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**Qatar condemns Israeli bombing of Indonesian Hospital**

Qatar condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli bombing of the Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of several patients, considering it an extension of the occupation's approach in targeting hospitals, schools and population centres, and a blatant violation of international laws and agreements, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's call for the formation of an international committee to investigate the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against civilians in the Gaza Strip, urging the international community to take urgent action to deter Israel from committing further massacres and provide necessary protection for over two thousand displaced people seeking refuge in the hospital, along with hundreds of patients and medical staff. The ministry expressed Qatar's solidarity with Indonesia in all the political and legal steps it takes to deal with this brutal crime. (QNA)

**'Israeli atrocities in Gaza an insult to humanity'**

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the UN Riyad Mansour has emphasised that the atrocities and terrorism committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip constitute an insult to humanity and cannot be justified under any pretext. This came in Mansour's letters sent to the UN secretary-general, the president of the Security Council for the current month (China), and the president of the UN General Assembly, on the Israeli entity's continued fierce war against the Palestinian people living under occupation, and its disregard for global calls for ceasefire and the appeals of the General Assembly and Security Council for a humanitarian truce. He pointed out that estimates indicate the martyrdom of 12,200 Palestinians, including 3,250 women and 5,000 children, with 29,000 injured. Additionally, about 4,000 people remain under the rubble. (QNA)

**28 Gaza babies taken to Egypt for treatment**

● Israeli forces attack Indonesia Hospital ● At least 13,300 Palestinians killed, including 5,600 children and 3,550 women

A group of 28 prematurely born babies evacuated from Gaza's biggest hospital were taken into Egypt for urgent treatment yesterday, while Palestinian authorities and the WHO said 12 people were killed at another Gaza hospital encircled by Israeli tanks.

The newborns had been in north Gaza's Al-Shifa hospital, where several others died after their incubators were knocked out amid a collapse of medical services during Israel's military assault on Gaza City.

Israeli forces seized Al-Shifa last week. Hundreds of patients, medical staff and displaced people left Al-Shifa at the weekend, with doctors saying they were ejected by troops.

Live footage aired by Egypt's Al Qahera TV showed medical staff carefully lifting infants from inside an ambulance and placing them in mobile incubators, which were then wheeled across a car park towards other ambulances.

The babies were transported on Sunday to a hospital in Rafah, on the southern border of Gaza, so their condition could be stabilised ahead of transfer to Egypt. The head of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said 12 had been flown on to Cairo.

All of the evacuated babies were "fighting serious infections", a WHO spokesperson said.

Eight infants have died since doctors at

Al-Shifa originally raised an international alarm this month about 39 premature babies at risk from a lack of infection control, clean water and medicines in the neo-natal ward.

At the Indonesian Hospital, funded by Jakarta, Gaza's health ministry said at least 12 Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded by firing into the complex encircled by Israeli tanks.

Health officials said 700 patients along with staff were under Israeli fire.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa said the facility in the northeast Gaza town of Beit Lahia had been hit by artillery rounds. Hospital staff denied there were any armed militants on the premises.

WHO chief Tedros said he was "appalled" by the attack that he too said had killed 12 people, including patients, citing unspecified reports.

Like all other health facilities in the northern half of Gaza, the Indonesian Hospital has largely ceased operations but is still sheltering patients, staff and displaced residents.

Israel has ordered the evacuation of the north, but thousands of civilians remain. Food, fuel, medicines and water have been running out across the enclave under Israel's six-week-old siege.

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said its clinic in Gaza City also came under fire yesterday. (Reuters) **Page 8**



A Palestinian medic cares for premature babies, evacuated from Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, ahead of their transfer from a hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip to Egypt yesterday.

**Amir meets Saudi Prince Turki**



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at his Lusail Palace office yesterday with the visiting Saudi Arabian Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet Prince Turki bin Mohamed bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, and the accompanying delegation. At the outset of the meeting, Prince Turki conveyed greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohamed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, to the Amir, and their wishes to His Highness of the best of health, and to the Qatari people continued progress and prosperity. For his part, His Highness the Amir entrusted Prince Turki to convey his greetings to King Salman, and Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman, wishing them good health and the brotherly Saudi people further development and growth. The meeting touched on the strong fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen and develop them. (QNA)

**Proceeds from Asian Cup Qatar ticket sales to go to Palestinians**

The Local Organising Committee of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 is to allocate proceeds from ticket sales to support relief efforts for the Palestinian people, who are facing a critical crisis requiring various forms of necessary support. HE the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani emphasised the importance of solidarity with the Palestinian people and providing support and assistance to them. He said that in the current circumstances and the difficult situation faced by the Palestinian brothers, the committee has decided to allocate the proceeds to support relief efforts, in collaboration with the relevant partners. He pointed out that the initiative aims to underscore the significant role football plays in social responsibility, contributing actively beyond the football field. He added that the initiative reflects the belief in the power of football and its impact on communities, especially during crises when the need for assistance intensifies. The proceeds will be dedicated to providing various essential needs,



The Asian Cup Qatar 2023™ LOC has announced that it will donate revenue from tournament ticket sales to urgent aid initiatives in Palestine.

including food and medical supplies, in collaboration with relevant authorities. Qatar is preparing to host the AFC Asian Cup Qatar for the third time, having previously organised it in 1988 and 2011. Twenty-four teams from the best in Asia are set to compete for the championship, with 51 matches taking place across nine stadiums from Jan 12-Feb 10, 2024. (QNA)

**Qatar Travel Mart 2023 begins with participation from over 60 countries**

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

The second edition of Qatar Travel Mart (QTM), featuring over 50 exhibitors and 100 buyers from 60 countries, was inaugurated by HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani, at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre yesterday.

Held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the three-day QTM 2023 with the theme, 'Discover Places, People, and Cultures', offers a collaborative forum for industry professionals to enhance their knowledge, forge connections, celebrate excellence, and engage with inter-

national leaders and decision-makers in the travel and tourism sector.

The opening ceremony was attended by a host of dignitaries including Qatari Hotels Association and Qatari Businessmen Association chairman HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani and Qatar Tourism chairman Saad bin Ali al-Kharji. The ceremony drew over 100 prominent officials, including ambassadors and delegates from the participating countries.

Speaking about QTM 2023, al-Kharji said: "Qatar continues to offer unparalleled opportunity for exploration by global travellers and we look forward to showcasing the latest advancements made by our tourism industry over the next three days while collaborating with our valued partners to ensure the continued success and growth of our sector."

At the accompanying conference



Dignitaries at the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of QTM 2023 yesterday. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

of QTM 2023, al-Kharji delivered a keynote speech centred on the theme of Qatar's tourism progress at the event. This was followed by keynote speeches from officials such as Hissein Ibrahim Taha, secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation; Prof Muzaffer Uysal, provost professor, University of Massachusetts; and Tom Jenkins, CEO of the European Tourism Association.

Rawad Sleem, co-founder and general manager of NeXTfairs for Exhibitions and Conferences and organisers of QTM 2023, said: "This year's event marks a momentous occasion for QTM with a 50% expansion in scale. From exclusive programmes to a compelling agenda, QTM 2023 promises to ignite growth, celebrate achievements, and navigate the road to a sustainable tourism future post-World Cup." **To Page 3**





## Speaker meets Lebanese caretaker minister of economy and trade



HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem met yesterday with the visiting Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Economy and Trade Dr Amin Salam. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and develop them, especially in the parliamentary field, as well as discussing a number of topics of common interest. The meeting was attended by HE the Deputy Speaker Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti and a number of Council members. On the Lebanese side, it was attended by members of the delegation accompanying the minister, and the acting charge d'affaires at the Lebanese embassy in Qatar, Farah Berri. **(QNA)**

## Qatar hails Ireland's position on Palestinian cause

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar. During the call, the latest developments in the Palestinian territories were discussed, after more than a month and a half has passed since the outbreak of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, killing and wounding thousands of innocent civilians, as well as the worsening humanitarian, moral, and legal catastrophe in light of the international community's inability as a whole to put an end to the bloodshed and curb the aggression.

During the call, HE Sheikh Mohamed expressed Qatar's appreciation for Ireland's historic position on the Palestinian cause, its early call for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and its criticism of double standards when dealing with the aggression against the Strip.

HE Sheikh Mohamed stressed the need for the international community to act immediately to address the worsening humanitarian, moral, and legal catastrophe in the Gaza Strip, prioritising the ceasefire and putting an end to all retaliatory operations and random attacks on the Strip.

He expressed his astonishment at the international community's silence and double standards when dealing with the Israeli occupation's atrocities, massacres, and crimes against civilians, which are leading to thousands of deaths and injured, the forced mass displacement of hundreds of thousands, as well as the targeting of civilian, relief, and humanitarian facilities, pointing out that turning a blind eye to these disasters is a disgrace to humanity.

HE Sheikh Mohamed stressed the need to oblige Israel to com-

ply with the UN Security Council resolution which calls for humanitarian truces in the Gaza Strip, establishing humanitarian corridors, an immediate ceasefire, ending all retaliatory operations, indiscriminate, genocidal measures, starvation, and forced displacement, in addition to the lifting of the unjust blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, which has been in place in flagrant violation of international law and humanitarian laws and norms for many years.

He reiterated Qatar's firm position in condemning the targeting of health and educational facilities covered by international justifications based on unproven or fabricated allegations.

HE Sheikh Mohamed emphasised the importance of the UN sending international investigation teams to look into the facts and examine the Israeli claims and allegations used to invade hospitals and healthcare centres.

He also stressed the need for the international community to come together and assume its responsibilities to resolve the Palestinian issue and reach 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 Sheikh Mohamed underscored Qatar's continued efforts to mediate the release of hostages, despite the challenges resulting from the ongoing Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip.

For his part, the Irish PM expressed his country's gratitude to Qatar for its mediation efforts to release the hostages. **(QNA)**

## Al-Attiyah meets British military officials



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met with the visiting UK Chief of the Defence Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin and Defence Senior Adviser to the Middle East at the UK Defence Ministry Lieutenant General (Pilot) Martin Sampson. During the meeting, topics of common interest were discussed, as well as reviewing military co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them. The meeting was attended by HE the Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs for Military and Security Affairs Major General (Pilot) Mohamed Abdullatif al-Mannai, and a number of senior officials and officers from both sides. **(QNA)**

## Shura condemns storming of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza

The Shura Council held yesterday its ordinary weekly session under the chairmanship of its Speaker HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem.

At the outset of the meeting, the Council expressed its strong condemnation of the Israeli occupation forces' shelling of the premises of the Qatari Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza (QCRG), stressing that targeting the building was part of a series of criminal attacks launched by the occupation forces on civilian establishments, its continued destruction of infrastructure, and forcing the residents of Gaza to leave their areas. In this regard, he noted the firm popular and official position in continuing to support and assist the Palestinian brothers in the Gaza Strip.

The Council called for an end to the occupying entity's disregard for all international humanitarian laws and norms, and to force it to comply with UN resolutions calling for a humanitarian truce in Gaza, calling on the world's parliaments and parliamentary unions to open an international investigation into the war crimes committed by the occupation forces in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories.

In the same context, the Council condemned the Israeli occupation forces' storming of the Al-Shifa Medical Complex in the Gaza Strip and its evacuation by military force, which resulted in the death of a large number of patients, including children, stressing that this heinous crime calls for urgent international action and a comprehensive investigation to stop the massacres, violations and war crimes committed by the occupation without de-



terrence and in cold blood.

The Council denounced the international community's continued silence and failure to take any practical steps to prevent or stop the brutal massacres and genocide committed by the occupation forces against the defenceless Palestinian people in an unprecedented and continuous manner, denouncing in this regard Israel's continuation of its destructive war on all hospitals in the Gaza Strip, in addition to its resumption of the bombing of Al Fakhoora School, which led to the killing of dozens, most of them children and women. Earlier, it destroyed the headquarters of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

The Council stressed that as long as the international community continues its deafening silence without holding Israel accountable for its heinous and continuing crimes, it will continue to violate the principles of international law and humanitarian norms.

The Council expressed its appreciation and support for the decision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation (EAA), to withdraw from her position as goodwill ambassador with Unesco, as the organisation failed to carry

out its role in rescuing and providing relief to the children of Gaza, who are the main victims of Israel's ongoing bombardment campaign. The Council stressed that this position and this practical step express the position of the Qatari people, and the position of every person of good conscience who condemns what the children of Gaza are exposed to.

After that, HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Dr Ahmed bin Nasser al-Fadala read out the session's agenda, and the minutes of the previous session were approved.

During the session, the Council reviewed among other things the report of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee on a draft law regulating real estate registration, and decided to return the aforementioned draft law to the committee for further study.

The Council also reviewed a draft law amending some provisions of Law No 1 of 2012 on the regulation and control of advertisement placement, which was referred to it by the esteemed government and decided to refer it to the Public Services and Utilities Committee for study and submit its report on it to the Council. **(QNA)**

## Amir appoints envoys to Costa Rica and Croatia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued the Amiri decision No. 94 of 2023 appointing Abdulrahman Mohamed Abdulrahman Hamdan al-Dosari as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Costa Rica. His Highness the Amir also issued the Amiri decision No. 95 of 2023 appointing Asma Naji Hussein Salim al-Amri as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Croatia. The two decisions are effective starting from their date of issue, and are to be published in the official gazette. **(QNA)**

## PM congratulates his Spanish counterpart

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Spain Dr Pedro Sanchez on the occasion of taking the constitutional oath for a new term. **(QNA)**

## Falcons contest postponed

The competitions scheduled yesterday (Monday) at the 5th Ras Laffan Falcon Championship, organised by Al Gannas Qatari Society had to be postponed due to weather conditions. The championship, sponsored by Ras Laffan Community Outreach programme, is set to go on until November 25.

## Chief of Staff meets Italian military commanders



HE the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nabit met separately with Italian Chief of Staff Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone and Deputy Commander of the Joint Operations Headquarters Major General Nicola Lanza de Cristoforis during his visit to Rome. HE al-Nabit also visited the pilot officers in the advanced course on Aermacchi 346 aircraft at the International Flight Training School at the Decimomannu base in Cagliari, and met with Commander of Education and Training in the Italian Air Force Lieutenant-General Silvano Frigerio. The meetings discussed topics of common interest, and reviewed military co-operation relations between the two sides and ways to strengthen and develop them. They were attended by a number of senior officers in the Qatar Armed Forces. **(QNA)**

## AlKhater holds meetings with minister, official in Egypt



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 Planning and Economic Development Dr Hala Elsaid. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance co-operation between the two countries in development financing and exchange of experiences and ideas about its mechanisms. The meeting addressed the ongoing aggression in the Gaza Strip, exploring ways to support the steadfastness of the brotherly Palestinian people and the implementation of humanitarian aid in collaboration between the two countries.



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met on Sunday in Cairo with Chairperson of Egypt's National Council for Human Rights and President of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI) Dr Moushira Khattab. The meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance co-operation regarding the Gaza Strip. They also discussed the violation of human rights by the Israeli occupation forces, their targeting of defenceless civilians, especially children and women, and their blatant violation of the principles and provisions of international law and international humanitarian law. HE AlKhater thanked Dr Moushira Khattab for her presidency of this session of the ANNHRI and the role that ANNHRI plays in presenting the Palestinian issue in various forums. **(QNA)**

## NHRC calls for immediate end to Israeli aggression on Gaza

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) has called upon the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to work urgently in co-operation with all stakeholders to put an immediate end to the Israeli occupation's aggression against the Gaza Strip, given that the UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNHROHC) is a specialised agency for promoting and protecting human rights.

The NHRC stressed the importance of co-operation in holding accountable Israeli war criminals.

This came during the meeting

of the Secretary-General of NHRC Sultan bin Hassan al-Jamali with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk.

In a press statement, al-Jamali told the UN High Commissioner that the occupying power, Israel, must adhere to international law and that safe corridors for relief agencies to enter must be created, in addition to putting an immediate end to the grave violations that are happening in the West Bank, and enhancing efforts to update the list of companies building illegal settlements in the West Bank according to the Human Rights Council reso-

lution. He indicated that the collective goal is to unify efforts to end the Israeli aggression, ensure the provision of unconditional humanitarian aid, and address current developments.

Al-Jamali expressed his hope that the High Commissioner's speech would be in line with the seriousness of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation, in line with the statement issued by several UN Special Rapporteurs who warned of an imminent genocide in Gaza and the widespread violations committed by the Israeli army, falling within the genocide and international law

legal framework. The NHRC secretary-general expressed the committee's concern and condemnation of the inability and inconsistency shown by the human rights system, saying that the current human rights system is often influenced by political considerations, as opposed to legal principles.

He pointed out that the significant delay in taking a firm stance against the ongoing violations could cause oppressed and persecuted people world-wide to lose confidence in the international human rights system, which in turn would have long-term consequences on

the promotion and protection of human rights, not only in the Arab region but globally as well.

Al-Jamali said that given the seriousness of the situation, the roles and positions of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights must be aligned with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), regional networks, the UN Secretary-General, special rapporteurs, international mechanisms, and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to condemn the aggression against Gaza and address concerns of Genocide.







HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi takes a look at the exhibits displayed at National Science Research and Innovation Week.

# Science research, innovation week gets underway

**QNA**  
Doha

**H**E the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi inaugurated yesterday the National Science Research and Innovation Week under the slogan 'Promising Researchers for Qatar'.

The week is organised in collaboration with the Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council (QRDI), in the presence of Qatar University President Omar Mohamed al-Ansari and several senior officials from the ministry.

The event, which will continue until Nov 23, includes accompanying training workshops, the 15th National Student Research Exhibition, the final rounds of the Academic FameLab competition, a fun corner for primary school students, presentations by scientific research partners, and the closing ceremony to announce the winning research projects and honour the top three winners in all categories and educational stages within the Scientific Research and Innovation competition for 2023.

Executive Director of Qatar National Research Fund Programmes at the QRDI Dr Hisham Saber said that the aim of this week is to encourage and develop Qatari student talents in research and innovation of both genders, nurturing

them to become scientists and innovators for the future of Qatar. He noted that these activities are part of Qatar's increasing interest in scientific research across all educational stages, nurturing children, and instilling a spirit of research and innovation in their minds.

He said that the Scientific Research and Innovation competition within this week started with 712 schools, which were narrowed down to about 160 schools to select the winning competitors. They will be honoured next Thursday at the end of the events. He pointed out that two groups from among the winners will be selected to represent Qatar at the International Invention, Innovation, and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) in Malaysia and the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in the US.

Head of the Research, Talent and Innovation Department Dr Asmaa al-Mohannadi praised the achievements of students in preparing these research projects. She said that there are about 244 projects, including 160 for middle and high school students and 84 for elementary school students in various scientific and humanitarian fields. All of them will participate in the final rounds.

She said that, at the end of the events, the top three winners in eight categories for all educational

stages of the Scientific Research and Innovation competition for 2023 will be honoured. Director of Educational Programmes at the Qatar National Research Fund Dr Abdullah al-Kamali said research projects and various activities during the week aim to instil and enhance a culture of scientific research and innovation among students in Qatar.

RDI Programme Director at QRDI Riham Daher said that this national week will help students, support and motivate them in these fields, appreciating the existing partnership between the ministry and the council in this regard.

Educators, experts, and specialists emphasise that organising the events of National Science Research and Innovation Week will contribute to spreading the culture of scientific research in schools. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education is keen on equipping its students with scientific research skills, enhancing, enabling and training them on these skills from an early age. This aligns with Qatar's National Vision 2030, promoting integration between curriculum standards and scientific research, encouraging students to conduct systematic scientific research, and creatively solving relevant problems and analysing them in unconventional ways.

## Qatar Travel Mart 2023 begins with participation from over 60 countries

**From Page 1**

Following the keynote speeches, there was a panel discussion led by Prof Wolfgang George Arlt, founder, Meaningful Tourism. The focal point was 'The Future of Travel & Tourism: A Growing Positive Curve,' and it featured prominent figures, including Mohamed al-Asmakh, director, Asset Management, Katara Hospitality; Philip Dickinson, Overseeing Leading International Markets and MICE at Qatar Tourism; Tom Jenkins, CEO of the European Tourism Association; Chris Flynn, chairman and founder of the World Tourism Association for Culture & Heritage and Prof Muzaffer Uysal, provost professor, University of Massachusetts.

There were also guest talks on



Some of the dignitaries at the conference of QTM 2023.

topics such as 'The 'Burgstock Collection: A Sustainable Collection'; 'Certification: Why This is so Crucial in This International Crisis Period'; 'Chinese Outbound Tourism, Current Status and Predictions for the Future'; and 'Korea Tourism: Riding The Korean Wave'.

The attendees had the opportunity to explore exhibition stands and QTM's Global Village. Hosting 25 embassies, the Global Village is a hub for diverse cultures, connecting different parts of the world under one roof and showcasing heritage, traditions, and philosophies.

## Social development ministry organises events for Children's Day

**T**he Family Development Department of the Ministry of Social Development and Family organised an event to mark the World Children's Day, in co-operation with the Cultural Village Foundation — Katara, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Ajyal Educational Centre.

In a statement, the ministry said that the event was within the framework of the Ministry's plans aimed at caring for childhood and its keenness on ensuring healthy and happy children, and promoting togetherness between them and the segments of the Qatari society, especially within the importance attached by Qatar to the family and to establishing a set of rights, including the rights of the child that uphold his right to life, health, education, and equality.

The three-day event focused on



a number of recreational, awareness and interactive activities and workshops to develop children's skills of various interests, encourage creativity and playing as a way to learn and express the communication of information spontaneously, and enhance the spirit of teamwork among them. Director of Family Development Department Dhabia

al-Maqbali noted the importance of the event in activating the World Children's Day as well as children rights that seek to protect the child psychologically, physically and scientifically, while appreciating the efforts of all the participating parties that sought to promote joy and pleasure in Children and their families. (QNA)

## Ministry-QU accord for Islamic education curriculum

**T**he Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Qatar University have signed a co-operation agreement to implement a project aimed at developing the curriculum for Islamic education in public education in the presence of HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi.

The agreement was signed at the ministry's headquarters, with the goal of leveraging the educational expertise of both parties in curriculum development. The agreement was signed by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi and President of Qatar University Dr Omar bin Mohamed al-Ansari.

Dr Abdullah al-Marri, the Director of Curriculum and Learning Resources Department of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, emphasised that the agreement is a result of the continuous collaboration between the Ministry

and Qatar University. It reflects the joint efforts to enhance the curriculum through the utilisation of accumulated expertise from reliable partners at Qatar University and experts in our Qatari community, proud of its Islamic identity.

Dr Ibrahim bin Abdullah al-Ansari, the Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University and the Chairman of the Committee for Reviewing the Document of Standards and Learning Resources for Islamic Education, delivered a brief overview of the document and highlighted key aspects of improvement.

"This project opens up a new cultural horizon for the nation, where institutions collaborate to build their curricula and develop their personnel based on actual needs, guided by experts who belong to the same society and interact with its real issues," Dr al-Ansari added.

Under this agreement, both parties agreed to implement the

project to develop the curriculum for Islamic education through several fundamental stages, including the enhancement of the 'The Student's Handbook' and 'The Teacher's Guide' for all stages from Grades 1 to 12.

In pursuit of the intended goals of this project, a comprehensive training plan will be implemented to empower teachers to effectively deliver the developed curriculum. Teachers will also be trained on how to implement the Teacher's Guide, which will include the latest teaching strategies, educational methods, and supporting tools to assist teachers in delivering lessons in an exemplary manner.

The project represents a significant step in a continuously developing educational process, contributing to the enhancement of knowledge, skill development, instilling values in the younger generations, and aligning with successful educational practices at the regional and global levels. (QNA)

## UDST career fair features over 80 companies

**U**niversity of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) yesterday (Monday) opened the Career Fair 2023. The opening ceremony was attended by HE Dr Mohamed bin Saleh al-Sada, chairman of UDST's Board of Trustees (BoT) and former minister of energy and industry; Dr Mohamed Yousef al-Mulla vice-chair of UDST's BoT and managing director and CEO of Qatar Petrochemical Company; Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president UDST; Isabelle Martin, ambassador of Canada.



Dignitaries at the career fair opening yesterday.

The event also witnessed a visit from Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The opening of the two-day event on the university campus, was well-attended by current students, alumni and graduating high school nationals.

The career fair gives attendees opportunities for networking, exploring career paths, and connections with potential employers, and gave the participating companies access to students from UDST, a statement said.

Dr Al-Naemi, said: "Our University has always been at the forefront of educational excellence in Qatar, and our commitment to both students and alumni extends beyond the classroom. The UDST Career Fair 2023 is a testament to our dedication to their professional growth and success. I am thrilled that we can provide a platform for them to interact with industry leaders, opening doors to promising career opportunities, while forging valuable partnerships with industry players."

Over 80 companies and organisations were represented at the career fair including government, semi-government, and private sector organisations spanning a range of industries including energy, banking and finance, and technology. The event reflected UDST's solid commitment to fostering connections between its students and industry leaders, and empowering the wider University community by bridging the gap between education and employment.

## Rain expected today too



Scattered rain was observed at some areas in Qatar and offshore yesterday (Monday), the Met office said. The forecast for today (Tuesday) is thundery rain associated with strong wind and poor horizontal visibility, both inshore and offshore. High seas are also expected offshore. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

## QU hosts Children's Day festival

**Q**atar University's College of Education recently hosted the vibrant and enriching International Children's Day festival, resonating with the theme 'Passion and Profession... Children's Bridge to the Future'.

The festivity, organised annually by the Early Childhood Centre, stood as a testament to celebrating children while nurturing their growth and development in an engaging manner. Emphasising childhood as a pivotal building block for community development and global solidarity, the festival, which is organised annually, served as a platform to champion children's rights and advocate for an environment that fosters their well-being and prepares them for a promising, safe future. The chosen theme, 'Passion and Profession', stemmed from the centre's 'Little Professionals' unit, encapsulating the culmination of their learning journey.

At the heart of the event was an ambition to provide a complete experience for children, encompassing physical, emotional, social, and educational dimensions. It aimed to create a safe, interactive space where learning meets joy, skills are honed, and creativity flourishes. Moreover, the festival facilitated volunteer opportunities for university students, bridging



connections between the centre, QU, and the local community.

The festival boasted active participation from a diverse array of professionals, both internal and external to QU, who actively contributed to the children's learning experiences within the "Little Professionals" project. This convergence of professionals and children fostered an inspiring exchange of knowledge and expertise.

The event was graced by Dean of the College of Education at QU Professor Dr Asma al-Attiyah, alongside partners from various professions, parents, faculty members, and esteemed guests from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. (QNA)







# WWRC's postnatal care services see notable increase in home visits

Hamad Medical Corporation's Women's Wellness and Research Centre (WWRC) has recorded a significant increase in the total number of home visits by midwives – from 60% in 2020 to 82% by August 2023 – through its Community Midwifery Postnatal Care Services being offered to women who give birth by Caesarean section.

Of a total of 503 women who gave birth by Caesarean section between 2020 and 2023, as many as 415 availed of the home care service, demonstrating an increased level of interest among communities in Qatar.

Community Midwifery Postnatal Care is the care delivered by community midwives, that includes prevention, early detection and referring women for treatment of complications, provision of advice and signposting to services, to ensure the highest standards of patient care and safety in the community.

Currently, 13 dedicated professionals are managing and monitoring the programme's implementation and outcomes.

The aim of the service is to deliver safe, appropriate and timely midwifery postnatal care service to all C-Section women who



WWRC administration staff.

meet the criteria in the home via a face-to-face visit 48 to 72 hours after discharge from the hospital. After the home visit, the women are followed up through teleconsultation service between days 10 to 14, after the initial visit or discharge.

The Community Midwifery Postnatal Care Services recently hosted an awareness day to promote midwifery postnatal home care service, its importance, and benefits among patients and their families.

Dr Hilal al-Rifai, medical director and CEO of WWRC said: "Our dedicated midwives and healthcare experts ensure personalised, comprehensive care, prioritising both mother and baby's well-being dur-

ing this critical postnatal period. We believe in nurturing, supporting and empowering mothers as we redefine postnatal care in a world where home is their haven."

Saadiya al-Hebail, acting executive director, Nursing and Midwifery for WWRC and ACC added: "Our commitment reflects our dedication to ensuring the well-being of mothers and newborns, setting a new standard in maternal and infant care. The positive reception within the Doha community affirms our mission to provide exceptional care. The expansion and reach of this programme helps us reach those in need, delivering high-quality care in the comfort of their homes."

## Culture ministry to take part in Kuwait International Book Fair

The Ministry of Culture will participate in the 46th edition of the Kuwait International Book fair, which will kick off on Nov 22 and run until Dec 2.

The ministry's participation in the fair aims to display Qatari intellectual production, enhance cultural communication, and also display the ministry's various new publications.

A group of Qatari publishing houses will participate in the fair, including Roza Publishing House, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Press and Dar Al Watad. In this context, Director of the Libraries Department at the Ministry of Culture and Director of the Doha International Book Fair Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain said the Ministry of

Culture has been keen to participate in the Kuwait International Book Fair for several years to strengthen cultural relations with Kuwait.

Al-Buainain stressed that the ministry's participation in the fair aims to build new relationships with those working in the field of culture and the publishing industry, in addition to promoting and displaying Qatari intellectual production, promoting the Doha International Book Fair, and attracting publishing houses to participate in it. For her part, CEO of Roza Publishing House Aisha Jassim al-Kuwari said the Kuwait International Book Fair is an important cultural event held in the Gulf region that attracts hundreds of thousands of audiences and those interested in Arab cultural affairs. (QNA)

## Ooredoo showcases smart health solutions



Ooredoo displayed an array of advanced smart technology solutions tailored especially for the healthcare sector at the recent '5th International Primary Health Care Conference' in Doha. The event, organised by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), gathered over 1,000 health professionals from around the world. Ooredoo has been a longstanding partner of MoPH and provider to the healthcare sector in Qatar, offering quality fixed, mobile connectivity and ICT services, including cloud and data centre solutions, cybersecurity and unified communication.

## New senior leadership appointments at HMC



Dr Yousuf Khalid al-Maslamani



Fatima Haidar Abdulla



Dr Khalid Mohamed al-Jalham



Dr Muna Abdulrahman al-Maslamani



Nasser Saeed al-Jaffali al-Nuaimi



Dr Aftab Mohamed Umar



Dr Khalifa al-Ansari



Dr Mohamed Abu Nada

The Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, Minister of Public Health and HMC managing director has announced a set of new leadership appointments across Hamad Medical Corporation, effective from November 19.

The new appointments are: Dr Yousuf Khalid al-Maslamani, deputy chief medical officer for clinical affairs; Fatima Haidar Abdulla, chief of business servic-

es; Dr Mohamed Abu Nada, acting deputy chief medical officer for surgical services and chairman of surgery; Dr Muna Abdulrahman al-Maslamani, medical director, Hamad General Hospital, and chief executive officer of Communicable Disease Centre; Dr Khalid Mohamed al-Jalham, chief executive officer and medical director of Ambulatory Care Centre; Nasser Saeed al-Jaffali al-Nuaimi, chief

of centre for patient experience; Dr Aftab Mohamed Umar, chairman of emergency medicine and Dr Khalifa al-Ansari, chairman of dentistry.

The new leaders bring a wealth of experience and expertise to their new role and will drive the continued improvements of HMC as it strives to deliver the highest quality care to patients, a statement added.

## QRCS, Awqaf open PWD health centre in Somalia



The representation office of Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) in Somalia has recently completed a project to furnish and operate a health centre for persons with disability (PWDs) in Garowe, Puntland.

The new centre serves 2,250 persons with special needs, with QR1,168,475 funding from the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs' General Department of Endowments (Awqaf).

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr Mohamed Salah Ibrahim, director of Relief and International Development Division at QRCS, Ahmed Elmi Osman, Vice-President of Puntland, and many ministers and local officials.

In his opening speech, Dr Ibrahim stated: "Phase 1 had commenced in 2016, with the start of construction works, in co-



operation with Puntland Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs. In Phase 2, launched in 2022 for one year, we provided medical/rehabilitation equipment and furniture for the centre to do its job, and then will support staff with physiotherapy training.

This will help PWDs to recover, depend on themselves, and improve their lives.

"According to statistics of the Somali Disability Network, there are more than 14,000 PWDs in Puntland alone. We are determined to continue and develop such projects, to reach out to more and more PWDs, a vulnerable group of priority for humanitarian interventions. We welcome all our local and international partners to address this problem together"

## CRA attends World Radiocommunication Conference

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) is participating in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) hosted by the UAE in Dubai from November 20 to December 15.

Qatar's delegation is led by engineer Ahmad Abdulla al-Muslemani, president of CRA, accompanied by representatives from CRA and a group of specialists in the radio spectrum field representing government and private entities in Qatar.

Held every four years, the event is crucial for reviewing and revising the Radio Regulations, an international treaty governing radio-frequency spectrum use and satellite orbits.

The WRC-23 aims to provide a stable and predictable regulatory environment needed for future investments. It focuses on enabling new radiocommunication systems and applications to access the radio spectrum, protecting the operation of existing services, and ensuring the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources.

Al-Muslemani said: "Through our active engagement in WRC-23, we reiterate Qatar's dedication to promoting global communication enhancements. We're setting our sights on a universally connected world, seamlessly adhering to international Radio Regulations.

"It also represents CRA's dedication to the telecom sector's development, technological innovation, and Qatar's radio



Qatar's delegation is led by Engineer Ahmad Abdulla al-Muslemani, president of CRA, and accompanied by representatives from CRA and a group of specialists in the radio spectrum field representing government and private entities in Qatar.

communication future, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030." Key items on the WRC-23 agenda include discussions on the international regulatory framework for geostationary and non-geostationary satellites, the use of earth stations in motion, such as on aircraft and ships, and the use of satellite technologies for broadband services, especially in remote areas.

The conference will also delve into the use of inter-satellite links for real-time Earth-observation data, enhancing radiocommunications for aircraft safety, and the use of space research for climate monitoring and other scientific missions.


Qatar shows particular interest in some agenda items regarding the identification of frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT). Additionally, some other items are crucial for harmonising the use of frequency bands by earth stations in motion (onboard aircraft

and vessels). Agenda items focusing on satellite network frequency bands will also be of interest to the country.

An essential part of the conference is the future agenda items, which will determine the conferences' agenda in 2027 and 2031, influencing future investments and technological advancements.

During the conference, CRA will host a coffee break and have a booth serving as a platform for highlighting Qatar's readiness to host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26). Attendees will have the opportunity to watch a promotional video about PP-26.

Post-WRC, CRA will release Qatar's National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) after a transparent consultation process, reflecting WRC's outcomes and aligning with Qatar's overarching needs in various sectors. This plan will play a pivotal role in shaping Qatar's spectrum governance.



**QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY**  
INVITATION TO TENDER

**QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER**

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-373068	DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MATERIAL PROCUREMENT, FABRICATION, INSPECTION, TESTING & SUPPLY OF SKIDS FOR SAFE SAMPLING SYSTEM OF LIQUID STREAM SAMPLE COLLECTION IN AMMONIA 5 & 6 PLANT	500/- (Non-refundable)	126,865/- (One Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five Only)	21.11.2023 22.11.2023 23.11.2023 26.11.2023 27.11.2023 28.11.2023 29.11.2023	28.12.2023

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
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  - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender **(Very Important)**, during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at 'purchase@qafco.com.qa' or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 0930 – 1130 hours and 1230 – 1400 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".



# AULT board meeting begins in Doha



The meeting in Doha is hosted by Mowasalat.

The meeting of the 70th round of the Board of Directors of the Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT) opened yesterday in Doha, hosted by Mowasalat (Karwa), and patronised by HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti, who is the president of the 36th Session of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers.

The AULT is a pan-Arab organisation comprising the largest Arab passenger and cargo transportation companies.

AULT chairman Eng. Khaled A al-Hogail, secretary-general Malek Haddad and board members

are attending, a Karwa statement said.

HE the Transport Minister, in his opening remarks, stressed the importance of supporting common Arab action to further develop the transportation industry to achieve sustainable development and pan-Arab economic growth.

He pointed out the efforts of the ministries and relevant entities of all Arab countries to develop the sector.

HE al-Sulaiti noted that he had emphasised, during the 36th session of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers in Alexandria last

month, the importance of addressing and resolving all the challenges that the transportation sector and AULT encounter.

The meeting discussed key projects of land transportation at the regional and pan-Arab levels.

These include supporting the AULT's plans and projects that aim to establish a database for ground safety in the Arab countries and the plans of upskilling the drivers through participating in training courses on hazardous materials transportation in conjunction with the International Road Transport Union.

## Alfardan Sports Motors, Alfardan Motors, Touring Superleggera forge partnership

Alfardan Sports Motors and Alfardan Motors, the official importers of prestigious Italian automotive brands in Qatar and Oman, have announced an exclusive partnership with Touring Superleggera.

This collaboration marks a new era in luxury, finesse, and craftsmanship, heralding the introduction of Touring Superleggera's unparalleled expertise to the discerning GCC markets, a statement said yesterday.

Under this partnership, Alfardan Sports Motors and Alfardan Motors will serve as the exclusive and official distributors of Touring Superleggera's bespoke and ultra-luxury vehicles in Qatar and Oman.

This collaboration promises an unparalleled luxury experience for esteemed Qatari and Omani clientele, transcending the ordinary realms of motoring.



Tellenbach and Omar Alfardan signing the agreement, and exchanging the pacts.



Specific details about the inaugural projects will be announced shortly, it was explained.

At a signature ceremony held on November 9, distinguished representatives including Alfardan Group president and chief executive Omar Hussain Alfardan, Alfardan Automotive chief operating officer Dr Ma'n Alhamawi, Alfardan Group chief legal officer Fadi Sabsabi, Alfardan Sports Motors and Alfardan Motors regional general manager Charly Dagher, Carrozzeria Touring Superleggera SRL chief executive Markus Tellenbach, Touring Superleggera head of design Matteo Gentile, and Andrea Dragoni, operations manager and classic manager at Touring Superleggera, gathered to inaugurate this groundbreaking alliance.

Omar Alfardan expressed his enthusiasm

about the partnership, stating: "I am thrilled to witness the fruition of our partnership with Touring Superleggera."

"This collaboration will elevate Alfardan Group's standing as a preeminent provider of luxury automotive experiences in the Middle East, adding valuable addition to our portfolio," he said.

Tellenbach conveyed his excitement, emphasising the brand's commitment to delivering bespoke experiences.

"Touring Superleggera's timeless Italian craftsmanship and innovative design will now be showcased to the esteemed clients of Qatar and Oman, reflecting the pinnacle of luxury these brands represent," he said.

"Our collaboration with Touring Superleggera perfectly aligns with our commitment to offering luxury and opulence to our loyal clientele," said Dagher affirmed the partnership's synergy. "We are confident it will exceed even the most discerning enthusiasts' expectations."

Alfardan Sports Motors and Alfardan Motors were established in 1999 and 2012 respectively as part of the Alfardan Group, a leading Qatari conglomerate with a diversified portfolio of businesses, to offer top-notch ownership experiences for prominent luxury and sports Italian brands in Qatar and in Oman.

They boast world-class showrooms and service centres in the most prestigious areas of the GCC countries.

Touring Superleggera's legacy, spanning



nearly a century since its inception in 1926, epitomises a rich history of craftsmanship and innovation.

Renowned for their work in coachbuilding classical and modern luxury and sports cars, Touring Superleggera has collaborated with prestigious manufacturers such as Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, Aston Martin, Maserati, and Alfa Romeo, and other renowned sports and luxury automotive brands, creating automotive masterpieces that meld timeless beauty with exquisite craftsmanship.

Today, Touring Superleggera remains committed to its traditional values of combining tradition with contemporary flair, as well as top-level expertise and cutting-edge technology.

Touring Superleggera's bespoke cars have won many design awards, including a special award at the 2023 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, "Best of Show" at the 2019 Zoute Concours d'Elegance, and "Best in Class - 1940s Winner" at the 2019 Concourse of Elegance, Hampton Court Palace, among other awards and trophies.

The partnership with Alfardan Sports Motors and Alfardan Motors marks an important chapter in Touring Superleggera's history, continuing a legacy that has shaped the automotive world.



gera's history, continuing a legacy that has shaped the automotive world.

This partnership promises to bring unparalleled craftsmanship and bespoke luxury to the discerning clientele of Qatar and Oman, further solidifying Touring Superleggera's reputation as a beacon of automotive excellence and innovation, the statement added.

## Qatar Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art present 'Dan Flavin | Donald Judd: Doha'

Qatar Museums (QM) has opened the first in-depth presentation worldwide in nearly two decades of the work of the closely linked artists Dan Flavin (1933-1996) and Donald Judd (1928-1994).

The exhibition is also the first major presentation of Flavin and Judd's works in the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) region.

Flavin and Judd were considered two of the founders of minimalism, the widely influential art movement that broke free from traditional notions of painting and sculpture to focus on experiencing real space and materials.

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



A large-scale installation by Flavin, *Alternating pink and 'gold'*, 1976.

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

"Dan Flavin | Donald Judd: Doha" is organised by the QM in co-operation with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and is curated by LACMA chief executive Michael Govan, director Wallis Annenberg, and Contemporary Art associate curator Jennifer King.

Featuring 37 works by Flavin and 25 works by Judd, the exhibition focuses on the artists' shared engagement with material, colour, and form.

Spanning the 1960s through the 1990s, the exhibition will highlight works from the collection of the QM, as well as important loans from other museums, private collections, the Dan Flavin Estate, and the Judd Foundation.

The exhibition is organised with works by both the artists installed in the three central galleries, demonstrating their intersecting concerns and practices.

The galleries flanking this central section are dedicated separately to each artist.



Highlights of "Dan Flavin | Donald Judd: Doha" include:

- Flavin's early lightwork *The Diagonal of May 25, 1963 (to Constantin Brancusi)*, 1963, related to the Brancusi sculpture *Endless Column*.
- Works from Flavin's "monument" for V Tatlin series, using cool white fluorescent lights of different lengths.
- A number of the works that were shown in the landmark exhibition "Dan Flavin: Fluorescent Light" in 1964 at New York's Green Gallery.

○ A large-scale installation by Flavin, *Alternating pink and 'gold'*, 1976.

○ A landmark Judd work, untitled, 1964, that marks the artist's transition between painting and sculpture.

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

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

The exhibition is a legacy project of the 2021 Year of Culture between Qatar and the US, which also featured exhibitions of the works of Jeff Koons and Virgil Abloh in Doha and an exhibition of extraordinary

textiles and portraits on loan from the Museum of Islamic Art at Washington, DC's Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art.

A robust public programme will accompany "Dan Flavin | Donald Judd: Doha" and include in-person and digital panel conversations and lectures, special tours, and more.

The QM and LACMA share a history of collaboration and professional exchanges going back to 2012 with the presentation of the LACMA's exhibition, "Gifts of the Sultan: The Arts of Giving at the Islamic Courts" at the Museum of Islamic Art.

In 2018, the partnership was later expanded through a joint collaboration with the Yuz Museum in Shanghai.

The opening of "Dan Flavin | Donald Judd: Doha" is supported by Audi.

The exhibition will run until February 2024.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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Any objection, please contact  
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within 3 days from the publication of this notice.





QATAR

# Qatar Charity and OCHA to support education in Yemen

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed an agreement with the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Yemen to implement a project to improve access to education services and reduce school dropout rates in Ibb Governorate.

The project, expected to benefit thousands of students and teachers, aims to rehabilitate schools that were damaged due to the conflict and provide all necessary facilities in addition to providing school supplies to students and financial incentives to teachers.

QC also seeks to provide long-term educational opportunities for approximately 3,000 displaced students and residents of the region. These students will also be enabled to access permanent and safe learning opportunities by supporting five schools in Al-Udayn branch districts, through the establishment and rehabilitation of classrooms and furnishing them.

The agreement pays atten-



tion to psychological support for students. Social service specialists will conduct interviews with children in the targeted schools to provide psychological and social support to children and raise awareness and train teachers.

The signing of this agreement comes based on the appreciation of QC's accumulated experience in the field of education in several Yemeni governorates, including Taiz, Hajjah, and Ibb.

QC has implemented several projects in these governorates, where it paid rent for school buildings, gave financial benefits for teachers, and distributed school bags to approximately 5,000 students, in addition to providing school supplies and school uniforms.

QC is currently implementing a programme to support the education of orphan students in 22 governorates. Various monthly assistance will be provided to more than 600 students in the Taiz district and more than 400 in Ibb Governorate.

## World Cup Qatar 2022 was best in history: FIFA chief

QNA  
Zurich

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has praised Qatar and its organisation of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on November 20 last year, describing it as the best edition in the history of the game.

Infantino emphasised that Qatar dedicated all its capabilities to the success of the project, utilising the best organisational means, allowing the world to witness a unique event in every detail.

He said Qatar's success in hosting the event was never in doubt for him. He was confident that Qatar would deliver an exceptional edition in organisation due to the significant seriousness, attention, meticulous follow-up, and commitment to meeting all hosting requirements according to internationally recognised standards.

As the head of the international federation, he closely monitored every step Qatar took towards completing the arrangements for the tournament on its soil until the moment of the tournament's opening at Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor.

Infantino revealed that several factors contributed to his confi-

dence in Qatar's ability to host the event. Among these factors was the excellence in applying organisational standards and going beyond what was required, evident in the construction of the stadiums hosting the event. He highlighted the accessibility for the audience, available transport to the stadiums, and the establishment of a secure network that considers all safety requirements.

The FIFA president affirmed that Qatar achieved a level of success in organising the World Cup that no other country had reached before. This success was evident in providing the opportunity for the audience to watch more than one match in a single day.

He pointed out that this was not available to any fan before, as it was challenging for the audience to follow more than one match in previous World Cup editions due to the considerable distances between the stadiums. This was especially true in the last 10 editions held in Spain 1982, Mexico 1986, Italy 1990, USA 1994, France 1998, Korea/Japan 2002, Germany 2006, South Africa 2010, Brazil 2014, and Russia 2018. However, Qatar minimised the distances for the audience by making it easy to access the stadiums. **Page 10**

## GWC's *Delivering Glory* book salutes logistics excellence at Qatar 2022

GWC, the first regional supporter and the Official Logistics Provider for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, has published a book titled *Delivering Glory*, a statement said yesterday.

The publication outlines the logistics operations of the first mega sporting event in the Middle East and Arab world and "pays tribute to the personnel who continually went the extra mile to ensure Qatar delivered an outstanding event on the global stage".

Ranjeev Menon, Group CEO, GWC, said: "Successfully delivering the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was the realisation of a vision for Qatar and for GWC. This accom-

plishment is a testament to the expertise and infrastructure that GWC has built during the last two decades, and the ever-enduring pursuit of excellence and commitment to our goals.

"Ultimately, the outstanding collaboration with stakeholders enabled us to play a key role in delivering an exceptional mandate for a tournament like no other."

GWC's control tower approach, commitment to innovation, and ability to always exceed expectations contributed to smooth logistics operations for a wide number of stakeholders - including the Supreme Committee for Delivery



Ranjeev Menon

& Legacy, FIFA, host country institutions, commercial affiliates, fans, participating teams, the me-



GWC has published *Delivering Glory*.

dia and volunteers amongst others.

"Above all, it's our people delivering success!" continued Menon.

"At GWC, we have built a culture - something which goes back to our establishment of a small warehousing company in 2004. Despite exponential growth, we have retained the working environment of a startup - with everyone contributing, supporting one another, and doing everything they can to exceed the expectations of our valued clients and shareholders. They are the ones we celebrate in *Delivering Glory*."

The numbers behind GWC's achievements are staggering. The backbone of operations was the logistics infrastructure exceeding 4mn sq m.

GWC delivered items to hun-

dreds of key sites across Qatar and operated the largest transport fleet in the country of more than 1,600 trucks, trailers, and specialised vehicles, all within 45 minutes of any location.

More than 200 dedicated truck drivers covered 1.9mn km in over 288,000 hours, backed by 1,200 venue operations staff and six bespoke logistics systems designed and optimised specifically for the FIFA World Cup.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was played from November 20 to December 18, 2022. A total of 32 teams competed across 64 matches in the 22nd edition of the tournament.

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# Israeli ships ‘legitimate target’, Houthis warn after seizure

AFP  
Hodeidah

Israeli ships are a “legitimate target”, Yemen’s Houthi rebels warned yesterday, after their seizure of an Israel-linked cargo vessel opened a new dimension in the Gaza war.

Sunday’s capture of the Galaxy Leader and its 25 international crew came days after the Houthis threatened to target Israeli shipping over the Israel-Hamas war.

The Houthis, declaring themselves part of the “axis of resistance”, have also launched a series of drones and missiles towards Israel.

“Israeli ships are legitimate targets for us anywhere...and we will not hesitate to take action,” Major General Ali al-Moshki, a Houthi military official, told the group’s Al-Massirah TV station.

Analysts also said Houthi threats to shipping around the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a choke-point

at the foot of the commercially vital Red Sea, were likely to rise.

The Bahamas-flagged, British-owned Galaxy Leader is operated by a Japanese firm but has links to Israeli businessman Abraham “Rami” Ungar.

The Houthis said the capture was in retaliation for Israel’s war against Hamas, sparked by the October first week storming by the Palestinian fighters into the country.

More than 13,000 people have since been killed in Israel’s aerial bombardment and ground operations in the Gaza Strip, the territory’s Hamas-run health ministry says.

Sunday’s ship seizure “is only the beginning,” Houthi spokesman Mohamed Abdul-Salam said on Sunday in a statement posted on X, formerly Twitter, pledging further maritime attacks until Israel halts its Gaza campaign.

Maritime security company Ambrey said it had learned that the rebels boarded the ship by rap-



The Galaxy Leader cargo ship is escorted by Houthi boats in the Red Sea in this photo released yesterday.

elling or sliding down a rope from a helicopter — the method used by Iran during previous vessel seizures in the Strait of Hormuz.

The vessel headed from Turkiye to India was re-routed to the Yemeni port of Salif in Hodeidah province, according to Ambrey and a Yemeni maritime source.

Ambrey said the owner of the Galaxy Leader, which transports

cars and other vehicles, is listed as Britain’s Ray Car Carriers whose parent company belongs to Ungar, the Israeli businessman.

Israel’s military said the seizure was a “very grave incident of global consequence”, while a US military official called it “a flagrant violation of international law”.

The crew were reportedly “under investigation” by the Houthis,

Ambrey said. They include Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Filipinos, Mexicans and a Romanian, according to Israeli and Romanian officials.

Nippon Yusen, also known as NYK Line of Japan, said it had set up a task team to gather information and ensure the crew’s safety.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa said Tokyo was “directly approaching the Houthis” as well as communicating with Israel.

“We are also urging Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iran and other countries concerned to strongly urge the Houthis for the early release of the vessel and crew members,” she said.

**‘THREAT LIKELY TO RISE’**

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu characterised the capture as an “attack against an international vessel”.

“We have repeatedly announced that the resistance groups in the region represent their countries and make decisions and act based

on the interests of their countries,” said Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani.

Yemen’s coastline overlooks the Bab al-Mandab Strait — a narrow pass between Yemen and Djibouti at the foot of the Red Sea — which is one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, and carries about a fifth of global oil consumption.

“The threat of disruption to shipping in the wider region is likely to rise,” said Torbjorn Soltvedt of the risk intelligence firm Verisk Maplecroft.

“If security concerns compel shipping companies to avoid the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the result will be significantly higher costs due to the lack of alternative routes.”

Mohamed al-Basha, senior Middle East analyst for the US-based Navanti Group said the failure of Houthi missile and drone launches to hit targets inside Israel “might have influenced the decision to refocus on the Red Sea arena”.



A Palestinian woman walks on building rubble following an Israeli strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

# UN protectorate in Gaza is not a solution: Guterres

UN  
AFP

A UN protectorate in Gaza would not solve the conflict there, the body’s secretary-general said yesterday, calling instead for a “transition period” involving Arab nations and the US and leading to a two-state solution.

Antonio Guterres said it was “important to be able to transform this tragedy into an opportunity” — which, for him, meant moving “in a determined and irreversible way to a two-state solution.” This means, after the current war between Israel and Hamas fighters in Gaza ends, “a strengthened Palestinian Authority, assuming responsibilities in Gaza,” he said.

But the Palestinian Authority cannot go into Gaza backed by Israeli tanks, he added — meaning the “international community needs to look into a transition period.” “I do not think that a UN protectorate in Gaza is a solution,” however, Guterres said.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks at the UN headquarters in New York.

Instead, he called for a “multi-stakeholder approach” that would see the US act as the “main guarantor” of Israel’s security, while Arab nations are “essential” to support Palestinians.

“Everybody needs to come together to create the conditions for the transition, allowing for a strengthened Palestinian Authority to assume responsibilities in Gaza,” and from there to a two-state solution, he said.

Guterres also again denounced the killing of civilians — especially children — in Gaza as Israel wages a relentless air and ground cam-

paign in retaliation for the October first week storming by Hamas.

For seven years now he has published a “list of shame” of parties to armed conflict who commit grave violations against children. Israel’s absence from the list has previously been criticised by human rights organisations.

Without saying whether that may change this year, Guterres put the number of children killed in Gaza into stark context.

In the “shame” reports, the highest number of children killed in one year by one actor was the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2017-18, followed by the Syrian government and its allies before 2020. Both times the tally was in the hundreds.

“Without entering into discussing the accuracy of the numbers that were published by de facto authorities in Gaza, what is clear is that we have had in a few weeks thousands of children killed,” Guterres told reporters.

“We are witnessing a killing of civilians that is unparalleled and unprecedented in any conflict since I am secretary-general.”

# First field hospital enters Gaza since start of conflict

AFP  
Rafah

Palestinian officials said a field hospital accompanied by 170 personnel sent by Jordan entered the Gaza Strip yesterday, the first since the war between Israel and Hamas erupted in the first week of October.

Weeks of intense bombardment and acute shortages of fuel and medical supplies have prompted the collapse of Gaza’s health system, with the majority of hospitals no longer functioning. There are around 30,000 wounded people across Gaza, according to the Palestinian territory’s Hamas-run government, which said Sunday that 13,000 had been killed, mostly civilians.

Mohamed Zaqout, director-general of Gaza hospitals, said the field hospital will be established in Khan Yunis, in the south, “to receive the wounded and the sick”.

Hospitals in the area were experiencing “catastrophic” conditions, he said, “with the influx of hundreds of wounded each day and continued aggressive aerial and artillery strikes”.

They could no longer accept sick patients or women who needed to give birth by Caesarean section, he added.



An aid convoy transporting a Jordanian field hospital is seen parked upon arrival in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday, after crossing through the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

The war broke out when Hamas fighters stormed southern Israel.

The field hospital has a 41-bed capacity, the Jordanian royal palace said, and Aed Yaghi, head of medical aid in Gaza, said it was accompanied by 170 personnel and 40 trucks of medical aid. It would help ease the pressure on existing health services, he said, adding: “The number of medical personnel is limited and there aren’t (enough) ambulances.” Palestinian medics hope field hospitals sent by the United Arab Emirates and Qatar will soon follow.

All goods and individuals en-

tering Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt are subject to Israeli approval.

The head of Gaza’s crossings authority, Hisham Adwan, said six ambulances from Kuwait also entered the territory yesterday. An AFP journalist said the ambulances were taken to Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis.

While hospitals in southern Gaza are overwhelmed, those in the north are now surrounded by fighting. Health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra described the north as “catastrophic”, with the “sick and wounded are dying from lack of care”.

# South Africa to host Brics summit on war

AFP  
Johannesburg

South Africa will today host a virtual summit of the Brics group of nations, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, to discuss the Israel-Hamas war, Pretoria and Moscow said yesterday.

The Brics — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — are a group seeking to re-

shape the US and Western-led global order.

Today’s “Extraordinary Joint Meeting on the Middle East Situation in Gaza” will be hosted by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in the hope of drawing up a common response to the conflict. Leaders from Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates — who are all due to join the Brics group in January 2024 — will attend the meeting.

**Boakai declared winner of Liberia presidential election**

Political veteran Joseph Boakai was yesterday declared winner of Liberia’s presidential election, beating incumbent George Weah, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) said after completing the ballot count, AFP reported from Monrovia. Boakai won with 50.64% of the vote, against 49.36% of the vote for former international football star Weah. Davidetta Browne Lansanah, president of the commission, told reporters. Boakai won with only a 20,567-vote margin. Weah, however, already conceded defeat on Friday evening.

# Lebanon’s Palestinian refugees fear for their families in Gaza

AFP  
Beirut

In a ramshackle Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, Hayat Shehadeh wrings her hands as she watches the Israel-Hamas war.

Her daughter is in Gaza, and she has not spoken to her for a week.

“I can’t sleep. I get up at 3:00am...I go to watch the television,” said the 69-year-old from her dark flat in south Beirut’s Burj al-Barajneh Palestinian camp.

“Sometimes she writes to me, ‘I’m fine’. She doesn’t write more than that” because she has no way to recharge her phone battery, said the elderly woman, a baby grandchild playing with a Palestinian flag on the floor nearby.

Gaza-based Hamas fighters stormed southern Israel in the first week of October.

With pain in her voice but try-

ing to maintain her composure, Shehadeh said her daughter had separated her three children, sending them away with different relatives.

“She was crying, she said ‘I split up the kids’” her mother said, so that “if someone dies, they don’t all die.” The Burj al-Barajneh camp is a labyrinth of alleyways, some bearing pictures of former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, or stencils and posters in support of Hamas and other Palestinian groups, some glorifying the cross-border October first week storming. Lebanon hosts an estimated 250,000 Palestinian refugees, many living in the country’s 12 official camps, according to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).

Shehadeh said her daughter, aged in her thirties, had been living in Lebanon in recent years but a few months ago “her husband came and took her” back to Gaza.



Palestinian refugee Hayat Shehadeh, follows the news on television of the ongoing conflict, at her home in the Burj al-Barajneh Palestinian camp south of Beirut, Lebanon.

“She’s moving around...I don’t know what area she’s in now,” Shehadeh said, requesting the young woman not be identified by name.

More than 1.5mn people have been internally displaced in Gaza, and UN agencies have warned of rapidly deteriorating conditions.

UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini

has described children sheltering at a UN school “pleading for a sip of water or for a loaf of bread”.

On Friday, network provider Paltel group said communications with Gaza were severed due to a lack of fuel.

Shehadeh’s family came to Lebanon from the Acre area, now in northern Israel, survivors of what

Palestinians call the Nakba, or the “catastrophe”, when more than 760,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes by the 1948 war over Israel’s creation.

She said the family had feared for their lives, including after Jewish paramilitary groups massacred more than 100 Palestinian villagers at Deir Yassin, near Jerusalem, in April that year.

The elderly woman said if she could talk to her daughter, she would tell her not to cry.

In her small flat in the camp, Palestinian Fatima al-Ashwah, 61, is also glued to the television, praying her family members in Gaza are not among those being pulled dead from the rubble, or hoping to get a glimpse of them in footage of displaced people at shelters.

Originally from Al-Kabri, now in northern Israel, Ashwah has some 70 extended family members in Gaza, including her cousins and their families, the eldest in their

seventies, the youngest just one year old. They used to live in northern Gaza’s Beit Hanoun, near the Erez crossing with Israel, Ashwah said, but now “their houses are all gone... because they’re on the front lines. There’s nothing left.” Israel has for more than a month been calling on the population in northern Gaza to evacuate south as it pushes ahead with its war against Hamas.

Ashwah’s relatives have fled from place to place, with some now sheltering in schools near Gaza’s southern Rafah crossing with Egypt.

She said sometimes she had been able to hear bombing during short telephone calls.

Fighting back tears, she recounted how she had visited Gaza in July, and how the family greeted her and another relative with drums and dancing in celebration at the Rafah crossing.

“God willing it will be over and Gaza will go back to how it was before,” she said.



ANGER

Seoul warns N Korea to scrap spy satellite launch plans

South Korea's military yesterday warned North Korea to immediately stop preparations for a spy satellite launch, vowing to take "necessary measures" if it goes ahead. North Korea is preparing to launch a spy satellite for the third time, after failing twice this year to put a military eye in the sky. Earlier this month, Seoul's spy agency said that Pyongyang was in the final stages of preparations for its third try and South Korean defence minister Shin Won-sik said Sunday that the lift-off could take place as early as this week. South Korea has said Pyongyang is providing Moscow with arms in exchange for Russian space technology.

TRAGEDY

Philippine earthquake death toll rises to nine

The number of people killed in a powerful quake off the southern Philippines has risen to nine, the national disaster agency said yesterday, warning the toll could increase further. People fled into the streets or hid under tables when the 6.7-magnitude quake struck the Mindanao region on Friday, causing buildings to shake and part of a ceiling inside a shopping mall to collapse. At least 15 people were injured and more than 800 houses damaged or destroyed, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said in its latest update. The death toll steadily rose over the weekend as searchers found more bodies buried under rubble or soil.

PEOPLE

Australians vote on name for home-made Moon rover

Australians began voting yesterday on a name for the country's first home-made Moon rover. Australia's space industry will develop the semi-autonomous rover to collect lunar soil under an agreement signed two years ago with Nasa, which plans to fly it to the Moon's surface as soon as 2026. Nasa will then attempt to extract oxygen from the soil sample, marking "a key step towards a sustainable human presence on the moon", the Australian Space Agency said. Two Australian consortiums, AROSE and ELO2, are working on rover concepts, one of which will be selected to design and develop the final rover.

CRACKDOWN

Bangladesh 'convicts 139 opposition officials, activists'

Bangladesh has convicted 139 senior opposition party officials and activists in the past two days, prosecutors and lawyers said yesterday, as a crackdown on anti-government protesters intensifies ahead of elections. Those convicted included scores of activists from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, including on historic charges over protest violence, arson and obstructing the police, with convictions ranging from a few months to up to three-and-a-half years. BNP has rejected the verdicts as "baseless and politically motivated". Bangladesh goes to a general election on January 7, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina eyeing her fourth consecutive term in power.

Second pipeline sends cooked food to trapped Indian tunnel workers

Reuters  
Silkyara, India

Rescuers yesterday pushed through a new pipeline to deliver cooked food to 41 workers trapped for more than a week in a collapsed tunnel in the Indian Himalayas and said preparations were under way to start vertical drilling to pull them out.

The men have been stuck in the highway tunnel in Uttarakhand state since it caved in early on November 12 and are safe, authorities said, with access to light, oxygen, dry food, water and medicines already being sent by a smaller pipe.

Authorities have not said what caused the 4.5km tunnel to cave in, but the region is prone to landslides, earthquakes and floods.

"We have been able to achieve a breakthrough of pushing through a six-inch pipe," said Anshu Manish Khalkho, director of the state-run National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) which is building the tunnel. Khalkho said horizontal drilling through the debris – which had been suspended on Friday after a

snag in the machine and fears of a fresh collapse – would resume now that the new pipeline had been pushed through but he did not give a timeline. The men have been receiving

nuts, puffed rice, chickpeas and other dry food via the smaller pipe. They are confined in a 2km stretch of the tunnel and not 50 metres as earlier reported, authorities said.

They will now get hot food including rice, lentils, soybeans and peas, Prem Pokhriyal, a doctor who speaks to the trapped workers, said.

"Today, they demanded chewable vitamin C tablets and it was provided," Pokhriyal said. "As of now, everyone seems fit and fine."

Besides the horizontal drilling, rescuers are exploring five new plans to pull out the workers including drilling vertically from the top of the mountain.

Khalkho said new, heavy machines for vertical drilling would arrive by road in a day or two. The state-run Border Roads Organisation is building hill paths for the machines from both ends of the tunnel and one would be ready soon, district official Abhishek Ruhela said.

Desperate families of nine of the 41 men have reached the tunnel site in Silkyara, high in the hills of Uttarakhand. The trapped men are low-wage workers, mostly from poor states in the north and east of India. "I went inside the tunnel to talk to my brother through the steel pipe and he asked me if the government is actually working to save them or not," said Ashok Kumar, whose brother Santosh Kumar, is one of the 41.

S Korea's Yoon seeks stronger UK ties



Members of the Royal Air Force (RAF) welcome South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and his wife Kim Keon-hee, as they arrive at Stansted Airport, near London, Britain, yesterday. The South Korean president is hoping to boost economic ties and security partnerships with Britain.

Manila woos neighbours to craft code on South China Sea

Reuters  
Manila

The Philippines has approached neighbours such as Malaysia and Vietnam to discuss a separate code of conduct regarding the South China Sea, its president said yesterday, citing limited progress towards striking a broader regional pact with China.

Relations between the two have grown more tense under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, who has increasingly complained about China's "aggressive" behaviour while rekindling strong ties with the Philippines' sole treaty ally, the US.

Speaking in Hawaii at a livestreamed event, Marcos said escalating tension in the South China Sea required the Philippines to partner with allies and neighbours to maintain peace in the busy waterway, with the situation now "more dire". "We are still waiting for the code of conduct between China and Asean and the progress has been rather slow unfortunately," Marcos said, referring to efforts by the grouping of Southeast Asian nations.

"We have taken the initiative to approach those other countries around Asean with whom we have existing territorial conflicts, Vietnam being one of them, Malaysia being another and to make our own code of conduct. "Hopefully this will grow further and extend to other Asean countries."

The embassies of China, Malaysia and Vietnam in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment on a possible code.

China said formulating a code of conduct in the South China Sea was an important task for it and Asean countries. But a spokesperson of its foreign ministry warned at a regular press briefing, "Any move that deviates from the framework and runs counter to the spirit of the declaration on the conduct of parties (DOC) in the South China Sea is null and void."

The remarks by Marcos followed his meeting on Friday with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in San Francisco.

China slams Australia's naval sonar claim

Beijing warned Canberra against making "reckless and irresponsible accusations against China" after Australia said sonar pulses emitted by a Chinese warship "likely" injured its navy divers. "We urge the Australian side to respect the facts, stop making reckless and irresponsible accusations against China," a defence ministry spokesman said, adding China "did not engage in any activities that may have affected the Australian divers". Canberra accused Beijing of "unsafe and unprofessional" conduct at sea around the HMAS Toowoomba, a long-range frigate that had been supporting United Nations sanctions enforcement efforts within Japan's exclusive economic zone. Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said divers were clearing fishing nets from the ship's propeller when the vessel was approached by a Chinese destroyer that "likely" injured a number of servicemen with its hull-mounted sonar.

Farmers protest crackdown



Farmers shout slogans as they demonstrate against the state and central governments, in Amritsar, India, yesterday demanding the withdrawal of registered FIRs (First Information Report) against farmers for burning crop residues.

India's Oct gold imports surge to 31-month high

Reuters  
Mumbai

India's October gold imports surged 60% from a year earlier to a 31-month high as a drop in prices ahead of a key festival prompted jewellers to ramp up purchases, a government source said yesterday.

Higher imports by the world's second-biggest bullion consumer could support benchmark gold prices, but may also widen India's trade deficit and put pressure on the ailing rupee.

India imported 123 metric tonnes of gold in October, compared with 77 tonnes a year earlier, the source said, declining to be named as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

The average monthly imports in October in the past decade were around 66 tonnes.

In value terms, October imports nearly doubled to \$7.23bn from \$3.7bn a year earlier, he said. At the start of October, local prices fell to their lowest level in seven months, providing an opportunity for jewellers to stock up for festivals, said a Mumbai-based bullion dealer with a private bank.

"Jewellers were operating with lower stocks and were eager to replenish at the reduced price levels observed in October," he said. Indians celebrated the Hindu festival Dussehra in October and Diwali last week, when buying gold is considered auspicious.

Local gold futures jumped to a record high of Rs61,914 per 10 grams in November, but demand remained robust during Diwali, said Amit Modak, CEO at jeweller PN Gadgil and Sons in the city of Pune.

Joss Ackland, distinguished British star of stage and screen, dies

AFP  
London

British actor Joss Ackland, who excelled in playing film villains in a varied career spanning eight decades, died on Sunday, his family said. He was 95. In a statement, they said the actor, known for his "distinctive voice and commanding presence", passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by relatives.

"He will be remembered as one of Britain's most talented and beloved actors," it added.

Ackland's most famous big-screen baddie was a corrupt South

African diplomat in *Lethal Weapon 2* whose diplomatic immunity ultimately fails to protect him from Mel Gibson and Danny Glover's tenacious LA cops.

He played a vengeful mafia don in *The Sicilian*, and was a but-toned-up aristocratic Englishman accused of murder in Kenya in *White Mischief*.

Ackland even made a cameo as a murderous hitchhiker in a surreal video for the Pet Shop Boys' synth-pop version of *You Were Always On My Mind*.

But far from feeling typecast, the imposing actor, who stood at 6ft 1in, with a rich voice bordering between grandfatherly reassurance

and outright menace, revelled in the roles.

"I think you can still be subtle but it's so much easier to portray evil than it is good," he told BBC radio in 2001.

Ackland attributed his prolific output in television, film, stage plays and even musicals to his early struggles as a jobbing actor.

Those difficulties in the first 10 years of his career from the mid-1940s prompted him and his actress wife Rosemary to move to a tea plantation in Malawi, then South Africa.

He returned to the UK in 1957 with a newfound determination to succeed, joining London's Old Vic

theatre alongside actors including Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and Tom Courtenay.

Ackland, who was born in the west London suburb of North Kensington on February 29, 1928, had no truck with method acting, in which actors immerse themselves in a character.

"I like to do research before because it saves acting," he said, believing credibility above all was the key to winning over audiences.

Before filming *The Sicilian*, he lived with an ageing mafioso for six weeks in a village near Palermo, to give him an insight into the life of crime families.

When the cameras started roll-

ing, "all I had to do was say the lines", he said.

Ackland's grief at the death of his son Paul in an overdose aged 29 helped him portray the writer C S Lewis' loss of his wife in the 1985 television film *Shadowlands*.

Other real events gave him a perspective on his work, such as when a fire destroyed the family home and left Rosemary badly injured when she jumped from a window to escape.

"Suddenly you realise how valuable every minute of life is," he said.

The devoted couple were married for 51 years and had seven children. Rosemary developed motor

neurone disease and died in 2002.

Ackland, who appeared in the acclaimed TV version of John le Carre's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* and in *The Hunt for Red October* as the Russian ambassador, acknowledged some of his roles were better than others.

He admitted only accepting a part in *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* because of a bet with his daughter, and agreed to be in the Pet Shop Boys video because his children liked them.

But he got fussier in later life, retiring in 2014 and preferring instead to spend time with his large family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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GULF TIMES

In Mexico, gender balance push puts political parties in unfamiliar bind

When Mexico's governing party unveiled the winner of its poll to pick a Mexico City mayoral candidate, the result was clear – but the male victor quickly had to give way to female runner-up Clara Brugada to meet new gender parity rules now reshaping Mexican politics.

Last weekend's leapfrogging of the most popular contender in the National Regeneration Movement (MORENA), Omar Garcia Harfuch, was one of the clearest illustrations yet of the challenges Mexico faces enacting rules that mandate equal candidacies for women across thousands of top political jobs.

Mexico's national electoral authority INE last month resolved that all political parties must nominate at least five women to compete for the nine elections next year to head regional governments, including the capital Mexico City – part of a decades-long push for greater representation that has led to dramatic results in the socially conservative country.

Gender quotas have led to rapid advances for women. Since 2018, Congress has been split 50-50, and nine of 31 state governors are now women – up from only one woman state governor five years ago.

The gains includes the first ever woman to lead the country's Supreme Court, plus the first female governor of the central bank.

On November 11, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's leftist MORENA party, tapped Brugada to be its Mexico City mayoral candidate even though party-commissioned polling to find a winner gave Garcia Harfuch, the city's former police chief, a nearly 14-point victory margin.

"I think there will be tensions, but ultimately deals will be made at the top," said Violeta Vazquez-Rojas, a Mexican political analyst who tracks gender equality. "The culture of parity has already been established."

Vazquez-Rojas noted that MORENA party leaders selected women with the most support to meet the 2024 gubernatorial quotas. If different criteria began being applied, friction could arise, she said.

Efforts to get around the rules have sparked controversies like when 17 men in Oaxaca state were in 2018 disqualified as candidates after falsely claiming to be transgender women.

Still, affirmative action policies had been hugely important, said MORENA Senator Olga Sanchez

Cordero, a former president of the Senate, Supreme Court justice and ex-interior minister.

"If not, we wouldn't have gotten anywhere," she said, anticipating that some parties will challenge the latest rule.

Weighting of candidates elected by proportional representation has ensured parity in Congress, but achieving it for winner-takes-all posts at municipal level is much harder.

Women only make up around a quarter of nearly 2,500 mayors, though that is 10-points higher than the average for Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a study last year.

The push that also saw Lopez Obrador opt for gender parity in his first cabinet has ushered in a broader shift that looks very likely to yield Mexico's first woman president next year.

Carla Humphrey, an INE commissioner who has helped lead the charge for equal representation, said the watershed dates back to gender parity recommendations enshrined in law in the 1990s. They were buttressed by 2012 changes that meant parties could have candidates disqualified if the rules were not met.

Since 2019, Mexico's constitution requires gender parity in all elected positions. "What have we done? We've made this principle concrete," said Humphrey.

Mexican writer Margo Glantz, who has lent a sharp feminist edge to her works, including a study of Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, a pioneering 17th century Catholic nun and intellectual, said parity rules were only part of the solution to entrenched sexism.

Just because a woman holds power does not mean her tenure will be successful, she said, pointing to Guerrero state Governor Evelyn Salgado, who was picked by MORENA in 2021 as a 11th-hour replacement for her father after he was disqualified from competing in the gubernatorial race amid controversy.

Glantz noted that critics have panned Salgado as being slow to respond to Hurricane Otis, which last month devastated Guerrero's beach resort of Acapulco, killing dozens of people. Salgado has defended her relief efforts, saying she is working "tirelessly" to help the city's tourist-dependent economy.

"Parity is necessary, but it's not enough," Glantz argued. "What's necessary is having people who are brave enough that they can govern well, culturally and socially." – Reuters

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The joy and legacy of Qatar World Cup 2022 live on

Doha QNA

With numbers exceeding all expectations, Qatar organised the FIFA World Cup 2022 from November 20 to December 18, 2022. It became the first Middle Eastern country to host an event as significant as the World Cup. The idea of an Arab country hosting the World Cup was once a mere dream for Arab fans, but Qatar transformed it into a reality and a unique event, leaving a lasting impression in the realm of Arab sports.

Qatar communicated to the world that the Arab region is rich in creativity, and its people are passionate about sports, especially football. This was evident in the organisation of one of the most distinguished editions of the World Cup in history, which promoted the spread of football culture and expanded its base, according to the International Football Federation's statistics.

The World Cup featured 64 matches over a month, with the region embracing football as its common language. These matches took place in eight newly built stadiums: Khalifa International Stadium, Al Janoub Stadium, Education City Stadium, Al Rayyan Stadium, Al Thumama Stadium, 974 Stadium, Al Bayt Stadium and Lusail Stadium. These architectural masterpieces showcased Qatar's engineering creativity, evolving from concept models in 2009 to reality, and received worldwide acclaim. Their designs, which topped international press coverage,



Morocco fans celebrate in Souq Waqif after unfancied Morocco qualified for the knockout stages. (Reuters)

reflected Qatari identity and Arab symbolism.

Qatar fulfilled its promises by organising a historic edition of the World Cup, aligning with FIFA's goals to make football a medium of communication among people worldwide. The organisation excelled in hosting one of the largest sporting events in a beautifully orchestrated manner, encompassing planning, fan care, and meeting all requirements for an enjoyable viewing experience for international football fans.

Qatar utilised the latest methods for transporting fans to and from the stadiums, including the Doha Metro, and harnessed all capabilities to serve the event and attendees. This included implementing laws allowing fans to support their teams and express their cultures freely.

The World Cup in Qatar was notable for the absence of riots or public confrontations,

unlike previous World Cups and European competitions. This peaceful atmosphere resulted from effective organisational control, including allocating special areas for each team's fans and a common area for all, creating an elegant competitive environment.

Qatar's organisation of the event emphasised cultural legacies, customs, and traditions, ensuring women's freedom and comfort in stadiums. Women and families enjoyed a harassment-free environment, making this World Cup exceptionally suitable for them. The significant presence of female fans and families, documented by FIFA and international broadcasters, highlighted this inclusivity.

In addition to showcasing families of Argentine players and their children celebrating on the field, the tournament honoured the role of mothers in athletes' lives, with some appearing on the

field for the first time in World Cup history.

Moreover, Qatar introduced a new culture in organising events, characterised by stringent safety measures, the use of technology to enhance sports, and providing top-notch medical services through mobile ambulance units in all stadiums.

According to fan experiences worldwide, the World Cup in Qatar offered a unique insight into the Arab region's diverse and converging cultures, a message of peace and coexistence documented by FIFA.

Qatar also focused on the humanitarian aspect, highlighting East-West dialogue during the opening ceremony. The Al Bayt Stadium set the stage for showcasing the Arab community's embrace of the world, with a focus on coexistence and peace, and the welcoming nature of the Qatari people.

This 22nd edition of the World Cup allowed fans to experience multiple matches in a day, thanks to the proximity of the stadiums and ease of access, catering to a diverse audience, including those with special needs and sensory impairments.

The Qatar edition saw FIFA deploying the latest technologies to combat racism and protect players from online insults, through a special app monitoring social media posts before and after each match.

Despite initial scepticism about hosting the tournament in the Arab region, Qatar organised a successful edition that surpassed expectations, as confirmed by two-time World Cup winner Roberto Carlos in his comments to QNA.

Argentina investors on edge with Milei election

By Jorgelina do Rosario Buenos Aires

Argentina's libertarian President-elect Javier Milei must appoint a head of a central bank he previously pledged to burn down and task a minister with overseeing one of the world's most pressured economies. Investors are watching closely.

Milei's chosen team will shape policy in South America's No. 2 economy in the years to come as the outsider contends with inflation above 140%, net reserves in the red and myriad capital controls. The country, in which four-in-10 people live in poverty, is also the International Monetary Fund's largest debtor.

Although Milei is surrounded by a small group of economic advisers, the recent tie-up with the mainstream conservative bloc that helped him win a second round of voting will likely see horse-trading over the top jobs.

A stronger-than-expected win with 56% of the vote could embolden Milei, who has pledged to quickly end capital controls, slash government spending and eventually dollarise the economy.

"Milei received a strong mandate to change the current economic model," said Armando Armenta, analyst for Latin American fixed-income and currency markets at AllianceBernstein in New York.

"Who is appointed...as central bank president and economy minister, and the details of an urgent economic stabilisation plan without a

majority in Congress, will be the key for asset prices in the days ahead."

The Economy Ministry is always a hot seat, with Argentina a nine-time debt defaulter caught in a decades-long boom-and-bust cycle. Still, the major grain exporter is facing one of its worst economic crisis, with a recession around the corner.

Milei will take office on December 10 after beating ruling Peronist coalition Economy Minister Sergio Massa.

Hans Humes, chief investment officer at Greylock Capital Management, which holds Argentine sovereign bonds, backed Milei to pull off more than people expected.

"A lot of people don't think dollarisation is workable. I think he will do it, it will take a bit of work," said Humes. "I expect (his) team has been formed already."

Milei, whose surprise win in the August primary vote roiled markets, counts former deputy economy minister Carlos Rodriguez, ex-central bank chief Roque Fernandez and Dario Epstein, head of a financial services firm, among his economic advisers.

Emilio Ocampo, who worked on Wall Street for more than two decades, has become his top dollarisation advisor.

But Milei's recent backing by business magnate and former conservative President Mauricio Macri could add some market-friendly names to the cabinet from his PRO party and the Together for Change (JxC) coalition.

Juan Manuel Pazos, chief economist at TPCG in

Buenos Aires, said Milei's first post-election speech on Sunday had set the "right tone" and carried the "right message", aiming to broaden the coalition as he confirmed an alliance with the PRO.

"Milei said that he is going to reorganise the central bank instead of imploding it or shutting it down. That detail is important," Pazos said, adding that Argentina's sovereign bonds should perform well on Milei's stronger-than-expected victory.

The country's overseas dollar bonds, which largely trade deep in distressed territory, rallied more than two cents to just above 30 cents on the dollar, before moderating gains to up one cent, according to MarketAxess data.

The new economy minister will have to negotiate a new programme with the IMF "relatively quickly" to avoid entering arrears with the fund, Morgan Stanley said yesterday. The country has a \$44bn programme with the Washington-based lender that was agreed in early 2022 to refinance a failed 2018 loan.

"The two sides can argue for a new start and put behind the current policies that threw the current program off track," according to Morgan Stanley's note.

Massa, who only got more votes than Milei in Buenos Aires, Santiago del Estero and Formosa provinces, said on Sunday that it was Milei's responsibility to provide certainty "starting tomorrow".

"And we expect him to do so," he added. Argentina's local markets are closed yesterday due to a national holiday. – Reuters



# Over 200 mobsters sentenced in historic Italian mafia trial

An Italian court yesterday convicted more than 200 mobsters and their white-collar helpers, the culmination of a historic, nearly three-year trial against Calabria's notorious 'Ndrangheta mafia. For over an hour and a half, the president of the court in southern Vibo Valentia, Brigida Cavasino, steadily read out the names of the guilty and their sentences, which ranged from 30 years to a few months, as defendants incarcerated in prisons across the country watched via videolink. Prosecutors had asked for sentences totalling nearly 5,000 years for 322 accused mafia members operating in the Calabrian province of Vibo Valentia and their collaborators who have exercised a virtual stranglehold over the local population. But after a trial that lasted two years and nine months, the

court doled out under half that total time, about 2,150 years collectively, with the convictions of 207 defendants yesterday. That included four seasoned members of the 'Ndrangheta each sentenced to three decades in jail. The three-judge panel acquitted 131 defendants, including one whom prosecutors said controlled mafia activities within the prison and another accused of helping commandeer a public road and adjoining private land to use for grazing sheep. Underscoring the 'Ndrangheta's close ties with the powerful, one of the trial's most high-profile defendants was 70-year-old former parliamentarian and defence lawyer Giancarlo Pittelli, accused of being a fixer for the mafia. He received 11 years, short of the 17 years prosecutors had requested. A few dozen family members sat

in the back of the vast, narrow courtroom, squinting at the television screens for a glimpse of their loved ones in prison, and occasionally crying out with joy over a light sentence. The verdicts — which can be appealed twice — capped Italy's largest mafia trial in decades and, despite yesterday's acquittals, mark the most significant blow to date against one of the world's most powerful organised crime syndicates. Giuseppe Borrello, the local representative for anti-mafia association Libera, said the verdict showed that prosecutors' efforts were working, even if they fell short for all suspects. "The road is still long but it's been charted out, that's the most important thing," Borrello told AFP. "The strong message it (the verdict) sends is that the sense of impunity that has very often been

felt in our territory is gone." The 'Ndrangheta has flourished beyond its roots in the poor region of Calabria, at the toe of Italy's boot, to exercise a near-monopoly on the European cocaine trade, and is now found in more than 40 countries worldwide. Since the trial began in January 2021, the court has heard thousands of hours of testimony, including from more than 50 former mafia operatives turned state witnesses, detailing countless examples of the 'Ndrangheta's brutality and its iron grip on the territory. They include carrying out violent ambushes, shaking down business owners, rigging public tenders, stockpiling weapons, collecting votes or passing kickbacks to the powerful. Despite its breadth, the trial focused on just one top 'Ndrangheta "clan", or family

group, dominating Vibo Valentia, one of the region's many economically depressed rural areas. The territory's undisputed boss, Luigi "The Supreme" Mancuso, 69, was cut from the defendants list last year to be tried separately. For the first time in such trials, the defendants list included many non-mafia members, including police, public servants and others. The court handed a sentence of 10 years in prison to a high-ranking member of the financial police working within Italy's anti-mafia department. He was found guilty of passing along details from judicial investigations to the 'Ndrangheta, as did another police officer who received two-and-a-half years. The trial revealed how the 'Ndrangheta — whose members boast nicknames straight out of Hollywood like *The Wolf*, *Fatty*, *Sweetie* and *Lamb Thigh*

— suffocated the local economy, infiltrated public institutions and terrorised its people for decades. Informants — a relatively rare phenomenon within the 'Ndrangheta due to blood ties between members — recounted how weapons were hidden in cemetery chapels and ambulances used to transport drugs, and municipal water supplies diverted to marijuana crops. Those who opposed the mafia found dead puppies, dolphins or goat heads dumped on their doorsteps, sledgehammers taken to store fronts or cars torched. Less lucky were those beaten or fired at — or those whose bodies were never found. Hundreds of lawyers and a few dozen members of the media attended the sentencing in the heavily secured courtroom bunker in the Calabrian city of Lamezia Terme.



This combination of file pictures shows Sam Altman (right) and founder and the then-CEO of Twitch Emmett Shear. (AFP)

## OpenAI appoints new boss as Altman joins Microsoft

**Hundreds of employees threaten to leave OpenAI if Altman not reinstated**

OpenAI named ex-Twitch boss Emmett Shear as interim CEO, while outgoing chief Sam Altman moved to backer Microsoft, in a surprise turn of events that capped a tumultuous weekend for the startup at the heart of an artificial intelligence boom. The appointments, settled late at night on Sunday, followed Altman's abrupt ousting just days earlier as CEO of the ChatGPT maker and ended speculation that he could return. Microsoft rushed in to attract some of the biggest names that left OpenAI, including another co-founder Greg Brockman, to keep key talent out of the hands of rivals including Alphabet's Google and Amazon.com while seeking to stabilise OpenAI, in which it has invested billions. The startup's newly appointed interim head moved quickly to dismiss speculation that OpenAI's board ousted Altman due to a spat over the safety of powerful AI models. Shear vowed to open an investigation into the firing, consider new governance for OpenAI and continue its path of making available technology like its viral chatbot. "I'm not crazy enough to take this job without board support for commercialising our awesome models," Shear said, adding: "OpenAI's stability and success are too important to allow turmoil to disrupt them like this." The startup dismissed Altman on Friday after a "breakdown of communications," according to an internal memo seen by Reuters. Governing OpenAI is a non-profit. Its four-person board as of Friday consists of three independent directors holding no equity in OpenAI and Chief Scientist Ilya Sutskever. "I deeply regret my participation

in the board's actions. I never intended to harm OpenAI. I love everything we've built together and I will do everything I can to reunite the company," Sutskever said in a post on the X social media platform. Sutskever, as well as former interim CEO Mira Murati, were among the nearly 770 employees — 90% of staff — who threatened to leave the company yesterday unless the board steps down and reinstates Altman and Brockman, according to a letter seen by Reuters. The staff also demanded the appointment of two new independent directors to the board, such as former Salesforce CEO Bret Taylor and ex-Texas congressman Will Hurd. "Your actions have made it obvious that you are incapable of overseeing OpenAI," the employees said in the letter. "Microsoft has assured us there are positions for all OpenAI employees at this new subsidiary should we choose to join," they added. OpenAI did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It was not clear why Murati had stepped down as interim CEO. A source familiar with the matter said OpenAI employees are split between different ideals. Some — usually those who joined before 2022 — are focused on building artificial general intelligence and against moving too fast without sufficient guardrails, while others recruited after the success of ChatGPT are more keen on quickly building and launching products akin to the traditional idea of a Silicon Valley startup, the source said. "This weekend was simply the detonation of a bomb that has been waiting to go off," according to Radio Free Mobile analyst Richard Windsor.

## US calms Kyiv, more military aid to follow

Reuters

Kyiv

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin announced \$100m in new military aid to Ukraine during an unannounced visit to Kyiv yesterday, pledging long-term American support amid growing concerns about the sustainability of vital US assistance.

Austin announced the aid package after a day of meetings with Ukrainian officials, with the latest tranche including arms such as anti-tank weapons, air-defence interceptors and an additional High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

Austin, accompanied by the top US general in Europe, was photographed smiling and shaking hands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. It marked Austin's first visit to Kyiv since April 2022.

"The message that I bring you today, Mr President, is that the United States of America is with you. We will remain with you for the long haul," Austin told Zelenskiy after an overnight train ride into Ukraine from Poland. Zelensky told Austin that his visit was "a very important signal" for Ukraine.

"We count on your support," Zelensky told Austin.

The United States has provided more than \$44bn in security assistance to Ukraine since Russia launched its invasion in February 2022. "I think they are prepared for combat in the winter," Austin told reporters after his meetings.

"They did a great job last year. This year we expect them to be, just based on what...President Zelensky has said, them to be even more aggressive," Austin added.

The trip comes amid increasing division over aid for Ukraine in the US Congress, with a US presidential election coming in November 2024. Some American lawmakers are prioritising aid to Israel even as US defence officials stress that Washington can support both allies simultaneously.

## President-elect Milei vows 'end of Argentina's decline'

AFP

Buenos Aires

Libertarian outsider Javier Milei swept to victory in Argentina's presidential election Sunday, vowing to halt decades of economic decline in a country reeling from triple-digit inflation.

The self-described "anarcho-capitalist" pulled off a massive upset by ousting the populist Peronist coalition which has long dominated Argentine politics.

With 55.7% of the vote, Milei thumped his rival, Economy Minister Sergio Massa, who won 44% of the vote and rapidly conceded defeat.

"Today begins the reconstruction of Argentina. Today, begins the end of Argentina's decline," Milei said in his victory speech. "The model of decadence has come to an end. There is no way back."

Latin America's third-biggest economy has suffered decades of crises under interventionist governments big on welfare that resort to printing money to finance spending, fuelling inflation, while borrowing heavily only to default on their debt.

Access to dollars is strictly controlled, leading to a thriving black market for greenbacks, and analysts warn the peso is ripe for a sharp devaluation.

"There is no room for gradualism...or half-measures," said Milei. Milei's main platform has been a plan to ditch the ailing peso for the US dollar and "dynamite" the Central Bank to do away with the "cancer of inflation."

Analysts, however, warn the country is too low on dollar re-



Argentine president-elect Javier Milei and his girlfriend Fatima Florezi react to the results of Argentina's runoff presidential election in Buenos Aires. (Reuters)

serves for the move to happen anytime soon.

"This is the change that us young people want. I am not afraid of Milei, I am afraid my dad won't be able to pay his rent. The Argentine peso isn't worth a thing," said Juan Ignacio Gomez, 17. Thousands of Milei supporters waved flags and chanted "freedom" as they celebrated outside his campaign headquarters.

"We are tired of Peronism. Milei is an unknown, but better a madman than a thief," said 50-year-old writer Nacho Larranaga, wearing the blue-and-white Argentina flag as a cape.

Milei, a 53-year-old economist with wild hair and thick sideburns, has drawn comparisons with former US president Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro for his abrasive style and controversial remarks.

Both former presidents congratulated him on social media.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington "(looks) forward to working with President-elect Milei and his government on shared priorities."

Milei had vowed on the campaign trail to cut ties with his country's top trading partners Brazil and China, saying he would not "do business with communists."

Following Milei's victory, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wished "good luck and success" to the new Argentine government.

China said yesterday it would continue working with Argentina, congratulating the president-elect on his victory. "China has always attached great importance to the development of China-Argentina relations from a strategic and long-term perspective," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a regular briefing.

## Shakira reaches deal to settle tax fraud case

Colombian superstar Shakira will pay millions of euros in fines as part of a settlement announced yesterday with Spanish prosecutors to settle her tax fraud case and avoid trial. Prosecutors had accused the superstar of defrauding the Spanish state of around €14.5mn (\$15.7mn) on income earned between 2012 and 2014, charges Shakira had denied, saying she only moved to Spain full time in 2015. Under the deal, announced at the start of what would have been the trial of the 46-year-old singer,

Shakira agreed to receive a three-year suspended sentence and to pay a fine of €7.33mn (\$7.98mn) amounting to 50% of the amount of unpaid tax. The "Hips Don't Lie" singer will also pay a separate fine of €432,000 to have her jail sentence suspended, bringing the total amount she will have to pay to around €7.8mn. Wearing a pink suit and sunglasses, Shakira waved and blew a kiss to a small crowd of bystanders before entering the Barcelona courthouse.

# Biden turns 81 as voters show concern about age



US President Joe Biden takes part in the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Pardon on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC yesterday. Each year, the president pardons one or two lucky gobblers for unspecified offences, sparing them from the Thanksgiving dinner table. (AFP)

Joe Biden joked about his age as he celebrated his 81st birthday yesterday, but the issue is no laughing matter for many voters as he seeks re-election next year. His birthday renews the focus on the fact that the Democrat is the oldest president in American history — and that if he wins a second term next year he will be 86 by the time he leaves. While his aides regularly lash out at those who cast doubt on whether he is too old to be commander-in-chief, Biden likes to suggest that age brings wisdom, or simply takes a light hearted approach. "It's difficult turning 60," the president said with a chuckle at the annual Thanksgiving turkey pardoning ceremony at the White House yesterday, the same day as his birthday. "This is the 76th anniversary of this event — and I want you to know I wasn't there for the first one," he quipped. But a moment in which he mixed up US singers Taylor Swift and Britney Spears is likely to reinforce impressions among voters who have been concerned by a

recent series of trips and slip-ups. Footage of Biden losing his balance on the stairs of Air Force One has gone viral — he now uses a shorter flight of stairs — and he has occasionally given rambling answers during press conferences. Worse for Biden, voters don't so far have the same concerns about his likely election rival Donald Trump, despite the fact that Trump is 77 and has been known to make similar slip-ups. Trump warned in a speech in September, for example, that the United States was on the verge of "World War II," and recently said Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban was the leader of Türkiye. Biden is "not doing a lot wrong" but is struggling to change perceptions on his age — as well as other issues like the economy — said David Karol, who teaches government and politics at the University of Maryland. "He is lucid, but people just have this perception," Karol told AFP. The White House has been dismissive of opinion polls, with Democrats notching

up a series of recent electoral successes. They also point to the fact that Biden beat Trump in 2020 despite Biden being 77 himself at the time. Yet the numbers make grim reading for the party. Some 74% of people said Biden would be too old to serve a second term, compared to 50% for Trump, a recent ABC/*Washington Post* poll showed. A Yahoo/YouGov poll found that 54% of Americans say Biden no longer has "the competence to carry out the job of president," up from 41% before the 2020 election. Some analysts say Biden's age should not matter. The issue in general has been unfairly "weaponised" in US politics, said S Jay Olshansky, a longevity researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "Aging is not what it used to be," Olshansky told AFP. "There are very large segments of the population that survive to their eighth decade perfectly capable of being president, or doing whatever they like."





Czech ambassador Chalupsky and Katara's al-Dosari with ambassadors from different missions in Doha.



Czech ambassador Chalupsky briefs al-Dosari about Czech artist Lebor Svatik's photographs at the opening of the 'Beauties of Czechia' exhibition on Sunday. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

# 'Beauties of Czechia' exhibition opens

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

The "Beauties of Czechia" exhibition has opened at Katara – the Cultural Village, featuring of 37 photographs by renowned Czech artist Lebor Svatik that shine a spotlight on nature's grandeur and various landmarks. Katara deputy director-general and human resources director Saif Saad al-Dosari and Czech ambassador Peter Chalupsky inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of several other ambassadors and representatives from various missions in Doha, among other guests. In a press statement, al-Dosari stressed that the exhibition forms part of Katara's mission to build bridges of communication and co-operation between different cultures and peoples. He noted that this occasion serves as an



Some of the 37 photographs by Czech artist Lebor Svatik are on display at Katara's Building 47 Hall 1.

opportunity to appreciate the beauty and cultural diversity of the Czech Republic. Al-Dosari highlighted the importance of art exhibitions within Katara's cultural programming, noting that their value extends beyond artistic and creative aspects. He said these kinds of shows act as diverse channels for gaining insights into different cultures and societies – an objective that Katara actively seeks to fulfil through a range of events and activities. Chalupsky told *Gulf Times* that the exhibition aims to introduce the Czech Republic to the public in Qatar "in a cozy, family-like manner" by broadening their knowledge about his country. "We are trying to explain that the country is not only Prague, the capital, but also

the other regions," the envoy said. "There are things that are very interesting to visit (in the Czech Republic)." "If you're into sports, if you're into culture or music, there's always a great possibility to have a great time with you and your family," Chalupsky added. He expressed optimism that "Beauties of Czechia" will be the first of many exhibitions to follow in the future, as he thanked Katara for the collaboration in organising the exhibition. Through the diverse images, the envoy said Svatik showcased the beauty of various places in the Czech Republic. These include natural landscapes, palaces, and cities, encouraging Qataris and people of various nationalities to discover and visit his country, which he described

as a captivating tourist destination. Citing an increasing number of visitors from Qatar to the Czech Republic, Chalupsky said the twice-daily flights have significantly helped in attracting more travellers from Qatar and the region. However, he noted that many visitors still concentrate on the capital Prague, and on the western part of the country where there are spa towns that it is famous for. "Again the purpose of this exhibition is also to remind them that the country is broader than that ... so we would of course like our Qatari friends and partners to come and visit more places in the Czech Republic than just Prague or the spas in Western Bohemia, although they're always welcome there too," the

envoy pointed out. "There's tremendous possibilities for sports in the mountains, on the lakes, there's water sport, water skiing." "There's culture, Czech classical music as we're famous for, theatres all over the place so everybody can choose whatever they like," Chalupsky added. Svatik, who was born on March 6, 1967, in Cesky Krumlov – one of Czech Republic's most beautiful historical cities – developed his talent from a young age, driven by a passion for capturing images that showcase the beauty of nature, architectural heritage, and the transient moments of life. His images mirror his commitment to his craft, his fascination with modern technology, and artistic expression, and his unwavering dedication to creating high-quality photographic content. With a particular emphasis on aerial photography, he has published 23 photographic booklets that offer insights into the Czech Republic. The artist's works will be displayed at Katara's Building 47, Hall 1, until November 29 (10am-10pm).



The fifth edition of the Qatar International Art Festival runs until November 25 at the Cultural Zone of Expo 2023 Doha. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen



# Qatar International Art Festival opens at Expo 2023 Doha

While featuring stunning artwork and adding charm to the Expo 2023 Doha, the fifth edition of the Qatar International Art Festival opened at the Cultural Zone yesterday. Organised by Katara – the Cultural Village Foundation in co-operation with Maps International and in partnership with Expo 2023 Doha, the festival runs until November 25 with the participation of 300 artists from more than 60 countries. Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti inaugurated the festival in the presence of Maps International founder and president Rashmi Agarwal along with dignitaries from various walks of life and art lovers. Prof al-Sulaiti, according to a press statement from Katara, expressed his happiness in opening the festival, noting that it would attract visitors and art enthusiasts to learn about the culture and arts of the participating countries in Expo 2023 Doha. "The fifth edition of the festival provides added value that contributes to consolidating Qatar's position as an incubator for visual artists in Qatar and the world," he said, "while

promoting the country as a global cultural and tourism destination attractive to visitors from various countries." The festival is open to the public from 10am-10pm with artistic and cultural activities and performances. There are 12 events that bring together a range of creative works from drawing, music, and sculpture in addition to fashion shows, conferences, artistic workshops, cultural evenings and artistic dialogue programmes. The painting and sculpture exhibition is open from 10am-10pm on all festival days, while the musical and cultural evening will be held at 6pm onwards on November 21. On November 22, a panel discussion will be held from 10am-12 noon. The art conference will be held from 2pm-4pm on November 22 and master classes from 4.30pm-7.30pm. The festival will host master classes on November 23 from 6pm-9pm. A fashion show will be held on November 24 from 5.30pm. The event will conclude with an award night function which begins at 6pm on November 25.



# Korean pavilion showcases modern agricultural technologies

South Korea's pavilion at the International Zone of the International Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha showcases the significant advancements in modern agricultural technologies and associated equipment from this Asian country. The pavilion comprises an outdoor garden with a Korean theme, covering an area of about 1,290sq m, vertical farms, and a smart agriculture exhibition featuring robots for monitoring agricultural crops and more.

The pavilion highlights the country's culture, latest innovations, and its vision for a sustainable future through its unique design. It also showcases Korean agricultural technology from various companies, aiming to facilitate their entry into the Middle Eastern markets. The pavilion reflects the close relations between Qatar and Korea, embodying their shared vision for innovation, sustainability, and cultural exchange. Korea's participation in Expo 2023 Doha is aimed at

strengthening its economic ties with Qatar, increase opportunities to enter new markets in the Middle East, promote its competitive industrial capabilities and cultural characteristics, and enhance Korea's global competitiveness by spotlighting its smart experience that connects the past, present, and future. Korea seeks to share its experience and export its technological innovations to the world, securing a position in the future market. The east Asian nation has embraced smart agricul-

ture as a means to address resource limitations and climate change, achieving the ideal balance between meeting local requirements, preserving cultural heritage, advancing technological development, adapting to conditions, and maintaining the livelihoods of rural communities. In a country where arable land constitutes about 22% of its area, with the remaining 78% being mountainous and urban areas, smart agriculture has become a crucial strategy. – **QNA**