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PM calls for global action to end Israeli atrocities

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met here yesterday with High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, who is visiting Doha.

The two sides discussed the developments in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Palestinian territories.

During the meeting, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, voiced Qatar's appreciation for Josep Borrell's call for unhindered access of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, and for his efforts to implement the Security Council resolution on humanitarian pauses.

HE the Prime Minister stressed that the situation in the Gaza Strip is tragic in light of the atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation against "our Palestinian brothers", expressing his regret at the silence of the international community regarding the massacres targeting civilians, especially children and women, in addition to striking civilian, relief and humanitarian facilities.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs underlined the necessity of an immediate halt of bombing, retaliatory operations, and indiscriminate attacks on the Gaza Strip, in addition to lifting the unjust siege imposed on the Strip for years.

He also stressed the need for the international community to come together and assume its responsibilities to resolve the Palestinian issue and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace based on ending the occupation and recognising Palestinian rights in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, most importantly the Palestinian right to establish an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

HE the Prime Minister affirmed the continued efforts of Qatar to mediate the release of prisoners, despite the difficulties resulting from the escalation of the aggression against Gaza.

For his part, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union expressed his thanks to Qatar for its mediation efforts to release the prisoners since the first day of the outbreak of the crisis. (QNA)

●Humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza continues to worsen: PM-Borrell press conference **Page 2**

Sheikh Mohamed meets EU's foreign policy chief



Israel-Hamas hostage deal edges closer

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PM decries world community's inability to stop Israel's genocidal crimes in Gaza

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has said that the humanitarian, ethical, and legal catastrophe in the Gaza Strip continues to worsen after nearly a month and a half since the Israeli aggression began in the Strip, amid the international community's inability to stop the bloodshed and curb the aggression.

During a press conference held yesterday with High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union Josep Borrell, HE Sheikh Mohamed said that the meeting discussed ways to enhance co-operation between Qatar and the EU to reach a permanent and peaceful solution to this crisis in all its political and humanitarian dimensions.

He emphasised that at the top of the priorities is an immediate cessation of the firing and all retaliatory operations and indiscriminate attacks on the Gaza Strip, ending the genocidal acts, starvation, and forced displacement, and lifting the oppressive blockade imposed on the Strip for many years, in blatant violation of international law and humanitarian principles.

HE Sheikh Mohamed added that this tragic situation, with all the cruelty, horror, and brutality

that the word implies, has resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, coercive mass displacement of hundreds of thousands, in addition to depriving two and a half million Palestinians of water, food, fuel, electricity, and medicine, adding that the world is witnessing the occupation army bragging about destroying hospitals and forcing the sick, wounded, doctors and displaced people to leave at gunpoint, and justifying it with unproven allegations.

He said that the past few days saw the targeting of all the hospitals in the Gaza Strip and witnessed, before the eyes and ears of the entire world, the theatrical performances carried out by the occupying army in these hospitals, claiming that they are places used by the leadership of the Hamas movement.

HE Sheikh Mohamed stressed that what happened at Al-Shifa Medical Complex, the largest facility in the Gaza Strip, with the forced evacuation of hundreds of patients, dozens of newborns, medical staff, and thousands of displaced individuals, constitutes a crime that was not condemned by the international community, not to mention the ongoing massacres against civilians, the latest of which was the massacre that occurred Saturday at the the UN-affiliated Al-Fakhoura School with



HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and EU's Josep Borrell during the press conference in Doha yesterday.

no respect for international laws and norms.

He called for an international stance to address this issue in accordance with international laws and norms, stating that many countries have a double standard regarding what is happening to the brothers in the Gaza Strip.

He urged the international community to adhere to its foundations of respecting international law, international conventions, and treaties and to respect and protect civilians in Gaza, as is the case for civilians anywhere else in the world.

HE Sheikh Mohamed praised the call of the EU High Represent-

ative for a humanitarian ceasefire, urging Israel to comply with the Security Council's resolution and implement the provisions therein, including opening humanitarian corridors and halting the war. He pointed out the constant Israeli shelling of all civilian facilities in the Gaza Strip that didn't even spare schools and hospitals. The targeting of the Qatar Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza headquarters is another example of the lack of attention for such institutions, whose goal is to provide humanitarian support for the brethren in the Strip, in addition to using flimsy excuses for destroying such facilities.

HE Sheikh Mohamed stressed that Qatar had called several times for the formation of international investigation committees to look into Israeli allegations regarding the use of schools and hospitals for military purposes, however, there has been no movement in this direction.

In this context, he called for the necessity of forming an international committee to investigate crimes committed against civilians in the Gaza Strip.

He said that the headquarters of the Qatar Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza is significant to Qatar and represents its efforts in the Gaza Strip. However, the building is not more important than the hospital, schools, and shelters that are being destroyed daily and are sheltering tens of thousands of our brethren in the Strip.

HE Sheikh Mohamed expressed his confidence that an agreement on the exchange deal between Israel and Hamas is near, pointing out that there are some simple logistical and practical challenges that are not fundamental and can be overcome.

He stressed the need to stop the war and open humanitarian corridors to bring in aid, noting that people in the Gaza Strip are suffering from hunger and do not have clean water or electricity, in

addition to the lack of fuel in hospitals.

For his part, Borrell praised the regional and international efforts made by Qatar in this crisis, indicating that his meeting comes within the framework of discussing the deteriorating regional situation and the necessity to stop the sufferings of the innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip, where pain and suffering are currently concentrated.

He stressed the need to make further joint efforts to overcome the challenges that hinder reaching a solution between the two sides. In this context, he praised the constructive role played by Qatar as a regionally influential country in supporting peace and stability, and which has been able to impose itself as an intermediary and essential country in the world and not just in the Middle East, which confirms that Qatar plays a fundamental role in bringing peace and liberating peoples.

Borrell said that his discussions with HE Sheikh Mohamed focused on the issue of the hostages held captive by Hamas since Oct 7, with Qatar playing a facilitating and essential role in efforts to release them. In this context, he called for the "unconditional" release of the hostages and to allow the Red Cross and Red Crescent to reach them. (QNA)

Official: PM to visit Russia, UK as part of Arab-Islamic initiative to stop war in Gaza

Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari announced that HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani would begin tomorrow a tour that includes Russia and the United Kingdom as part of a tour carried out by a number of foreign ministers of fraternal countries to a number of permanent members of the UN Security Council to push for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Dr al-Ansari said that the tour comes in implementation of the

mandate decision issued by the extraordinary joint Islamic-Arab summit in Riyadh on Nov 11 to formulate international action to stop the war raging in Gaza.

He said that this initiative, which is undertaken on behalf of all member states of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, aims to reach an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, exert pressure to launch a serious and genuine political process to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with established international references, and to take deterrent measures to stop the

crimes of the colonial occupation authorities against humanity, while ensuring urgent relief corridors to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe.

He said that besides HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Arab-Islamic initiative would see the participation of Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, along with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the State of Palestine, Turkiye, Indonesia, Nigeria, as well as the Secretary-General of the Arab League and the Secretary-General of the OIC. (QNA)

PM meets Saudi minister of state



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Saudi Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet Prince Turki bin Mohamed bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and develop them. HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani attended the meeting. (QNA)

Al-Khulaifi meets German minister



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday with the visiting German Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office Tobias Lindner. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. HE al-Khulaifi stressed the need for consolidating the regional and international efforts to reach an immediate ceasefire and the permanent opening of the Rafah crossing to ensure the flow of relief convoys and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian brethren besieged in the Gaza Strip, expressing Qatar's profound concern about the catastrophic deterioration of the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. He also stressed that the ongoing shelling doubles the humanitarian catastrophe in the Strip and complicates the exerted efforts. In turn, Lindner expressed Germany's appreciation for the continued Qatari mediation to release the hostages. He also thanked Qatar for its constant efforts to evacuate the citizens of Germany. (QNA)

Al-Amri meets Singaporean envoy

HE the Minister of Justice Masoud bin Mohamed al-Amri met yesterday with Singapore's ambassador to Qatar Wong Chow Ming. The meeting discussed legal co-operation relations between Qatar and Singapore, and ways to strengthen and develop them. (QNA)



Al-Hammadi meets ambassadors



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Moroccan ambassador Mohamed Setri and Jordanian ambassador Zaid Mufleh al-Lawzi. The meeting discussed Qatar's co-operation relations with Morocco and Jordan. (QNA)

AlKhater in Cairo meetings



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met in Cairo yesterday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and strengthening co-operation regarding the Gaza Strip, especially in transferring Qatari humanitarian aid within the framework of recent co-ordination approved by the Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met in Cairo yesterday with Egyptian Minister of Social Solidarity Dr Nevin Riyad al-Kabbaj. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance co-operation between the two countries regarding the Gaza Strip, in light of the deteriorating humanitarian conditions that double the suffering of the fraternal Palestinian people besieged in the Strip. The meeting also discussed ways to strengthen medical and relief personnel and provide the urgent needs of the Palestinian brethren besieged in the Gaza Strip. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met in Cairo yesterday with Egyptian Minister of Health and Population Dr Khaled Abdel Ghaffar. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance co-operation between the two countries regarding the Gaza Strip, especially in the medical field, in light of the tragic situation of the sick and wounded in the Gaza Strip. The meeting also discussed the acute shortage of medicines, several hospitals that stopped working, and discussed ways of joint support in this area. (QNA)

3rd Smart City Expo Doha to be held on Nov 29-30

The third edition of Smart City Expo Doha, the region's leading urban innovation event and integral part of Expo 2023 Doha, is to be held at Al-Bidda Park's Congress Centre in the Cultural Zone on November 29-30.

In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to boost the technology sector and keep pace with the accelerated developments in data science, and with the overarching Expo 2023 Doha theme of Green Desert, Smart Technology, the event will delve into the intricate connections between smart cities, sustainability, and technological innovation.

Organised by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the expo will emphasise the pivotal role of data,

connectivity, and technology in fostering sustainable urban development and reinforcing Doha's global presence in the sphere of smart cities. Building upon the momentum of previous editions, which saw a substantial attendance of 6,000-plus participants from 60 countries, this year's expo aims to chart a transformative course towards smarter, more connected, and sustainable urban landscapes.

HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohamed bin Ali al-Mannai said: "Smart City Expo 2023 Doha exemplifies Qatar's commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration towards a more resilient future for the world's cities. In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, our mission is clear: to drive

actionable urban solutions that transform cities into vibrant well-connected technological hubs, setting new standards for sustainable living that embrace artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of things (IoT), and machine-to-machine technology, among others, that enhance our daily lives and elevate business efficiency."

Created in partnership with Fira Barcelona International, organisers of the leading Smart City Expo World Congress, Smart City Expo 2023 Doha will bring together global experts to share ideas and solutions on how to create a better, more sustainable future for cities and their citizens. Together, they will endeavour to identify actionable solutions to address the challenges facing cities today through four key conference tracks focused

on Green Urban Environments, Digital Governance, Cognitive Cities and Liveable Places. Discussions will shed light on a range of topics including energy and the environment, governance, mobility, enabling technology, living and inclusion, infrastructure and building, the economy, as well as safety and security.

The significance of this edition is further underscored by the strong ties with Expo 2023 Doha, a testament to Qatar's commitment to promoting sustainable living and innovative urban landscapes in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030. This alignment offers a unique opportunity to leverage the synergies between horticulture, sustainability, and technology to shape the cities of tomorrow. (QNA)

Qatar Debate Centre wraps up Doha Forum's Youth Edition 2023

Held under the theme *Building Shared Futures*, the Doha Forum: Youth Edition 2023 concluded yesterday at Georgetown University, where participants came together to tackle a variety of issues.

The closing session brought together Qatar's Minister of Education and Higher Education HE Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuami with Yalchin Rafiyev, the deputy foreign minister of Azerbaijan, and other dignitaries along with members of Qatar Debate Centre, led by executive director Dr Hayat Abdullah Marafi.

Keynote speakers featured in the closing session included Qatari speaker and Team Qatar debater Sarah Almaadeed, Bo Seo (a two-time world champion debater from South Korea and a former coach of the Australian national debating team and the Harvard College Debating Union), Syrian public speaker and human rights advocate Omar al-Shogre, and Reem Ali, a Sudanese-American advocate.

The forum attracted a turnout with

more than 100 participants from over 75 countries attending the last day of the event, which featured a lineup of activities, including a skills session focused on policy drafting and an expert panel discussion on *Cyber Security, Data Privacy and Artificial Intelligence*.

The panel comprised Dr Houda Bouamor from Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Qatar Computing Research Institute principal scientist Dr Halima Bensmail, Speetar (an AI-enabled telehealth platform) founder and chief executive Dr Mohamed Aburawi, and Abdul Abdulrahim, co-founder and chief operating officer of Stears, a venture-backed data and insights provider.

In reference to the ongoing situation in Palestine, Abdulrahman al-Subaie, outreach programmes manager at Qatar Debate Centre, said: "Without a doubt, when the issue is returning occupied land, we embrace the cause."

"When the issue is protecting humanity, we embrace the cause," he said. "The Pal-



Participants after the closing of Doha Forum Youth Edition 2023.

estinian cause is our cause."

Speaking to delegates at the closing ceremony held at National Museum of Qatar, Mubarak al-Kuwari, executive director of the Permanent Committee for Organisations



Dignitaries at the closing session of Doha Forum Youth Edition 2023.

ing Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar, said: "This Youth Edition has not only provided a platform for open dialogue and debate but has also underscored the importance of fostering a cul-

ture of discussion among youth."

"We believe in the transformative power of ideas and the impact that young minds can have in shaping the world," the official said.

Aamal Company hosts 'Aamal Ride' cycling event

Aamal Company hosted its social sports event "Aamal Ride" in co-operation with the Qatar Cycling Federation at Lusail Boulevard.

More than 500 cyclists from 56 countries participated in the event, with Qatar ranked first in terms of the number of participating cyclists, who included professional and amateur cyclists, members of the national cycling team, as well as a number of scout teams from national schools.

Aamal Company vice-chairman and managing director Sheikh Mohamed bin Faisal al-Thani was present.

"Aamal Ride" encompassed four routes of different lengths, each allocated to a specific category of participants, and all started and ended at Lusail Boulevard: the long route (85km), the middle route (56km), and the short route (14km),



Snapshots from the event that was held at Lusail Boulevard.

in addition to Lusail Boulevard inclusive ride (1.6km). All the proceeds from the event were donated to support Palestine

through the Qatar Charity.

The event included a prize draw for participants, with the prizes donated by

Aamal and its subsidiaries.

"I am pleased that we were able, through this event, to encourage people from all

parts of society to adopt a healthy lifestyle as sport has a great ability to make a positive impact physically and mentally," said Aamal Company chief executive Rashid bin Ali al-Mansoori.

"This is the beginning of a series of events that we hope to hold on an annual basis through which we aim to improve community wellbeing," he said.

"We truly enjoyed Aamal Ride, the first of its kind at Lusail Boulevard," said Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation president Dr Mohamed Jaham al-Kuwari. "The event was a great success and witnessed massive turnout from the cycling community."

"The organisation of such events greatly serves and supports this sport, and expands our base," he said. "We look forward to an even bigger and more successful Aamal Ride next year."

AI and Arabic calligraphy seminar breaks new ground



Dr James She spearheaded an AI and Arabic calligraphy seminar at QNL recently.

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

A recent seminar on artificial intelligence (AI) and Arabic calligraphy brought together local calligraphers, artists, and AI experts at the Qatar National Library (QNL), marking what was described as a groundbreaking fusion of tradition and technology.

The event on *AI & Arabic Calligraphy: Crafting Calligraphy in the Digital Age* was organised by Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)'s College of Science and Engineering (CSE) in partnership with the QNL.

It was graced by CSE founding dean Dr Mounir Hamdi.

CSE associate professor Dr James She, a Doha-based media artist and the lead researcher in AI for Art, Media, Culture, and Heritage initiatives at the HBKU, shared the motivation behind the event and unveiled intriguing samples of AI Arabic calligraphy artworks produced

with breakthroughs from their research efforts.

At the event, he addressed the current limitations of AI technologies for Arabic calligraphy, including popular tools like Midjourney and Stable Diffusion, while also highlighting his innovative solutions and techniques.

"Empowering tradition with technology, our seminar on *AI & Arabic Calligraphy: Crafting Calligraphy in the Digital Age* at the HBKU is a pioneering bridge between cultural heritage and artificial intelligence," Dr She told *Gulf Times*. "By intertwining tradition with AI, we embark on a cultural odyssey, preserving and elevating the artistic legacy of Arabic calligraphy for generations in Qatar, the region, and beyond."

He noted that the collaboration with the QNL, represented by information services librarian Ahmad Naddaf, further enriched the vision of using digital technologies and emerging AI to help the public learn, research, preserve, and create Arabic calligraphy.

Among the speakers at the seminar were Bashayer Ali Albadr and Mohamed Hosam al-

Nahas, who showcased their calligraphy works using conventional methods and shared stories of their journey with Arabic calligraphy.

The artists shared their perspectives on Arabic calligraphy created with AI, providing unique insights about merging heritage and innovation.

Discussions also addressed issues such as whether individuals utilising AI to generate Arabic calligraphy could be classified as calligraphers.

Additionally, the talks revolved around the potential applications of AI for both calligraphers and the general public.

Dr She said the second part of the seminar includes a workshop on *Dive into AI-Enhanced Arabic Calligraphy* on November 22 at the QNL's Computer Lab.

He said he and his team will spearhead the workshop, promising "an immersive dive into Arabic calligraphy with AI, empowering participants to learn basic AI techniques to create simple Arabic calligraphy artworks".



Truth Group chairman and founder Abdul Samad honouring, celebrated Indian actor Padma Shri Mammooty, other dignitaries and officials.

Truth Group launches pharmacy division

Truth Group, a prominent player in real estate and hospitality, marked its 20th anniversary with the grand launch of the Truth Care Pharmacy division.

The event at the Grand Hyatt was graced by the popular Indian actor Padma Shri Mammooty, a statement said yesterday.

The initiative underscores Truth Group's commitment to diversification and innovation.

The unveiling of the pharmacy division, the statement said, signifies a strategic expansion into the healthcare sector, aligning with Truth Group's vision to cater to the evolving needs of the community while maintaining the same level of excellence that has defined the company over the past two decades.

The Truth Care Pharmacy division launch event brought together industry

leaders, influencers, and other guests.

The event kicked off with a reception, featuring a red carpet entrance and a showcase of the company's remarkable journey through the years.

Mammooty officially launched Truth Care Pharmacy in the presence of Truth Group chairman and founder Abdul Samad, Truth Care Pharma managing director Saad Abdul Rasheed, Truth Group finance director Thanooja, operations manager Sarfaraz, and Truth Care Pharma operations manager Fathima.

"The Truth Care Pharmacy division signifies the group's foray into healthcare, with a commitment to providing comprehensive pharmaceutical products and services and be a trusted partner in health and wellness," the statement added.



Abdul Samad honouring Mammooty at the event.

Qatari plane heads to Al Arish with aid for Gaza

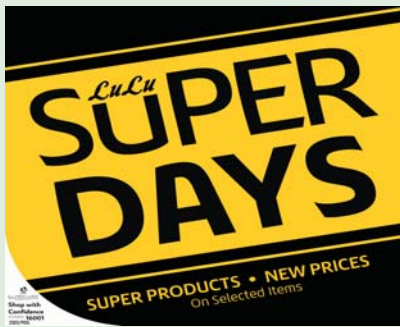


A plane belonging to the Qatar Armed Forces headed yesterday to the Egyptian city of Al Arish, carrying 41 tonnes of food and shelter supplies provided by Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), and Qatar Charity (QC), in preparation for transporting it into Gaza. The aid is part of Qatar's full support to the brotherly Palestinian people amid the difficult humanitarian conditions due to the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip. (QNA)

LuLu Hypermarket launches 'Super Days' promotion

LuLu Hypermarket has launched its 'Super Days' promotion, providing substantial discounts on a wide range of products, including electronics, mobile phones, wearables, beauty fashion, and various items from grocery and fresh food categories. This promotion aligns with the global 'Black Friday' shopping season. Running until December 3, 2023, customers can avail of attractive offers both in-store at LuLu Hypermarket locations nationwide and through the online shopping portal at www.luluhypermarket.com.

A spokesperson for LuLu Hypermarkets stated: "We are thrilled to introduce our largest promotion yet in anticipation of the year's most awaited shopping season. Shoppers can look forward to significant discounts across major categories such as technology, fashion, home appliances, and even grocery products. Additionally, we have enhanced our e-commerce platform with exclusive online discounts to cater to our diverse customer base." In preparation for an expected surge in



demand, LuLu Hypermarket has increased its fleet of vehicles and strengthened its global contact centre with a substantial expansion in manpower. This strategic move aims to better reach and serve its valued customers during this busy shopping period. LuLu Hypermarket's 'Super Days' promotion also includes the unique offering 'Half Payback' promotion. Customers purchasing readymade garments, sarees, churidars, footwear, ladies bags, baby accessories, and selected sunglasses are eligible for a half

payback. This means they receive a QR100 gift voucher instantly against purchases worth QR200. The promotion highlights a diverse selection of international brands in menswear, ladies wear, churidars, saris, children's wear, footwear, and ladies' bags, along with selected sunglasses. LuLu Hypermarket encourages customers to take advantage of these exclusive offers and enjoy a rewarding shopping experience during the 'Super Days' promotion.

Qatar Travel Mart opens today at DECC

Over 250 exhibitors from more than 60 countries are expected to participate in Qatar Travel Mart (QTM) 2023, which opens today at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

Quickly establishing itself as a pivotal tourism industry platform in Qatar, the exhibition welcomes attendees and visitors to tap into the top travel trends and growing sectors, including sports, MICE, business, cultural, leisure and luxury, medical, and halal tourism.

Aligned with its theme, 'Discover Places, People, and Cultures', QTM 2023 offers a collaborative forum for industry professionals to enhance their knowledge, forge connections, celebrate excellence, and engage with international leaders and decision-makers in the travel and tourism sector.

The three-day conference features a roster of experts and industry leaders who will share insights and best practices, supporting Qatar's and the world's tourism development and recovery efforts.

Notable speakers include Professor Muzaffer Uysal from the University of Massachusetts; Tom Jenkins, CEO of European Tourism Association (ETOA); Chris Flynn, chairman and founder of World Tourism Association for Culture & Heritage (WTACH); and Dji-

bril Fofana, president counsellor, World Association for Hospitality & Tourism Education Training (AMFORHT); among others.

Attendees can also experience Qatar Travel Mart's Global Village, embarking on a captivating journey around the world from a single destination. Twenty-five international embassies offer a blend of education and entertainment, featuring cultural performances and experiences.

The grand gala dinner of QTM 2023 tomorrow, will highlight exhibitors who have shown exceptional commitment to enhancing attendee experiences, championing accessibility, and creating conducive environments for productive business interactions.

Awards will be presented in a range of categories, including Most Accessible Booth, Innovation Excellence Booth, Best Sustainability Champion Booth, Transport Excellence Booth, and Best Designed Stand (above and below 150sq m).

During the final day of QTM 2023, exhibitors will be offered the opportunity to join the first-ever QTM Golf Day event, at the Education City Golf Course.

QTM will be open to the public from 10am-7pm. For further information, visit www.qtmqatar.com or call +974 5514 1188.

'Diplomacy requires solutions with diverse stakeholder needs'

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) offered a public lecture by ambassador Androulla Kaminara, GU-Q Distinguished Diplomat-in-Residence for the 2023-2024 academic year. The event, "Practitioner's Proposals on How to Enhance Diplomatic Practice," offered a unique perspective on the evolution of diplomatic engagements in current international arenas.

Ambassador Kaminara's rich background as the former EU ambassador to Pakistan and her long-standing career in public service and humanitarian aid provided a foundation for discussing the drivers and challenges of modern diplomacy. Her talk provided students the opportunity to gain deeper insights into the complexities of global diplomacy. Drawing from her extensive experience, ambassador Kaminara highlighted critical issues including gender and cultural awareness, which are often overlooked in diplomatic practices. Using specific examples from



Ambassador Androulla Kaminara.

her tenure as an ambassador, and case studies from conflict-affected regions like Afghanistan and Nigeria, she shed light on the pivotal role these aspects play in crafting effective international strategies.

The Distinguished Diplomat-in-Residence programme at GU-Q was launched in the fall of 2023

to bring experienced practitioners from the field of diplomacy to engage with students and the academic community.

Through this programme, ambassador Kaminara is delivering public lectures and contributing to the university's intellectual life by mentoring students, providing career counselling, and facilitating connections across governmental, business, and diplomatic spheres.

Ashghal engineers in Vienna visit



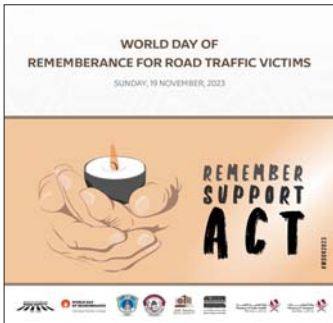
A group of 12 Qatari engineers from the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) took part in a study visit to Vienna. Titled 'Practical Applications of Modern Civil Engineering', the trip was in the presence of a delegation from the Qatar embassy in Vienna.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims observed

The General Directorate of Traffic yesterday observed the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims with the National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC), under the theme 'Remember, Support, Act', a statement from the Ministry of Interior said.

Brig Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani, acting director-general of Traffic, said the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims presents a crucial opportunity to remember those who lost their lives and show solidarity with those severely injured in road traffic accidents not only within Qatar but also across the globe.

"The aim is to remind road users about the dangers of road traffic accidents and highlights the impor-



tance of safe driving, considered the primary step toward ensuring the safety and protection of all road users, especially the most vulnerable groups such as pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists and drivers of various vehicles," he said.

The official said the observing

the day aligns with the substantial efforts made by the authorities concerned in the country for years to reduce the rates of fatalities and severe injuries resulting from road traffic accidents.

"These efforts involve implementing best practices, international standards, and systems that enhance traffic safety, including road design and implementation, the development of traffic laws and regulations, improving accident data collection and standardisation, improving road-monitoring systems and enhancing the efficiency of the police, ambulance services, and medical teams. All these endeavours aim to strengthen their efforts in promoting traffic safety and rescuing those injured in accidents," he added.

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Responsibilities:

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Requirements:

Qualifications Essential

- Relevant College or University qualification - Bachelor's Degree or equivalent (Preferred)

Previous Experience Essential

- Minimum of 5-8 years relevant experience (Procurement management relevant experience)
- Procurement or related experience in Food and Beverages industry (Is must).
- Strong communication skills.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite

Language:

- Fluent in English - Reading, Writing and Speaking. (Is must)
- Fluent in Arabic - Reading, Writing and Speaking. (Preferred)

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- Well knowledge of Qatar Labor Law.
- Excellent MS Office skills.
- Good time management and organizational skills
- Valid Driving License (Is must)

Language:

- Fluent in Arabic - Reading, Writing and Speaking. (Is must)
- Fluent in English - Reading, Writing and Speaking. (Preferred)

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Masraf Al Rayan supports QSW 2023

Masraf Al Rayan, one of Qatar's leading Islamic banks, was the Banking Community Partner for Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) 2023, organised by Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future, a statement said yesterday.

During the event, Masraf Al Rayan showcased its dedication to sustainability, aligning closely with the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030. The bank emphasised the significance of adopting sustainable practices to pave the way for Qatar's green, zero-carbon emission future.

A lecture about 'Sustainability in the Corporate World' by Ghanem al-Sulaiti, CEO of Enbat Holdings, delved into the pivotal role of composting in reducing waste in corporate settings.

The attendance was led by the Group CEO Fahad al-Khalifa, who appreciated the insights shared. This was followed by the Greenery Workshop, an integral part of Masraf



Al Rayan's initiative, and focused on educating the bank's employees about sustainable practices. Motivated by both the lecture and the workshop, employees contributed to the environmental enhancement of Masraf Al Rayan's headquarters by planting trees. The highlight of the week was a beach cleaning event, where

employees from Masraf Al Rayan, along with their department heads, united in a collective effort to preserve one of Qatar's picturesque beaches. The week concluded with a Metro Ride, led by al-Khalifa, and joined by senior management. Al-Khalifa said: "The success of Qatar Sustainability Week reaffirms



our belief that sustainability is not just a goal, but a way of life. We are immensely proud of our employees for their active

participation and dedication to positively impacting our environment and communities. Additionally, we are committed to

expanding our portfolio with even more Green products, guiding our customers towards a greener and healthier future."

UDC celebrates Qatar Sustainability Week 2023

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, recently celebrated the eighth edition of 'Qatar Sustainability Week' through a series of community events and activations, a statement said yesterday.

The initiative was launched by Earthna Centre, a member of Qatar Foundation.

UDC has consistently been at the forefront of addressing sustainability challenges, advocating for community engagement, and implementing award-winning environmental initiatives and programmes that underscore its commitment to building sustainable communities.

These efforts align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically targeting the promotion of sustainable cities and communities, climate action, good health and well-being, and the conservation of life on land.

This year's edition featured a weeklong series of events, including the Community Garden Activation, highlighting UDC's awareness raising efforts at The Pearl Island.

Last month, UDC hosted a special seasonal flower planting event at Hadiqa Centrale, located at The Pearl Boulevard. On November 6, The Pearl Island unveiled its new Collec'Thor Sea Cleaners at the Corinthia Yacht Club in Porto Arabia.

The Collec'Thor Sea Cleaners, also known as Seabins, are floating trash collectors made from recycled materials, capable of holding up to 20kg of waste. In 2021, UDC initiated the Seabins project in Porto Arabia, installing 10 sea bins that successfully collected 1,740kg (1.74 tonnes) of debris from Porto Arabia Marina.

Building upon the success of the project, UDC expanded the Seabin initiative in 2023 by adding 10 more new sea cleaners in various areas of The Pearl Island. Since its inauguration in 2021, the Seabin project has filtered more than 3bn litres of water litter and collected over 1.5 tonnes of waste from the marina.

In early 2023, UDC conducted a Beach Cleanup Drive at Bahri Villas South Beach on Global Recycling Day. Additionally, a World Water Day awareness campaign was launched to promote the use of automated water taps instead of traditional ones.

On November 9, UDC hosted a



The Pearl Island unveiled its new Collec'Thor Sea Cleaners in an event at the Corinthia Yacht Club in Porto Arabia.

recognition ceremony to honour and celebrate the achievements of retailers that participated in a six-month The Pearl Island recycling initiative. Trophies made of recycled material were presented during the event, organised in collaboration with Earthna Centre, Seashore Group, and Power Waste Management & Transport Co.

During the campaign period, 1,095kg of plastic was collected, bringing the total since the last campaign to 2,295kg. Additionally, 1,200 retail discount vouchers were utilised this year.

A campaign was launched in collaboration with retailers to minimise the use of plastic in daily catering operations. UDC is implementing a new policy to eliminate single-use plastic cutlery from all retail food and beverage outlets at The Pearl Island.

In partnership with Hamad Medical Corporation, UDC organised a blood donation campaign which saw over 200 donors participating, surpassing records from previous years. In 2022, UDC achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first listed real estate company in Qatar to release its Environmental, Social, and Governance Report (ESG) to the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE).

In 2022, UDC attained an overall ESG score of 94%. The score breakdown, 100% (environmental), 93% (social), and 89% (corporate governance), align with the stringent requirements set forth by the QSE sustainability standards.

UDC's initiatives and sustainability practices have garnered recognition for their positive impact on The Pearl Island community. These practices are in alignment with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy.

UDC received the 'Best in Corporate Social Responsibility' ac-

colade at the Qatar CSR Summit 2023. This year, UDC received the highest Gold Certification award by CSR Accreditation, a leading UK-based organisation associated with Buckinghamshire New University that delivers a global standard of social responsibility.

UDC is transitioning 50% of its transportation fleet from petrol-powered vehicles to electric alternatives. Additionally, the company has introduced a hybrid plug-in limousine service, aimed at reducing urban heat and greenhouse gas emissions by an impressive 65%, all while providing luxurious and sustainable transportation.

UDC also operates the region's inaugural fully electric water taxi within The Pearl Island. Earlier this year, UDC received five International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certifications through the British Standards Institution.

This year, UDC was honoured with four international environment and sustainability awards by The Green Apple Organisation, recognising achievements in pollution control, energy efficiency, water management, and carbon reduction.

UDC's consecutive participation in Qatar Sustainability Week for the second-year underscores not only the company's commitment to the well-being of the community but also its strategic environmental and sustainability initiatives outlined for 2022 to 2026. Recognising the environmental implications of plastic on climate change, UDC is dedicated to offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions. This commitment involves the promotion of low-carbon solutions, a drive to reduce plastic usage, and the establishment of comprehensive recycling mechanisms throughout The Pearl Island.

Qatar Sustainability Week holds 470 events

The 8th edition of Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) came to a close following a wide range of activities which aimed to promote, encourage and raise awareness of sustainable living among the community.

Organised by Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future (Earthna), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, QSW 2023 saw the highest participation rates in the history of the campaign, with over 470 events and initiatives being delivered by members of the public, government and non-government organisations, and businesses.

Earthna empowered over 200,000 community members to take action at over 470 events, creating a movement for positive change.

Commenting on the Ministry

of Sports and Youth's participation, which included organising over 60 events for this year's edition of QSW, HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali said: "Cross-community collaboration is critical to the success of national campaigns. The government, schools, businesses, and local clubs all have a role to play in promoting sustainable actions that bring wide-ranging benefits to all.

"I am proud of the many activities the Ministry of Sports and Youth has organised for QSW, which included public seminars on youth environmental awareness, tree planting activities, cycling tours and arts and crafts workshops. Through these events, we have helped people gain a better understanding of how they can live more sustainable lifestyles and of the positive

impact this can have on their well-being."

Reflecting on this year's QSW, Executive Director of Earthna Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata said: "Supporting sustainable development is at the forefront of Qatar's priorities, and the country has demonstrated time and time again that it is fully committed to taking action to grow in a way the protects society and enhances our environment. However, securing real change is a collective responsibility and this year's Qatar Sustainability Week has demonstrated that people across the country are equally committed, with record numbers of participants getting involved in more activities than we have seen before. QSW has been a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of sustainable living amongst the local community and drive action at a grass-roots level." (QNA)

Al Majd Law Firm holds brand protection workshop



The workshop in session yesterday. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Al Majd Law Firm yesterday organised a workshop on brand protection for the Qatari authorities concerned, aiming at enhancing awareness on authentic products and brands and how to identify fake and counterfeit ones to avoid the adverse consequences for both consumers and companies. The workshop was organised in collaboration with Mercedes-Benz Company in co-operation with MENSAs Intellectual Property Rights Management Company, and Marca Advisory Company. The participants were from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Customs Department in addition to a number of lawyers and others interested in the issue.

Addressing the workshop, lawyer Mohamed bin Lahdan al-Hassan al-Muhammadi, chairman of Al Majd Law Firm, thanked the participants and organisers for taking part in the important event to focus on the negative impact of counterfeiting and imitating commercial brands and the pressing need to protect commercial brands and counteract counterfeiting in Qatar.

Al-Muhammadi pointed out that counterfeits of commercial brands and imitations obstruct the products' ability to perform their targeted functions and



Lawyer Mohamed bin Lahdan al-Hassan al-Muhammadi

could lead to big losses for the companies concerned, undermine their reputation and the customer confidence in their products and services. Besides, it causes harm to the consumers who become victims of deceit and fraud that at times could also be detrimental to their health and safety. He stressed this also harms the overall market. Official sources estimated the amount of the losses to the Qatari market because of the spread of counterfeit products at more than QR182mn a year.

Al-Muhammadi explained that Qatar has been keen on regulating the protection of commercial brand under Law No 9 for 2002 regarding "Trademarks, Trade Indications, Trade names, Geographical Indications and Industrial Designs and Templates". Article 20 of this law gives all due legal protection to

the owner of the registered trademark and Article 47 of the same law penalises anyone who counterfeits or imitates such trademarks with prison term and fines or any of these penalties.

Further, Law No 7 for 2014, promulgating the Law (Regulation) of Trademarks in the GCC countries gives extra protection for the owners of brands on a regional level. The fundamental treatment of the issue requires more co-operation among the stakeholders to monitor the market and detect fake and counterfeit products in addition to raising public awareness, he said.

Prof Salah Zaineddin, professor of Commercial Law, Intellectual Property, and Maritime Law, College of Law, Qatar University, gave a detailed lecture on the involved legal issues of the topic and the related legislations and international agreements and conventions in this regard. He also gave examples of court cases on the same issue locally and internationally.

A hands on training on the difference between genuine and counterfeit parts of Mercedes-Benz auto parts was carried out and how to identify both of them through various indicators and marks.

The workshop concluded with al-Muhammadi presenting certificate of participation to the attendees.

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WISH partners with MoPH to seek policies to cut childhood obesity

The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a Qatar Foundation initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), has identified childhood obesity as a significant issue in Qatar and is developing a flagship report to inform and influence policy that will improve the lives and well-being of children in the region.

Obesity can lead to long-term health problems such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, which can be distressing for individuals, life limiting and can put significant strain on health systems.

“Childhood obesity in Qatar: National policy proposal through multisectoral approaches” will be published in the first quarter of 2024, but initial findings were presented recently at the Eastern Mediterranean Region Healthy Cities Conference 2023, hosted by the MoPH and the World Health Organisation in Doha. The conference brought together international experts to help advance urban health strategies and lead the way towards healthier cities and communities across the region and beyond.

Speaking to conference delegates, Maha El Akoum, manager, Content and Policy at WISH, underscored the urgent need to tackle obesity in urban settings due to the long-term health risks.

“More than one billion people worldwide are obese, 39mn of them are children under the age of five, and 340mn are adolescents. “In Qatar, childhood obesity affects 27.7% of the population. Given its multifactorial nature, it is imperative that governments take a multi-sectoral approach to addressing this global epidemic, and for this reason, the report proposes a model that addresses policies at multiple levels



Maha El Akoum

and across a range of government sectors.” The upcoming WISH and MoPH report aims to not only draw attention to childhood obesity in Qatar, where more than a quarter of children are clinically obese, with similar levels found in countries across the region but to also offer innovative solutions, particularly by suggesting ways that national policies can be developed to encourage healthy behaviours that lead to a decrease in the prevalence of obesity.

“Some examples of policies that we will be recommending in our report include evidence-based interventions at a governmental level such as restricting the marketing to children of food and drinks high in fats, sugar and salt, taxing unhealthy foods and drinks, and providing better access to affordable, healthy food,” El Akoum said.

Findings such as the impact and legacy of major sporting events on health and well-being in cities, how to address climate change in a dry, urban environment, and how to promote physical activity in cities across the region, will also be included in the report.



Qatar Charity-sponsored students graduate from Mogadishu University

Qatar Charity (QC) organised a graduation ceremony for 161 of its sponsored students at Mogadishu University in Somalia and welcomed 212 new Somali students into its sponsorship programme.

The ceremony was attended by the members of the Somali Cabinet and the House of the People, the Qatari embassy staff, the head of the Child Protection section at the Family and Childhood Care Department at Qatar Charity, and the President of Mogadishu University.

Several graduates who had received scholarships from QC and now hold important positions in the Somali government were also present.

Speakers praised the educational efforts in Somalia, which have benefited more than 3,000 Somali students since the opening of QC’s office in the country. The State Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, Sadaad Mohamed Nur Alio, pointed out that he was among the first individuals sponsored by QC to study at Mogadishu University, and said many

of the sponsored students have held high positions in the country.

Dr Ibrahim Mursal, president of Mogadishu University, said: “Qatar Charity has been the primary partner and supporter of the university since its inception, sponsoring thousands of students and giving them a new life.”

He noted that students sponsored by QC were among the first to achieve advanced academic degrees in Somalia. The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Somalia Ismail Yusuf Osman praised the efforts of QC in the field of education in Somalia, which have resulted in the graduation of numerous leaders whom the country takes pride in.

Yusef al-Khulaifi, head of the Child Protection section and General Supervisor of the “Rofaqa” initiative, stated that the graduation of over 160 students from various disciplines reflects QC’s commitment to supporting education in Somalia, as well as its belief that education is the sole path to development and progress.

The graduates thanked QC and Mogadishu University for their support during their academic journey.



Registration for international congress begins

Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) has announced the start of the registration for the International Congress of Gastrointestinal Cancers.

Dr Abdul Azim Abdul Wahab, vice-chairman of QCS said the congress will take place on December 1-2 at Ritz-Carlton, Doha. Those interested to participate in the congress can register through QCS mobile application. <https://onelink.to/cb8kke> The congress has been approved as CPD Activity: Category 1 by the Ministry of Public Health’s Department of Healthcare Professions for nine hours.

The congress is expected to gather more than 1,000 primary healthcare providers and a large number of researchers including international academics and specialists in the field of gastrointestinal tumours.



Dr Abdul Azim Abdul Wahab

‘Al Shaqab Run in Solidarity with Palestine’ on Nov 22

Al Shaqab has announced the launch of ‘Al Shaqab Runs,’ a series of events designed to encourage personal fitness goals.

It will kick off with “Al Shaqab Run in Solidarity with Palestine” on November 22 at 4:30pm at the Al Shaqab territory. This event is designed to raise awareness on the humanitarian cause in Palestine and to raise much-needed funds to support the people who have been enduring significant challenges for many years.

According to a statement, ‘Al Shaqab Run in Solidarity with Palestine’ is a symbol of compassion, unity and unwavering support for the people of Palestine who have persevered through numerous challenges for years. The run will take place at Al



Shaqab territory and up to 500 participants can run different distances ranging from 1km to 5km. The run will accommodate both kids above six years and adults, allowing them to choose the distance and to enjoy the run. Registration can be done through Q Tickets.

The run offers a unique opportunity for people

from all walks of life to come together, participate and contribute to a cause that transcends borders and backgrounds – a celebration of humanity and hope.

Money raised during this event will be directed to Qatar Charity to provide assistance to the people of Palestine, the statement added.

Ten falcons advance into next round of Al Tala’a competition

Al Tala’a (release of falcons to hunt a Houbara bustard bird) competitions at the 5th Ras Laffan Falcon Championship, organised by Al Gannas Qatari Society continued yesterday (morning at Marmi at the Sealine Area.

Five more falcons were able to qualify for the next round.

So far 10 falcons have qualified. Mohamed Mubarak al-Ali, head of Al Tala’a Committee at the Championship, said yesterday’s competitions were delayed for some time in the morning for better horizontal vision to ensure fair competition conditions among all participants. The championship, sponsored by Ras Laffan Community Outreach programme, is set to go on until November 25.



QU’s Early Childhood Centre observes World Children’s Day

The Early Childhood Centre, an institution under Qatar University (QU)’s College of Education, has commemorated the World Children’s Day, which is celebrated on Nov 20 every year, by reiterating its commitment to nurturing future leaders.

Emphasising the significance of this global celebration, the centre highlights its dedication to enhancing children’s mental health, fostering early rehabilitation and preparing them with innovative skills to shape the nation’s future.

In her statement, the Academic Su-

pervisor of the Arabic Programme Jawza al-Shammari, said: “At the heart of QU, the Early Childhood Centre thrives on a pioneering vision deeply rooted in sustainability and the advocacy of children’s rights. This vision integrates the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with the spirit of partnership and concern for families in Qatari society. The centre diligently upholds children’s rights by cultivating an enriching educational atmosphere and seamlessly blending play with learning. Through this approach, it empowers children to nurture their skills,

explore their curiosity, and grow in a secure and stimulating environment.”

Noor al-Mohsin, a kindergarten teacher in the Arabic Programme at the centre, said: “The World Children’s Day serves as a reminder to every member of society about the importance of focusing on children’s rights and implementing them, aiming to provide them with a dignified life and a flourishing future within their community. Consequently, our country, Qatar, aims to elevate the level of education for our students at all educational stages, nurturing a knowledgeable and

confident generation capable of inference and critical thinking, empowering them to contribute to their country and fulfil their duties towards their roles at their best.”

Iman al-Chami, the Academic Supervisor of the English Language Programme, said: “QU, through the Early Childhood Centre under the College of Education, plays a pivotal role in preparing preschool children to become innovators and active members in shaping Qatar’s future. The Early Childhood Centre prioritises children’s ideas, encouraging them to express their opinions and interests by providing a

safe and supportive environment for discussion and respecting others’ viewpoints. These practices significantly enhance children’s imagination and encourage creative thinking and innovation, in addition to developing the necessary skills and abilities for progress and success in the future.”

Shuaa al-Shanar, a kindergarten teacher in the Arabic Programme, emphasised: “Children are a marvellous gift from God Almighty. It is important to care for them, preserve them, and raise them in proper ways that ensure a wonderful and brilliant future through education.” (QNA)



AL KHALIJ CEMENT COMPANY INVITATION TO SUBMIT A BID

SER. NO.	Tender NO.	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL QUANTITY (US GLN)	Document's Fees	Deadline of Bid Submission Date
1	AKCC/PROC/T06/23	Supply of Potable Water from Kharamaa approved source to Al-Khalij Cement Plant located at Ummbab	35,000,000.00 Thirty Five Million	100 QR	5/12/2023

General conditions:

- 1) Tender Documents can be collected from Qatari Investors Group head office at below address:
Qatari Investors Group
Lusail, 1st Floor, Zone No: 69 / Street No: 223
P O Box 22504, Doha, Qatar
TEL. 974 44747000, FAX 974 44860976
- 2) Documents fees should be paid by cash during collection of documents and non refundable.
- 3) Offers validity should be 120 days from **BID CLOSING DATE**
- 4) Offers should be sent in sealed envelope on or before 5th December, 2023. Any offer after this date will be automatically rejected.

Mercedes-Benz model recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes V Class and VITO, 2022 model, as the fuel pump impeller might come into contact with the fuel pump housing, leading to mechanical resistance.

In some instances, this could lead to a shutdown of the fuel pump and the vehicle could lose propulsion. The MoCI has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries and suggestions through the following channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, X (formerly Twitter) - @MOCIQATAR, Instagram MOCIQATAR and the MoCI mobile application available on iPhone and Android devices MOCI_QATAR



AL KHALIJ CEMENT COMPANY INVITATION TO SUBMIT A BID

SER. NO.	Tender NO.	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL QUANTITY (Tons)	Document's Fees	Deadline of Bid Submission Date
1	AKCC/PROC/T07/23	Manual Limestone Extraction at Al-Khalij Cement Plant, Ummbab	3,100,000.00 Three Million One Hundred Thousand	100 QR	5/12/2023

General conditions:

- 1) Tender Documents can be collected from Qatari Investors Group head office at below address:
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- 4) Offers should be sent in sealed envelope on or before 5th December, 2023. Any offer after this date will be automatically rejected.

Israeli bombing of Al Fakhoora School in Gaza widely condemned

The Israeli occupation forces' bombing of UNRWA-operated Al Fakhoora School in the northern Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing and wounding of dozens of Palestinians including children, has drawn wide condemnation.

The Muslim World League condemned the continuous horrific and barbaric crimes against civilians and civilian facilities, which represent a flagrant violation of all international and humanitarian laws and norms.

It urgently called for the international community to respond immediately to this catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories by putting an end to the systematic crimes against innocent civilians, subjecting their perpetrators to accountability in accordance with international legitimacy, and implementing an immediate ceasefire.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY CRITICISES

The Turkish Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned the Israeli attack.

The attack is more "evidence" that Israel "deliberately and ruthlessly targeted the civilian population, especially children, in Gaza," the ministry said in a statement yesterday. The international community should no longer "turn a blind eye to Israel undermining law and all humanitarian values with the grave crimes it has committed."

It is imperative to immediately declare an unconditional and lasting ceasefire in Gaza. We call on every conscientious member of the international community to take the necessary steps in this direction," the ministry stressed.

GCC CHIEF DECRIES ATTACK

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed al-Budaiwi expressed his strong condemnation of the bombing of the Al Fakhoora School.

He stated that this aggressive

act, which targeted innocent civilians, constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian laws, treaties, and values, adding that it goes against all ethical and humanitarian principles. He reiterated his complete rejection of any deliberate targeting of the lives of innocent civilians, calling for an immediate ceasefire.

He stressed the importance of ensuring the protection of civilians, relief facilities, and humanitarian workers. He also called for the activation of relevant international decisions and the implementation of international accountability mechanisms to investigate these ongoing violations and hold the perpetrators accountable.

He affirmed the GCC countries' commitment to their steadfast position in supporting all international efforts to achieve peace and justice, and standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate demands.

He called on the international community to take urgent and immediate action to put an end to these aggressive acts and to prevent further escalation that threatens regional and international stability.

GUTERRES SHOCKED

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday that he was deeply shocked that two UNRWA schools were struck in less than 24 hours in the Gaza Strip, killing and injuring dozens of people, including women and children. "Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians are seeking shelter at UN facilities throughout Gaza due to the intensified fighting. I reaffirm that our premises are inviolable," Guterres said in a statement.

He stressed that fighting in Gaza was causing a staggering and unacceptable number of civilian casualties and again called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. (QNA)



People walk near a house destroyed in an Israeli strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday, as battles continue between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas.



Relatives of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes mourn at Nasser hospital, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Medics evacuate 31 premature babies from Gaza hospital

AFP
Rafah

Palestinian medics evacuated 31 premature babies from Gaza City's war-torn Al-Shifa hospital yesterday in a high-risk operation, the UN said, pledging to also move patients and staff who remain there.

The hospital, Gaza's largest, has been described by the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) as a "death zone", after it sent a team to visit the facility on Saturday.

Mohamed Zaqt, director general of hospitals in Gaza, said "all 31 premature babies in Al-Shifa hospital...have been evacuated" and said "preparations are under way" for them to enter Egypt.

It was also confirmed by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PCRS) which said the transfer had been carried out in co-ordination with UN agencies including the WHO.

Al-Shifa hospital has become a focal point for Israeli operations, with the army claiming Hamas uses it as a base.

Hamas, and medical staff, have denied the accusations.

Israel is seeking to destroy the Hamas fighters behind the October first week storming into the country.

The Hamas health authority says Israel's relentless military campaign has killed more than 12,300 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said 31 "very sick" babies were moved out of Al-Shifa hospital in six PCRS ambulances under "extremely intense and high-risk security conditions".

They were taken to a hospital in the southern Gaza city of Rafah where they were "re-



Premature babies evacuated from an incubator in Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City receive treatment at an hospital in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

ceiving urgent care in the neonatal intensive care unit," he wrote on X, formerly Twitter, saying they were accompanied by "six health workers and 10 staff family members".

The agency was planning "further missions...to urgently transport remaining patients and health staff out of Al-Shifa Hospital", he added, once guarantees of safe passage are secured.

The WHO's initial visit to Al-Shifa came after hundreds fled the hospital on Saturday following what Al-Shifa's director said were Israeli army orders for it to be emptied.

Israel denied ordering the move.

An AFP journalist at the scene saw crowds of sick, injured and displaced people walking

towards the seafront, with the health ministry saying 120 patients had stayed behind, among them a number of premature babies.

"Many patients can not leave the hospital as they are in the ICU beds or the baby incubators," Ahmed al-Mokhallalati, a doctor at the hospital, wrote Saturday on X, formerly Twitter.

Following its visit to Al-Shifa, the WHO said 291 patients and 25 health workers were still inside the hospital, figures issued several hours before the babies were evacuated.

Since November 11, when fuel supplies ran out at Al-Shifa, eight babies died due to the lack of electricity to run incubator units, the health ministry has said.



XPANDABLE™

PICCHIOTTI

REVERSIBLE

PICCHIOTTI Launches Revolutionary Reversible Xpandable™ Collection



مجوهرات الفردان
Alfardan Jewellery



PICCHIOTTI, the Valenza based Italian high jewelry brand, announced the launch of its new Reversible Xpandable™ Collection, featuring a wide variety of designs in 18K gold with and without colored gemstones. The new patent-



pending technology capitalizes on the successful Xpandable technology that allows bracelets and rings to expand and

contract and adds the versatile element of reversibility, creating two designs in one. The new bracelets can easily be flipped over while on the wrist to reveal a different design. Reversible Xpandable rings, necklaces, and earrings are now also available soon.



"In over five decades of brilliance, one common complaint from the women I have met has been a sense of hesitation to wear their fine jewelry every day, particularly diamonds, or the sense of limitation as it relates to color-coordinating colored gemstones," says Giuseppe Picchiotti, Founder of the house of PICCHIOTTI. "I love the idea of technology that can solve problems! In the same way that we solved the problems of ring sizing and cumbersome bracelet clasps with our



Xpandable technology, we have now tackled the issue of design versatility. Our new bracelets feature completely different designs - luxurious diamonds on one side and solid gold on the other, or sapphires on one side for wearing with cool hues in the wardrobe and rubies on



the other to wear with blacks, neutrals, and warmer toned fabrics. We have only just begun! The entire design team is giddy with excitement as the possibilities for design combinations are endless."

The PICCHIOTTI Xpandable line has been successfully bringing a sense of comfort and ease to luxury jewelry consumers for over six years now, enhancing the daily lives of women around the world. The revolutionary invisible technology that allows bracelets and rings to expand and contract is now taken to new heights, allowing the jewelry to smoothly and freely flip over, creating essentially two bracelets in one.



Both colored gemstones and a dozen different colors of ceramic are used to create the versatile designs that can be selected according to one's taste or mood. The reversible designs offer great flexibility for customers who need more conservative styling by day, such as classic gold or smooth/non-faceted gems but more upscale looks with the sparkle of fine diamonds for evening outings.



And for the modern multi-hyphenates (for example mom-influencer-blogger or teacher-activist-folksinger), such versatility allows women to adorn the many styles of contemporary dressing with a single bracelet.

The designs are stackable and engineered for durability and comfortable wear. They can also be worn seamlessly with luxury watches and other favored bracelets already in the wardrobe. The distinctive new styles are



both contemporary and fresh in terms of style, while continuing to honor the tradition of this internationally esteemed and refined fine jewelry house.

Picchiotti is now available for the first time at the Alfardan Jewellery multi-brand store at Place Vendôme.

POLITICS

Taiwan opposition talks deadlocked

The leader of a small Taiwanese party who has been in talks with the main opposition party about a joint presidential ticket showed no signs of backing down yesterday in a dispute over who runs as president and who for vice-president. After weeks of sometimes acrimonious talks on joining up for the presidential election, the Kuomintang (KMT) and the much smaller Taiwan People's Party (TPP) agreed on Wednesday to look at an aggregate of opinion polls to decide which party's candidate would run as president and which as vice-president. The parties have failed to agree on how to interpret the polls.

DEFENCE

Japan troops hold drill on island seen as vulnerable to China

Japanese marines in amphibious assault vehicles stormed an island beach at the edge of the East China Sea yesterday in a simulated attack to dislodge invaders from territory that Tokyo worries is vulnerable to attack from China. As tensions run high with neighbours China, Russia and North Korea, the drill on the southwest island of Tokunoshima capped an 11-day series of exercises nationwide dubbed O5JX, meant to show the readiness of ground, sea and air forces to defend Japan's territory and infrastructure, including nuclear power plants. China's defence ministry could not be reached yesterday for comment on the Japanese drills.

ENTERTAINMENT

Glastonbury music fest tickets sell out 'within an hour'

Ticket's for next year's Glastonbury music festival were snapped up yesterday within an hour of going on sale. Famed as much for its mud as its music, the festival has become a fixture in British life and is one of the musical highlights of the year. "Tickets for Glastonbury 2024 have now sold out," organisers said, 57 minutes after sales opened. A standard ticket for the event, due to take place at Worthy Farm in southwestern Somerset on June 26-30, was priced at £355. The line up has not yet been announced but co-organiser Emily Eavis said recently a major female artist had been booked for the legends slot.

LEGAL

Bangladesh upholds ban on key opposition party

Bangladesh's highest court yesterday upheld a ban on the country's largest Islamist party taking part in polls, lawyers said, as political tensions worsen ahead of key January elections. Jamaat-e-Islami, a major opposition party with millions of supporters, was banned from contesting polls in 2013 after high court judges ruled its charter violated the secular constitution of the nation of 170mn people. Jamaat was also barred from participating in elections in 2014 and 2018, and so moved to the Supreme Court to challenge the order. "By virtue of the order, Jamaat as a political party is banned," Ahsanul Karim, a lawyer representing the original petitioners, said.

British artist draws Hong Kong crowds with his 'graffiti spaghetti'



A Hong Kong transport hub was taken over yesterday by googly eyed aliens, extraterrestrial jellyfish and a cast of eccentric characters – all part of a live performance by British artist Sam Cox (top), better known as Mr Doodle. The 29-year-old calls his style "graffiti spaghetti" – a series of interlocking patterns, whimsical characters and surreal narratives that often chronicle the adventures of Mr Doodle in "Doodle Land". His show in Hong Kong attracted hundreds of fans and curious onlookers, his canvas a two-metre-wide silver spaceship for him "to fly back home" installed at an MTR station in Central district.

Hunt rules out tax cuts that would fuel inflation

Reuters
London

British Finance Minister Jeremy Hunt yesterday said he would not implement tax cuts that would push up inflation, days before he announces a major budget update that is widely expected to contain reductions in some taxes. Hunt is due to present an Autumn Statement on Wednesday which he hopes will revive the fortunes of both a stagnant Brit-

ish economy and the governing Conservatives ahead of an election expected next year, and the *Sunday Times* reported he was considering cutting income tax or national insurance. He has been under pressure from some Conservative lawmakers who, alarmed at the opposition Labour Party's big lead in opinion polls, have demanded he deliver tax cuts. "We do want to bring down the tax burden but we will only do so responsibly," Hunt told Sky News. "The one thing we won't

do is any kind of tax cut that fuels inflation." Annual inflation tumbled to 4.6% in October from 6.7% a month earlier, putting Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on track to meet a pledge of halving inflation over 2023. "I do think the British economy has turned a corner this week," Hunt said in a separate interview with Times Radio, adding that his priority was growth. "I will be doing everything that I can possibly think of to boost growth."

India mulls new shaft to free trapped tunnel workers

AFP
Dehradun, India

Indian rescuers are considering opening a vertical shaft to free 41 men trapped in a collapsed tunnel after drilling at the site was paused over fears of further cave-ins and as efforts stretched into a second week. Excavators have been removing earth, concrete and rubble from the under-construction tunnel in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand since last Sunday after a portion of the tunnel collapsed. Rescue efforts have been slowed by continued falling debris as well as repeated breakdowns of the crucial heavy drilling machines, with the air force having to twice airlift in new kit. Drilling through the tonnes of debris was paused late Friday, after a cracking sound created a "panic situation", officials said. Operations were then halted due to the possibility of "further collapse", said the government's highways and infrastructure company, NHIDCL.

"Every possible effort is being made," Minister of Road Transport Nitin Gadkari said yesterday, after visiting the site. He said if the drilling machine was fixed, they could reach the men by tomorrow, but said teams were also considering multiple alternative routes. Relatives of those trapped, who spoke to the men via radio, said conditions were grim and morale low. "They are in tears... they have started asking us whether we are lying about the rescue efforts being made to save them," one relative told reporters, without giving their name. Engineers had been trying to horizontally drive a steel pipe about 90 centimetres wide through the debris – enough for the increasingly desperate trapped men to squeeze through. Bhaskar Khulbe, a senior government official involved in the rescue operations, said teams were now considering digging an entirely new shaft, including from above. That could involve digging down more than 100 metres, but a track would have to be constructed to even bring the heavy

diggers to that site. The Press Trust of India news agency reported initial "preparations to drill a vertical hole from the top of the hill" had begun, as an alternative route out. Rescuers have been communicating with the trapped workers by radio, while food, water, oxygen and medicine have also been sent to them via a 15-centimetre-wide pipe. Tunnel expert Arnold Dix, an independent disaster investigator and president of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, said he was on his way to India after being asked to help. "We are discussing right now our options for the safe rescue of these men," Dix told India Today. Experts have warned about the impact of extensive construction in Uttarakhand, where large parts of the state are prone to landslides. Dix said the tunnel was in "one of the most difficult areas", but said he was confident they would be rescued. "We are going to bring those 41 men home," he said.

Bangladesh cricket captain Shakib bids to be lawmaker

Bangladeshi cricket superstar Shakib Al Hasan has formally entered politics, seeking a nomination from the ruling Bangladesh Awami League to run in the upcoming general election on January 7. Awami League joint secretary-general Bahauddin Nasim said Shakib took nomination forms on Saturday from the party to contest in three constituencies in the election. The polls are set to be boycotted by major opposition parties. "He is a celebrity and has great popularity among the country's youth," Nasim said, welcoming the cricket all-rounder. Shakib's candidature has to be confirmed by a ruling party parliamentary board headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He hopes to contest a seat either in his southwestern home district of Magura, or in the capital Dhaka, Nasim said. Hasina has led the country of around 170mn people for the past 15 years and has been accused of ruling with an iron fist.

Festive light installations



People take pictures among the smoke created by festive light installations at a park in Tokyo's Roppongi district yesterday.

Amazon eyes \$20bn exports from India

Reuters
New Delhi

Amazon is targeting merchandise exports worth \$20bn from India by 2025 by adding thousands of small sellers to its e-commerce platform, a company official said. "We are very encouraged by the number of entrepreneurs who signed up this year. We are looking to scale up," Bhupen Wakankar, director global trade, Amazon told Reuters on the sidelines of an industry event, referring to plans for exports. There was huge demand for "Made in India" organic health supplements, homeware like bath towels, jute rugs, and robotic games for children ahead of the Black Friday Cyber Monday sale, an 11-day shopping period from Friday, Wakankar said. Launched in 2015 with a handful of sellers, Amazon Global Trade, the business to consumers (B2C) exports platform of the e-commerce giant, is gaining traction in India. The company has added more than 100,000 small manufacturers to sell a wide range of products to overseas customers, he said. "Some of the sellers are first time exporters, including those who left their corporate jobs to start e-commerce exports," he said. Thousands of small exporters, who earlier lacked access to global markets, have seen 70% business growth annually through e-commerce platform, which provided logistics support and access to more than 200mn Amazon Prime members globally, he said.

More than 500 Rohingya refugees land in Indonesia

AFP
Bireuen, Indonesia

Three boats filled with more than 500 Rohingya refugees landed in Indonesia's westernmost province yesterday, a UN agency said, in one of the biggest arrivals since Myanmar launched a military crackdown on the minority group in 2017. The mostly Muslim Rohingya are heavily persecuted in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and expensive sea journeys, often in flimsy boats, to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia. United Nations refugee agency

protection associate Faisal Rahman said one boat had arrived in Aceh province's Bireuen district with 256 people aboard, while at least 241 others arrived in Aceh's Pidie region and a smaller boat carrying 36 arrived in East Aceh. "They were found in several spots," Rahman said yesterday. Of the 256 aboard the Bireuen boat, 110 were women and 60 were children, he said. It was the same boat that locals had pushed back out to sea on Thursday, leaving it stranded off the coast for several days, according to Rahman. "It's confirmed... because many people were identified by security

officials during the landing," he said. The latest arrivals mean more than 800 refugees have landed in Aceh province this week alone, after 196 arrived on Tuesday and 147 on Wednesday, according to local officials. A journalist saw the Rohingya boat docked on the beach in Bireuen after the refugees had disembarked. The refugees were being held at a temporary shelter while awaiting a decision from authorities on their fate, and were mostly in good health. Bireuen regional secretary Ibrahim Ahmad told reporters yesterday the refugees' cases would be handled by other institutions, without elaborating. In Pidie, Marfian, a spokesperson for the local fishing community, confirmed that a boat of nearly 250 refugees landed overnight. One of them, 20-year-old Aziz Ullah, said he was living in a camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh before the group started their journey 16 days ago. "The (reason) behind our journey was that... the Myanmar government committed violence (against us) again and again," he said. "I just want a peaceful life, anywhere. If I will get a peaceful life here, I will stay here." But Hasan Basri, another leader of the fishing community in Pidie, told reporters they would reject Rohingya people, claiming refugees had committed crimes in the area in

the past. Those who arrived in the Pidie region landed at around 3am local time (2000 GMT Saturday) and walked into the nearest village of Kulee from the coast without the knowledge of locals, said Basri. "They already arrived and it is our obligation as humans to give them food and drinks," he said. "Our reason to reject them is because the attitude and character of the refugees are not in line with the Aceh people. Their conduct is very distressing, this is what we really don't like." During this week's arrivals, some Rohingya aboard one vessel made a desperate dash for shore after residents refused to let them land. They collapsed to the

sand and begged for their exhausted fellow passengers to be allowed to disembark. Chris Lewa, director of Rohingya rights organisation the Arakan Project, said it was the "beginning of the sailing season" for boats from Bangladesh across to Indonesia, which is often used as a transit point to Malaysia where many Rohingya refugees settle. A 2020 investigation revealed a multimillion-dollar, constantly evolving people-smuggling operation stretching from a massive refugee camp in Bangladesh to Indonesia and Malaysia, in which members of the stateless Rohingya community play a key role in trafficking their own people.

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Pregnancy stress and its link to child behavioural problems

Stress, anxiety or depression are becoming increasingly prevalent across the world due to a multitude of factors. Though research has long suggested a link between mothers' mental health during pregnancy and children's externalising behaviours, many previous studies have not disentangled the impact of parents' psychological distress. Research published by the American Psychological Association last week in the journal *Psychological Bulletin*, has reiterated that children of mothers experiencing high stress, anxiety, or depression during pregnancy may have a greater risk of mental health and behaviour issues throughout childhood and adolescence.

The study, analysing data from 55 studies with over 45,000 participants, links maternal distress during pregnancy to children's externalising behaviours, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms and aggression. Importantly, this effect persists even when postnatal psychological distress is considered. Externalising behaviours - which include physical aggression, disobeying rules, cheating, stealing, and destruction of property - are common among children but can be experienced into adulthood. The latest findings emphasise the need for accessible mental health care and support during pregnancy to prevent childhood behaviour problems.

The study spanned various age groups, with the strongest effect observed in early childhood, but it persisted through middle childhood and adolescence. "Our research suggests that psychological distress during the pregnancy period has a small but persistent effect on children's risk for aggressive, disinhibited and impulsive behaviours," said study author Irene Tung, PhD, of California State University Dominguez Hills.

The findings are consistent with theories that suggest that exposure to stress hormones in utero can affect children's brain development, according to the researchers. "These findings add to the evidence that providing widely accessible mental healthcare and support during pregnancy may be a critical step to help prevent childhood behaviour problems." All the 55 studies measured women's psychological distress during pregnancy (including stress, depression or anxiety) and then later measured their children's externalising behaviours.

New findings are consistent with theories that suggest that exposure to stress hormones in utero can affect children's brain development

to have children with more ADHD symptoms or who exhibited more difficulties with aggressive or hostile behaviour, as reported by parents or teachers. In the current study, the researchers only included research in which mothers' psychological distress was measured both during and after pregnancy. They found that even after controlling for later (postnatal) psychological distress, distress during pregnancy in particular increased children's risk of developing externalising problems.

The effect held true regardless of whether the children were boys or girls and for children in early childhood (ages 2-5), middle childhood (6-12) and adolescence (13-18), though the effect was strongest in early childhood. The findings are consistent with theories that suggest that exposure to stress hormones in utero can affect children's brain development, according to the researchers.

Future research should focus on increasing diversity to understand the cultural and socioeconomic variables that affect prenatal stress and to develop effective interventions, according to Tung. "Understanding how psychological distress during pregnancy impacts underrepresented families is key to developing equitable public health policies and interventions," she said.

Tung and her colleagues are now conducting two studies focused on understanding the types of support and resources that promote resilience and recovery from stress during pregnancy, particularly for families facing health inequities. The goal is to help inform culturally inclusive preventive interventions during pregnancy to help support early mental health resilience and well-being for parents and their children.

Future research aims to address diversity and cultural factors in prenatal stress, enabling equitable public health policies and interventions.

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Small-scale farmers step in as climate finance lags

By Bhasker Tripathi

New Delhi

As droughts and floods wreak havoc on harvests, small-scale farmers are spending billions of dollars of their own money each year to adapt to a changing climate, despite it being a problem they did not create, according to research released on Tuesday.

A survey of about 1,800 farmers by the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), a funding platform supporting farmers, and the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) found that, on average, farming households each invest \$838 per year to adapt to shifting weather patterns.

Extrapolating the average spending, the survey across 13 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America estimated that nearly 440mn small-farmer households are collectively spending approximately \$368bn annually on adaptation.

This "dwarfs" the \$230mn pledged by countries for the UN's Adaptation Fund at last year's COP27 climate talks, according to the research.

"Farmers working small plots of land around the globe are the unsung heroes of the battle to adapt to the climate and nature crises," said Xiaoting Hou Jones, a senior researcher at IIED, who co-led the survey.

As climate change disrupts their lives, these farmers are investing significant amounts of their own time and money to cope, often in ways that help people and nature thrive together, "dwarfing the contributions from rich governments", she added.

Some farmers invest in climate-resilient crops, others shift to soil-friendly cultivation methods that require less water and chemical fertilisers, while some farmers plant trees.

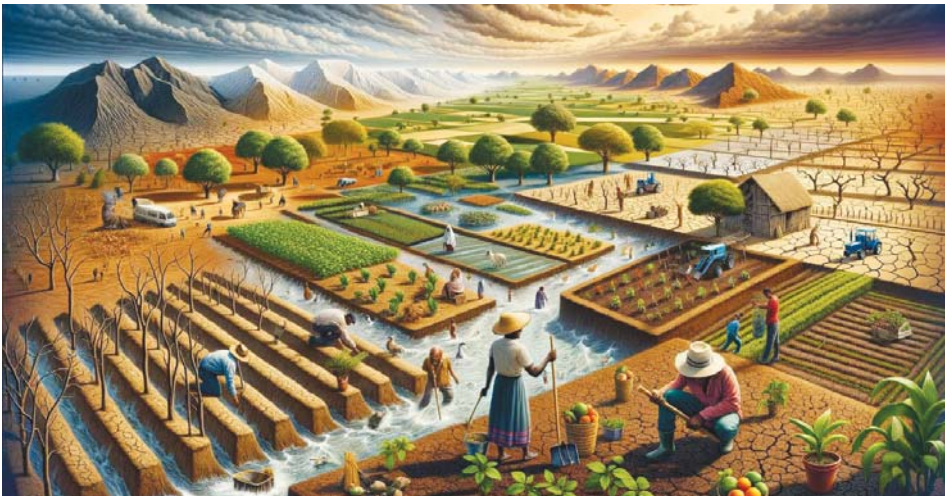
The survey, which covered smallholder forest and farm producers managing 10 hectares (24.7 acres) or less, said many of the approaches taken can help conserve biodiversity and store carbon, improving climate resilience.

A separate analysis, also released last week, found that very little of the climate finance available globally reaches small farmers to help them adapt to a warming planet.

In 2021, they received only about \$2bn, or 0.3% of international climate finance from public and private sources, according to the analysis by Amsterdam-based think-tank Climate Focus and released by a new alliance of farmer networks in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

Small family farms sustain the livelihoods of more than 2.5bn people globally but lack infrastructure, technology and resources to adapt to climate impacts, with serious implications for global food security and rural economies, said the Climate Focus analysis.

Family farms of less than two hectares produce a third of the world's food, while farms of five hectares or less account for over half of global production of nine staple crops: rice, peanut, cassava, millet, wheat, potato, maize, barley and rye.



An image showcasing farmers engaged in various adaptation strategies like planting drought-resistant crops, using soil-friendly cultivation methods and planting trees, underlining the crucial role of they play in combating climate change and preserving biodiversity.

Strengthening "sustainable food systems" will be a key consideration at December's COP28 United Nations climate summit in Dubai.

The host nation, the United Arab Emirates, is urging governments to include food and agriculture in their national climate plans and boost finance for more sustainable practices. COP28 is also set to define how to implement a global goal for adaptation enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

In the absence of sustained financial support, farmers in some of the world's most vulnerable regions are having to find their own solutions to new climate challenges.

Shashikant Shukla, a farmer in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state, recently borrowed fertilisers worth Rs4,000 (\$48) from his dealer to prepare for the winter wheat crop.

In 2022, when his wheat harvest plummeted because of unprecedented March heatwaves, it took him several months to pay back loans.

"Small farmers like me have a credit cycle - we never have enough cash to sow the next crop," said Shukla, who cultivates wheat, pulses and oilseeds on about half an acre.

Erratic rainfall in the monsoon months from June-September has almost put an end to that season's crop cycle in his region, he said, with most farmers now vesting their hope in winter wheat. But over the years, it too has become vulnerable to early heatwaves and unseasonal rains.

"Whenever the wheat crop is struck by a disaster, farmers start selling their cattle to repay and sow the next crop," he said. In the past decade, he had to sell a pair of oxen and a buffalo to cover his debt.

To help the most vulnerable communities, including small farmers like Shukla, spending on adaptation must increase by 10 to 18 times from current levels, the UN Adaptation Gap report said this month.

Every respondent to the IIED-FFF survey noted some kind of climate change impact, including floods, droughts, increases in pests or diseases, and changes in seasons or rainfall.

Farmers said they are adjusting planting and harvesting schedules, controlling pests, soil erosion and surface water runoff, and improving soils with eco-friendly approaches.

They are also protecting natural areas and increasing the number of crop species, trees and animals on their land, along with attending training courses on adaptation.

On average, farmers told the survey they are spending 20%-40% of their annual income on doing trials and implementing ecological farming practices to adapt.

Climate Focus said more than \$300bn a year is needed to make food systems sustainable and resilient. However, only about \$1.6bn was spent globally to support farm adaptation activities in 2021 - only a fifth of international public climate finance for the food and agriculture sector.

Small farmers struggle to access even the limited amounts of finance available as about 80% is channelled through governments and development agencies with complex eligibility rules and application processes, the farmers' alliance analysis said.

Damian Sulumo of the Tanzanian Farmers Association, MVIWAARUSHA, whose members participated in the IIED-FFF survey, said direct finance provided through producer organisations, like cooperatives, can encourage small farmers to take action.

"By working collectively, we can reach the scale needed to influence policies and markets not only for the betterment of our farmers' own prospects but also for the global fight against climate change and biodiversity loss," he said.

Esther Penunia, secretary general of the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, said investing in small-scale farmers made sense.

"Generations of family farming experience and the latest scientific evidence tell us that working with nature and empowering local communities is key to safeguarding food production in a changing climate," she said. - Thomson Reuters Foundation

What Xi gained from his Biden meeting

By Michael Martina, Trevor Hunnicutt and Greg Torode

San Francisco/Hong Kong

When Chinese President Xi Jinping met executives for dinner on Wednesday night in San Francisco, he was greeted with not one, but three standing ovations from the US business community.

It was one of several public relations wins for the Chinese leader on his first trip in six years to the United States, where he and President Joe Biden reached agreements coveringentanyl, military communications and artificial intelligence on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit.

All three were outcomes the United States had sought from China rather than the other way around, said two people briefed on the trip.

But Xi appeared to have achieved his own aims: earning US policy concessions in exchange for promises of co-operation, an easing of bilateral tensions that will allow more focus on economic growth, and a chance to woo foreign investors who increasingly shun China.

"We invite friends from business communities across the world to invest and deepen your footprint in China," he said at an Apec CEO summit, promising action on the list of items that irk foreign investors, from intellectual property theft to data security.

China's economy is slowing and earlier this month it reported its first quarterly deficit in foreign direct investment. And the ruling Communist Party has battled political intrigues that have raised questions about Xi's decision-making, including the sudden and unexplained removals of his foreign minister and defence minister.

"If the US and China can manage their differences...it will mean that Xi Jinping doesn't have to divert all of his attention to that (bilateral relations)," said Alexander Neill, an adjunct fellow at Hawaii's Pacific Forum think-tank.

"He needs to focus on his domestic agenda, which is incredibly pressing"

Securing Xi's promise of Chinese co-operation on stemming the flow ofentanyl to the United States was high on Biden's to-do list for the summit. A senior US official said the agreement under which China would go after specific companies that produceentanyl precursors was made on a "trust but verify" basis.

In return, the US government on Thursday removed a Chinese public security forensic institute from a Commerce Department trade sanction list, where it was placed in 2020 over alleged abuses against Uyghurs, a long-sought diplomatic aim for China.

Critics warned removing sanctions against the institute signals to Beijing that US entity listings are negotiable, and have questioned the Biden administration's commitment to pressuring China over what it says is the Chinese government's genocide of Uyghurs.

"This undermines the credibility of our entity list and our moral authority," said a spokesperson for the Republican-led House of Representative's select committee on China.

On top of that, Biden's Republican opponents argue the US is missing an opportunity by not leveraging China's flagging economic momentum for more diplomatic gains.

Biden also touted as a success an agreement to resume military dialogues cut by China following then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's 2022 trip to Chinese-claimed Taiwan.

But while Beijing would welcome lower tensions, this is unlikely to change Chinese military behaviour the US sees as dangerous, such as intercepts of US ships and aircraft in international waters that have led to a number of near-misses.

"China fears hotlines could be used as a potential pretext for a US presence in areas it claims as its own," said Craig Singleton, a China expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington.

Biden administration officials have acknowledged that creating functional military

relations won't be as easy as semi-regular meetings between defence officials.

"This is a long, hard, slow slog and the Chinese have to see value in that mil-mil before they'll do it. That's not going to be a favour to us," one senior Biden administration told Reuters in October in the run-up to the Xi-Biden meeting.

In his public remarks to Biden, Xi suggested China sought peaceful coexistence with the United States, and he told business leaders China was ready to be a "partner and friend" to the US, words partially aimed at a business community alarmed by China's crackdown on various industries and the use of exit bans and detentions against some executives.

Similarly, Xi's televised garden walk with Biden, and the largely respectful reception given to Xi by his American hosts, was highlighted in China's media to show a domestic audience that their president is managing the country's most important economic and political relationship.

"Xi Jinping may have made the calculation that over-hyping the American threat does China and his standing in the party and the party itself more harm than good," said Drew Thompson, a former Pentagon official who is now a scholar at the National University of Singapore.

"The fact that we are debating whether China is investible is a real problem for China."

At the same time, Xi reiterated to Biden points that he made earlier this year to Russian President Vladimir Putin, urging the US president to view US-China relations through "accelerating global transformations unseen in a century."

Analysts say that is code for the belief that China - and Russia - are remoulding the US-led international system.

Still, this time pragmatism may have outweighed ideology.

China recognises it's still necessary for its economic progress to have somewhat normal relations with the U.S. and Western countries, said Li Mingjiang, a professor at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

"It's the fundamental driving force behind the meeting," - Reuters



Ukraine claims Russian push-back from Dnipro river

AFP
Kyiv

The Ukrainian army said yesterday that it has pushed Russian forces back “three to eight kilometres” from the banks of Dnipro river, which if confirmed would be the first meaningful advance by Kyiv’s forces months into a disappointing counteroffensive.

Ukrainian and Russian forces have been entrenched on opposite sides of the vast waterway in the southern Kherson region for more than a year, after Russia withdrew its troops from the western bank last November.

Ukraine has staged multiple attempts to cross and hold positions on the Russian-controlled side — with officials in Kyiv finally reporting a “successful” breakthrough last week.

“Preliminary figures vary from three to eight kilometres, depending on the specifics, geography and landscape of the left bank,” army spokeswoman Natalia Gumenyuk told Ukrainian television Sunday when asked how much progress Kyiv had made.

She did not specify how many troops or what equipment Ukraine had on the eastern side of the Dni-

pro. “We have a lot of work to do,” Gumenyuk said.

“The enemy still continues artillery fire,” she added, estimating that “several tens of thousands” of Russian troops were in the area.

The battle comes after Kyiv’s much-awaited summer counter-offensive had largely fizzled, with its forces having retaken just a handful of tiny villages.

A bridgehead on the east bank of the Dnipro could allow a deeper offensive in the south, though it would require deploying more men and armour into the challenging marshy conditions.

Pushing Russia back from the river’s shores would also offer protection to Ukrainian towns and villages facing relentless Russian shelling.

A Russian artillery attack on the city of Kherson injured five people yesterday, including a three-year-old child, Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said.

Russia has issued a number of contradictory statements regarding its own operations around the Dnipro.

The defence ministry has appeared to reject the claims that Ukraine has gained a foothold, but a Russian-installed official in the occupied Kherson region conceded that Ukraine was holding posi-



Bohdan Yermokhin, a Ukrainian teenager who was taken to Russia from the occupied city of Mariupol, waves after arriving in Ukraine from Belarus at the border crossing in Kortelsy. (Reuters)

tions in at least one village on the river’s eastern shores.

Moscow did not comment on the situation on the eastern bank

in a daily military briefing yesterday. AFP was not able to independently verify the claims made by officials.

Meanwhile, drone attacks, a defining characteristic of the war, have intensified this week.

Both of the capitals, Kyiv and

Moscow, were targeted Saturday night, though both sides claimed to have intercepted most of the drones and no victims were reported. After a spate of attacks earlier this year, Ukrainian drones have rarely targeted the Russian capital in recent months.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Soby-anin said a drone was shot down outside the capital in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Russia’s defence ministry said its own drones hit a fuel depot in Ukraine’s central Kirovograd region and an ammunition warehouse near the capital Kyiv.

Ukraine said it shot down 15 of 20 Russian drones, while Russia claimed to have destroyed 31 Ukrainian drones.

Kyiv also said yesterday that a teenage Ukrainian orphan taken from Mariupol by Russian forces in the first weeks of the invasion had returned home.

The case of Bogdan Yermokhin, who turned 18 yesterday, made international headlines after Russia issued him a draft summons to report for mandatory military conscription ahead of his 18th birthday.

Ukraine says it has identified 20,000 children taken by Russia at the start of its invasion — only around 400 have since returned.

Bayer ordered to pay \$1.56bn in the latest US trial loss

A Missouri jury ordered Bayer to pay \$1.56bn to four plaintiffs who claimed the company’s Roundup weedkiller caused injuries including cancer, a verdict that could intensify investor pressure on the German drugs and agricultural chemicals company to change its legal strategy.

The Cole County, Missouri jury found that Bayer’s Monsanto business was liable for claims of negligence, design defects and failing to warn plaintiffs of the potential dangers of using Roundup, according to court documents.

Valorie Gunther of New York, Jimmy Draeger of Missouri and Daniel Anderson of California were awarded \$61.1mn in compensatory damages and \$500mn each in punitive damages. Each was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma that they alleged was caused by using Roundup on their family property. Draeger’s wife Brenda was awarded \$100,000 for the harm she allegedly suffered from her husband’s disease.

The punitive damages could be reduced on appeal as it exceeds US Supreme Court guidance. Bayer has said that decades of studies have shown Roundup and its active ingredient, glyphosate, are safe for human use. The verdict is the fourth straight loss in court for Bayer, after the company had been found not liable to plaintiffs in nine consecutive trials. Earlier this month, Union Investment, one of Bayer’s top 10 shareholders, called on the company to consider trying to engage with plaintiffs to settle more cases. Bart Rankin, partner at Forrest Weldon which represented the plaintiffs, said in a statement the victory was the first of many on behalf of thousands of plaintiffs.

Bayer said in a statement that it has strong arguments to get the recent verdicts overturned on appeal. It said in the recent trials that have gone against the company, courts have improperly permitted plaintiffs to misrepresent the European Union’s renewal process for glyphosate and the safety assessment by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The EU Commission said last week it would renew its approval of glyphosate based on safety assessments of the European Food Agency and European Chemicals Agency after EU member states failed to give a clear opinion on the renewal.

Around 165,000 claims have been made against the company for personal injuries allegedly caused by Roundup, which Bayer acquired as part of its \$63bn purchase of agrochemical company Monsanto in 2018.

Turkish ship and 12 crew reported missing in storm

A Turkish cargo ship and its 12 crew are missing in a storm off the northwest coast of the country, Turkish authorities said yesterday. The Kafkametler vessel sent out a distress signal at 10:29am, according to a subdivision of the ministry of transport, which added that it gave off its last signal off the northwestern city of Eregli.

“Our efforts to contact the vessel and its crew have been unsuccessful,” the General Directorate of Maritime Affairs said. “Due to bad weather, it is currently impossible to reach the vessel’s location or establish close visual contact. Search and rescue efforts using air and sea vehicles will be launched as soon as the weather permits,” it added.

Twelve crew are on board the cargo ship, which was transporting ferrosilicon from the Russian port of Temryuk to Aliaga in Turkiye. The captain said in his last communication with authorities that the ship was drifting towards a breakwater off Eregli.

Violent storms and strong winds hit many parts of Turkiye yesterday, particularly ravaging the northwest where two coastal towns experienced flood damage. Another ship registered in Cameroon broke in two due to violent waves off the coast of Eregli, after all its crew had been safely evacuated.

Argentina goes to vote in cliffhanger

AFP
Buenos Aires

Argentines voted yesterday in a nail-biter election pitting Economy Minister Sergio Massa against outsider Javier Milei, polar opposite candidates who have divided the country as it reels from triple-digit inflation.

Voters were gripped by fear, uncertainty and resignation as they cast their ballots, with few confident either candidate could put an end to decades of economic decline.

Massa, 51, is a charismatic and seasoned politician seeking to convince Argentines to trust him despite his performance as economy minister which has seen annual inflation hit 143%.

His rival Milei is an anti-establishment outsider who has vowed to halt Argentina’s unbridled spending, ditch the peso for the US dollar, and “dynamite” the central bank.

Polls show the candidates in a dead heat, with some 10% of voters undecided just days before the vote.

“You simply have to choose from what is available,” said 33-year-old architect Sofia Speroni, who came to vote with her two toddlers.

She went with Milei, “simply to say no to corruption and the current situation we are in.”

Milei’s rants against the “thieving and corrupt” traditional parties have fired up voters tired of the Peronist coalition that has long dominated Argentine politics and whom they blame for the country’s misery.

“One has to vote for the lesser evil,” said doctor Maria Paz Ventura, 26, who cast her ballot for Milei in her scrubs.

“I think we are currently doing badly, so a change can’t be bad. You have to take a bet,” she said. Provisional results were expected yesterday evening, but the electoral commission has warned that “with



Argentine presidential candidate Javier Milei greets supporters as he arrives to cast his vote during runoff presidential election in Buenos Aires yesterday. (Reuters)

a very close result” it could take up to five days for a final count.

Milei, a 53-year-old economist, showed up to vote dressed all in black and in a leather jacket, as dozens of police tried to wrangle a throng of supporters to the side.

“We are very calm. Now it is time for the ballot box to speak,” said Milei, sporting his trademark wild hair and thick sideburns.

Earlier he shared on social media a cartoon of himself carrying a chainsaw — a symbol of cuts he wants to make to spending — standing in front of former US president Donald Trump and Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro.

Milei, who has also raised the spectre of electoral fraud — which analysts say is one problem Argentina does not have — often draws comparisons with the two former leaders.

Massa, who has sought to present himself as the calm, statesmanlike opposite of Milei, also cast his ballot, telling voters “we are beginning a new stage of Argentina.”

The economy minister surprised Argentina by coming in seven points ahead of Milei in the first

round, and both candidates have scrambled to shore up undecided voters. Massa has in particular sought to distance himself from the deeply unpopular outgoing President Alberto Fernandez and Vice-President Cristina Kirchner.

“I voted for Massa. The situation in the country is horrible, the economy is very bad. People want a change but it would be a change for the worse with Milei,” said 16-year-old Trinidad Bazan, voting for the first time.

Milei has in recent weeks put down his chainsaw and toned down his rhetoric to appeal to more moderate voters, imploring the public not to give in to fear stoked by Massa’s campaign.

However, he has previously said he is opposed to pro-gun and does not believe humans are responsible for climate change. He has vowed to cut ties with key trading partners China and Brazil if elected.

He has also rubbed many Argentines the wrong way by insulting Pope Francis and questioning the official toll of 30,000 disappeared under the country’s brutal 1976-1983 dictatorship.

Swift postpones show after fan’s death

Reuters
Rio De Janeiro

US singer Taylor Swift postponed her show on Saturday in Rio de Janeiro due to scorching heat, the day after the death of a fan who fell ill in

the sweltering concert venue.

“The decision has been made to postpone tonight’s show due to the extreme temperatures in Rio,” Swift wrote on Instagram about two hours before she was to go on stage. “The safety and well-being of my fans, fellow performers, and crew has to, and always will,

come first.” Ana Clara Benevides, 23, became unwell at the Nilton Santos stadium during Friday’s show, event organiser T4F wrote on Instagram. She died later in hospital. Her cause of death was not yet known and will be investigated, Rio’s state health service said.

Napoleon’s hat sells for record €1.9mn at auction

AFP
Paris

A hat belonging to Napoleon Bonaparte when he was French emperor sold for a record of nearly €2mn at a French auction yesterday, the auction house said.

It went for €1.932mn (\$2.1mn) — breaking the previous record for a Napoleonic hat, held by the same auction house, of €1.884mn in 2014 shelled out by a South Korean businessman.

The hat, known as a bicorne, is in Napoleon’s trademark colours — black, with the French flag’s colours blue-white-red as insignia — and attracted interest from collectors “the world over”, auctioneers Osenat said, declining to give the identity or nationality

of the eventual buyer. It was last owned by businessman Jean-Louis Noisiez, who died last year.

Other Napoleon memorabilia from the Noisiez collection also went on the block, including a Legion of Honour medal and a pair of silver spurs owned by Napoleon.

The final price for the hat, including all charges, was more than double the estimate of €600,000-800,000, and nearly four times the reserve price, the auction house based in Fontainebleau, south of Paris, said.

Napoleon is believed to have owned around 120 such hats in total over 15 years, most of which are now lost.

“The hat in itself represented the emperor’s image,” auction house expert Jean-Pierre Osenat told AFP ahead of the sale.

Napoleon wore this particular



A black bicorne hat with red, white and blue cockade worn by the French emperor Napoleon I (1769-1821), from the Collection Jean Louis Noisiez, is displayed before an auction sale at Osenat auction house in Paris. (AFP)

hat towards the middle of his time as emperor, according to the auction house.

Unlike most other officers at the time, Napoleon wore his hat sideways, which gave him a distinct silhouette easily recognised by his troops in battle.

Napoleon rose to prominence during the French Revolution, becoming a key figure in the revolutionary wars. He served the republic as first consul, and had himself crowned as emperor in 1804.

He was exiled in 1815 after losing the battle against British and Prussian forces at Waterloo.

He died in 1821 on the island of Saint Helena in the Atlantic Ocean.

Yesterday’s hat sale comes only days before a biopic on Napoleon reaches cinemas worldwide.

The film, by Ridley Scott, fea-

tures massive-scale battles across Europe but also portrays his complex relationship with his wife Josephine.

Joaquin Phoenix, who plays Napoleon in the movie, said of the late emperor that he was “socially awkward”, but also a “romantic”.

Phoenix told AFP in an interview that there had been “something almost endearing” about Napoleon, except that he was “also responsible for the deaths of millions of people”.

Research for the movie was complicated by the vastly different accounts that have come down through the centuries.

“It’s very hard to get a clear answer about many things,” said Phoenix, who said his interest was in finding “inspiration more than information”, through details like how Napoleon ate and drank.



British minister inaugurates UK pavilion

Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for Middle East, South Asia, and UN at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), inaugurated his country's pavilion in the Expo 2023 Doha International Zone.

HE the Minister of Municipality and Chairman of the National Committee for Hosting Expo 2023 Doha, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, accompanied Lord Ahmad along with a number of ambassadors, senior officials, and others on a tour of the pavilion.

Lord Ahmad learned about the pavilion, its facilities and activities, in addition to the displaced modern agricultural techniques and equipment.

The pavilion showcases the country's expertise in sustainability and environmental protection.

Visitors will have a chance to learn about the most prominent innovations and sustainability in water, food, and energy.

Through its participation in the Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha, the United Kingdom aims to increase UK companies' chances in entering new markets in the Middle East region, as well as promote their capabilities in the agricultural and horticultural fields.

During the inauguration ceremony, a number of participants praised Qatar's great efforts in organising this global exhibition to counter climate change and promote sustainability globally, stressing at the same time the UK's partnership with Qatar in relation to products, services, and a sustainable future. – QNA

Snapshots from the opening of the UK pavilion.



Dadu Gardens reopens at Al Bidda Park

Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, has announced the reopening of the Dadu Gardens, to be permanently located at Al Bidda Park, in the heart of the International Zone at the Expo 2023 Doha, as a beacon of education and fun for children aged under 12, along with their families and caregivers.

With the theme *Gardens' Adventures*, Dadu Gardens, which have been operational for one year, are set to offer activities and programmes designed to engage and educate children, fostering their development through play and interaction with nature, and will remain in Al Bidda Park beyond the duration of Expo 2023 Doha.

As the first-of-its-kind publicly funded national entity in Qatar, Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar aims to make the local community feel empowered through its collective contributions towards enriching the cultural, environmental, and social ecosystems.

Spanning 14,500sq m, the Dadu Gardens serves as an outdoor gallery and living classroom of the Museum.

"The Dadu Gardens Adventures puts in its core the same values as the Expo 2023 Doha, highlighting sustainability, the green economy, healthy habits, and the environment," Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar director Essa al-Mannai said in a press statement. "We invite the public to discover our programmes, where children will have the opportunity to get involved in meaningful activities that will equip them with the skills to set and achieve their own learning journey, furthering our mission at Dadu to encourage all types of play to support and enhance children's learning."

Under the development of Qatar Museums (QM), the construction of Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar is being facilitated through a collaboration between Qatar's public and private sectors.

Donors making contributions of QR3.65mn or more become members of The Dadu Founding Family, a group that currently includes His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Awqaf (Ministry of Endowments & Islamic Af-



Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar reopens Dadu Gardens.

fairs), Baladna, ConocoPhillips, DAAM, ENI, ExxonMobil, Intesa Sanpaolo, Baladnya (Ministry of Municipality), Ooredoo, Shell, SLB, Total Energies, Supernova, and Uniqlo.

Rumailah Group has donated two six-seater golf carts for the Dadu Gardens Adventures.

Dadu Gardens feature nine distinct facilities where activities and programming

are scheduled to take place:

☞ **Edible Garden:** A working garden where children and families are invited to be gardeners and tend to plants that provide harvest for programming activities taking place across the Gardens but most especially in the Garden Atelier.

☞ **Garden Atelier:** An indoor/outdoor space that supports workshops for children, families, and adults. Both spaces can

be turned into kitchens for cooking workshops. As a multipurpose space, it can also host many other activities.

☞ **The Community Garden** with its raised beds and gardening facilities, enables children and families to be farmers in the middle of the city, meet new people and strengthen community ties through the common interests of gardening, farming, and using fresh produce.

☞ **The Permaculture Showcase** is the beginning of what will eventually become Doha's first City Centre Food Forest. This area is dedicated to showcasing permaculture in action. Permaculture offers a holistic approach to farming, one that seeks to work with and not against nature.

☞ **Kashta:** A space that nurtures a love for nature exploration. Mud kitchens, a DIY adventure course, and messy sensory play set in nature encourages children to get comfortable with the natural world. Kashta is a tribute to the popular pastime of camping out in the desert during the cool winter months to enjoy the clear starlit skies and natural environment.

☞ **The Amphitheatre** is a family-friendly, multifunctional performance space. Its versatile stepped seating can be used in many ways including story picnics or as construction platforms for giant blocks.

☞ **The Events Plaza** occupies the highest point of the Dadu Gardens site with views over Al Bidda Park to the Central Business District in the West and the Cultural Quarter to the East.

☞ **The Promise Plaza** features a specially commissioned sculpture, by KAWS. The Plaza can host programmes, busking activities and smaller exhibitions and art installations.

☞ **Al Marj:** This is the site for our future playground. In the present, this is being used as a gathering space for games and more. Al Marj, or meadows, are often cultivated by families in Qatar to create a scenic and cooler grassy area for socialising.

Dadu Gardens will be open to the public on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 4pm-8pm.

Dadu Gardens also follow a unique entry policy: every adult must be accompanied by a child aged under 12, while children need to be accompanied by an adult aged above 18.

Youth aged between 12-18 are welcome to visit when accompanied by both.

To register for the Gardens' Adventures, please visit <https://qm.org.qa/tickets/select-tickets/>

Sealine comes alive with campers

Sealine has seen an influx of visitors over the past few days as the temperature has started to drop and various services provided by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change are in place for the visitors' convenience.

Local Arabic daily *Arriyadah* reported that the Sealine area has various restaurants, cafeterias, basic retailers and various other services shops.

In addition, the concerned entities have taken all the necessary measures to improve the safety and security of visitors, with intensive presence of traffic and rescue police patrols, and ambulances.

However, the visitors and campers stressed that

there is a need for more services to enhance their experience.

Rashid al-Mansuri said although the services were excellent this season, he felt that there is a need to have more restaurants with diversified cuisines.

Abdulla Jassim said that owners of quad bikes and dune buggies should be offered more activities and competitions.

Saeed al-Qubaisi said that campers at the Sealine area need more vehicle maintenance shops that offer the basic services such as tyre change, lubricants and other minor maintenance jobs, which would enhance their overall safety.

