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Alfardan Jewellery, Tiffany & Co sign partnership at DJWE 2024

Page 8

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Nasser al-Khelaifi re-appointed to UEFA Executive Committee



The 48th UEFA Congress held in Paris yesterday has unanimously ratified the re-appointment of European Club Association (ECA) Chairman Nasser al-Khelaifi (President of Paris Saint-Germain), together with the appointment of ECA Board Member Miguel Angel Gil Marin (CEO of Atlético de Madrid), to the UEFA Executive Committee, where they will represent ECA for a four-year term until February 2028. **Sport Page 4**

FAA to probe collision between two planes

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it will investigate the collision between two JetBlue Airways planes on the tarmac at Boston Logan Airport that damaged both planes but caused no injuries. Both aircraft will be taken out of service for repairs, and JetBlue flight 777 to Las Vegas and JetBlue flight 551 to Orlando will operate on other aircraft, the airline said, adding it will investigate.

Syrsky appointed new Ukraine army chief

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday appointed commander of the ground forces Oleksandr Syrsky as the country's new army chief, in a dramatic military shakeup nearly two years into Russia's invasion. Zelensky called on the country's new military leadership to devise a new strategy for this year to beat back Russian forces.

'Unusual delay' in Pakistan vote count



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters watch election results at a PTI office in Islamabad.

Pakistan counted votes after polling ended yesterday in a general election marred by militant attacks and suspension of mobile phone services, with no indication of a clear leader seven hours after voting closed - an unusual delay compared to previous polls. The South Asian country is struggling to recover from an economic crisis while it grapples with rising militant violence in a deeply polarised political environment. Projected results on all local television channels were unusually slow coming in. In previous elections, by midnight local time on election day, there was a clearer picture about which party had a substantial lead. But most projections on television channels were below 20% on each of the 265 seats contested. Pakistan's Election Commission did not respond to a request for comment on an apparent delay in results.

COMMUNITY

See Page 9

Lusail Museum – a world-class arts institution and global think tank

Qatar Museums reveals location and architectural renderings of the new 'cultural anchor' of Lusail City

Qatar Museums yesterday released new renderings and a virtual fly-through video of the future Lusail Museum, revealing new details of the building for this world-class arts institution and global think tank designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron.

With its unparalleled collection of Orientalist art, the Lusail Museum will explore the movement of people and ideas across the globe, past and present, helping to bridge a divided world through dialogue, art, and innovation, a release issued by Qatar Museums said.

With the participation of distinguished scholars, artists, policy makers, thought leaders, curators, and others, the Lusail Museum will provide opportunities for high-level study, discussion, debate, and mediation on critical global issues. The design for the museum expresses this mission of convergence and conversation in a building conceived as "a vertically layered souk, or miniature city contained within a single building," which will be the cultural anchor of Lusail City, the sustainable city now being realised north of Doha.

Qatar Museums' Chairperson, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, discusses the design with Jacques Herzog in the inaugural episode of "The Power of Culture," her podcast exploring the modern cultural development of Qatar, which debuted in December 2023.

In the episode, Herzog shares his approach to architecture and the inspiration he drew for the Lusail Museum from local materials and the historical significance of the location, which is near the area where



Aerial view of Al Maha Island - the museum shown in the foreground right.



Main entrance of the Lusail Museum.

Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Thani, founder of modern Qatar, made his home in the late 1800s.

Herzog & de Meuron's design for the museum occupies the southern tip of Al Maha island and acts as a physical marker within the island. The plan takes the form of a circle, which conveys both universal meaning and a specific response to the building traditions of the Middle East and Doha. Three intersecting spheres shape and carve the volume of the building into two distinct parts: one resembling a full moon, the other



The Crescent - an internal boulevard.

a crescent moon wrapping around it. Double curvatures derived from the spheres form a crescent-shaped internal street naturally lit from above; it serves to connect the entrances of the museum to the central lobby and other public functions such as a library, auditorium, shop, café, and prayer space.

The building exterior is rough, earthen, sand-like and resilient, in response to its coastal setting; it appears as if it is a piece of the land itself. Daylight enters the interior spaces through deeply recessed windows cut

out of the façade, protecting the interiors from direct sunlight; the surrounding sea and city of Lusail remain constantly visible.

Collaborations with local and regional artisans and craftspeople will ensure a direct connection back to the local vernacular and reinforce the project's role in preserving historic trades and fostering cultural exchange.

Within the robust concrete expression of the building, spaces inserted as counterpoints bring a different scale, material quality, and sensory experiences for the visitor. A central sculptural polished plaster stair, a reflective metal prayer space, a wooden-panelled library, a soft and intimate auditorium, and several cushioned and upholstered niches throughout all feature a variety of haptic qualities and materials such as wood, textiles, metals, and ceramic tiles.

The display spaces on the gallery floors differ in shape and proportion depending on their location, yet all provide flexibility for various types of exhibitions. Four abstract replicas from the interior of important historical buildings are inserted into the top gallery floor as anchor spaces: The dome covering Murat III's bedroom pavilion in the Palace of Topkapi in Istanbul (1579); the dome of the Jameh Mosque in Natanz (1320); the Ablution fountain in the courtyard of Ibn Tulun Mosque in Cairo (1296) and the Aljafaria dome in Saragossa (1050); four cupolas with distinct geometry and ornamentation relating to their geographical heritage. Pendentives, cross arches, muqarnas and squinches are the defining geometries of the selected dome typologies. They are used to break the sequence of the more traditional galleries and to provide exceptional curatorial and educational opportunities while offering unexpected spatial experiences. The dome has been chosen as the architectural typology for these four rooms, each of which is universal and specific at the same time; universal because domes have appeared across cultures throughout time, and specific because the singular "ideal" form of the dome has developed variations through local geographic and cultural influences.

Iraq slams US after strike kills pro-Iran commander

AFP
Baghdad

Iraq yesterday condemned a US air strike that killed a senior commander from a pro-Iran armed group accused of having been involved in attacks on American troops in the region.

The US attack on Wednesday came after a wave of strikes on Iran-linked targets in Iraq and Syria last week following the killing of three American troops in neighbouring Jordan on January 28.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said the command-

er killed Wednesday was targeted "in response to the attacks on US service members".

The strike killed "a Kataeb Hezbollah commander responsible for directly planning and participating in attacks on US forces in the region," according to CENTCOM.

Iraqi authorities slammed the strike as a "blatant assassination" in a residential neighbourhood of Baghdad.

"The international coalition is completely overstepping the reasons and objectives for which it is present on our territory," said Yehia Rasool, the military spokesman for Iraq's prime minister.

Israel intensifies Rafah strikes as Gaza truce efforts continue

Reuters
Doha/Tel Aviv

Israeli forces bombed areas in the southern border city of Rafah yesterday where more than half of Gaza's population is sheltering, as diplomats sought to salvage ceasefire talks after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a Hamas proposal. Netanyahu said he had ordered troops to "prepare to operate" in Rafah.

Israel carried out at least seven air strikes overnight in the Rafah area, terrifying civilians crowded into shelters and makeshift camps.

In a sign the diplomacy was not over in the biggest Washington-led push yet to quiet the guns, a Hamas delegation led by senior official Khalil al-Hayya arrived in Cairo yesterday for ceasefire talks with mediators Egypt and Qatar.

Netanyahu said on Wednesday terms proposed by Hamas for a ceasefire in the four-month-old war were "delusional", and vowed to fight on.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters that Hamas's counter-proposal had at least offered an opportunity "to pursue negotiations".

"While there are some clear non-starters in Hamas's response, we do think it creates space for agreement to be reached, and we will work at that relentlessly until



A Palestinian man holds a little girl as he stands amid debris inside an apartment destroyed by Israeli bombardment on Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

we get there," he said. An official said the talks would concentrate on the first phase of a proposed ceasefire, which was envisioned to last "about six weeks".

During that time, talks would be held about an exchange of hostages for women and children held in Israeli prisons, and the entry of hundreds of aid trucks to Gaza.

Rafah operation risks 'disaster': US

The United States yesterday warned Israel that staging a military push into the southern Gaza city of Rafah without proper planning would run the risk of becoming a "disaster." State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel said Washington had "yet to see any evidence

of serious planning for such an operation," adding: "To conduct such an operation right now with no planning and little thought in an area" where one million people are sheltering "would be a disaster." Patel emphasised that any such military offensive was "not something we'd support".

Sheikha Alya meets UN official



HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani met with Assistant UN Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Alexander Zuev, at the UN Headquarters in New York. During the meeting, they discussed the work of the United Nations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, and ways for co-operation between Qatar and the office in assisting conflict-affected countries in re-establishing the rule of law and necessary security institutions to build peace. **(QNA)**

Hungary president arrives in Doha



Hungarian President Katalin Novak arrived yesterday in Doha on an official visit to the country. The president and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State Sheikh Fahd bin Faisal al-Thani, ambassador of Qatar to Hungary Abdullah bin Falah bin Abdullah al-Dosari and ambassador of Hungary to Qatar Ferenc Korom. **(QNA)**

Official

Amir sends cables of congratulations to Azerbaijan president on his re-election

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev on the occasion of his re-election for a new presidential term, wishing him success in his duties and more prosperity and development for the people of Azerbaijan. **(QNA)**

PHCC expands Urgent Care Services to Al Karaana HC

Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has announced the opening of an Urgent Care Clinic at Al Karaana Health Center. PHCC Adult Urgent Care services are now operational in 11 PHCC health centres, with five offering both Adult and Paediatric Urgent Care services.

They provide a range of immediate healthcare services for conditions that require prompt attention but are not life-threatening. Urgent Care Clinics are designed to offer a middle ground between primary care services and emergency room care.

The Urgent Care services provide 24-hour care for patients of non-threatening medical needs under primary care scope, such as: respiratory conditions, minor burns, sprains, severe headache or earache, high fever, dehydration, and dizziness. Other critical and emergency conditions will be stabilised at PHCC and then immediately transferred to secondary care.

Dr Samya Abdullah, executive director of operations at PHCC, said: "This expansion aims to meet



Dr Samya Abdullah

the growing demand for urgent care services in the community. This initiative aligns with our mission to enhance healthcare accessibility and ensure that individuals receive timely, efficient and comprehensive medical care when needed.

"The next phase of our expansion plan involves determining additional health centres to include as part of the Urgent Care service. Our goal is to strategically identify locations where the need for Urgent Care services is significant, ensuring that we can cater to a broader segment of the community."

Qatar condemns Mogadishu blasts

Qatar expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the explosions that occurred in a popular market in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, which resulted in deaths and injuries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm position of rejecting violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and reasons. The ministry expressed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, and to the government and people of Somalia, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. **(QNA)**

QNA director-general meets ambassador of Turkmenistan



HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with ambassador of Turkmenistan to Qatar Myratgeldi Seyitmammedov. The meeting discussed aspects of joint co-operation in the field of media. **(QNA)**

Ministry announces end of hunting season

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change announced the end of hunting season for birds and wild animals in the country, on February 15, 2024, in accordance with the ministerial decision for the period 2023/2025. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change stressed the necessity of refraining from hunting birds after February 15, pointing out that anyone who infringes on wildlife through hunting of birds or wild animals after that period will expose himself to legal accountability in accordance with Law No. 4 of 2002. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change had issued ministerial decision No. 24 for 2023 regulating the hunting season for some birds and wild animals, which stipulated in its first article that the hunting season for migratory birds (locally called Al Lafo) begins from September 1 to February 15, without other than the year for a period of two years starting from the effective date of this decision. **(QNA)**

Amir sends cables of condolences to president of Chile

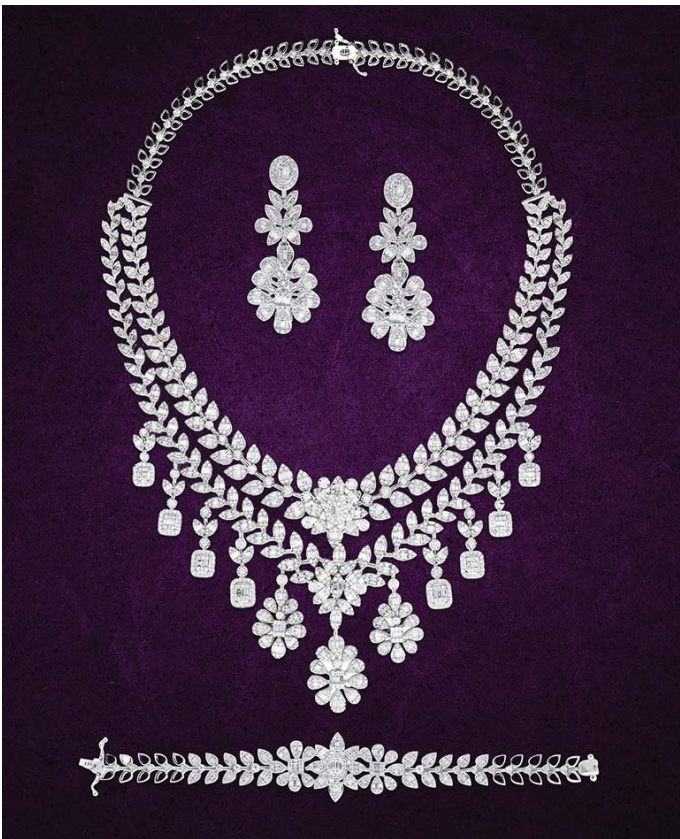
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to Chilean President Gabriel Boric on the death of former president of Chile Sebastian Pinera. **(QNA)**

Qatar condemns blasts in Pakistan

Qatar expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the blasts that occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in Pakistan, causing several deaths and injuries. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm stance rejecting violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and reasons. The ministry voiced Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, the government, and the people of Pakistan, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery. **(QNA)**



Based in the United Arab Emirates, TEJORI has designed, created and sold exceptional diamond, gemstone and pearl jewellery to its global client base since 1964. Employing over 100 artisans, craftspeople and sales professionals, the company has eight stores in five-star locations throughout Dubai and Abu Dhabi. We set the industry standard from both a customer service and jewellery quality standpoint. "Our experienced professionals sell world-class jewellery to clients from Asia to the US, and everywhere in between. TEJORI is special because we design and create superior bespoke jewellery to suit every budget. Cost is no reflection of how important a purchase is, and for us every sale matters. Customer satisfaction is our absolute goal." Kaushik Soni, CEO, TEJORI

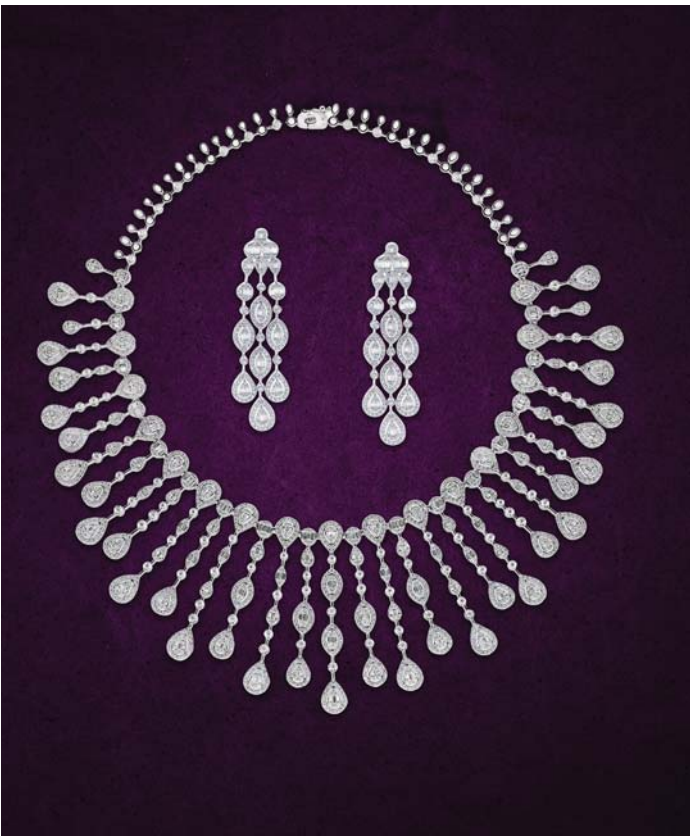


A WORD FROM CEO

Kaushik Soni, CEO and founder and owner of Tejori Gems, is a Certified Diamond Grader (GIA), gemstone and diamond expert and holds international diplomas for his in-depth knowledge of pearls and the specialist creation of pearl and gemstone jewellery. "Tejori is considered to be one of the region's leading bespoke jewellery enterprises and custom made jewellery is our forte. Tejori is also well known for selling certified diamonds and loose diamonds in Dubai. I love a happy customer as much as I love exquisite jewellery and it is our company mission to produce superior rings, bracelets, earrings and necklaces that our international and local jewellery clients will cherish for a lifetime. Today, as well as the hundreds of tourists and UAE residents that visit our stores each day, Tejori has almost 500 regular customers from 30 countries worldwide that both order from overseas or buy locally when in town.

DIAMOND DEALER

Tejori deals with GIA, HRD and IGI diamonds and has served ample number of clients in Dubai as well as clients from other countries. Every stone is unique and every customer has unique needs. The secret to a good jewellery business is having the ability to find beautiful and cost effective solutions on time and on budget. Tejori's extremely positive record of customer satisfaction is, in my opinion, our best asset. Almost every client comes to us more than once, and this is proof that we are doing the best for our customers. At Tejori, my team brings together our combined knowledge of gems, jewellery design skills, production precision, and combined with our insights into the psychology of jewellery buying we have the perfect formula to make our customers supremely happy with what we offer." certified GIA diamond expert, certified GIA diamond dealer, luxury jewellery brand dubai



Seeroo fi al ardh offers interactive workshops

A unique work of art at Qatar Foundation's (QF) Education City is offering people across Qatar the chance to unlock their creative talents through a series of interactive workshops – including some with a football theme – which are free to all members of the community.

Seeroo fi al ardh is the final artwork of the renowned Indian artist Maqbool Fida Husain, and from this month it will be welcoming aspiring artists of all ages to attend workshops designed to spark imaginations and provide an opportunity for learning.

The upcoming workshop tomorrow (Saturday, 10 February 2024) includes a football art and play sessions for younger audiences, which will explore how to craft a pitch and design the kit of their favourite team – or even create their own design – while a Qatari flag will take pride of place in the Seeroo fi al ardh installation itself.

Women and girls can also enjoy the artistic side of football through an abstract workshop that invites them to dive into the creative process of foundational



techniques used by Husain, using his distinctive approach to paint a football player on any background, from sunrise and the moon to colourful sunsets.

The interactive Seeroo fi al ardh workshops take place every Saturday from 10am-5pm until March 2. Offering different sessions each week, the workshops range from activities like clay moulding, animation for kids and families, botanical art, and literary imagination in drawing and writing. Only sustainable

and recycled materials are used for the workshops.

With its permanent location being in Education City between Chef's Garden and Al Shaqab, Seeroo fi al ardh is part of the QF Art Walks, which also include the Azzm sculpture near 2015 (Qatar Foundation Headquarters).

Azzm, designed by Sheikh Hassan bin Mohamed bin Ali al-Thani, adviser of cultural affairs at QF, consists of three granite sculptures depicting local women wearing abayas and battoulahs.

talabat partners with beIN

talabat, the region's leading platform for everyday deliveries, has officially onboarded beIN, one of the foremost sports and entertainment networks in the world to its app. Customers can now order beIN receivers on talabat, a statement said.

How to order and activate: Order the beIN receiver of your choice on talabat and activate the preferred subscription by calling 133.

Expressing his delight on the partnership, Francisco Miguel De Sousa, managing director of talabat Qatar, said: "We are thrilled to feature the global sports and entertainment broadcaster, beIN on our app, serving as a conduit for our valued customers to access beIN's subscriptions and services.

"This innovative move not only streamlines the purchasing process for subscribers, but it also reinforces our brands' commitment to providing diverse and convenient offerings to our users. We will continue to cater to the ever-changing needs and interests of our user base, searching for new avenues to tap into and make premium con-



tent more accessible". Commenting on the occasion, Bahadir Karalar, director of Sales and Services of beIN, said; "We are very happy to partner with talabat – a household name both in Qatar and the region. We are always looking for ways to make our products and services more accessible as part of our commitment to offer our subscribers the best customer service, and our collaboration with talabat is yet another great example of this commitment. talabat's app and delivery network is second to none which ensures beIN's offerings can be seamlessly integrated into homes across the country."

BUTANI Butani Showcases New Bridal Collection: A Celebration of Eternal Love

Butani Jewellery is delighted to announce the debut of its new Bridal collection at DWJE 2024. This extraordinary collection showcases an exquisite array of pieces meticulously crafted to capture the essence of eternal love and celebrate the beauty of a bride on her special day.

The Bridal Collection by Butani represents the pinnacle of luxury and sophistication. Each piece is a work of art, crafted with unparalleled attention to detail and an unwavering commitment to perfection. From stunning diamond engagement rings that symbolize the beginning of a lifelong journey to breathtaking bridal sets that embody grace and elegance, this collection is a testament to Butani's mastery in transforming precious gemstones into timeless symbols of love.

Every design in the collection is an exploration of intricate craftsmanship and exquisite beauty. The collection features an array of breathtaking necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings, each adorned with the finest diamonds and gemstones. The artful combination of precious metals and meticulously selected gems results in pieces that emanate a unique aura of elegance and enchantment.



CASATO

Harmonious volumes, vivid colors and femininity are the words that build Casato's manifesto, strongly conveyed by its jewels. Miniature works of art able to tell the entire story about the search for perfection of both the hands that forged the them, and of the creative mind that conceived them.

Casato leaves the classic territory of high jewellery, to populate an elsewhere to be

discovered, a place made up of innovative elegance, refined aesthetic codes and an original artistic attitude. There is no fear of inventing the unexpected in the atelier of Federico Gauttieri, founder and designer of the brand, because where harmony reigns, even opulence becomes grace.

Thus Casato jewels enchant those who look at them and pamper those who wear them.

The DNA of this maison is a mix of elements, well recognizable in the design and quality of its jewels: the made in Italy style, which is nothing other than the innate talent of creating beauty, the 18kt gold which gives the precious shape, the diamonds that illuminate it and the details, the witnesses of uniqueness, a concept as eternal as it is unrepeatable every time.

From 5 to 11 February 2024, in Doha it will

be possible to set off on an unprecedented journey within the Casato universe. Mikou and Mikoulette collections, followed by Boutique and then Maureen will be the landmarks of the journey, each time they will immerse us in their golden world, in their characteristic design and will teach us their style's language of their style. Leading the journey will be Federico Gauttieri, who invented this universe and is therefore an incomparable narrator.

Mikou Collection

Gold, diamonds and enamel meet in the Mikou collection. Their mission is to become protagonists of every woman's beauty. The rhomboidal silhouette of the Mikou design is a clear reference to the small Greek streets of Mykonos, which smell of sun and salt, symbols of freedom in our imagination. Indeed, Mikou is a hymn to free beauty, with its small details, joined together by each woman in an innovative way, to form the unique design of its authenticity.



Mikoulette Collection

There is no success without a diva! Thus Casato celebrates the success of the Mikou collection by introducing its red carpet version: here is Mikoulette!

An ultra-exclusive selection of new jewels that retain the original shape, illuminating it with a feast of diamonds and lights of sapphires and emeralds. The volumes of Mikoulette jewellery do not increase, the design is instead collected in its most precious essence, this time Casato has created a true distillate of wearable wonder.



Boutique Collection

The sphere's perfection becomes the inspiration for an entire line of jewelry. Boutique collection is the ambassador of an essential beauty, which goes beyond the limits of time. No decorative frills distract attention from the linear and powerful design of the jewels. Only the light of the diamonds, carefully arranged to draw a precise message: simplicity is the secret of eternal beauty.



Maureen Collection

Is it really true that every woman wants to shine? Yet to emanate so much light you need courage, the talent to illuminate without dazzling. Who has the courage to wear a wild cascade of diamonds or to soften the severe perfection of an ultra-geometric design? Who can tame such beauty? Just a queen! Thus, every jewel worn becomes the fairy-tale proof, which reveals whether the energy of Maureen's queen hovers in our destiny.



Colette



JCK

21 Floral Jewels to Carry Into Fall

By Brittany Siminitz

Below and above, an assortment of flower jewels perfect for autumn—in mellower tones, warm metals, and playful silhouettes. And before you ask: Yes, these styles are right on the money for spring as well (and any other season, for that matter).



Burning Thistles necklace in 18k rose gold with champagne diamonds, gray pearls, emerald, tsavorite, aquamarine, ruby, and pink, yellow, blue, and orange sapphires, \$34,000; Colette

only
NATURAL
DIAMONDS

Girly and Whimsical, These Natural Diamonds Achieve Coquette Core

Looking to dip your toes into the coquette style? As a jewelry lover, I do believe that no outfit is complete without a little bit of sparkle from a natural diamond. If you are feeling particularly inspired or curious about the coquette aesthetic, we have the perfect natural diamonds to complete your look.

Colette



Colette Medium Bow Earrings, \$1,995 via colettejewelry.com

Now, you can never go wrong with bows. Instead of some bows tied in your hair, how about some natural diamond bows from Colette for your escape?

JEWELRY

GREEN WITH ENVY

GREEN STONES ARE MIXED WITH DIAMONDS, ENAMEL AND ONYX TO CREATE UNEXPECTEDLY EDGY DESIGNS
BY HARRIET MAYE POWELL

AS SEEN IN CTC&G
Contemporary Crafts and Goods

Colleen's 18k white-gold Colette x Muzo Peridot earrings with malachite, onyx, diamonds and Muzo emeralds. \$52,000, colettejewelry.com

Guila M's 18k yellow-gold earrings with onyx, malachite, tourmaline and diamonds. \$7,600, guilamjewelry.com

Nikea Knut's Cui ring in 18k white gold with emeralds, white diamonds and black enamel. \$10,000, bergorfgoodman.com

Kama El Khalil's Black Hedgehog shadowbox drop earrings in 18k lacinated gold, black diamonds and citreodony. \$4,200, kamaelkhalil.com

State Property's Doris Dross shadowbox ring in 18k yellow gold with emeralds, diamonds and onyx. \$17,600, stateproperty.com

Emily R. Wheeler's Hourglass earrings in 18k yellow gold with malachite and pink tourmaline. \$12,000, emilyr.com

Jenna Blake's 18k yellow-gold Phoenix bangle with malachite and diamonds. \$14,800, jennablake.com

DECEMBER 2023 | OUTDOORJEWELRY.COM | 21663

Jaeger-LeCoultre’s REVERSO TRIBUTE

The Ali Bin Ali pavilion at the Doha Jewellery Exhibition 2024 has become a magnet for watch connoisseurs, as Jaeger-LeCoultre proudly showcases its latest masterpiece – the Reverso Tribute collection. Nestled within the opulent surroundings of the DECC, this collection seamlessly weaves together Asian motifs and Eastern decorative crafts, paying homage to a rich cultural exchange spanning over two millennia between Asia and Europe.

At the heart of this horological exhibition is the iconic Reverso, a timepiece that made its debut in 1931 and has since evolved into a 20th-century design classic. Originally conceived as a functional solution to protect the dial, the reversible case proved to be an ideal canvas for personalization, setting the stage for Jaeger-LeCoultre’s commitment to craftsmanship and innovation.

The Reverso Tribute Chronograph

The Reverso Tribute Chronograph, a testament to exceptional complication reinvention, takes center stage. Its dual dials showcase contrasting yet complementary styles. The front dial embraces the aesthetic codes of the Tribute line with gadroons, a “railroad” minute track, applied hour-markers, and Dauphine hands against a sunray black dial. A swivel reveals a meticulously crafted open-worked reverse, unveiling the intricacies of the new Manufacture Calibre 860 and the mesmerizing mechanics of the retrograde chronograph.



Innovatively designed in leather or bi-material (leather/canvas), two interchangeable Casa Fagliano straps provide the watch with versatile looks – from natural to sophisticated, catering to diverse tastes.

Reverso Tribute Enamel ‘Dragon’

Jaeger-LeCoultre adds a new chapter to the Reverso saga with the Tribute Enamel ‘Dragon,’ released to coincide with the 2024 Lunar New Year. This timepiece pays homage to the Year of the Dragon, showcasing the remarkable skills of the master enamellers and engravers at the Métiers Rares™ atelier of the Manufacture Jaeger-LeCoultre.

To enhance the sense of volume and depth, a master engraver employed the technique of modelled engraving, using ten differently sized chisels to meticulously sculpt the metal. The dial, featuring the same opaque black Grand Feu enamel as the case-back, perfectly complements the dragon motif.

A Fusion of Form and Function

The retrograde 30-minute counter introduces a watchmaking twist, transforming circular motion into a captivating “come and go” display. Comprising 14 components, it seamlessly allows the minute hand to return to its initial position in a fraction of a second, adapting

flawlessly to the rectangular shape of the watch.

The open-worked dial of Calibre 860 meticulously showcases the movement’s complexity. The bridges, adorned with Côtes de Genève and sharp bevels, highlight key components such as the mesmerizing column wheel regulating the chronograph mechanism.

Inspired by Tradition, Shaped by the Future

Capitalizing on its iconic swivelling concept, the Reverso Tribute Chronograph beautifully marries watchmaking tradition with modern aesthetics. The sophisticated recto echoes the original Reverso, while the open-worked verso exudes a

resolutely modern flair, reconnecting the timepiece to its sporty roots.

A Dragon’s Leap in Gold and Black

Swivelling the watch case reveals a majestic dragon surrounded by golden clouds, engraved into the pink gold case metal. The dragon, hand-drawn with black rhodium, appears to leap out from the glossy black Grand Feu enamel background. The polished surfaces of the dragon’s body, intricately detailed scales, and the contrasting sandblasted texture of the clouds create an illusion of movement and power, captivating the beholder.

The Enameled Black Dial

The Reverso Tribute’s elegant simplicity extends to its enameled black dial, enhancing the deep Grand Feu enamel background. Achieving this richness of black requires five layers of enamel, each meticulously fired and cooled, representing no less than eight working hours over several days. The final touch involves polishing to perfection, ensuring a uniform shine that complements the overall aesthetic.

Jaeger-LeCoultre’s Reverso Tribute collection unveiled at the Doha Jewellery Exhibition 2024 stands as a testament to the Maison’s unwavering commitment to craftsmanship, innovation, and the seamless fusion of tradition with contemporary design. With each tick of the intricate calibers within these timepieces, Jaeger-LeCoultre continues to transcend the boundaries of watchmaking, creating horological masterpieces that capture the essence of time itself.

Verdi: Timeless Elegance and Craftsmanship

In the realm of luxury jewelry, few names command the attention and admiration that Verdi Italian Luxury Jewels does. With a rich history spanning over five decades, this venerable brand has become synonymous with exceptional Italian craftsmanship, distinctive designs, and an unwavering commitment to using the finest materials. Under the visionary leadership of CEO Marco Verdi, the maison has successfully blended traditional Italian artistry with cutting-edge technology to create jewelry that not only reflects current trends but also stands the test of time.

The Essence of Verdi’s Designs

Verdi’s collections are an embodiment of the brand’s core values: excellence in craftsmanship, refinement in design, the distinct personality of each creation, and the inherent femininity of the shapes. The brand’s signature aesthetic is instantly recognizable, with a focus on versatility to cater to the multifaceted lifestyles and personalities of women. Whether it’s the iconic bangles, the monochromatic diamond and South Sea pearl collection, the chic gold silhouettes, or the ethically sourced coral designs, each piece emanates a sense of refinement and luxury.

Leadership and Design Philosophy

At the helm of Verdi is CEO Marco Verdi, who guides the brand in paying homage to every facet of a woman’s lifestyle. Following the mantra of “simplicity meets luxury,” Verdi’s designers translate contemporary trends into a unique design lexicon. They marry traditional Italian fabrication techniques with state-of-the-art technology, ensuring that each piece not only exudes beauty but also boasts unparalleled wearability. Marco Verdi elucidates, “With our brand, we have always been focused on four distinctive values...”



Distinctive Collections

Opera Collection: This collection features brilliant white diamonds set against cool-hued white gold, often enhanced by the opulent richness of South Sea pearls. Characterized by sweeping, feminine curves, the pieces are both ethereal and dramatic, making them the perfect statement for any black-tie event.

Rock n’ Roll Collection: Drawing inspiration from the Mediterranean, this collection boldly incorporates vibrant color combinations. Coral, turquoise, onyx, and agate merge seamlessly with rose and white gold, allowing designers to experiment with innovative shapes and dimensions. Verdi’s commitment to coral conservation is evident in their complex synthesis procedure, ensuring both quality and the preservation of natural reefs.

Dress Collection: Designed for uninhibited wear, this collection includes versatile bangles, festive cocktail rings, and drop earrings where stones like malachite and lapis lazuli take center stage. The combination of diamonds and rose gold adds a touch of elegance, transforming everyday jewelry into unique expressions of individuality.

Chill Out Collection: Crafted in rose gold and adorned with diamonds, this collection exudes the inimitable allure of Italian style and sophistication. Each piece in the Chill Out Collection enhances the unique beauty of Italian gold, capturing the essence of timeless elegance.

Verdi Italian Luxury Jewels continues to be a beacon of sophistication and style in the world of luxury jewelry. With a legacy built on exceptional craftsmanship, refined design, and a commitment to ethical sourcing, Verdi stands as a testament to the enduring allure of Italian luxury. As the brand continues to evolve under Marco Verdi’s leadership, it remains at the forefront of innovation, creating timeless pieces that resonate with the diverse and dynamic essence of women worldwide.

Kross Studio Showcases Unique KS 05 Titanium Meteorite Model



Swiss watch manufacturer Kross Studio introduces the exceptional KS 05 model, marking a stellar addition to the design studio's foundational timepiece collection. This one-of-a-kind titanium wristwatch showcases a rare Gibeon meteorite dial, with a geological history spanning billions of years. The dial beautifully displays the crystalline elegance of embedded iron ores, creating a lustrous and textured contrast to the 45 mm brushed titanium case. The exclusive KS 05 Titanium Meteorite Model is now available solely at Chronopassion Paris.

This timepiece enhances Kross Studio's acclaimed KS 05 Timepiece Collection, with a KS 05 model featuring the groundbreaking central floating tourbillon movement designed by Marco Tedeschi. This model recently earned a nomination for the inaugural Louis Vuitton Watch Prize, recognizing it as one of the twenty outstanding timepieces and brands.

Since its establishment in 2020 by Marco Tedeschi, Kross Studio has rapidly made a mark in the luxury timepiece industry, challenging traditional norms with radical designs and unique applications of Swiss craftsmanship. Within a short timeframe, the brand has formed partnerships with global entertainment giants such as Warner Bros. Discovery, HBO, and DC Comics. Kross Studio has also pioneered a partnership with Lucasfilm Ltd. and the iconic Star Wars franchise, becoming the first luxury watch brand to do so.

Each collaboration by Kross Studio unveils a unique Collector Set, featuring a timepiece and an art piece inspired by the dedicated universe. Throughout these projects, the brand has introduced six distinct watch movements tailored precisely to their intended timepieces.

Now, Kross Studio is embarking on a new creative challenge: the first collection of Kross Studio brand timepieces outside of its on-

going entertainment partnerships. The new Kross Studio KS 05 timepieces are designed to showcase the brand's ingenuity and technical prowess, being the only timepieces globally to feature a central floating tourbillon.

The Movement: Caliber KS 7'005

The KS 05 collection highlights Kross Studio's commitment to exceptional engineering with its striking and uniquely constructed movement. At its core is the caliber KS 7'005, a manual-winding central floating tourbillon – a world-first achievement that Kross Studio takes immense pride in. Comprising 220 components and 27 jewels, this movement operates at a frequency of 21,600 bph (beats per hour), or 3 Hz, and boasts a power reserve of 120 hours or 5 days, ensuring optimal accuracy and longevity.

The wider barrel, placed on the central axis of the movement, accommodates the tourbillon, offering a sublime view of its intricate mechanics. The barrel, tourbillon cage, and balance wheel are co-axial, ensuring smooth operation.

The floating tourbillon, a remarkable feat of horological prowess, features a cage crafted from grade 5 titanium for its high strength and lightweight. The result is an ultra-lightweight tourbillon cage weighing a mere 0.488g.

The time display mechanism operates peripherally, orbiting 360 degrees around the tourbillon, with the reduction ratio between the hour and minute achieved through a planetary system mounted on two ceramic ball bearings.

The Case

The KS 05 collection represents a new era of luxury timepieces distinguished by a meticulously crafted case that balances functionality and aesthetic appeal. The unique KS 05 Black Meteorite case is made from Grade 5 titanium, surpassing stainless steel in strength and durability, emphasizing Kross Studio's commitment to advanced materials.

The case, devoid of lugs or edges, features a sleek, seamless, and ergonomically optimized profile. Instead of a visible crown at 3 o'clock, Kross Studio opted for a clever D-ring crown integrated into the case back, allowing winding and time adjustments without disrupting the watch's clean lines.

Moreover, the case incorporates a one-click interchangeable strap system, hidden on the case back, enabling easy strap swapping and updates. The minimalist design directs focus to the watch's heart - its movement - showcasing Kross Studio's ethos of placing engineering and craftsmanship at the forefront.

The domed crystal of the KS 05 provides an unobstructed, panoramic view of the watch's inner workings. Its oversized diameter allows viewers to appreciate the full breadth and complexity of the meticulously crafted movement and dial rehaut from all angles. The crystal receives technical considerations, with anti-reflective coating on both its exterior and interior, as well as anti-UV and anti-static treatments.

The Dials

The unique Chronopassion KS 05 edition features a Gibeon meteorite dial – a rare interstellar mineral polished to a subtle sheen, showcasing the stone's unique octahedrite iron pattern.

The outer dial, known as the rehaut, is affixed directly onto the case, providing a seamless transition from the case to the watch's interior and drawing attention to the central floating tourbillon.

The intermediate dial, mounted on top of the movement, serves as a bridge between the outer dial and the heart of the watch.

The inner dial, with an opening at 9 o'clock, is fixed onto the main plate of the movement. Positioned beneath the floating tourbillon and the time display mechanism, this innovative design allows a clear view of the gear train, providing a captivating backdrop for the tourbillon and showcasing the watch's meticulous engineering.

The dials of the broader KS 05 collection are crafted from black or blue aventurine glass, as well as natural stones like turquoise, jade, and obsidian, among others. Additional gemstone and mineral variations will be introduced over time. This diverse array of materials allows for a high degree of personalization, ensuring each timepiece is a unique work of art and engineering, embodying the style and spirit of its wearer.

The KS 05 Collection

With the new KS 7'005 caliber at its core, the KS 05 timepiece continues to redefine luxury watchmaking, combining exceptional engineering and meticulous craftsmanship. This manual-winding central floating tourbillon, a world-first, is featured in a case crafted from Grade 5 titanium or a stunning 18 karat red gold edition. Both versions can be fully adorned with 281 pavé-set D-F VVS1 diamonds, totaling approximately 5.09 carats.

The KS 05 Collection exemplifies Kross Studio's ability for revolutionary timekeeping while upholding the traditional principles of watchmaking. This collection heralds a transformative era in luxury timepieces, seamlessly blending artistic craftsmanship, pioneering engineering, and distinctive personal expression.

The new KS 05 Titanium Black Meteorite is limited to just a single piece, exclusively available at Chronopassion Paris. The broader KS 05 collection offers various variants in dials, case materials, and diamond adornment, each limited to 10 numbered pieces, making each timepiece a limited-edition masterwork. These KS 05 models are now available for purchase at kross-studio.com, through official partners, and at select authorized retailers.

Mattioli Jewelry: A Legacy of Elegance, Tradition, and Innovation

Embarking on a journey that spans over a century and a half, Mattioli has emerged as an enduring symbol of excellence and elegance in the realm of jewelry. Rooted in history since 1860, when the Antica Ditta Marchisio first graced Torino's oldest neighborhoods, Mattioli has evolved into a powerhouse of innovation and tradition. Today, under the discerning guidance of Licia Mattioli, the brand stands as a testament to the harmonious fusion of heritage craftsmanship and contemporary creativity.

The Visionary Leader: Licia Mattioli, the stalwart at the helm, not only serves as the driving force behind the brand but also personifies a rare blend of entrepreneurship and artistry. Trained as a lawyer, her deep passion for design and jewelry production fuels the company's creative spirit. Beyond her role at Mattioli, she has held esteemed positions, including the presidency of Federorafi and the Association of Entrepreneurs of Torino. In recognition of her contributions, she was honored with the distinguished title of Cavaliere del Lavoro in 2017. Drawing inspiration from the vibrant Mediterranean culture, Licia Mattioli infuses her creations with a dynamic energy, embodying the essence of a dedicated businesswoman and a nurturing mother of two.



Production Excellence:

Mattioli's commitment to excellence is exemplified in its meticulous production process. Each jewel, a testament to the brand's dedication, is meticulously handcrafted in Italy. The marriage of traditional artisanal techniques with state-of-the-art technologies sets Mattioli apart. With more than 600 skilled employees spread across the headquarters in Turin and production centers in Valenza and Marcanise, the brand proudly supplies some of the world's most esteemed high-end jewelry labels.

Iconic Collections: In the year 2000, Mattioli unveiled its magnum opus, the Puzzle collection. A masterpiece of innovation and versatility, Puzzle draws inspiration from the abstract art movements of the Seventies, channeling the spirit of Kandinsky, Mondrian, and Calder. The collection allows wearers to personalize their pieces, showcasing not only the brand's superb gold craftsmanship but also an unwavering commitment to the 18k gold tradition.

Beyond Puzzle, Mattioli's Masterpieces showcase the brand's ability to craft unique and unparalleled jewelry. The Eve collection takes an unconventional approach, utilizing cones made from gold, turquoise, onyx, and coral to create edgy and modern pieces inspired by the secret inner crystal world of geodes.

Flagship Presence: In 2010, the brand elevated its presence with the inauguration of its flagship store in Rome, located at Via del Babuino 105. This flagship serves as a living embodiment of the brand's identity, providing a captivating space to showcase Mattioli's timeless creations.

Diverse Offerings: The Puzzle collection, the epitome of Mattioli's craftsmanship, offers various editions catering to diverse tastes and occasions. From the high-end Puzzle line to Puzzle Safari, Puzzle Beads, Mini Puzzle, and Puzzle Charms, each edition weaves a unique narrative. The Navettes collection, featuring the sought-after gem cut, presents a stunning array of 18k rose and white gold chains, including earrings, bracelets, and long necklaces.

Mattioli's trajectory from its humble origins in 1860 to its current status as an icon of Italian excellence is a saga of unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and tradition. Under the visionary leadership of Licia Mattioli, the brand continues to redefine boundaries, creating jewelry that not only encapsulates the essence of Italian craftsmanship but also pays homage to its roots. Mattioli stands as a beacon in the world of jewelry, where artistry, heritage, and visionary leadership converge to create a legacy that transcends time.



Qatari aircraft carrying Gaza aid arrives in Egypt

A Qatar Armed Forces plane has arrived in the Egyptian city of El Arish, with 41 tonnes of aid, including food supplies and shelter materials for the people of the Gaza Strip, provided by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS). This brings the total number of aid planes to 76, with a total of 2,266 tonnes of aid. Additionally, a number of Palestinians with Qatar residency permits were evacuated from the Gaza Strip to Doha. - **QNA**



Arab social development and family ministers and the Arab League secretary-general have signed the Doha Pledge for the Established Arab Family.

Titled *Doha Pledge on Promoting Integrated Social Protection and Consolidating the Principles and Customs Related to the Established Arab Family*, the pledge was signed on the second day of the two-day Arab high-level forum for multidimensional social development.

The pledge emphasised adherence to Arab principles and customs related to family and social relationships without compromise.

It is aimed at confronting unhealthy trends and attempts to change natural human principles and norms, leading to dangerous behaviour that threaten the institution of family and marriage.

Additionally, the pledge included the development of plans and programmes aimed at enhancing the fabric of the Arab family.

The ministers also pledged to continue ef-



Snapshots from the event.

Arab ministers sign Doha Pledge

orts to develop societies and reconsider the shift from an individualistic to a collective style represented by the family.

The pledge included promoting collective patterns to broaden the scope of efforts against the tide of individualistic values.

This approach aims to foster rapprochement and integration of regional agreements that the natural, value-based, and innate practice of the family, and repel attempts to threaten Arab societies and future generations, preventing deviation and returning to the essence of the family institution.

The pledge reflected the unified Arab regional stance, based on the directions of Arab leaders in numerous Arab Summit resolutions, decisions of the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers, the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, and relevant Arab and international resolutions.

The ministers pledged to maintain a strong, cohesive family committed to religious and moral values, raising children to love their

country and serve their community to contribute to its prosperity and progress, preserving unity and solidarity.

This commitment stems from the understanding that the family is the foundation of society, which is based on religion, morality, and patriotism.

The signing coincides with Qatar's efforts, represented by the Ministry of Social Development and Family, which launched the Family Charter on Monday.

The Arab high-level forum for multidimensional social development discusses important files that are priorities for joint Arab social development work, including the Second Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2023-2032 and the *Second Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report*.

The outcomes and recommendations of the forum on the discussed topics are expected to be presented at the upcoming Arab Summit. - **QNA**

Alfardan Jewellery, Tiffany & Co sign partnership at DJWE

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Alfardan Jewellery and Tiffany & Co sealed an agreement yesterday at the 20th edition of Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE), further strengthening their relationship and setting new benchmarks in luxury, opulence and craftsmanship.

The signing ceremony, held at the Alfardan pavilion, was attended by Alfardan Group chairman Hussain Ibrahim Alfardan, Alfardan Group vice-chairman and Alfardan Jewellery president Ali Alfardan, and Tiffany & Co's Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) president Kolja Neveux, among other guests.

"We are very proud that we have Tiffany & Co as our partner in Doha since it is the biggest brand in the world as a jeweller," Ali Alfardan told *Gulf Times*, highlighting the significance of the partnership.

He cited the longstanding relationship between the two entities, dating back decades to the early 1980s.

Ali Alfardan underscored the enduring strength of their collaboration, particularly highlighting Tiffany & Co's reliance on Alfardan Jewellery for natural pearls, mark-



ing a key milestone in their partnership.

Detailing the agreement's terms, the Alfardan Jewellery president revealed plans for a 15-year commitment, which can be extended for another 15 years, with potential expansions of their retail footprint in Doha.

He said that the synchronisation of product launches between New York and Doha will allow a smooth integration of their operations within the newly formed partnership.

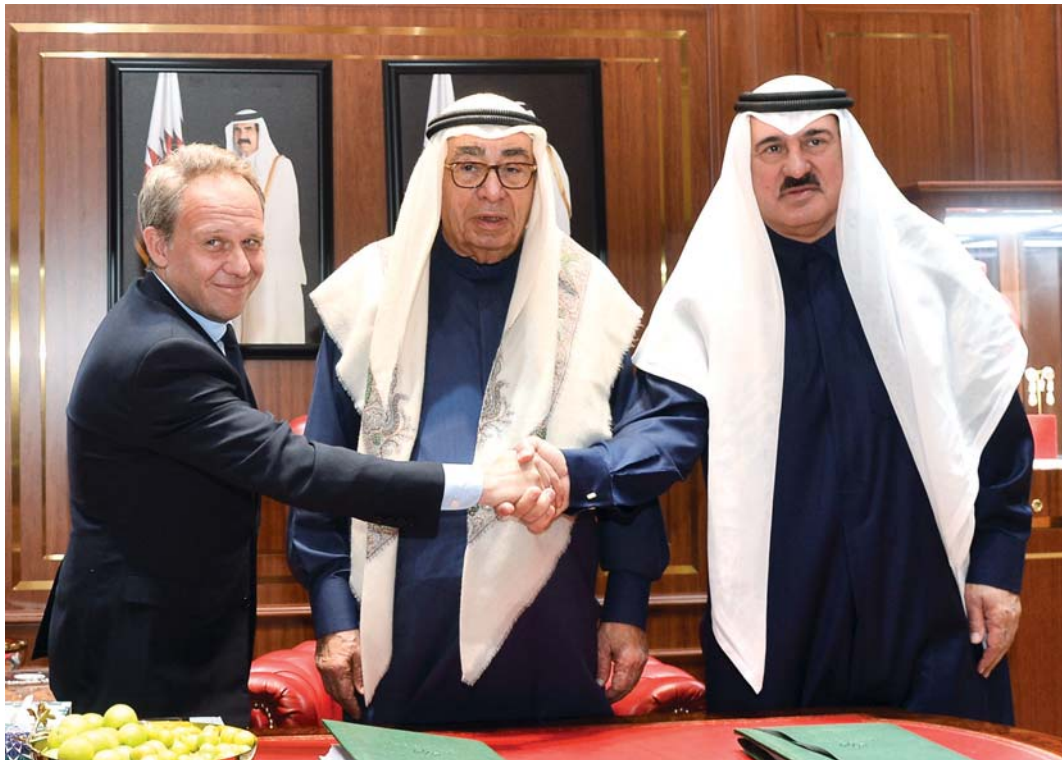
Ali Alfardan shed light on the future direction of their collaboration and the innovative endeavours

ahead, saying that it will grow further, especially with the unveiling of Tiffany's new high jewellery collection.

Tiffany has launched "Bird on a Pearl", a homage to the heritage and tradition of pearl diving in the Middle East.

He also hinted at customising jewellery models to resonate with Qatar's cultural nuances, ensuring a bespoke experience for local clientele.

As Alfardan Jewellery marks its 70th anniversary this year, Ali Alfardan spoke on the remarkable journey of the institution, from a modest shop in Souq Waqif to a re-



Kolja Neveux, Hussain Ibrahim Alfardan and Ali Alfardan (right) at the signing ceremony, held at the Alfardan pavilion yesterday. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam



Natural pearls on display at the Alfardan pavilion.



Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and Swiss ambassador Florence Tinguely Mattli were welcomed by Hussain Ibrahim Alfardan and Ali Alfardan at the Alfardan pavilion yesterday. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Swiss delegation visits DJWE, Expo 2023 Doha

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

A Swiss delegation led by Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin visited the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) 2024 yesterday, underscoring the deepening ties between Switzerland and Qatar.

The delegation, accompanied by Swiss ambassador Florence Tinguely Mattli, engaged in a comprehensive tour of prominent Swiss brands showcasing their exquisite craftsmanship at the prestigious event.

Parmelin was received at the Alfardan pavilion by Alfardan Group chairman Hussain Ibrahim Alfardan and vice-chairman and Alfardan Jewellery president Ali Alfardan.

He explored Gallery Al Tawash and had the opportunity to acquaint himself with

the natural pearls on display.

He also toured at a number of booths, including Vacheron Constantin, Girard-Perregaux, and Chopard.

Parmelin, who heads the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), utilised the opportunity to enhance economic collaboration between Switzerland and Qatar.

His presence in Doha coincided with the second session of the Joint Commission on Financial and Economic Areas, signaling a concerted effort to promote bilateral relations and explore synergies in finance and economy for mutual prosperity.

Established in 2022, the Joint Commission serves as a key platform for enhancing collaboration between the two nations, building upon the foundation laid during the inaugural session held in Switzerland.

With a diverse delegation comprising experts from Switzerland's prestigious watch industry, manufacturing, phar-



maceuticals, banking, and reinsurance sectors, Parmelin's visit highlights Switzerland's commitment to nurturing close partnerships with Qatar.

Beyond the confines of the DJWE, Parmelin was also expected to visit the Swiss pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha, which underlines Switzerland's active engagement on the global stage and its keen interest in fostering bilateral exchanges across various fields.

Highlighting the global impact of films supported by the Doha Film Institute (DFI), seven DFI grantees have been selected to screen in key programming sections of the 74th Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale).

"We are proud of the selection of DFI-supported films this year at the Berlinale," said DFI chief executive Fatma Hassan al-Remaihi.

Films in Competition:

Who Do I Belong To (Tunisia, Cana-

Seven DFI-supported films for Berlinale

da, France, Qatar) by Meryam Joobeur.

Shambhala (Nepal, France, Norway, Hong Kong, Turkiye, Taiwan, US, Qatar) a feature narrative by Min Bahadur Bham.

Films in Panorama:

Brief History of a Family (China, Denmark, France, Qatar), by Jianjie Lin.

Diaries from Lebanon (Lebanon, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar), a feature

documentary by Myriam El Haj.

Rising Up at Night (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, Germany, Burkina Faso, Qatar) by Nelson Makengo.

The film in the Encounters section is Demba (Senegal, Germany, Qatar) by Mamadou Dia.

Screening in the Generation segment is Disco Afrika: A Malagasy Story (Madagascar, France, Mauritius, Germany, South Africa, Qatar), by Luck Razanajaona. - **QNA**

Ooredoo Passport gives up to 4GB of bonus data across GCC countries

Ooredoo has launched a new Ooredoo Passport promotion giving subscribers up to 4GB of bonus data across all GCC countries, a statement said.

Under its latest promotion, valid until March 4, subscribers to the weekly passport will get an additional 1GB in data allowance, taking the total to 2GB, while those subscribing to the monthly passport will be rewarded with an additional 4GB, taking their total data allowance to 8GB.





An enchanting sunset scene replete with shades of grey, blue and gold and splattered in fluffy clouds as seen in Doha the other day. **PICTURE:** *Gulf Times* news editor Bonnie James (Instagram: the.explorer7).

Philippines’ health undersecretary attends conference in Doha

The undersecretary of the Philippines’ Department of Health, Dr Enrique Tayag, was the guest of honour of the recently held ‘Philippine Wealth & Wellness Conference Qatar’, part of the fifth instalment of the ‘Philippine Property & Investment Show – Qatar’.

Tayag delivered a keynote address in the presence of Philippine ambassador Lilibeth V Pono, Ladies of All Nations International Philippine Chapter chairperson Marcia Sadicon and some 600 members of the Filipino business community during the event, organised by the Association of Filipino Real Estate Executives in Qatar (Afreeq).

Messages via video conferencing were delivered by senator Christopher Lawrence, Filipino Bank CEO Reo Andarino, and party-list representative Samuel Versoza. Afreeq chairman emeritus Joseph Timothy Rivera read the inspirational message of senator Manuel Lapid.

During the event, Pono led the induction ceremony of Afreeq’s newly elected officers for 2024 led by chairperson, Bhém Asperilla, who be-

stowed a founder’s citation to Rivera, her predecessor.

Some of the highlights of the two-day event included the ‘2nd Philippine Gala Night’ hosted and organised by Kulinarya Qatar headed by chairperson Dahlia Agbanlog, as well as director Annabelle Castro Modin, and Rivera.

More than 270 leaders from the Filipino business and social community in Qatar attended the event, including dignitaries from the Philippine embassy led by Consul General Cassandra Sawadjaan, Vice-Consul Monica Calangian, Cultural Attache Camille Manlapas, and MWO Assistance to Nationals Head Cherry Rhose Cureg.



Department of Health Undersecretary Dr Enrique Tayag and Philippine ambassador Lilibeth V Pono receiving the ‘Global Erudite Award’ from Afreeq chairman emeritus Joseph Timothy Rivera and newly-inducted chairperson Bhém Asperilla.



Philippine ambassador Lilibeth V Pono leading the induction ceremony of Afreeq.

DPS-MIS student excels in art contest

DPS-Modern Indian School student Haseen Kakkat Ubaid (grade-IX K) won the first positions in senior pencil drawing and shading competition at the inter-school school art competition, ‘Varna’, organised by Loyola International School, Doha, Qatar.



QNSD for differently-abled



As part of the Qatar National Sport Day celebrations on February 13, Malarvadi children’s Organisation – Rayyan Zone has formed an organising committee to host programmes for the differently-abled, in co-ordination with Loydence Academy, Aziziya. The officials are Abdul Jaleel M M, Sajid M C, Asher Ali, Haris K, Mohamed Rafeeq Thangal, Anoob, Kunhimohammed, Shahida, Anwar, Sharafudheen, Sanila Sharafudheen, Thahir T K, Rafeeq P C, Sabeena, Yoonus Salim, Shibu, Shabana Shafi, Siddique Vengara, Mohamed Rafeeq, Sarthaj, Fahad E K, and Sajir V O C. More information is available from 55442789, a statement said.

The trophy for champions



By Shafqat Nabi

- N11.** Designed and made by Thomas Lyte and unveiled in May 2018, it is 78 centimetres tall, 42 centimetres wide, and weighs 15kgs of silver. It is modelled after the lotus flower, a symbolically important aquatic Asian plant. What is being described here?
- N12.** In which year was AFC Asian Cup co-hosted by four countries in Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam?
- N13.** One of the most iconic coffee brand in the world, it was almost called something completely different: Cargo House. Co-founder Gordon Bowker, a writer, initially proposed calling the company “Pequod,” after the ship in Herman Melville’s classic novel *Moby-Dick*. The brainstorming continued. It chose the name of a mining town in the Cascade Range and from there, the group remembered a name how it is known now, the name of the chief mate in the book *Moby-Dick*. Which brand is it?
- N14.** A Medieval English laws specified the weight of bread loaves and tied bread prices to wheat costs. Bakers facing penalties for overpricing loaves added extra to avoid fines or flogging, thus ensuring no surprise punishment, if found to be “cheating”. What term/phrase resulted from this?
- N15.** It was last seen from Earth on this day in 1986 and is expected to pass over Earth again on July 26, 2061. What is it?
- N16.** They gave their first live US television perform-

ance 60 years ago on this day on The Ed Sullivan Show, watched by approximately 73mn viewers in over 23mn households, or 34% of the American population. Biographer Jonathan Gould writes that, according to the Nielsen rating service, it was “the largest audience that had ever been recorded for an American television programme”. Who?

N17. Some individuals experience an irrational fear of mirrors. What is the term for this unusual phobia?

N18. What country is the world’s largest importer of sand? This is a result of major land reclamation projects which have seen a 25% increase in the country’s land area over the past 200 years and especially since gaining independence in 1965.

N19. By 2050, after India and China, which country is expected to become the world’s third most populous nation?

N110. Identify the citadel from images below. Where is it located?

Answers

- N11.** The AFC Asian Cup trophy used since 2019. The five petals of the lotus symbolise the five sub-confederations under the AFC.
- N12.** 2007.
- N13.** Starbucks.
- N14.** Baker’s Dozen. It is 13 items, rather than the 12 items in a standard dozen.
- N15.** Haley’s Comet.
- N16.** The Beatles.
- N17.** Spectrophobia or catoptrophobia.
- N18.** Singapore.
- N19.** Nigeria, followed by the US, Pakistan, Indonesia, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Bangladesh, in that order.
- N110.** The Ark of Bukhara in Uzbekistan.



Tribe N1.yays

The abbreviation lb to mean a pound of weight comes from the name of which constellation?
Libra.

(Omendu Prakash, Doha)

Do you have some interesting bytes to share? And, does your vibe attract you to the ‘Tribe N1.yays’? Every week one question from readers will be featured here. Please do send it to us at infotainment.factree@gmail.com. And, please do mention the school/college/company (or just ‘home-sweet-home’).

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GULF TIMES

The next phase of our inflation journey

What makes a journey? There is the destination, of course; but there is also the route one follows to get there, and the time it takes to complete it. This might be a useful framework for thinking about the future trajectory of inflation and interest rates – a journey with important implications for the cost of capital, valuations and multiples, debt sustainability, and more.

The first step is to understand how we got to where we are today. After pandemic-era restrictions were lifted, demand surged across the global economy, sustained partly by healthy household and corporate balance sheets, which reflected the generous fiscal support governments had delivered during the pandemic. But fiscal expansion also caused sovereign-debt levels to rise sharply – a development that will have consequences down the road.

When post-pandemic demand surged, the supply side could not keep up, so inflationary pressure intensified. Some of the supply-side disruptions – the so-called transitory blockages – were a legacy of pandemic-induced closures and imbalances, and quickly eased. But others proved to be deeper, secular, and structural, and excess demand remained stubbornly persistent. Eventually, major central banks intervened, rapidly hiking interest rates to constrain aggregate demand. And their efforts seem to have worked: inflation rates have started to come down.

What will happen next? Asset-management experts say that, paradoxically, the precise path of transitions tends to be more difficult to predict than the destination. This is an example of a general feature of economic analysis: the equilibria at which markets land can often be characterised more precisely than the transitions between them.

If the AI-driven productivity boost arrives quickly, it would dramatically increase the elasticity of the supply side

Inflation in the United States currently is 3.4%, and the US Federal Reserve's policy rate is 5.25-5.5%. That puts the real interest rate at about 2%. So far, this level does not seem to have had any significant negative effect on either GDP growth or employment.

Although the Fed decided at its first meeting of 2024 to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged, markets have been pricing in a return to the 2% inflation target by the end of the year. If the Fed lowers the discount rate by 1.5% this year, to the 4% range, the real interest rate would hold at about 2%. This path for interest rates – six 25-basis-point reductions in 2024 – is consistent with market expectations, and somewhat more aggressive than the Fed's own projections, according to its latest dot plot.

Interest-rate expectations – both nominal and real – beyond 2024 seem more problematic. The dot plot anticipates significant further rate cuts in 2025 and 2026. If the forecasts bear out, the real interest rate would decline and settle at (or close to) 0.5%. This seems very unlikely, given persistent structural supply-side constraints (including labour shortages, population ageing, and declining productivity) and rising costs driven by geopolitical tensions, shocks, and rapid and expensive diversification of global supply networks.

In this scenario, asset prices would become elevated, just as they were in the decade after the 2008 global financial crisis, and credit would expand, driving up demand. But without a surge in either labour supply or productivity, supply would probably lag and inflationary pressure would re-emerge, driving the real interest rate even lower.

To be sure, a productivity surge is possible, especially given breakthroughs in generative artificial intelligence. But when? Even those of us who anticipate an AI-driven increase in productivity growth do not expect it to happen quickly; it appears far more likely in the latter part of the decade than in the next 2-3 years.

But that could change. If the AI-driven productivity boost does arrive quickly, it would dramatically increase the elasticity of the supply side of the economy. This would have a deflationary impact, much as emerging-economy growth – which added massive productive capacity to the global economy – did in the last 3-4 decades. — Project Syndicate

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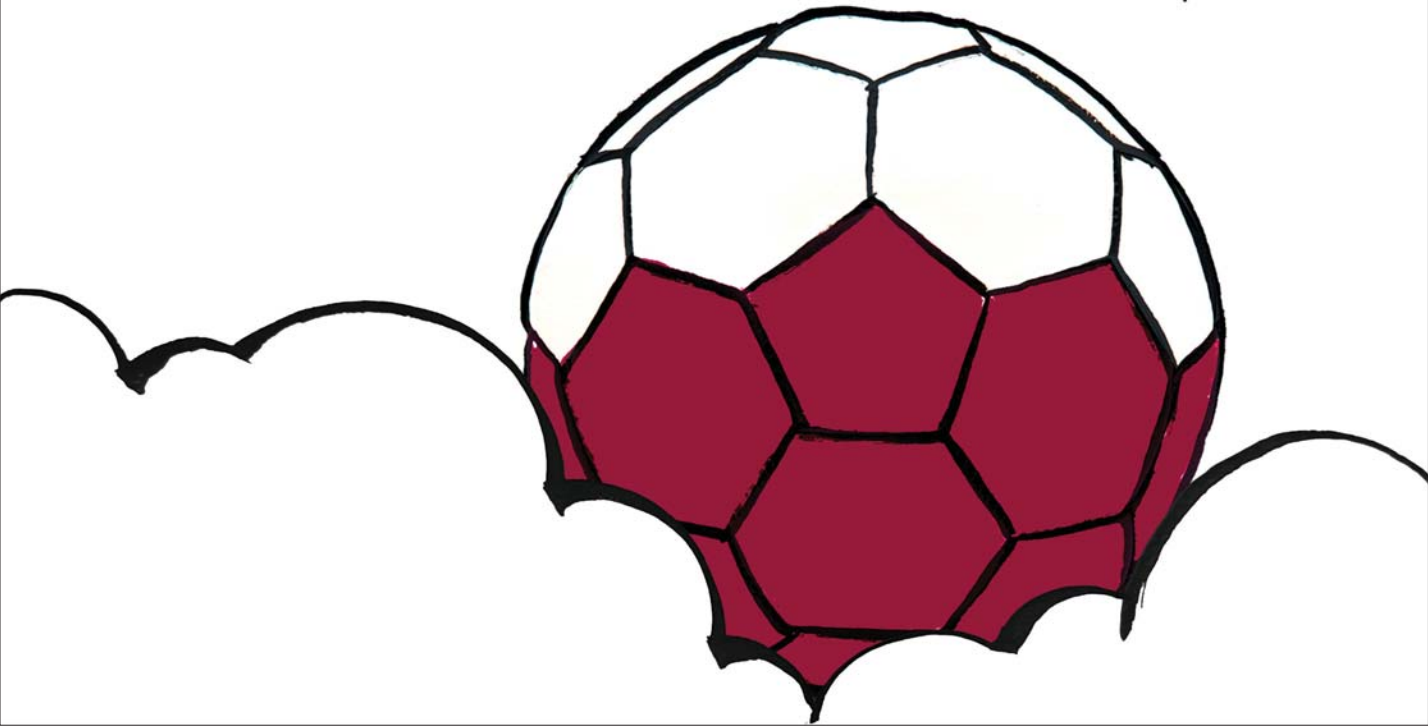
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Mabrouk Qatar!
From Silver Clouds to Golden Glory



Lessons from euro's first 25 years

By Marco Buti and Giancarlo Corsetti
Florence

The 25th anniversary of the euro's introduction, which has passed largely under the radar, offers an opportune moment to assess the current state of the greatest monetary experiment in modern history.

The euro's launch in January 1999 polarised economists. In the face of much scepticism – the late American economist Martin Feldstein even argued that the single currency could trigger a war in Europe – the euro's architects envisioned a future characterised by macroeconomic stability, anchored by an independent central bank and a fiscal framework geared toward stability. Structural reforms, which the European Union's member states were expected to implement, were meant to enhance the monetary union's capacity to adjust to shocks.

None of those scenarios materialised. Over the past quarter-century, the euro has shown extraordinary resilience, navigating through several critical challenges and defying early predictions of its collapse. But while the single currency has delivered on some of its promises – most notably, maintaining price stability for most of its existence – it has failed to boost Europe's potential growth or facilitate the continent's full economic and political integration.

This mixed record can be attributed largely to the fact that Europe's economic union was incomplete from the outset. Despite the significant progress that has been made since its inception, the eurozone's fiscal and economic frameworks remain woefully underdeveloped

compared to its monetary infrastructure.

To understand the consequences of the eurozone's unfinished architecture, it is useful to divide the past 25 years into four distinct periods. The first phase, from 1999 to 2008, could be labelled the "2% decade": economic growth, inflation, and budget deficits (as a share of GDP) all hovered around this rate. This phase was characterized by the excessive optimism of the "Great Moderation."

But the internal imbalances that emerged during this period would haunt the eurozone for years to come. The convergence of interest rates, evidenced by minimal spreads, resulted in overly sanguine portrayals of member states' public finances. Simultaneously, loose fiscal and monetary conditions reduced European governments' incentives to undertake structural reforms and bolster their banking systems.

Nominal convergence also masked more profound structural disparities, as capital flowed from the eurozone's richest members to their poorer counterparts, where it was frequently channelled into less productive sectors, such as real estate and non-tradable services, often through instruments like short-term bank loans. Consequently, while the eurozone's current accounts appeared balanced, significant imbalances emerged.

The fallout from the 2008 global financial crisis, particularly the discovery that Greece had lied about its budget deficits and debt, eroded trust among member states. The prevailing narrative shifted to one of moral hazard, emphasising the need for each country to get its own house in order.

By the time eurozone governments finally co-ordinated

a response – establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), launching the banking union project, introducing the European Central Bank's Outright Monetary Transactions program, and expanding the ECB's balance sheet – the euro appeared to be on the brink of collapse.

The key turning point was the pledge by then-ECB President Mario Draghi to do "whatever it takes" to preserve the euro in July 2012. But with monetary policy increasingly viewed as the "only game in town," the eurozone's economic and financial structures remained fragmented.

The Covid-19 crisis changed that. The exogenous nature of the pandemic shock, together with the lack of impending elections, enabled EU leaders – led by French President Emmanuel Macron, then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen – to present a unified front, unencumbered by the pressure to avoid moral hazard. The EU suspended the Stability and Growth Pact, which had previously capped member states' budget deficits at 3% of GDP, and rolled out the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency and the NextGenerationEU recovery programs, financing both through common borrowing. Meanwhile, the ECB introduced its €1.85tn (\$2tn) Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program.

Although this demonstration of collective leadership reassured markets, fuelling an economic rebound, the optimism proved to be short-lived. A global inflationary surge, fuelled by robust macroeconomic stimulus and pandemic-related supply-chain disruptions, was exacerbated by the energy-price shock that followed Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Although European policymakers

worked together to reduce the EU's dependence on Russian gas, they failed to mount a collective response akin to the NextGenerationEU initiative. Confronted with rising deficits and debt, not to mention the most aggressive monetary-tightening cycle since the 1980s, EU countries have once again put eurozone reforms on hold.

Two important lessons follow from the euro's first 25 years. First, the monetary union's incomplete institutional framework has proven to be both costly and dangerous. Finalising the banking union, especially the creation of a common resolution fund with the backstop of the ESM and deposit insurance, is essential to ensure stability and bolster the international role of the euro.

Thus, Italy's recent failure to ratify the ESM treaty is a serious setback. Pushing forward the capital market union is essential if Europe is to meet the financial challenges posed by the digital and green transitions. To achieve all of this, EU leaders must strike a balance between risk sharing and risk reduction.

Second, completing the euro is crucial for safeguarding and developing the EU's greatest achievement: the single market. European countries' current pursuit of national industrial policies, funded through state aid, undermines the core values of the single-market project. To address this challenge, the EU must formulate a cohesive European industrial policy. This should include an increase in cross-border investments, focusing on European public goods such as human-capital development, the availability of critical materials, and the green and digital transitions.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President François Mitterrand, and European Commission President Jacques Delors turned the dream of a single currency into a reality.

During the Covid-19 crisis, Macron, Merkel, and von der Leyen managed to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles and achieve a historic breakthrough. Now, a quarter-century after its introduction, the euro requires visionary leaders to shepherd European sovereignty to its next phase. — Project Syndicate

(This article draws on the CEPR Policy Insights February 1, 2024, paper The First 25 Years of the Euro, written under the auspices of the European University Institute's Economic and Monetary Union Laboratory).

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VISION: The euro requires visionary leaders to shepherd European sovereignty to its next phase.

The prohibition of abusive language, insults and curses

Khutbah by Shaykh Abdul-Hameed Ad-Daaghistaani

Thanks be to Allah Who prohibited harming the Muslims in all cases and said in this regard which means: “And those who annoy believing men and women undeservedly, bear (on themselves) a calumny and a glaring sin.” (Al-Ahzaab: 58).

I testify that there is no God but Allah, Who ordered us to perform good deeds and prohibited us from evil acts, and that Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, is His Prophet and Messenger who never hurt nor humiliated others. He, as well as his Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all, never cursed any person.

When we examine closely our Islamic laws, we find that they are most protective of the purity of Muslims, in both the abstract[1] and real sense of the word. They cover every type of moral filth and impurity, even extending to the act of insulting people, cursing them or calling them abusive names. These laws also prohibit scoffing at or ridiculing individuals or Muslim societies. Speaking unfavourably of others is lawful in a few essential cases, such as declaring a witness unreliable in a case of law, exposing one or more narrators of the Prophet’s *Ahaadith* if any of them are inaccurate, speaking frankly about a Muslim when marriage is involved, in matters of financial or real estate trust, or employment. In such necessary cases, it is lawful to expose the truth even if such persons have moral defects. This is not a form of slandering or backbiting.

Unfortunately, on the streets, in official organisations or popular gatherings, one may hear people reviling others, calling them names, or scoffing at them. All this happens despite the fact that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “A believer is never a person who scoffs at others, calls them names, or utters vulgar and obscene phrases” (Tirmithi).

This *Hadith* indicates that slandering people, belittling them and cursing them are all prohibited acts. A true believer is a decent person who uses polite phrases when he talks. The Holy Qur’an taught us to use decent phrases as evidenced in its discussion of delicate acts, such as expressing the act of having marital relations with one’s spouse is described by the use of the term “touch” your wife.

Abu Tharr al-Ghifaaari reported that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “If a person accused another person of depravity or atheism, such an accusation applies to the accuser unless the accused is actually immoral or rejects faith” (Bukhari).

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, also said: “Reviling[2] a Muslim is an act of outrage (moral depravity) and fighting against him is an act of disbelief (*Kufr*)” (Bukhari and Muslim).

In the case of a dispute arising between two persons, neither should have recourse to using vulgar and obscene phrases, reviling the other party or calling him names. Acting in this manner makes the dispute more complex and difficult to settle. One of the disputants may have been the victim of injustice, but this does



Faisal Bin Thani Mosque at Al Ghuwairiya

not grant him the right to abuse the other party or call him names.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “The one who starts abusing his fellow Muslim and calling him names bears the sin of both, unless the abused person uses more vulgar phrases than the first”. (Muslim) Imam al-Nawawi explained this prophetic saying as thus: “This means that the person who starts insulting a Muslim or calling him names will bear the sin incurred by such an act for both of them, unless the second party uses more severe and vulgar phrases than the first”. Yet, sticking to patience and forgiving people is far better for the Muslim. Allah said which means: “But indeed if any show patience and forgive, that would truly be an exercise of courageous will and resolution in the conduct of affairs.” (Al-Shooraa: 43)

Our religion does not even allow us to revile and abuse the sinner. Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported: “A man drank alcohol so he was brought before the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, who said: “Beat him (according to the rules set by Allah).” Abu Hurairah, said: Some of us beat him with our hands, others with their sandals and still others with pieces of cloth. When the man went away, some said: May Allah humiliate you! Whereupon, the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Do not say that. Do not support Shaytaan against your fellow brother” (Bukhari).

Imam Ibn ‘Illeen al-Siddeeqi, may Allah have mercy on him, said: “The meaning of this prophetic saying is that the aim of Shaytaan, when he opens the gates of sins to the believers, is to heap humiliation upon them. Invoking Allah against the sinner, as the Companions did, leads to humiliating the sinner, which is the very aim of Satan. Therefore, the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, prohibited them from invoking Allah against the drunkard”.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, also said: “If a person accused his slave of adultery, he will be punished with

the retribution set by Allah on the Day of Judgment unless his slave is really an adulterer.” (Bukhari and Muslim).

This great prophetic saying points out the crime of the person who accuses others of adultery even if the accused is a slave. So what about those people who consider that one of the proofs of a strong relationship between them is their reviling and abusing each other? Such a person may accuse the other’s mother or sister of adultery while the other side is content and he may even laugh considering that this is a sign of a lasting friendship and strong relationship.

Servants of Allah! Cursing people as well as calling them names is a type of verbal abuse.

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “A true believer is never used to cursing others” (Muslim)

Abu Ad-Dardaa’, may Allah be pleased with him, also reported that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “People who curse others will never be witnesses or intercessors on the Day of Judgment” (Muslim).

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, also said: “Do not curse each other and do not summon the wrath of Allah or His Hell on each other”. (Abu Daawood and Tirmithi)

Thaabit Ibn Al-Dahhaak, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “If a person perjures himself by swearing by a religion other than Islam, then he is as he professed. Whoever kills himself with a tool, he will be punished with the very same tool on the Day of Judgment. A man should not make a vow regarding things that he does not possess. Cursing a believer is just like the act of killing him” (Bukhari and Muslim).

The meaning of the first sentence of the abovementioned prophetic saying is as follows: If a person said, “If I have done so and so, I am a Jew or a Christian” and he did, he is a Jew or a Christian as he

professed. If he meant this and insists that he’s telling the truth, then he becomes a disbeliever (*Kaafir*). However, if he just wanted to exaggerate so as to prevent himself from doing a certain act and therefore never intended to desert the Islamic religion, then he is just a sinner who should ask Allah for forgiveness because of the sin he has committed.

The meaning of the last sentence in the above *Hadith* is that the crime of cursing a believer is similar to the crime of killing him.

Also, a Muslim may not curse his riding animal, car, house or any of his personal belongings. This is, again, a prohibited act in Islam.

‘Imraan Ibn al-Husayn, may Allah be pleased with him, reported: “The Prophet *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam* was traveling when a woman of the Ansaar cursed her she-camel because it made her furious. The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, heard the curse and upon this he said: “Take away the luggage which the she-camel carries and let her away, because she is cursed”. ‘Imraan said: I have seen the she-camel walking in the streets and nobody ever pays attention to her.” (Muslim).

It is allowed to curse sinners in general (and not in particular) as Allah said which means: “Behold! The curse of Allah is on those who do wrong!” (*Hud*: 18).

“The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, cursed the one who indulges in usury, the agent, the witness and the one who writes up the contract. (Bukhari).

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said that Allah curses the person who changes the boundaries of the land (as a sort of deceiving others).

He also said: “Allah curses the thief who steals (even) an egg” (Bukhari).

The Prophet *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam* also said: “Allah curses the one who curses his parent” (Muslim).

“He, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, invoked curses on the tribes of R’al, Thakwaan and ‘Aseyyah who disobeyed

Allah and His Messenger” (Muslim).

He, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, also said: “Allah cursed the men who imitate women and the women who imitate men” (Bukhari).

In all these *Ahaadith*, the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, did not curse a certain person, rather he cursed whoever commits such evil deeds as a sort of warning against them.

I seek refuge in Allah and hope that we will not be damned. I invoke Allah, the All Merciful, to guide us so that we could escape the path of the damned.

Thanks be to Allah, the All Merciful, the Most Compassionate. I thank Him and repent to Him and ask Him for forgiveness.

I testify that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is His Prophet and Messenger who said: “Indecency and obscene words distort any act, while courteousness embellishes any good act”.

The Islamic law prohibits the act of unjustifiably reviling and abusing the dead and it warns against harming the dead because of his innovation in religion or immorality.

‘Aa’ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, reported that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Do not revile the dead, because they have already faced their destiny (be it good or bad).” (Bukhari).

The meaning of the *Hadith* is that the dead has already been commissioned with the consequences of his deeds, whether good or bad; accordingly, the *Hadith* warns against reviling them especially if they are Muslims.

Sadly, some people may insult or verbally abuse their children as well as invoke Allah against them. Some may even curse themselves, their servants and even invoke ruin against their property.

Jaabir bin ‘Abdullaah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: Do not invoke ruin against your property for when you do so, it may be an hour of accepting invocation (and you face such disaster) (Muslim).

Ubay, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “There are three invocations which Allah will undoubtedly accept: the invocation of the oppressed, that of the traveler and the father’s invocation against his son” (Tirmithi).

Glory be to Allah. What a great religion! What a supreme law! Only the pious people will stick to this religion that gives us a full account of even minute details of this life. Are we going to stick to this religion? Yes, God willing. We shall stick to the path of Allah and follow the example of Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*.

[1] Abstract concepts of purity, such as purity of intentions (*niyyah*), heart, language or relationships, etc. Real concepts of purity refer to the physical sense which would include making ablution, wearing clean clothes, etc.

[2] The word “revile” includes in its meaning: to call bad names, abuse with words, to speak abusively, to insult, to blaspheme, curse, to swear or to exchange insults or abusive language.

Lying: A disease of the heart

Lying is the complete opposite of truth. So, anything that is untrue and deliberately intended to mislead another person is a lie. A lie, therefore, can be anything spoken or written that is totally or partially baseless, unreal, made-up, distorted or exaggerated; for example, if someone were to deliberately state that a five foot pole was a ten foot pole, then this would be a lie. Similarly praising someone out of proportion is a form of a lie.

Lying and falsehood are widespread problems and are roots of other problems that occur on an individual and public level. Lies are spoken and written in the media and in politics, in business and in personal dealings, by Muslims and non-Muslims alike, although the degree, magnitude and frequency may vary.

Lying is against human nature and physiology, and like any other disease, it has its own unique signs and symptoms. The act of lying produces inner conflicts between various control centres of the brain. The moment one begins to lie, his body sends out contradictory signals to cause facial muscle twitching, expansion and contraction of pupils, perspiration, flushing of cheeks, increased blinking of the eye, tremors of the hand, and an increased heart rate. These constitute the basis of lie detector instruments.

In addition, certain unconsciously made movements are noticeable in those who lie, like the constant covering of the mouth, touching of the nose, rubbing of the eye, scratching the side of the neck, rubbing the ear, etc. One of the clearest signs is that the liar keeps his palms closed and his eyes in another direction to the person he is lying to, in an attempt to avoid eye to eye contact. A liar is aware of his body’s signals and finds lying easier when nobody can see him, such as when he is on the phone or writing.

What are the motives of a liar?

A liar tells a lie for the purpose of:

a) Concealing the truth, as he may be afraid of the truth or its punitive consequences by the law or certain individuals.

b) Cheating and deceiving others and enjoying their misery, as Satan did with Aadam.

c) Short-term worldly gains, such as gaining the favours of others or monetary gains.

Forms of lying

The worst form of lying is to do so upon Allah and His Messenger, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), which is to falsely attribute things to them. Allah Almighty Says in the Qur’an (what means): “And if he [i.e., Muhammad] had made up about Us some [false] sayings, We would have seized by the right hand; then We would have cut from him the aorta “ [Qur’an 69:44-46] And (what means): “...And do not conceal testimony, for whoever conceals it – his heart is indeed sinful...” [Qur’an 2:283]

And (what means): “And do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know [it].” [Qur’an 2:42]

Hypocrites are liars too, because they lie to themselves. Allah Says about them (what means): “In their hearts is disease, so Allah has increased their disease; and for them is a painful punishment because they [habitually] used to lie.” [Qur’an 2:10] Allah also addressed His Messenger Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, saying (what means): “...Allah knows that you are His Messenger, and Allah testifies that the hypocrites are liars.” [Qur’an 63: 1]

The Qur’an on liars

Allah Says (what means): “...Indeed

Allah does not guide one who is a transgressor and a liar.” [Qur’an 40:28]

And (what means): “...Indeed, Allah does not guide he who is a liar and [confirmed] disbeliever.” [Qur’an 39:3]

Almighty Allah also Says (what means):

“...The curse of Allah be upon him if he should be among the liars.” [Qur’an 24:7]

Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said:

“Indeed, truth leads to virtue and virtue leads to Paradise, and a truthful person continues to speak the truth until he becomes the most truthful person. Lies lead to evil and evil leads to Hell, and a liar continues to lie until he is listed as a high ranking liar before Allah.” [Al-Bukhari]

Yooosuf Ibn ‘Abdullaah, may Allah be pleased with him, said that he asked Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*: “O Messenger of Allah! What do you think is the most dreadful thing for me?” Yooosuf continued: “The Messenger caught hold of his tongue and said: “This.” [At-Tirmithi]

Bahz Ibn Hakeem related that the Messenger, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Destruction is for the man who tells lies for the amusement of other people. Destruction is for him.” [At-Tirmithi]

Sufyaan Ibn Usayd, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Messenger, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “The biggest breach of trust is that you tell a thing to your brother who believes it to be true, whereas you have lied to him.” [Abu Daawood]

Is lying ever justified?

There are very few justifications for lying in Islam. The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, directed us to tell the truth, even under the harshest circumstances of oppression. However, one may choose not to tell the truth when:

- He is being oppressed and there is

a real danger to his life if he speaks the truth. Shaykh As-Sa’di, may Allah have mercy upon him, narrated the following story: “A cruel king ordered an innocent villager present in his court to be executed due to the villager’s lack of manners. Hearing this, the villager began cursing the king in his native language. The king asked his minister, who understood the man’s language, to tell him what the man was saying. The wise minister, instead of telling the truth, told the king that the man was sorry for his conduct and was praising his greatness and pleading for his mercy. The king was affected and therefore spared the life of the innocent villager.” Shaykh As-Sa’di called this: “A lie with wisdom.”

- To promote harmony between spouses. For example, if one’s wife asks him if she is beautiful or if he loves her, there is no harm in answering in the affirmative, even if this is not the case.

- While making peace between two quarrelling parties, so that the ordeal would not ignite into something worse. The mediator in such a case may falsely tell one party that the other is speaking highly of them.

- To make the unbelievers realise the truth. When Prophet Ibraaheem, may Allah exalt his mention, broke all the idols except the largest of them, the unbelievers entered the temple and saw the smashed idols. Ibraaheem, may Allah exalt his m ention, had placed the axe in the hand of the chief idol. The disbelievers asked: “Who broke our gods?” He said: “Ask the chief idol, he has the axe.” They replied: “Do you not know that he cannot speak or act?” Ibraaheem, may Allah exalt his mention, replied: “This is what I have been telling you, so worship Allah rather than these stones that cannot harm or profit you.”

Virtues of telling the truth

Truthfulness is commanded by Allah as a part of faith and is an indispensable quality of the believers. It is mentioned in over one hundred places in the Qur’an. Some examples are when Allah Almighty Says (what means): “That Allah may reward the truthful for their truth...” [Qur’an 33:24]

“O you who have believed! Fear Allah and be with those who are true.” [Qur’an 9:119]

“O you who have believed! Fear Allah and speak words of appropriate justice.” [Qur’an 33:70]

“The patient, the true, the obedient, those who spend [in the way of Allah], and those who seek forgiveness before dawn.” [Qur’an 3:17]

“The believers are only the ones who have believed in Allah and His Messenger and then doubt not but strive with their properties and their lives in the cause of Allah. It is those who are the truthful.” [Qur’an 49:15]

It is not necessary to relate any prophetic traditions about the truthfulness of Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, as his whole life was nothing but the epitome of truth. Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, was confirmed as a truthful person even before he became a Prophet. During his prophethood, even his enemies confirmed that he was truthful and trustworthy. Some of the disbelievers would deposit their belongings with him as an indication of their trust in him.

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HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi speaking at the event.



Education minister emphasises importance of 'Leadership' programme

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi has emphasised the importance of the "Leadership" programme in developing leadership capacities within schools and highlighted the central role of students in the educational process.

During the closing ceremony of the first edition of the programme,

HE al-Nuaimi said that developing leadership capacities for school principals is a valuable investment in the younger generation and the educational system.

The minister praised the efforts and commitment shown by the programme participants, saying that they are a model to be emulated by teachers and students.

The "Leadership" programme is

a pioneering initiative in developing school leadership skills, with this edition implemented in collaboration with Harvard University and the Qatar Leadership Centre.

The programme encompasses seven training units covering topics such as school leadership, the role of schools in society, and human resource development.

It included field visits to Harvard

University and the Science Museum, as well as several schools in Boston, US.

Ahmed al-Balam, director of Institutional and Academic Programmes and director of Youth Leadership at the Qatar Leadership Centre, emphasised the importance of this co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) in developing

educational leadership.

He said that through co-operation between the MoEHE and Harvard University, scientific and practical content can be developed for the target group of school principals and their deputies to enhance their leadership skills.

School principals and academic deputies expressed appreciation for the programme prepared by

Harvard University experts, saying that the knowledge gained will have an impact on their future plans and improving the academic performance of their students.

At the end of the programme, the participants, consisting of 45 school leaders, were awarded certificates of completion of the accredited training programme from the university.

QU announces NSD activities

Qatar University (QU) has lined up a number of events for National Sport Day (NSD) on February 13, officials told a press conference.

"We have various activities planned for both men and women in different fields," QU Sports Affairs Department director Dr Senaid Salem al-Marri said.

Dr Asmaa al-Naemi, director of Sports Facilities Department, highlighted QU's efforts in sports activities.

"The Sports and Events Complex was inaugurated in 2020, including padel courts for boys and soon to be open for girls," she said. "The facilities adhere to global standards and are accessible to students, staff, faculty members, and QU alumni."

Dr Alla El-Awaisi, director of Clinical Operations and Engagement, said: "The participation of QU's Health Sciences and Medicine sector is aimed at underscoring the significance of physical and mental health, emphasising sports as a key factor in a healthy life."

"According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), increasing global physical activity can prevent up to 5mn deaths annually," she said. "Shockingly, one in four adults and four in five teenagers lack sufficient physical activity, posing a risk of 500mn people facing non-communicable diseases by 2030."

Eatidil al-Qatami, director of Communications and Public Relations, invited all QU members to join in the NSD activities on campus.

Amina al-Kaab, section head of Women's Athletics, said: "Two events will take place on campus: one in the Sports and Events building for families and another in the University Stadium building exclusively for women. The schedule runs from 8am to 12 noon, featuring various group and individual activities, a station for children, and the padel championship at 4pm."

Lolwa al-Yafei, teaching assistant of exercise physiology at the College of Education, emphasised the importance of sports and raising awareness of physical activity.



Qatar Foundation to host NSD activities for all ages

Qatar Foundation (QF) will be hosting a range of National Sport Day (NSD) activities on February 13 at Education City, featuring ability-friendly activities and programmes specifically for school students, and women and girls, it was announced at a press conference yesterday.

The activities will be held from 9am-6pm at multiple locations within Education City: Oxygen Park, the Ceremonial Green Spine, Ceremonial Court, Multaqa (Education City Student Centre), Awsaj Recreation, and for women and girls only - the Education City Stadium.

After a successful first edition last year, the Education City Try-A-Tri - a triathlon - is back for the 2024 NSD, and participants will be able to choose between competing in mixed or ladies-only groups.

The Education City Mountain Bike Trail will be launched. Those looking to run a race can participate in the Education City Race in one of the four categories: 800m, 2.5km, 5km, and 10km.

QF school students will be leading activities in partnership with local sport federations and spreading the message of encouraging children to adopt active and healthy lifestyles.

Sporting activities for women and girls include an obstacle course, football competitions, boxing, yoga, and numerous fitness classes.

A talk on *Champion Mindset: Unlocking*



Officials announcing the National Sport Day activities at Qatar Foundation's Education City.

Greatness will also be held from 8am-9am at the Education City Stadium.

Featured are Tunisian tennis star Ons Jabeur, Ibtihaj Mohamed (an American Olympian sabre fencer and the first Muslim American woman to wear a headscarf while competing in the Olympics), and former Scottish middle- and long-distance Olympian runner Liz McColgan.

The session will be moderated by Qatari mountaineer Sheikha Asma al-Thani, the director of marketing and international co-operation at the Qatar Olympic Committee.

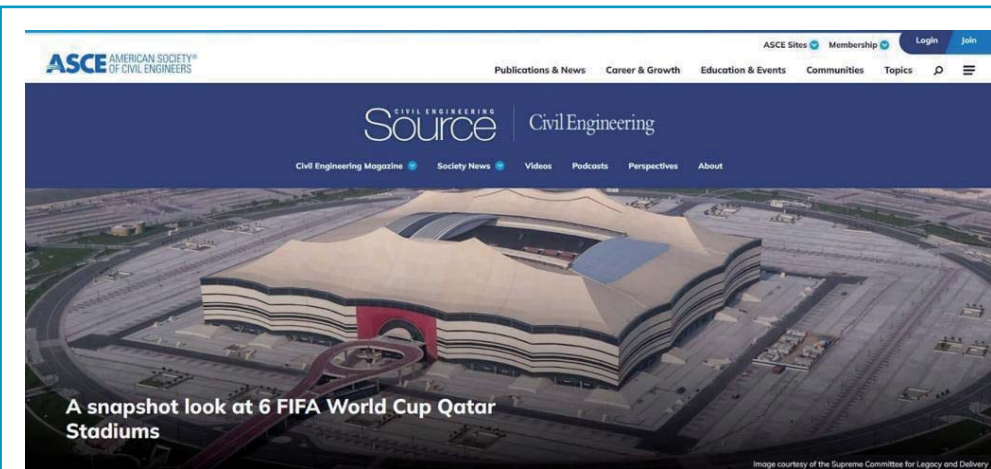
The talk is open for women and girls only, and registration is required to attend.

"NSD at the QF will contribute to building

on the legacy of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and other major sporting events that are hosted in Education City," a QF statement said. "It will be an opportunity for the wider public to discover Education City's sports programmes, venues, and facilities, and will highlight Qatar's dedication to promoting healthy lifestyles."

National Sport Day will be a car-free day at Education City.

More information about NSD events and activities at Qatar Foundation can be found at www.educationcity.qa/en/nsd where you can also register for specific activities that require prior registration, and find information on as-signed parking lots.



Qatar's World Cup stadiums featured in American engineering magazine

A research project on Qatar's FIFA World Cup 2022 stadiums was recently published in the *American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Magazine*, a statement from the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) said.

The November-December 2023 edition of the magazine carried two articles covering the findings of the research, and featured Al Bayt Stadium on its digital cover, and Lusail Stadium on its printed cover.

Undertaken by Qatar University (QU) and funded by the SC, the research aimed to share lessons learned and innovations in engineering from the delivery of the mega-project.

The study looked at the unique designs of Qatar's FIFA World Cup stadiums, which were inspired by Qatari and Arab culture, as well as the engineering feats behind their construction and completion.

"We are delighted to see this important research paper on Qatar's FIFA World Cup stadiums in one of the world's most well-respected engineering publications," said engineer Ghanim al-Kuwari, SC deputy director-general (technical services). "The project chronicles the tremendous engineering feats applied in building Qatar's tournament infrastructure, and is part of its legacy."

"This research will act as a reference to the engineering sector, as well as to future mega-event hosts," he said.

"Organisers can refer to the research when applying projects of a similar size and magnitude," al-Kuwari added. "It shares the successes and lessons learned during the construction of Qatar's tournament infrastructure, which was designed to the highest of engineering standards and introduced many innovations in the field of sustainable construction and operation."

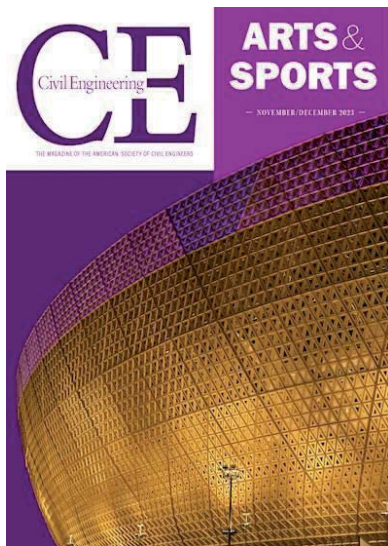
Dr Nasser Alnuaimi, assistant vice-president for research and graduate studies at the QU, said: "The World Cup showcased Qatar's innovative spirit through civil engineering. The diverse and ambitious nature of the eight stadiums provided an opportunity for knowledge sharing and the enhancement of best practices worldwide."

"This work, featured by one of the most prestigious engineering professional bodies, more than 170 years old, is a source of great personal pride as well as a testament to the engineering legacy of the Qatar 2022 World Cup," he pointed out. "As the world celebrated the first World Cup in the Arab world and Middle East, the legacy of these stadiums will continue to resonate, showcasing the power of innovation, collaboration and sustainable development in civil engineering."

Eight stadiums hosted the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which carry unique designs and various certifications for sustainability, innovation and architectural excellence.

The ASCE, a non-profit organisation, was founded in 1853 to represent members of the civil engineering profession worldwide.

It aims to facilitate the advancement of technology, encourage and provide the tools for lifelong learning, promote professionalism and the profession, and develop and support civil engineers.



talabat renews QIFF sponsorship

talabat has renewed its sponsorship of Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF), taking place until February 17 at Expo 2023 Doha's Family Zone in Al Bidda Park.

A photo booth will welcome visitors to capture their favourite moments, while there are live face-painting stations for children throughout the festival.

Additionally, vouchers will be distributed, allowing visitors to order their choice of groceries or dishes from the comfort of their homes.

"talabat's presence in the QIFF reinforces our commitment towards creating memorable moments, fostering connections, and supporting the flourishing food community in Qatar," talabat Qatar managing director Francisco Miguel De Sousa said in a statement.

The theme of this year's QIFF will celebrate the Qatar-Moroccan 2024 Year of Culture, showcasing the finest in local and international cuisines, offering a diverse array of culinary delights."

Grand opening for the QIFF

The 13th Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) had a grand opening yesterday at the Expo 2023 Doha Family Zone in Al Bidda Park.

Thematic dance performances and live cookery shows were among the attractions at the opening ceremony attended by Qatar Tourism (QT) chairman HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, Qatar Airways Group chief executive Badr Mohamed al-Meer, Expo 2023 Doha secretary-general Mohamed Ali al-Khouri and other dignitaries.

Running until February 17, the country's biggest culinary celebration, organised by the QT, features over 100 stalls, including some of the top restaurants from Qatar and the region.

Live cooking shows, masterclasses, and cooking competitions from prominent local, regional and international chefs are part of the itinerary.

PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

