evolve into any kind of conflict”, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters hours before the meeting. Biden was also expected to “raise concerns over human rights in China” including the repression of the Uyghur Muslim minority, added Kirby. The 80-year-old Biden held out an olive branch to Xi, 70, on the eve of the talks, insisting that the United States was “not trying to decouple from China” and wanted to improve the relationship. But Biden could not resist adding at a fundraising dinner that under communist leader Xi China faced “real problems,” while Biden claimed to be “reestablishing American leadership in the world.” China responded with a foreign ministry spokeswoman pointing out all countries had problems, including the United States, while sticking to positive talking points on the summit.

Russia admits Ukrainian troops on occupied Dnipro river bank

Russia said yesterday for the first time that some Ukrainian troops had established positions on the Moscow-held side of the Dnipro river, the vast waterway that splits the frontline in southern Ukraine. A sustained Ukrainian breakthrough across the river would mark a significant tactical success for Kyiv, whose wider counteroffensive has so far failed to turn the tide of the 21-month war. “Small groups” of Ukrainian soldiers were stretched along the eastern bank of the Dnipro river, and had been “blocked” in the tiny village of Krynky, the Moscow-installed head of Ukraine’s Kherson region, Vladimir Saldo, said in a post on Telegram. But he insisted they were facing a “fiery hell” from Russian artillery, rockets and drones, and were suffering heavy losses.

Greenhouse gas concentrations hit record high in 2022

Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere hit new record highs in 2022, with no end in sight to the rising trend, the United Nations warned yesterday. The UN’s World Meteorological Organisation said levels of the three main greenhouse gases – the climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – all broke records last year. Such levels of heat-trapping gases will mean further temperature increases, more extreme weather and higher sea levels, the WMO said in its 19th annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin. “Despite decades of warnings from the scientific community, thousands of pages of reports and dozens of climate conferences, we are still heading in the wrong direction,” said WMO chief Petteri Taalas. The bulletin comes ahead of the November 30-December 12 COP28 UN climate summit in Dubai.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at “well below” two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 – and 1.5C if possible. The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15C above the 1850-1900 average – and Taalas said it was all but certain that 2023 would be the warmest year on record. “The current level of greenhouse gas concentrations puts us on the pathway of an increase in temperatures well above the Paris Agreement targets by the end of this century,” said Taalas. “This will be accompanied by more extreme weather, including intense heat and rainfall, ice melt, sea level rise and ocean heat and acidification. “The socioeconomic and environmental costs will soar. We must reduce the consumption of fossil fuels as a matter of urgency.”

In 2022, carbon dioxide concentrations were at 418 parts per million, methane at 1,923 parts per billion and nitrous oxide at 336 parts per billion. These values constitute, respectively, 150%, 264% and 124% of the pre-industrial (before 1750) levels. Of the three major greenhouses gases, carbon dioxide (CO2) accounts for about 64 percent of the warming effect on the climate. Global averaged concentrations of CO2 in 2022 were, for the first time, 50 percent above those of the pre-industrial era, and “continued to grow in 2023”, said the WMO. “Given the long life of CO2, the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero,” the WMO warned, with Taalas adding: “There is no magic wand to remove the excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere”.

Atmospheric methane is the second largest contributor to climate change, accounting for around 16 percent of the warming effect. Methane remains in the atmosphere for only about 10 years, but has a much more powerful warming impact than CO2. “We don’t fully understand why methane concentrations are steadily growing,” said Taalas. For nitrous oxide – accounting for around seven percent of the warming effect – the increase last year “was higher than that observed any time before in our modern time record”, the WMO said. Around 80% of greenhouse gas emissions come from G20 countries. Although the scientific community has a broad understanding of climate change and its implications, there are still some uncertainties about the carbon cycle – and the fluxes in the ocean, the land biosphere and the permafrost areas.

The bulletin called for greater information on certain topics. These included feedback loops in the climate system – for example, increased carbon emissions from soils or decreased carbon uptake by oceans due to climate change. The WMO is also concerned about so-called tipping points, where a certain level of change leads to a self-accelerating and potentially irreversible cascade of changes. One could be how parts of the Amazon rainforest, long a carbon sink, has now become a source of carbon emissions due to deforestation. The organisation said more information is also needed on non-CO2 greenhouse gases. Taalas said there was a risk that the wars in Ukraine and Gaza were overshadowing climate change, which “is still the biggest challenge for the welfare of mankind this century”.

Unesco to celebrate 50th anniversary of NMoQ

In recognising the legacy and the significance of the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) in the region, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), alongside Qatar, is set to celebrate the institution's 50th anniversary, which will be officially announced during the 42nd Session of Unesco's General Conference this month.

The celebration will take place at NMoQ in 2024, as well as on a global scale, with festivities planned in Qatar and at Unesco Headquarters in Paris in 2025.

In a press statement, Mohamed Saad al-Rumaihi, acting CEO of Qatar Museums (QM), said: "We are proud to announce the recognition of the NMoQ as part of the Unesco anniversaries list that contributes to the enrichment of the international cultural, heritage and museum scenes. This affiliation is a testament to the 50 years of commitment and hard work put forth to preserve our nation's rich heritage and culture."

"As NMoQ speaks the tales of history of the Qatari community, their achievements, and future ambitions which can now be celebrated worldwide with the aim of uniting communities and enrich-

ing them with culture. I look forward to celebrating this achievement internationally in 2024 and 2025."

Dr Fatema Hassan al-Sulaiti, director of International Co-operation and Government Affairs at QM, said: "Under the leadership of HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, chairperson of QM, we are shaping a remarkable chapter in the narrative of cultural diplomacy and heritage preservation of Qatar. With the recognition of NMoQ's 50th anniversary by the Unesco, we are further solidifying our commitment to these important initiatives."

Established by QM, the NMoQ, under the directorship of Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Thani, boasts an iconic design by architect Jean Nouvel. Inspired by the desert rose, the interlocking disks surrounding the historic Palace of Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim al-Thani organically evoke Qatar's culture and climate.

The museum's sand-coloured concrete seamlessly blends with the local environment, while the strategically placed overhanging elements create shadows, allowing visitors to explore outdoor spaces while protecting the interior from harsh light and heat.

Organised chronologically, the mu-



Established by QM led by HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the NMoQ, under the directorship of Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Thani, boasts an iconic design by architect Jean Nouvel.

seum takes visitors on a journey from pre-human habitation to the present day, culminating in the meticulously restored

Old Palace, offering a comprehensive and immersive experience.

NMoQ director Sheikh Abdulaziz

al-Thani said: "NMoQ first opened its doors to the public in 1975, solidifying it as one of the first national museums in the region. Before being known today as NMoQ, the museum used to be the Old Palace, which was once the home of the ruler of Qatar."

"In 1980, the museum received the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture for its restoration. Since then, NMoQ has been a testament to our cultural heritage and the achievements we have accumulated throughout those years. Over these decades, NMoQ transformed into more than just a museum and has become a living, breathing chronicle of our nation's history. As we look forward to the future of NMoQ, we carry with us the legacy of the past."

Dr Nassir al-Hinzab, Qatar's permanent representative to Unesco, said: "This recognition highlights the meticulous efforts invested in preserving and promoting the legacy that resonates through the exhibits and narratives encapsulated within NMoQ. As we navigate the global map of cultural significance, Unesco's endorsement solidifies the position of Qatar as a custodian of historical narratives, contributing profoundly to the heritage of Qatar."

'Dialogue of Papers' exhibition to open in Jakarta

The 'Dialogue of Papers' exhibition, a remarkable artistic endeavour that encapsulates the deep cultural connection shared between Qatar and Indonesia, is set to open in Jakarta on November 25, the Years of Culture initiative has announced. Taking place until December 16 at the Emiria Soenassa Gallery, Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM) Jakarta, the exhibition forms part of the Qatar - Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture and explores the intricate relationship between the two countries through the medium of papermaking. This cultural dialogue is portrayed through collaborative artworks that brought together two exceptional artists: Qatari artist Yousef Ahmad and Indonesian artist Widi Pangestu. Curated by Years of Culture senior museums expert Dr Aisha al-Misnad, the 'Dialogue of Papers' exhibition showcases the results of



Widi, Dr Aisha, and Yousef.

a collaborative workshop held in Qatar, where Ahmad and Pangestu combined the unique natural elements of both countries. This collaboration involved the fusion of palm tree pulp from Qatar with abaca and mulberry pulps from Indonesia, resulting in

36 artworks that will be on display at the Emiria Soenassa Gallery. "The Dialogue of Papers concept is a legacy borne out of Year of Culture's partnership with Japan. We were thrilled to be able to host Mr Widi Pangestu in Doha for workshops with Mr Yousef



Widi making paper pulp art.

Ahmad. The resulting artworks offer a captivating exploration of concepts such as fullness and emptiness, differences and similarities, and the power of dialogue through shared creativity. It is a visual representation of the profound connection between

Qatar and Indonesia, transcending geographic boundaries through art," al-Misnad. The two artists will hold a free public talk at the gallery on November 25 at 1pm. At its core, this exhibition delves into the ways in which distinct environments, landscapes, and

climates have influenced the lives and experiences of people in Qatar and Indonesia. Indonesia, an archipelago of lush, green islands, boasts dense forests teeming with plants of diverse shapes and hues. The contrast is stark when compared to Qatar, a peninsula characterised predominantly by a desert landscape, a region initially appearing devoid of flora. However, the desert has generously gifted the palm tree, which has thrived in the face of harsh conditions and limited water resources. This juxtaposition of the forest and the desert evokes notions of fullness and emptiness, drawing attention to the artistic and creative endeavours of the inhabitants of these distinct environments. Humans have managed to thrive and create in both landscapes, despite their inherent differences and challenges.

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