



## BRAND NEW BUILDING FOR RENT

- 8 Shops
- 2 Units - 2 BHK
- 1 Unit - 3 BHK



Ready  
To  
Occupy

**HABARI**  
REAL ESTATE

Call Now!  
+974 3030 0880  
+974 3341 9475



Al Murra, Doha

[www.habari realestate.com](http://www.habari realestate.com)

**talabat** mart

Daily deals  
at up to  
**60% off**

on Ramadan essentials



**Sky Vision Real Estate Offer**

Labour Room 1,250/- per room @  
Industrial Area, Street-38,43,44,47

Lounge & Club / Spa Massage / Men  
Salon for rent inside a 4 star hotel

Warehouse 600sqm - Qr.18,500/-  
Call: 33598672, 50576993, 52038746

Extra Mineral Added

**LOW SODIUM  
FOR BETTER HEALTH**

**Amwaj**

1500ml/600ml  
350ml/200ml

DOHA JUICE & FOOD FACTORY  
+974 30454443/+974 31100277

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

[gulftimes](https://www.facebook.com/gulftimes)

[GulfTimes\\_QATAR](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGulftimes)

[gulftimes](https://www.instagram.com/gulftimes)

[GulftimesVideos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGulftimes)

## QatarEnergy-Nakilat deal to run tankers

QatarEnergy signed time-charter party (TCP) agreements with Qatar Gas Transport Company Limited (Nakilat) for the operation of 25 conventional-size LNG vessels as part of the second ship-owner tender under QatarEnergy's historic LNG Fleet Expansion Programme. The agreements were signed yesterday by HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President and CEO of QatarEnergy Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, and CEO of Nakilat Eng Abdullah al-Sulaiti. **Business Page 1**

## Israel not to allow UNRWA food convoys

The head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) said yesterday Israel had informed the UN that it will no longer approve UNRWA food convoys to the north of Gaza. "This is outrageous and makes it intentional to obstruct lifesaving assistance during a man-made famine. These restrictions must be lifted," UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said.

### RAMADAN THOUGHT

*Fasting is a school for the training of the soul, purification of the heart, lowering of the gaze and protection of the limbs.*

#### Prayer times

Fajr...4.16; Zuhr...1.40; Asr...3.07;  
Maghrib...5.50; Isha...7.20

#### Fasting times

Iftar today .....5.50pm  
Imsak tomorrow.....4.05am

## PM, UN relief co-ordinator discuss Gaza developments



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, Martin Griffiths, who is visiting the country. The two sides discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, and ways to bolster regional and international efforts for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and to facilitate an obstacle-free humanitarian aid access to the Strip. HE Sheikh Mohamed reiterated Qatar's emphasis on the importance of the UN's role in supporting efforts to battle the worsening humanitarian catastrophe and putting an end to the suffering of the Palestinian brothers trapped in the Gaza Strip. **(QNA)**

## Israel besieges two more Gaza hospitals

Israeli forces besieged two more Gaza hospitals yesterday, pinning down medical teams under heavy gunfire, the Palestinian Red Crescent said. Palestinian resistance movement Hamas and medical staff deny Israeli accusations that hospitals are used by militants as bases. The Palestinian Red Crescent said one of its staff was killed when Israeli tanks suddenly pushed back into areas around Al-Amal and Nasser hospitals in the southern city of Khan Younis, amid heavy bombardment and gunfire. The Red Crescent said Israeli forces were now demanding the complete evacuation of staff, patients and displaced people from Al-Amal's premises and were firing smoke bombs into the area to force out its occupants.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Israeli forces had killed five Palestinian doctors during their seven-day-old swoop on Al-Shifa. In Rafah, Gaza's southernmost town on the Egyptian border that has become the last refuge for half of Gaza's uprooted population, an Israeli air strike on a house killed seven people, health officials said. At least 32,226 Palestinians have been killed, among them 84 in the past 24 hours, and 74,518 injured in Israel's air and ground offensive into the densely populated coastal territory since Oct. 7, its health ministry said yesterday. US-backed mediation by Qatar and Egypt has so far failed to secure a Hamas-Israel ceasefire, prisoner releases and unfettered aid to Gaza civilians facing famine, with each side sticking to core demands.

# MoPH-QDB initiative to enhance Qatar's drug supply chain

Qatar's pharmaceutical supply chains will undergo a fundamental transition thanks to a joint initiative between the GS1 Qatar Office, an entity operating under the umbrella of Qatar Development Bank (QDB), and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

This will entail the implementation of the global standard system to regulate and track commercial drug circulation from manufacturers to patients by implementing a two-dimensional barcode and serial coding system for locally manufactured and imported pharmaceuticals.

The joint initiative will enhance the performance and efficiency of Qatar's pharmaceutical supply chain operations throughout all stages, ensuring the authenticity of drugs circulating in the market and optimising both the delivery of medicines to patients, and the withdrawal of drugs from the market when needed.

Dr Aisha al-Ansari, director of Pharmacy and Drug Control Department at the MoPH, said the ministry is constantly striving to improve and develop healthcare services and bolster the medical sector in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

"In this context, we took the initiative to strengthen pharmaceutical supply chains in Qatar in co-operation with Qatar De-



Dr Aisha al-Ansari and Dr Hamad Salem Mejegheer during the signing ceremony.

velopment Bank represented by the GS1 Qatar Office. We look forward to this initiative having a positive impact on fields related to the manufacturing, supply and distribution of pharmaceuticals in the local market, in addition to promoting Qatari medical products in global markets."

Dr Hamad Salem Mejegheer, chairman of the GS1 Qatar Office, said the initiative falls in line with the bank's efforts to build partnerships and collaborate with various state institutions to develop local industries, support, and protect local products, and promote them in foreign markets, contributing to the diversification of Qatar's economy. "Our partnership with the

Ministry of Public Health will enable the regulation of the commercial circulation of medicines in line with international requirements and legislation and improve drug supply chains across the country in compliance with international standards."

Through this initiative, pharmaceutical companies in Qatar will have the opportunity to access training programmes on the global standard system for numbering. Awareness sessions will also be held to introduce commercial partners in the medical sector to the benefits of using barcodes to identify goods and merchandise, drawing from the experience of other countries in applying the system. **To Page 4**



**HARRY WINSTON**



مجوهرات الفران  
**Alfardan Jewellery**

فاندوم مول : ٤١٤٢٤١١٧  
Place Vendome: 41424117

اللؤلؤة : ٤٤٨٨١١٩٤  
The Pearl: 44881194

قطر مول : ٤٤١٧٩٩٣٠  
Mall of Qatar: 44179930

[HARRYWINSTON.COM](http://HARRYWINSTON.COM)







Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition & Conference | معرض ومؤتمر الدوحة الدولي للدفاع البحري  
04 - 06 MARCH | مارس | www.dimdex.com

THANK YOU  
SEE YOU AT DIMDEX 2026

The organising committee of Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition & Conference (DIMDEX 2024) would like to extend the deepest thanks and appreciation to all the ministries, institutions, corporations, diplomatic missions, industry associations, sponsors and partners, as well as exhibitors, for the invaluable contributions in making the event achieve another level of excellence.

We wish everyone involved in DIMDEX 2024 great success and we look forward to your unwavering continued support for us to deliver another stellar edition in 2026.



National Media Sponsor

MENC in Partnership with

National Media Partner

Official Show Guide Producer

Official Show Daily Producer

Official Naval Media Partner

Official Digital News & Web TV Producer

Official Arab Magazine

Media Partners





QRCS food parcel distribution in Afghanistan.

# QRCS' Ramadan Iftar projects benefit over 234,000 people



QRCS food parcel distribution in Somalia.

Since the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan 1445 AH, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has been working to implement the Ramadan Iftar project in 18 countries, with diverse food parcels containing local staples distributed to more than 234,000 beneficiaries.

With the participation of Abdulaziz Mohamed al-Sahli, Qatar's charge d'affaires in Albania, and in co-operation with the Albanian Red Cross, QRCS distributed food parcels to 500 vulnerable families, or 2,000 people, at a total cost of \$20,000.

In Lebanon, preparations are in progress by QRCS' personnel, to start distributing 2,668 food parcels to the poorest families, in order to ensure their food security for one month,

Dr Abdullah bin Salem al-Nuaimi, Qatar's ambassador to Somalia, launched the distribution of food parcels, each containing 66.5kg of food items such as flour, rice, sugar, infant formula, vegetable oil and dates.

At a total cost of \$360,000, the project is targeting 3,911 families, or 27,377 people, at Kismayo camps in Jubaland and in remote camps of Banadir.

In Afghanistan, QRCS personnel completed phase one of Ramadan Iftar project, with 550 food parcels distributed to displaced and returnee families in two locations of Nangarhar. Phase two will immediately begin, with distribution of 550 food parcels in two other locations of Kandahar.

Each parcel contains 92kg of food items such as flour, rice, vegetable oil, sugar, beans, dates, tea and salt. The \$150,000 project is implemented in partnership with the Afghan Educational and Aid Organisation and the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

QRCS' office in Iraq initiated Ramadan Iftar project in Iraqi Kurdistan, in co-operation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and Barzani Charity Foundation.

They have distributed 1,775 food parcels out of 3,000 food parcels to be distributed to 15,000 displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees at Hassan Sham and Khazer camps in Mosul. Each parcel contains 22.5kg of basic foodstuffs, such as rice, sugar, bulgur, lentils, tomato paste, salt, vegetable oil and dates.

QRCS' office in Yemen initiated Ramadan Iftar project for the benefit of 42,000 people in Lahij, Abyan, Taiz, Aden, and Sana'a. At a total cost of \$450,000, the project is aimed at alleviating the suffering of the poorest families affected by the deteriorating humanitarian conditions. A total of 6,000 one-month food parcels containing flour, sugar, rice, dates, canned beans, vegetable oil and salt are to be distributed.

The project was inaugurated in partnership with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society in Lahij, where 1,000 food parcels were distributed at remote and inaccessible villages of Al-Madaribah Wa Al-Aarah district.

In co-operation with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, QRCS' mission in Bangladesh is preparing to implement Ramadan Iftar project, which involves distributing 12,430 food parcels, as follows: 6,500 food parcels for poor refugee families at camps and 5,930 food parcels for poor local families in different parts of the country. In Djibouti, Mohamed Ali al-Darhim from Qatar's embassy in Djibouti participated in the distribution of food parcels to 205 poor and drought-affected families Balbala & Chekeiti 2, in co-operation with the Djibouti Red Crescent.

Donations to Ramadan Iftar projects can be made via QRCS website ([www.qrcs.qa](http://www.qrcs.qa)), donor service (66666364), home donation collection (33998898), or bank transfer as follows: QIB (IBAN: QA-51QISB0000000000110575190014), QIIB (IBAN: QA-66QIIB00000000001111126666003), Masraf Al Rayan (IBAN: QA18MAFR000000000001199980003), or QNB (IBAN: QA21QNB00000000000850020196062).

## Awqaf releases encyclopaedia for development of Islamic education

The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (Awqaf) has released *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia for the Development of Islamic Education*.

The book, according to a statement from Awqaf, is authored by Dr Hussein Ahmed Qasim, who holds a doctorate in educational supervision of Islamic education.

Awqaf printed the encyclopaedia with funding from the Endowment Bank for Scientific and Cultural Development in the General Administration of Endowments. The encyclopedia has five volumes covering the topics related to Islamic education.

During the release, Hassan Mohamed al-Asfar, head of the Publications Department at Awqaf, explained that the ministry usually prints books on reviving the Islamic heritage as a priority, and prints books on Shariah sciences in all branches while covering hadith, biography, jurisprudence, doctrine, interpretation, and the



principles of jurisprudence as well as all schools of thought. "The encyclopedia is related to the subject of Islamic education and this is a new development," he said.

The head of the Publications Department explained that Awqaf carried out a comprehensive scientific review of the book along with a scientific team.

He praised the support of HE the Minister of Endow-

ments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen bin Ghanem al-Ghanem while mentioning the minister's interest and follow-up in printing heritage books because of their high scientific value.

Author Dr Hussein Ahmed Qasim said the encyclopaedia included a project to develop Islamic education in schools keeping in line with modernity.

## Chad honours Qatar Charity

Chad's Ministry of Water and Sanitation honoured Qatar Charity (QC) for its outstanding contribution to addressing the water resource problem in the capital, N'Djamena, and its surrounding areas.

The ministry placed QC in the second position in terms of its impactful developmental interventions in the water and sanitation sector in Chad, after Unicef, a QC statement said yesterday.

The recognition came on the occasion of QC's inauguration of 50 deep wells in N'Djamena and its outskirts, coinciding with the recent World Water Day. Basile Kana-Bi Marcelin, Minister of Water and Sanitation, attended the opening of one of them.

During the inauguration ceremony, the minister commended QC for its impactful interventions in Chad, particularly in addressing the water resource challenges N'Djamena. The governor of the seventh district within the capital, N'Djamena, said, "This is not the first time Qatar Charity has contributed to solving the water issue in the area. They previously dug a well for a school in the region, and today they are opening another well." He also thanked QC for the assistance, extending gratitude to the Qatari people for their support.

Abdulaziz Jassim Hejji, director of the International Programmes and Development Department at QC, encouraged benefactors to seize the opportunity of Ramadan and QC's "Double Ajir" campaign to donate during the second ten days of the holy month towards water projects, social housing, and mosque projects implemented available at minimal cost. He expressed hope that these projects would have a clear impact on the lives of individuals and communities.



According to Unicef, 6mn people in Chad lack access to clean drinking water, with only 2mn having limited access. Additionally, 22% of children under the age of five in Chad suffer from diarrhoeal diseases due to unsafe water. QC's office in Chad, with the support of donors in Qatar, has successfully dug and equipped 200 water wells during the period from 2020 to 2024.

The estimated beneficiaries of these wells exceed 1mn people, across several Asian and African countries.

Donations can be made to the campaign through the following link: <https://www.qcharity.org/en/qa/campaign?campaignId=621&UTMMid=0>

To make contributions, a person can dial 44920000. Furthermore, benefactors can donate at QC's branches, as well as at its collection points in the commercial complexes.

### 114 heart patients receive aid from Awqaf's 'Nabd' initiative

A total of 114 heart patients have benefited from the 'Nabd Endowment' by the General Administration of Endowments at the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (Awqaf) in 2023.

This was announced by the director-general of the department Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Mohamed bin Ghanim al-Thani during a press conference in the presence of Dr Abdul Wahed al-Mulla, head of Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at the Heart Hospital of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC). The aid was given through the Endowment Bank for Health Care. Al-Thani announced continuing the partnership with the Heart Hospital to support and assist critical cases of heart patients in need. He urged esteemed philanthropists to endow 'Nabd Endowment' so that it can perform the role expected of it.



Dr al-Mulla expressed his pleasure at this fruitful co-operation and its continuation and the rapid response from the General Administration of Endowments to achieve its pioneering role in society. He noted that this support will benefit many heart patients, citing that the number of beneficiaries has seen yearly increases.

The Endowment Bank for Health Care is one of the six endowment banks and was established to reinforce the historical

role of health endowments in Islamic history. The bank is one of the forms of community participation and support for this important sector, among several means including caring for low-income patients in need of treatment and providing appropriate health services to them, co-operating with the competent authorities to create joint health programmes, holding educational training courses in the health field and making use of the media to spread health awareness.

OWN YOUR STANDALONE VILLA  
AT THE GRID RESIDENCE

THE  
GRID  
RESIDENCE

CALL 7092 3333

Al Kheesa





5-BEDROOM VILLAS  
STARTING FROM QR 4.5M

FREEHOLD OWNERSHIP

6 YEARS  
PAYMENT PLAN

10%  
DOWNPAYMENT

 **Capstone**  
PROPERTY







# Shura Council takes part in IPU Governing Council session

The Shura Council took part in the 213th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) Governing Council, held as part of the 148th IPU Assembly activities, taking place in Geneva.

HE Dr Sultan bin Hassan al-Dhabet al-Dosari, HE Ahmad bin Ebrahim al-Malki, and HE Ali bin Ahmad al-Kaabi are representing the Shura Council at the IPU Assembly.

The IPU Governing Council discussed the Secretary-General's IPU Impact Report for 2023, the progress made regarding the implementation of the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy, the work of various committees and bodies, namely the Executive Committee, in addition to discussing IPU membership, among other items on the agenda.

The Shura Council delegation also participated in the opening session of the IPU Assembly,



which discussed this session's theme "Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding."

The Shura Council also participated in the meeting of the bureau of the Standing Committee

on Democracy and Human Rights, during which the report on the committee's work was reviewed. The most important topics to be raised in the committee's upcoming meeting was also discussed. (QNA)

# PHCC adopts ambitious goals for healthcare quality

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has adopted ambitious goals to enhance the quality of services while providing easy access, in addition to focusing on sustainability and flexibility through an emphasis on preventive healthcare, managing director Dr Mariam Abdulmalik said.

Speaking to local Arabic daily Al-Arabiya, she said the 2024-2030 strategic plan focuses on changing the way primary healthcare services are being delivered in line with the objectives set forth in Qatar's new National Health Strategy, as well as the National Development Strategy, which focuses on the health of the population.

PHCC will proactively identify

common risk factors and work on reducing them, such as smoking, high blood pressure, obesity, elevated blood glucose levels, and high cholesterol levels in early stages. This in turn, will lead to a significant decrease in the need for costly treatments and long-term care in hospitals for treatment of complications resulting from chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Eventually, this will help the healthcare sector in general to redirect resources to meet other healthcare needs and enhance a more sustainable and efficient healthcare system.

She also stressed that healthy lifestyles would be actively promoted

and specialised activities will be carried out including smoking cessation clinics, immunisation services, psychiatric services and early detection for breast, colon and bowel cancers, as well as vaccinations.

The PHCC plays an active role in reducing the complication rates of chronic conditions, preventing the development of serious diseases and promoting the overall health and well-being of the population.

The official pointed out that PHCC focuses on empowering individuals to be active participants in their healthcare through awareness and health education initiatives, which contributes to improving results for all population groups in the short and long-term.

# Qatar Rail holds annual staff Iftar

Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) held its annual staff Iftar to commemorate the holy month of Ramadan.

The event was attended by managing director and CEO Dr Abdulla bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, executive management, and staff.

The annual Iftar event is in line with Qatar Rail's efforts and commitment to celebrate the blessed month, fostering camaraderie among its employees and their families, and engaging them in the unique vibes during this holy month. a statement said.

"Qatar Rail is committed to hosting this annual event as part of its strategy



aimed at enhancing team spirit and recognising the effective contributions and dedicated efforts made by its staff to support the company's vision and goals. Additionally, it provides them with an opportunity to enjoy the joy of the holy month of Ramadan," it was explained.



A short video documenting the moments of Qatar Rail's employees during different social gatherings was showcased. The event also included interactive activities and a raffle draw of gifts and prizes for employees and their families.

### Tender - Waseef

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

Tender Number	Subject	Bid Bond (QAR)	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
GTC/WSF/RLIC/TSE/05/2024	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, TRANSPORT AND DELIVERY OF TSE ON CALL-OFF BASIS TO RLIC CAMP MANAGED BY WASEEF	28,000	500	April 18, 2024

The Tender Document will be available from March 25, 2024 onwards upon submission of the below documentation to [tender@waseef.qa](mailto:tender@waseef.qa)

To collect please provide the following:

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

Please note the following:

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

LET US MANAGE YOUR WORLD

# MoPH-QDB initiative to enhance Qatar's drug supply chain

From Page 1

Healthcare partners in Qatar, including manufacturers, distributors, hospitals and pharmacies, among others, will also be able to secure membership in the GS1 Qatar Office, which provides all required information to apply these standards while securing access to the electronic portal services that enables them to manage all requirements.

The process of applying two-dimensional barcodes and serial numbers on pharmaceutical packages enables the tracking and marketing of national products both locally and overseas, which contributes to boosting the healthcare industry's exports, as well as the regulation of products and services in local markets.

The GS1 Qatar Office is the authority responsible for issuing international barcodes to identify Qatari products and services with unique numbers globally through the use of the (630) code reserved for Qatar, establishing a unified language for commercial exchange operations locally and overseas.

# AlKhater meets Palestinian, Uzbek envoys



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met yesterday with the Palestine ambassador to Qatar Munir Abdullah Ghannam. The meeting discussed co-operation between the two countries, the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, and means of co-operation in providing facilities for the wounded Palestinian brothers who were received in Doha, as part of the initiative of His Highness the Amir to treat 1,500 Palestinians from the Strip. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met yesterday with Uzbekistan's ambassador to Qatar Ashraf Khujaev. Relations between the two countries, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and means of co-operation in the Afghan file were discussed during the meeting. (QNA)

# Embassy hosts Iftar for Turkish academics



The Turkish embassy in Qatar hosted an Iftar for Turkish academics in the country.

Ambassador Dr Mustafa Goksu welcomed the participants who included experts from research centres, and faculty members from universities in Qatar.

In his address, the envoy explained that the number of Turkish universities has increased from 74 in 1980 to 207 in 2023. The number of students enrolled in Turkish universities has increased from 240,000 in 1980 to nearly 2mn in 2023.

"The quality of education in Turkish universities has also significantly improved, with some Turkish universities ranking high globally. Opportunities for international co-operation between Turkish universities and their counterparts worldwide have also increased.

"The number of Turkish research centres has significantly increased from 40 in 1980 to more than 1,000 in 2023, covering various scientific, social and humanitarian disciplines. Government funding for scientific research has also increased significantly," Dr Goksu added.

### The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

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

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	GT24102200	25.03.2024 - 31.03.2024	05.05.2024	400,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: MISCELLANEOUS ELECTRICAL MOC (2024) IN DUKHAN FIELD Mid-Tender Meeting Location : <b>To be advised if required</b> Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : <b>To be advised if required</b>							
2	LT24101300	25.03.2024 - 31.03.2024	22.04.2024	75,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF FACADE GLASS SEALANT AT QATARENERGY HEADQUARTERS Mid-Tender Meeting Location : <b>To be advised if required</b> Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : <b>To be advised if required</b>							
3	LT24101400	25.03.2024 - 31.03.2024	22.04.2024	100,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED PROCESS CONTROL FOR NGL-3/4 IN MESAIEED OPERATIONS Mid-Tender Meeting Location : <b>To be advised if required</b> Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : <b>To be advised if required</b>							
4	GT24101600	25.03.2024 - 31.03.2024	21.04.2024	200,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: PROVISION OF FABRICATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF VARIOUS DRILLING WORKSHOP ITEMS FOR ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE OPERATIONS Mid-Tender Meeting Location : <b>To be advised if required</b> Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : <b>To be advised if required</b>							
5	LT24101700	25.03.2024 - 31.03.2024	22.04.2024	150,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: F&G MAPPING & VENT DISPERSION FOR DUKHAN PRODUCTION FACILITIES Mid-Tender Meeting Location : <b>To be advised if required</b> Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : <b>To be advised if required</b>							
6	LT24MT0021	25.03.2024 - 31.03.2024	06.05.2024	2,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: SALE & REMOVAL OF HEALTHCARE, OPERATIONS, IT, FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE Mid-Tender Meeting Location : <b>To be advised if required</b> Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : <b>To be advised if required</b>							

\* Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management -> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned above against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.  
\* Always refer to QatarEnergy Website ([www.qatarenergy.qa](http://www.qatarenergy.qa)) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders  
\* Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal only.  
\* Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal.  
\* Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushtaryat Portal on urgent basis.  
\* No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.  
\* QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.  
\* Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - <https://icv.qa/en-US>



# QIIB sponsors ‘Ramadan Basket’ project for QSRSN

In alignment with its dedication to community service, QIIB has sponsored the ‘Ramadan Basket’ project of Qatar Society for Rehabilitation of Special Needs (QRSN) with the participation of the Qatar Football Association (QFA).

This sponsorship encompasses the distribution of 3,000 ‘Ramadan Baskets’ to the Society’s members, a statement said yesterday.

An event was organised at the headquarters of the QSRN to launch the project in the presence of QIIB CEO Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei, QSRN executive director Amir al-Mulla, alongside Qatar’s national football team players Abdul Aziz Hatem and Saad al-Shaib.

Also in attendance were QIIB’s Human Resources and Administrative Affairs Sector head Ali Hamad al-Mesaifry, QFA’s Marketing and Communications Department director Khaled Mubarak al-Kuwari, and QIIB’s Business Development head Khaled al-Shaibei.

Also present were QSRN members Ghanem Mohamed Ahmed Youssef al-Muftah, Hind Abdul Rahman Ali Mo-



hamed Ali al-Awadi, Basem al-Hajjar, Mubarak Mohamed Hassan Mubarak al-Gharib, and Saud Abdullah Ahmed al-Mir, Talib Abdullah Jaber Hamad Afifa al-Marri, Celine Mazen Hegazy, Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Youssef al-Muftah, Ahmed Mohamed Issa Ahmed, Mohamed Dahim Saad Faisal al-Dosari.

Dr al-Shaibei expressed QIIB’s delight in participating in this initiative during the holy month of Ramadan, extending gratitude to QSRN for the invitation to

sponsor the noble cause and project.

He further acknowledged the QFA’s involvement in launching the event, emphasising a three-year partnership of QIIB with QFA to serve society and advance various initiatives in line with the country’s development.

He emphasised QIIB’s commitment to supporting entities like the QSRN, reflecting national and moral obligations towards community service.

Al-Mulla conveyed gratitude to QIIB for its support and sponsorship,

also acknowledging the presence of Qatar’s national football team players and representatives of the QFA.

He underscored the association’s continuous role in collaboration with partners to enrich social work in Qatar.

Highlighting the Society’s dedication to supporting its members across age and educational spectrums, al-Mulla outlined various projects undertaken during Ramadan, including cash aid, the Eid clothing initiative, prosthetic device distribution, and the Ramadan Basket initiative, which is being held under auspices of QIIB.

Al-Kuwari, reiterated QFA’s commitment to community partnership and expressed pride in QIIB’s sponsorship of national teams and the Amir Cup and the joint presence at the QSRN’s event as a testament to fostering community ties.

The event fostered discussions among participants and association members, centring on existing challenges, aspirations, and the pivotal role of the association and its supporters in addressing the needs and concerns of individuals with special needs, the statement said.

## QS celebration today to mark Arab Standardisation Day

The Qatar General Authority for Standardisation and Metrology (QS) will mark the Arab Standardisation Day today.

This year’s celebration will be held under the theme, “standardisation for a prosperous economy and a vibrant and sustainable society”.

Director-General of the Arab Industrial Development, Standardisation and Mining Organisation (AIDSMO), Adel Sakr al-Sakr, said the theme affirms the pivotal role of standardisation in promoting economic growth, improving the quality of products, increasing their competitiveness, facilitating their flow at the regional and international levels, and reducing technical barriers to trade through mutual recognition of certificates of conformity and accreditation.

Standardisation contributes to enhancing the vitality of societies by providing best practices that enable better co-operation among community members in all fields such as education, public health, infrastructure, communications, and innovation, the director general of the Morocco-based organisation added.

He added that the AIDSMO is making unremitting efforts to support regional activities related to quality infrastructure and co-ordination among all concerned bodies, and that the organisation places the implementation of the sustainable development goals at its top priority. (QNA)

# QU hosts 3rd cross-country race

As many as 900 participants, including 600 females, joined the third annual cross-country race championship organised by Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with the Sports Affairs Department and the Alumni Association and featuring distances of 3km and 5km, over the weekend.

“This championship emphasises the importance of sports and aligns with Qatar’s vision in the sports sector, where significant progress has been made regionally and globally,” said Jassim al-Hamar, head of Men’s Sports Activities and Fitness Programmes at QU.

Amina al-Kaabi, section head of Women’s Athletics at QU, described the event as a great opportunity to encourage girls to engage in running. “This requires



no prior athletic experience but motivates them to participate in sports and improve their overall health. The university provided an excellent environment

for girls, with the sports field entirely closed for the comfort and privacy of the participants, during the race.”

The cross-country race championship is a



form of endurance race where participants run long distances for extended periods, in contrast to short-distance speed races that are measured in seconds.

### Urgently required

A Leading company needs

office space in Doha

800-600 sqm with well-equipped, must have amenities electricity, lighting, air conditioning and network. please reach

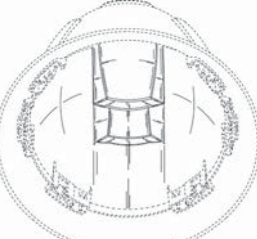


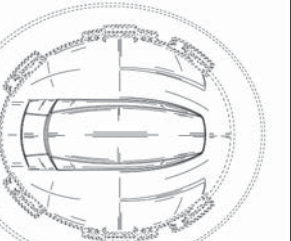
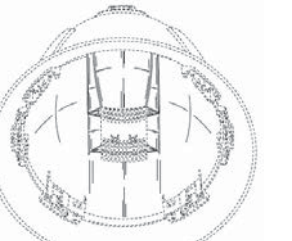
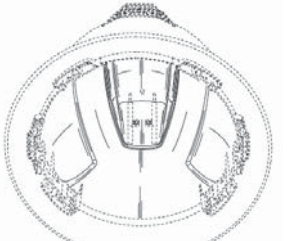
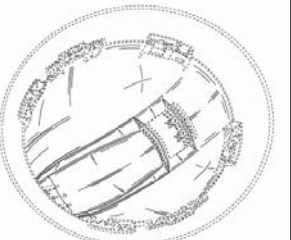
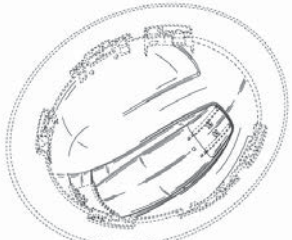
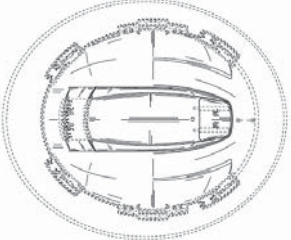
out to us at:

55815071 - 74408486 - 33130471

## CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN QATAR

Notice is hereby given that HexArmor, Limited Partnership, a USA Company located at 640 Leffingwell Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505 USA, is the sole owner and proprietor of the design entitled:

HELMET



The present design as shown in Figures 1 to 10 relates to **HELMET**, of which the following is a specification, reference being made to the accompanying representations forming a part thereof, wherein FIG. 1 is a bottom plan view of a HELMET according to the claimed design; FIG. 2 is a first side, bottom perspective view thereof; FIG. 3 is a second side, bottom perspective view thereof; FIG. 4 is a bottom, rear perspective view thereof; and FIG. 5 is a bottom, front perspective view thereof; FIG. 6 is a bottom plan view of a HELMET according to the claimed design; FIG. 7 is a first side, bottom perspective view thereof; FIG. 8 is a second side, bottom perspective view thereof; FIG. 9 is a bottom, rear perspective view thereof; and FIG. 10 is a bottom, front perspective view thereof.


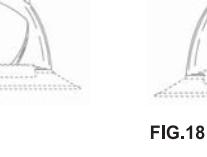


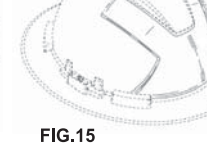
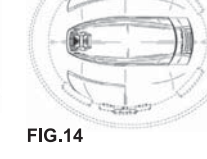

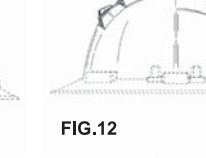
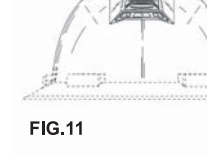

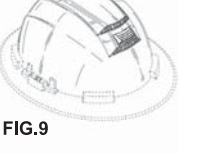
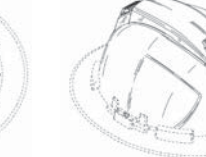
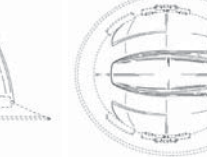

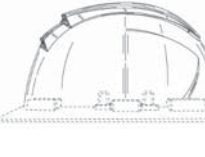


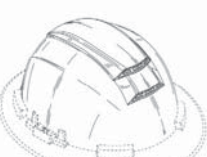

The above design as shown in figures 1 to 10 is based on the United States Design Patent Application No. 29/909,423, filed August 4, 2023, titled as "HELMET".

The owner mentioned above asserts full rights regarding the HELMET, encompassing its shape and configuration as depicted and described. The owner reserves the right to take legal action against any individual, entity, or corporation found counterfeiting, imitating, violating, or otherwise infringing upon this design in Qatar.

## CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN QATAR

Notice is hereby given that HexArmor, Limited Partnership, a USA Company located at 640 Leffingwell Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505 USA, is the sole owner and proprietor of the design entitled:

HELMET



The present design as shown in Figures 1 to 19 relates to **HELMET**, of which the following is a specification, reference being made to the accompanying representations forming a part thereof, wherein FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a HELMET according to the claimed design; FIG. 2 is a rear perspective view thereof; FIG. 3 is a front elevation view thereof; FIG. 4 is a rear elevation view thereof; FIG. 5 is a first side elevation view thereof; FIG. 6 is a second side elevation view thereof; and FIG. 7 is a top plan view thereof; FIG. 8 is a front perspective view of a HELMET according to the claimed design; FIG. 9 is a rear perspective view thereof; FIG. 10 is a front elevation view thereof; FIG. 11 is a rear elevation view thereof; FIG. 12 is a first side elevation view thereof; FIG. 13 is a second side elevation view thereof; and FIG. 14 is a top plan view thereof; FIG. 15 is a front perspective view of a HELMET according to the claimed design; FIG. 16 is a rear perspective view thereof; FIG. 17 is a first side elevation view thereof; FIG. 18 is a second side elevation view thereof; and FIG. 19 is a top plan view thereof.

The above design as shown in figure 1 to 19 is based on the United States Design Patent Application No. 29/909,420, filed August 4, 2023, titled as "HELMET".

The owner mentioned above asserts full rights regarding the HELMET, encompassing its shape and configuration as depicted and described. The owner reserves the right to take legal action against any individual, entity, or corporation found counterfeiting, imitating, violating, or otherwise infringing upon this design in Qatar.





# QAC launches all-new Mitsubishi Outlander

**Q**atar Automobiles Company (QAC), the authorised general distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Qatar, has launched the fourth generation of the Outlander flagship SUV at its showroom on Salwa Road, a statement said.

There is a special offer valid until April 30, 2024, with a wide range of benefits including one-year free registration, and one-year free comprehensive insurance, six-years extended warranty and three-years or 60,000km lube service (whichever comes first).

The new Outlander can be purchased with zero down payment and in-house financing with special rate interest through NBK Financial Services, subject to terms and conditions, it was explained.

The Outlander's exterior design portrays a confident and strong personality, achieved through the "Bold Stride" design concept. The front enjoys Mitsubishi Motors' distinctive next generation Dynamic Shield which aids in enhancing the vehicle's front look, increasing protection, and improving performance.



The newly developed platform of the Outlander greatly improves collision safety and achieves a high level of steering stability. For the first time ever, Mitsubishi Motors has used an ultra-high tensile strength steel sheet with hot stamping around the cabin to create a high-strength cabin structure with little deformation while also achieving weight reduction.

Adopting connected cyclic structures around the engine compartment and cabin increased flexural and torsional rigidity of the body over that of the previous generation. The multi-link suspension and dual pinion electric power steering enhance the overall ride comfort and linear stability.

Available in 2WD and 4WD options, the all-new Outlander



comes with a newly developed 2.5L gasoline engine which produces an improved maximum power of 181/6,000 hp/rpm, 8.9% better than previous generation, and a maximum torque of 244/3,600 nm/rpm.

Fuel efficiency has also improved by 2.6% over the previous model, thanks to the 8-speed sport mode continuously variable

transmission. There are six modes for the 4WD options and five for the 2WD ones.

The linear instrument panel with a powerful horizontal tone gives the vehicle a spacious and roomy look while producing a functional form that makes it easy to see the changes in the vehicle's position. To provide driving information safely and more quick-

ly, Mitsubishi Motors has for the first time installed a windshield-type 10.8-inch Head-Up Display (HUD) to project in full colour critical information required for driving.

The all-new Outlander enjoys 10-speaker premium Bose sound system, featuring large door woofers with dual subwoofers. The three-row seven-seat family SUV, can have its seats flexibly arranged with multiple configurations to suit the number of passengers and accommodate their luggage.

Safety features in the all-new Outlander are as advanced as every other aspect of this car. Those features include, Forward Collision Mitigation System, Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Warning, Lane Change Assist, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Driver Attention Alert, Rear Automatic Emergency Braking and Multi Around Monitor.

The front centre airbag for the driver's seat and side airbags for the second-row seats are equipped as standard, and a total of seven airbags are installed, the statement added.

# UDST hosts over 20,000 visitors at Expo 2023 Doha pavilion

**U**niversity of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) hosted more than 20,000 visitors at its interactive booth at Expo 2023 Doha.

The booth underscored the university's deep-rooted commitment to innovation in sustainability and primarily focused on innovative campus-wide sustainability initiatives.

Attendees learned more about UDST's considerable progress in the fields such as modern agriculture and environmental best practices, with key examples of UDST's horticulture-related technologies on display, alongside six technology-driven interactive activities.

Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST, said: "Expo 2023 Doha is not just an exhibition, but a platform for institutions, organisations, and individuals that are intent on shaping a sustainable future. At UDST, we are forging our own path in greener practices and technology. Through our participation at the exhibition, we wanted to broaden the conversation around sustainability in education environments. Our efforts around sustainability at the university are not only about educating our stu-



UDST showcased six technology-driven interactive activities at its booth.

dents, but about developing and implementing innovative real-world solutions."

The students, faculty and staff of UDST have each been an essential part of the university's achievements toward cultivating a more sustainable future both on campus, and in the wider community.

UDST initiatives on display at the booth included a weather station, a sustainable greenhouse model, various robots, an agricultural tricycle, a smart trash bin system, and a hydroponic system

capstone project.

Expo visitors to the booth had the opportunity to take part in a series of hands-on educational activities such as setting up precision agricultural sensors to monitor soil moisture and temperature, and composting and soil building.

Other activities included assembling a small-scale hydroponic system, where visitors can learn about hydroponic-compatible plants; installing a smart irrigation system; and agricultural 3D printing, complete with design tutorials.



Officials at the opening of the new HITC branch at UDST.

# HITC opens new branch at UDST

**H**amad International Training Centre (HITC), part of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has established a new branch at University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST).

The new location was formally opened by Ali al-Janahi, acting assistant managing director and chief of tertiary care at HMC and Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST along with other dignitaries.

HITC provides opportunities for physicians, nurses, paramedics, and allied health practitioners to continue their professional and personal development. This encompasses basic and advanced levels of professional medical and public training.

Al-Janahi said the collaboration with UDST's College of Health Sciences will support training and development of the next generation of healthcare professionals in Qatar.

"This will enable HMC and HITC to meet the increased demand for its healthcare training activities. It will also support

the students of healthcare programmes at UDST, giving them practical skills and training; enabling them to conduct research and interact with healthcare practitioners and gain insight into the diversity of healthcare training and interprofessional programmes."

Dr Abdullatif al-Khal, a member of the Board of Trustees at UDST and the deputy chief medical officer and director of medical education at HMC, said the new HITC branch is a major expansion that combines international standards with the necessary focus to address the specific needs of Qatar's healthcare professionals.

"We are proud that our resuscitation training programmes consistently meet the highest international standards, and this is important both for the current and the next generation of healthcare practitioners as well as their patients," Dr al-Khal said.

Dr Al-Naemi, noted: "The Hamad International Training Centre reflects our commitment to advancing healthcare education

and research, and demonstrates our belief in academia-industry partnerships that help us nurture a workforce capable of meeting the healthcare challenges of today and tomorrow. Together with HMC, we are forging paths to excellence in healthcare services and education. This centre is not just a facility; it's a promise to our nation ensuring that the legacy of care continues to evolve with the demands of our community."

Director of HITC Dr Khalid Abdulnoor said the new branch was a unique re-purposing of the Field Hospital Old Industrial Area which was built by HMC during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This facility, which impacted so many lives positively during the pandemic, has found a new home and a new direction at the UDST campus and will bring more educational opportunities to UDST students. This redesign ensures its continued role in supporting the education and training of healthcare professionals and students," he added.

# Two Qatar Armed Forces aid aircraft arrive in Port Sudan

**T**wo Qatar Armed Forces aircraft arrived at Port Sudan airport carrying specially pharmaceuticals provided by the Qatar Fund for Development.

The aid is part of Qatar's air bridge established to provide relief to the people of Sudan facing a humanitarian crisis and difficult conditions due to continued fighting.

The assistance was received by Sudan's Federal Minister of Health Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim, Governor of the Red Sea State Mustafa Mohamed Nour, and Qatar's ambassador to Sudan Mohamed bin Ibrahim al-Sada.

The ambassador stressed Qatar's continuous support for Sudan and emphasised its firm stance on the need to maintain Sudan's security, stability, and its territorial integrity.

In turn, Sudan's health minister expressed his country's praise for Qatar's constant relief efforts, which have become significant, especially following the displacement caused by recent events.

The governor of the Red Sea State thanked Qatar for its continued assistance, pointing out its great role in alleviating the suffering of those affected.



Qatar's air bridge is instrumental in providing urgent food and medical aid, he said adding the

government and people of Sudan greatly appreciate Qatar support during their hardship. (QNA)

# WCM-Q final year students celebrate successful Match Day

**S**tudents at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) due to graduate later this year celebrated a highly successful Match Day, gaining places on residency training programmes at some of the world's best healthcare institutions.

The fourth-year medical students gathered for a ceremony to hear that members of the class had matched at prestigious institutions including Hamad Medical Corporation, Sidra Medicine, New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital, Cleveland Clinic, Case Western University Hospital, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, the University of Michigan, and many others.

The medical specialties the soon-to-be doctors of the Class of 2024 will be pursuing once they receive their MD degrees are anatomical pathology, anaesthesiology, dermatology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology, paediatrics, psychiatry, and diagnostic radiology. They will join their residency programmes in the fall.

Student Maryam Ali al-Quradaghi who matched with the Internal Medicine Residency Programme at HMC, said: "I am so happy and grateful to have matched at Hamad Medical Cor-

poration as it will give me the opportunity to give something back to my country and my community. I have had a truly amazing time at WCM-Q - our professors have been incredible at preparing us for our careers, and I have met so many amazing, inspiring people here."

Match Day is a key moment in every doctor's career as they discover where and in what medical specialties they will train after graduation. It is a highly competitive process, with many thousands of students in the US and all over the world vying for a limited number of places through a programme administered by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) in Washington, DC.

This year was the biggest match in the NRMP's history, with a record number of 50,413 registered applicants competing for 41,503 available positions.

WCM-Q dean, Dr Javaid Sheikh said: "Everyone at WCM-Q is delighted that these wonderfully talented, dedicated and humble young people have secured places on residency programmes at some of the most highly regarded healthcare institutions anywhere in the world. I have the utmost faith that they will thrive in their new positions and provide world-class healthcare to their patients, both here in Qatar and overseas."



WCM-Q students gain places on residency training programmes at leading healthcare institutions.





# 60,000 fasting individuals to benefit from 'Mobile Iftar' initiative



**Q**atar Charity (QC) continues to implement the "Mobile Iftar" project, which involves distributing light Iftar meals to drivers at several locations before the Maghrib Adhan (call to prayer). Qatar Charity implements this project annually during the blessed month of Ramadan. This year, the project comes under the Ramadan campaign "Endless Giving". On this occasion, Qatar Charity thanked the project supporters, praying to Allah to accept their good deeds in Ramadan.

The Mobile Iftar project aims to serve 2000 fasting individuals daily, reaching up to 60,000 meals throughout the holy month. The distribution takes place 15 minutes before the Maghrib Adhan at 6 locations, including the Al Markhiya intersection, The Mall intersection in Al Hilal, Al Messila intersection in Bin Omran, and the Islamic Museum of Art intersection, as well as the Safari Roundabout on Salwa Road and Msheireb. The distribution also includes 6 different metro stations.

**THE MOBILE IF TAR  
PROJECT AIMS TO  
SERVE 2000 FASTING  
INDIVIDUALS DAILY,  
REACHING UP TO 60,000  
MEALS THROUGHOUT  
THE HOLY MONTH.**

The locations for distributing the Iftar meals have been strategically selected to cater to both those entering Doha from various directions and also to serve areas within Doha that are lively and busy.

The concept of Mobile Iftar, which Qatar Charity has been implementing for

several years, revolves around providing light Iftar meals for fasting individuals who are on the road before the Maghrib Adhan.

The project reflects the spiritual values of the holy month and the humanitarian principles of Qatar Charity, as manifested in its mission and steadfast dedication to serving the community and offering support to its members. Its goal is to bolster a sense of solidarity and compassion within the community.

## Mobile Iftar for Workers

Provide warm Iftar meals  
to fasting workers



Meal

**18** QR

Required meals  
**129,000**

[qch.qa/jwal](http://qch.qa/jwal)



## Gift

Giftng the reward of a good deed to a loved one is a meaningful and beautiful gift that brings happiness and great thawab.

[qcharity.org/en/qa/gift](http://qcharity.org/en/qa/gift)







# Ramadan fasting and its concessions

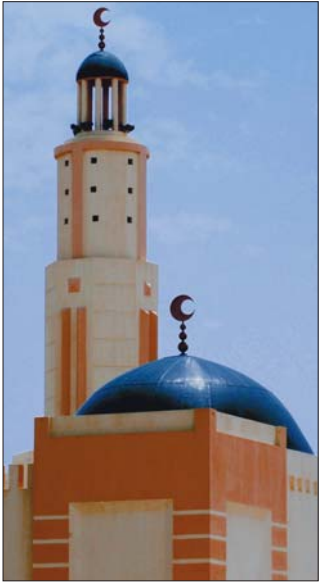
Each year as Ramadan approaches, millions of Muslims brace themselves, physically, mentally, and spiritually, to fulfil the perennial obligation of fasting and bask in the saintly ambience fasting creates in and around the observers of this elemental ritual of Islam.

But among those eager millions there are many whose desire to fast is eclipsed by a myriad of health problems that render them physically unfit to fast even though they may be spiritually geared up.

However, Allah, out of His mercy, has good news for this category of legally responsible Muslims. In the same verse in which Allah pronounced the obligation of fasting, He exempted from this duty, either permanently or temporarily, those who are hindered from it by forbidding physical ailments, old age, travel, etc. Allah says (what means):

“The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur’an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.” [Qur’an 2: 185]

In the following, we will provide a general medical overview of the different types of diseases and health conditions fasting



persons or those intending to fast might be afflicted with, and to what extent do these diseases and conditions affect their ability to fast, and what are the recommendations medical doctors offer in this regard.

## Deferred fasting and atonement

1. The traveller
2. The ill
3. Those for whom it may be difficult rather than easy.
4. Menstruating female: Menstrual bleeding causes physical impurity [Qur’an 2:222]. Some might even feel physically weak and emotionally depressed. Some degree of pain and discomfort is very common. During her period, a woman should not fast; she

should start fasting only when she is clean. She is required to make up the days she missed at a later date.

5. Pregnancy
6. Breastfeeding mothers: Fasting may lead to reduced milk production by the mother and if the baby is dependent solely on its mother’s milk, it may critically affect the baby’s health. If the circumstances call for, mother should defer fasting for later days or make alternative arrangements, e.g., atonement.
7. Disability due to old age, e.g., simple physical weakness which can be complicated by calorie deprivation or dehydration. Since old age is irreversible, regular atonement will be necessary.
8. Chronic irreversible pathological conditions e.g., old age dementia or Alzheimer’s disease may need regular atonement.
9. Psychological disorders: depending on the reversibility, persons suffering from these disorders may need temporary or permanent atonement.
10. Any chronic illness where there are less chances of recovery and fasting may further complicate the situation e.g., some form of Diabetes Mellitus or any other condition that requires frequent medications and monitoring of patient’s condition, atonement will be the alternative means.

It is noteworthy that there is no permanent exemption from fasting.

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>



Ali bin Towar al-Kuwari with a robotics research team.

# Al-Kuwari’s ‘Etqan’ show puts focus on Qatar’s tech future

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

Ali bin Towar al-Kuwari, the *Etqan* (Arabic for perfection) 3rd edition researcher and presenter on Qatar TV, gave an interview to the media and said that after the success of the 1st and 2nd editions, the *Etqan* 3rd edition was a challenge.

Bin Towar said: “We were keen to present the programme in a distinctive form, unlike any other, by focusing on the future and what Qatar will be like, especially its great interest for future generations.”

Bin Towar said that the programme was filmed on three continents. “Asia, Europe and North America, and we reached many innovating companies that led to changing the world, especially those who have partnerships with Qatar. We also introduced for the first time two basic elements, namely ‘Etqan’, a virtual character in which we relied on AI. He accompanied me in an interactive dialogue between me and him. It was integrated into this edition, and it can be developed during the coming ones.” It represents the second element after the bicycle, which attracts youth and excites them.

Bin Towar valued the programme’s 46-strong work team. “The technical work crew is French, headed by Emmanuel Soler. He is famous in the world of photography.” He added: “The research team, consisting of 14 people focused over a period of 8 months purely on research.” He remembers that the first meeting of the entire work team was last August (2022), where he stressed to them the keenness to highlight “perfection” in all its forms. “So we were filming for approximately 17 hours a day, despite travelling for many long hours.”

He pointed out that the “deep fake” episode is one of his distinctive episodes, as it was a prank for viewers, by presenting famous personalities, like Khaled Jassim, Abdullah al-Ghaferi. He highlighted another feature of the programme by asking whether anyone in the street has a desire to buy and own lands on Mars, and in the virtual world, “which are all worlds that are happening today. We monitored opinions about them, and we also raised ‘alternat-



Ali bin Towar al-Kuwari



‘Etqan’, a virtual character.

ive medicine,’ and whether people have confidence in returning to it. It was filmed in hospitals in Korea, where we saw treatments by alternative medicine.”

Regarding digital diplomacy and its role in enhancing Qatar’s international standing, bin Towar said: “Qatar is one of the first countries to make great strides in the field of IT. The Executive Vice-President of CISCO, a leading company in the field, has confirmed that Qatar is the most digital country in the world, as the Internet rate in Qatar has reached 94.1%, which is one of the highest global rates.” The preview of this episode in English is available at <https://twitter.com/EtqanShow>

He added: “In the *Etqan* programme, we filmed for the first time inside Microsoft, in a gesture that this company does not grant to others. This reception reflects Qatar’s soft power and its ability to be effective in international decisions in this sector.”

Bin Towar through the filming of *Etqan* programme has learned closely about what Qatar offers

to humanity, and its influential and inspiring role for many Arab scholars who have expressed their desire to be in Qatar as it has a stimulating environment for success and innovation.

Bin Towar confirmed that the programme has received high viewership rates, according to a recent census. “We achieved 40% of what we aspire to achieve, and we aspire to more.”

Concerning the challenges, bin Towar said it was “one of the most difficult seasons he has ever experienced, but with the support of the Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), all these challenges have been overcome.”

“The Corporation is a major supporter of the project, to the point that *Etqan* has become its trademark. *Etqan* continues to achieve many successes, and by following the programme’s 20 episodes, the direction to the future and the successes achieved will be sensed,” bin Towar concluded.

*Etqan* programme episodes are being broadcast on Qatar TV at 6pm during Ramadan.

# Only effective way to ramp up Gaza aid is by road: Guterres

Reuters  
Cairo

The only effective and efficient way to deliver heavy goods to meet Gaza’s humanitarian needs is by road and includes an exponential increase in commercial deliveries, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday.

Speaking after meeting Egypt’s president and foreign minister in Cairo, Guterres also warned of the impact the war in Gaza was having around the globe.

“The daily assault on the human dignity of Palestinians is creating a crisis of credibility for the international community,” he said.

Guterres is visiting Egypt and Jordan as part of an annual Ramadan solidarity tour to Muslim countries and travelled on Saturday to Egypt’s border with Gaza, where he called the backlog of aid destined for the Palestinian territory a moral outrage.

While more than five months of war between Israel and Hamas have shattered Gaza, donations of aid have piled up in Egypt’s northern Sinai, with limited amounts sent in through Egypt’s Rafah Crossing and the Israeli crossing of Kerem Shalom.

As hopes for a truce in Gaza during the holy month of Ram-



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres meets with Egypt’s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry at the New Administrative Capital east of Cairo, yesterday.

adan have faded and the risk of famine in the coastal enclave has increased, the United States and other countries have sought to use air drops and ships to deliver aid.

UN aid officials say deliveries can only be scaled up by land, accusing Israel of impeding relief, which Israel denies.

Sending in large quantities of aid requires Israel to remove the remaining obstacles and choke points to relief, Guterres said.

“It requires more crossings and access points,” he said. “The only efficient and effective way to move heavy goods is by road. It requires an exponential increase in commercial goods.”

Guterres said the United Nations was working hard to sustain funding for its agency for

Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, which he called the backbone for humanitarian aid inside Gaza.

Several countries, including the United States and Britain, paused their funding to UNRWA after accusations by Israel that a dozen of the agency’s 13,000 staff in Gaza took part in the October first week Hamas storming of Israel.

UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said he regretted Washington’s decision to continue a ban on US funding for the agency until at least March 2025.

“We very much regret Washington’s decision,” Lazzarini was quoted as saying by Swiss newspaper *Blick* yesterday. “It’s a halt for a limited period. Next year, we again have the possibility to apply pressure for a new decision.”

# Lebanon’s Hezbollah says two fighters killed in Israeli attacks

AFP  
Bekaa Valley

Lebanon’s powerful Hezbollah movement yesterday announced the death of two of its fighters in attacks by Israel, accusing the country of trying to expand its strikes.

The accusation came after security sources reported two Israeli air raids deep inside Lebanon, in the country’s east.

Israel and Hezbollah, a Lebanese group allied to Hamas, have been exchanging cross-border fire almost daily since the Gaza war between Israel and Hamas fighters began last October.

But fears have surged of an all-out conflict in recent weeks with Israel launching air strikes deeper into eastern Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah strongholds in the Bekaa Valley area several times.

“Today the enemy is trying to expand its attacks against civilians in Baalbek, in the western Bekaa or elsewhere,” Hezbollah’s deputy chief Naim Qassem said yesterday.

“There will be responses to each of them.”

Hezbollah did not say where its two fighters died or give other details but said they “died as martyrs” in Israeli attacks.

Earlier yesterday an Israeli strike on a car near the Syrian border killed a man, a security source said, after overnight fire also in Lebanon’s east wounded four people, a second security official said.

“Israeli aircraft targeted a vehicle in... Suwairi, killing its Syrian driver,” the security source said, requesting anonymity because of security concerns.

Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency (NNA) said the



Lebanese soldiers cordon off the site of an Israeli drone attack targeting a vehicle in the town of Souairi, in western Bekaa Valley in central Lebanon, yesterday.

driver killed by the strike had been delivering food in a car that belonged to a supermarket owner.

Images from the scene showed a blue vehicle shredded and burned, with a streak of blood on the ground nearby.

Overnight Saturday, Israeli jets struck a Hezbollah centre that

had been deserted for some time in the Baalbek area, the second security source said, adding four people were wounded.

The strike at Al-Osseira, about 100 kilometres from the Israel-Lebanon border, ended a period of relative calm that had lasted around 10 days.

## US forces engage six Houthi aerial vehicles over southern Red Sea

US forces engaged six Houthi unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) over the southern Red Sea after the group launched four anti-ship ballistic missiles toward a Chinese-owned oil tanker, the US Central Command said, Reuters reported. Houthis launched the missiles in the vicinity of M/V Huang Pu, a Chinese-owned oil tanker, the Central Command said in a post on X. A fifth missile was fired toward the oil tanker, which issued a distress call, the Central Command said, adding that no casualties were reported in the incident and a fire on board was extinguished. US forces then engaged six UAVs, five of which crashed into the Red Sea, and one flew inland into Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, the Central Command said.



# Indian activist’s hunger strike for Ladakh autonomy draws thousands

**Wangchuk’s campaign seeks to highlight the damage to Ladakh’s fragile ecology by industrialisation as well as to protest what locals call encroachment by China**

Reuters  
New Delhi/Srinagar

Famed Indian activist Sonam Wangchuk, on a hunger strike to bring autonomy to the Himalayan region of Ladakh, said he was weak as his fast stretches into its 18th day but he would continue for three more days as planned despite pleas from supporters to stop.

Wangchuk’s campaign seeks to highlight the damage to Ladakh’s fragile ecology and glaciers by industrialisation as well as to protest what locals call encroachment by China.

He is determined to complete a 21-day hunger strike although supporters have urged him to end it early fearing further deterioration of his health, Wangchuk said.

Even after it ends, local people and supporters will take it in turns to go on hunger strikes until he regains sufficient strength to fast again, he said.

**“Ladakh is like a thermometer of the planet. So if it is destroyed ... it will be a global catastrophe”**

Wangchuk added that some 2,000 people had come to his protest site in the city of Leh to show their support.

On Wednesday, thousands marched in the region’s town of Kargil to demonstrate support.

After the Buddhist enclave was carved out of the Jammu and Kashmir region in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government, it lost what regional autonomy it had.

Modi’s party promised in the 2019 national elections that Ladakh would be added to the list of states recognised under the sixth schedule of the constitution, which would allow the creation of elected local bodies to protect

tribal areas, but that has yet to happen.

“Ladakh has no democracy,” Wangchuk, 57, said in an earlier interview this week, adding that if the region had elected representatives, laws could be made to protect the land and forests from industrial and mining interests.

The federal interior ministry, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor’s office and Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Talks on March 4 between the federal interior ministry and regional leaders about the local demands failed.

“They have been rude and gave cold-shoulder responses,” said Asgar Ali Karbalai, the co-chairman of the Kargil Democratic Alliance.

The *Indian Express* reported this month that the government rejected demands for Ladakh autonomy, but offered to extend protections for local jobs and land and to address other concerns.

Wangchuk said the federal government had recently “thrust” a 13-gigawatt renewable energy project on nomadic pastures in Ladakh without local consultation.

“Ladakh is like a thermometer of the planet. So if it is destroyed ... it will be a global catastrophe,” he said.

Scientists have warned that glaciers in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya could lose up to 75% of their volume by the end of the century due to global warming, causing dangerous flooding and water shortages for 240mn people.

Locals and nomadic tribes will march to the border with China on April 7 to highlight what they say has been the loss of land to Chinese encroachment and corporate interests, Wangchuk said. Local shepherds allege that China has taken over some of their grazing land and earlier this year some shepherds clashed with a Chinese Army patrolling unit.

In 2018, Wangchuk received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, known as Asia’s Nobel Prize, for his innovative, community-driven reforms in education for Ladakh.

## Captured Somali pirates brought to Mumbai



Accused Somali pirates wait to board a police van at the Indian naval dockyard in Mumbai. India brought 35 accused Somali pirates to Mumbai, days after they were apprehended when naval commandos recaptured a hijacked bulk carrier and rescued several hostages.

# Princess ‘touched’ by support after cancer announcement

AFP  
London

Catherine, Princess of Wales, has said she is “enormously touched” by the support she has received from around the world following her shock announcement on Friday that she is being treated for cancer.

Catherine, 42, revealed she was undergoing preventative chemotherapy in a video message to the UK, triggering a wave of support from global leaders, family members, media and the public.

“The prince and princess are both enormously touched by the kind messages from people here in the UK, across the Commonwealth and around the world in response to Her Royal Highness’ message,” Catherine and her husband Prince William, the heir to the throne, said in a statement.

“They are extremely moved by the public’s warmth and support and are grateful for the understanding of their request for privacy at this time.”

The announcement ended weeks of wild speculation about Catherine’s health, with many praising her courage and others criticising the conspiracies that spread over her absence.

The candid disclosure leaves the British monarchy in crisis with King Charles III just weeks ago revealing he was also battling cancer.

Charles – 17 months into his reign when Buckingham Palace announced in February he would be cancelling all public engagements –

led tributes to his “beloved daughter-in-law”.

The ailing 75-year-old monarch spoke of his pride in “her courage in speaking as she did”.

Following other warm words from Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and the White House, British newspapers hailed her courage.

“Kate, you are not alone” read the front page of *The Sun*. The tabloid said it was “hugely comforting” to hear Kate say she was getting stronger.

“Perhaps the world will now appreciate why so much secrecy surrounded her surgery in January,” it added.

The *Daily Mail* tabloid denounced the “social media trolls who have been peddling disgusting conspiracy theories to explain her absence from public life”.

Outside Kensington Palace in London, Nathaniel Taylor, a 24-year-old government worker, said: “I think it’s really damning what happened to them, what the media has done, how they’ve reacted over these past couple of months.”

“I think some speculation is inevitable but the lengths people were going to try and make things up it’s just (too much). Hopefully people take a look in the mirror.”

At Tower Bridge, Sofia, a 19-year-old student who did not give her family name, said she had seen “weird accusations” about the absence and that the true reason was “sad”.

“Obviously it was a much (more) serious matter”, she said.

In her statement, Kate, as the princess is widely known, admitted the diagnosis was a “huge shock” and asked for “time, space and

privacy” as she completes chemotherapy.

In the video – recorded on Wednesday in Windsor, west of London, where the future queen and king live with their three young children – she insisted she was “well”.

She said it had taken them time to explain the situation to Prince George, aged 10, Princess Charlotte, eight, and five-year-old Prince Louis, “and to reassure them that I am going to be OK”.

Buckingham Palace announced on February 5 that tests had identified Charles had “a form of cancer”, without giving further details.

He has cancelled all public engagements except audiences with the prime minister and ambassadors, and worked on official papers while receiving treatment.

He has been photographed several times since then.

“There’s no doubt at all that it’s a very, very difficult time for the institution of monarchy,” royal expert Richard Fitzwilliams said.

Kate was last seen at a public engagement on December 25.

Kensington Palace announced on January 17 that she faced up to two weeks in hospital and several months’ recuperation following abdominal surgery.

She was not expected to be ready to return to public duties until after March 31, a statement at the time said.

But Kate disclosed that tests after the operation “found cancer had been present” and that she was now undergoing “preventative chemotherapy”.

## India extends ban on onion exports indefinitely

India has extended its ban on onion exports indefinitely – a surprise move that comes ahead of a general election and is set to exacerbate high prices in some overseas markets. Imposed by India – the world’s biggest exporter of the vegetable – in December, the ban was due to expire on March 31. Traders had anticipated it would be lifted as local prices have more than halved since the export restrictions were implemented and this season’s crop is yielding fresh supplies. However, the government has now issued an order that the ban will remain in place until further notice. “The extension is surprising and completely unnecessary, considering the falling prices with rising supplies from the new season crop,” said an executive at a Mumbai-based export firm. Onion prices in some wholesale markets in Maharashtra, the biggest onion-producing state, have fallen to Rs1,200 (\$14) per 100kg from Rs4,500 in December.

## Macau International Parade



Participants dance during the Macau International Parade in China yesterday.

## Soldiers injured by China water cannon: Manila

AFP/Reuters  
Manila

Three Philippine troops were injured in the latest China Coast Guard water cannon attack on a Filipino supply vessel near a South China Sea reef, Manila’s national security adviser said yesterday.

The Philippine government said the confrontation caused severe damage to the Unaizah May 4 vessel while it was on its way to deliver troops and provisions to a Philippine navy ship grounded atop the Second Thomas Shoal.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing off rival claims from other countries, including the Philippines, and an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

National security adviser Eduardo Ano said three navy person-

nel aboard the vessel were injured in the incident.

The extent and nature of their injuries were not disclosed, though the military said the personnel were treated aboard a coast guard escort ship.

Four crew members were injured by broken glass in an earlier China Coast Guard water cannon attack on the same vessel on March 5. “This is just an ordinary rotation and resupply or provision operation but look at how the Chinese are reacting,” Ano told reporters, according to an interview transcript.

The US, which has a mutual defence pact with Manila, has denounced the attack.

“The (Chinese) actions are destabilising to the region and show clear disregard for international law,” state department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement.

# Harris pledges ‘reset’ as he becomes Irish PM in waiting

Reuters  
Athlone, Ireland

Simon Harris became Irish prime minister in waiting yesterday, pledging to help small business, focus on law and order and tackle migration after his unopposed election to succeed Leo Varadkar as leader of the governing Fine Gael party.

Harris, a 37-year-old minister best known for helping steer the country’s initial response to Covid-19, will be voted in as Ireland’s youngest ever prime minister when parliament next sits on April 9 thanks to support from coalition partners.

He will have no more than a year to save the coalition from defeat at parliamentary elections. Polls for the last three years have put Sinn Fein, a left-wing party that backs unification with British-run Northern Ireland, as the favourite to head the next government.

“This is a moment for Fine Gael to reset,” Harris told hundreds of members at a packed party event in the midlands town of Athlone.

“Under my leadership, Fine Gael stands for supporting businesses, especially small businesses ... Fine Gael stands for supporting the family farm ... Fine Gael stands for law and order, on the side of An Garda Síochána (police), where our

streets are safe and crime is never allowed go unchecked.”

Varadkar announced his departure to widespread shock on Wednesday, catching even his closest political allies by surprise, saying Fine Gael would stand a better chance of re-election under another leader.

Harris has spoken in recent days of how he became involved in politics as an “opinionated, moody teenager” annoyed at the lack of educational supports for his autistic brother. He has sought to paint himself as an “accidental politician”, even though he has spent most of his adult life in parliament.

He is one of Ireland’s most visible government ministers and a strong media performer. His keen social media presence led one opponent in parliament to dub Harris the “TikTok taoiseach” (Irish for prime minister).

While the economy grew strongly under Varadkar, successive governments, of which Harris has been part, have struggled to tackle a decade-long housing crisis and, more recently, the pressure from record numbers of asylum seekers and refugees.

Harris said Ireland needed to move to a “more planned, sustainable” migration model and a system that is “fair and firm”.

He is also under pressure from members to better define Fine Gael’s offering to voters.

“I do think he has to possibly focus back more on Fine Gael core values,” said party member Mary McDonagh, urging Harris to help struggling rural hospitality businesses and “disaffected” farmers.

Inheriting a three-party coalition government working off an agreed policy programme will give Harris little room for any major new policy initiatives.

Two more polls yesterday confirmed a recent trend of support for Sinn Fein dropping off highs of 12-18 months ago, though they again broadly showed smaller par-

ties and independent candidates as the beneficiaries over the government parties.

A Business Post/Red C poll conducted before Varadkar’s exit put Sinn Fein’s lead over a stalling Fine Gael at six percentage points, while an Irish Independent/Ireland Thinks survey after he quit showed a five-point edge after a small rise for Fine Gael.

Two of Fine Gael’s 33 lawmakers called on Harris to scrap proposed law on hate crime as a signal it is moving back to the centre-right.

“We have been too left for too long,” veteran lawmaker and former minister Michael Ring told national broadcaster RTE.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

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

GULF TIMES

Oral microbe subtype linked to colorectal cancer growth

A new discovery could help improve therapeutic approaches and early screening methods for colorectal cancer, one of the most common cancers across the world. Researchers at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, in Seattle, US, have found that a specific subtype of a microbe commonly found in the mouth is able to travel to the gut and grow within colorectal cancer tumours. This microbe is also a culprit for driving cancer progression and leads to poorer patient outcomes after cancer treatment. The findings were published March 20 in the journal Nature.

Examining colorectal cancer tumours removed from 200 patients, the Fred Hutch team measured levels of Fusobacterium nucleatum, a bacterium known to infect tumours. In about 50% of the cases, they found that only a specific subtype of the bacterium was elevated in the tumour tissue compared to healthy tissue. The researchers also found this microbe in higher numbers within stool samples of colorectal cancer patients compared with stool samples from healthy people.

“We’ve consistently seen that patients with colorectal tumours containing Fusobacterium nucleatum have poor survival and poorer prognosis compared with patients without the microbe,” explained Susan Bullman, PhD, Fred Hutch cancer microbiome researcher and co-corresponding study author. “Now we’re finding that a specific subtype of this microbe is responsible for tumour growth. It suggests therapeutics and screening that target this subgroup within the microbiota would help people who are at a higher risk for more aggressive colorectal cancer.”

In the study, Bullman and co-corresponding author Christopher D Johnston, PhD, Fred Hutch molecular microbiologist, along with the study’s first author Martha Zepeda-Rivera, PhD, a Washington Research Foundation Fellow and Staff Scientist in the Johnston Lab,

The knowledge is critical for developing effective preventive and treatment methods, according to an expert

of genetics,” Johnston explained. “We have bacterial strains that are so phylogenetically close that we thought of them as the same thing, but now we see an enormous difference between their relative abundance in tumours versus the oral cavity.”

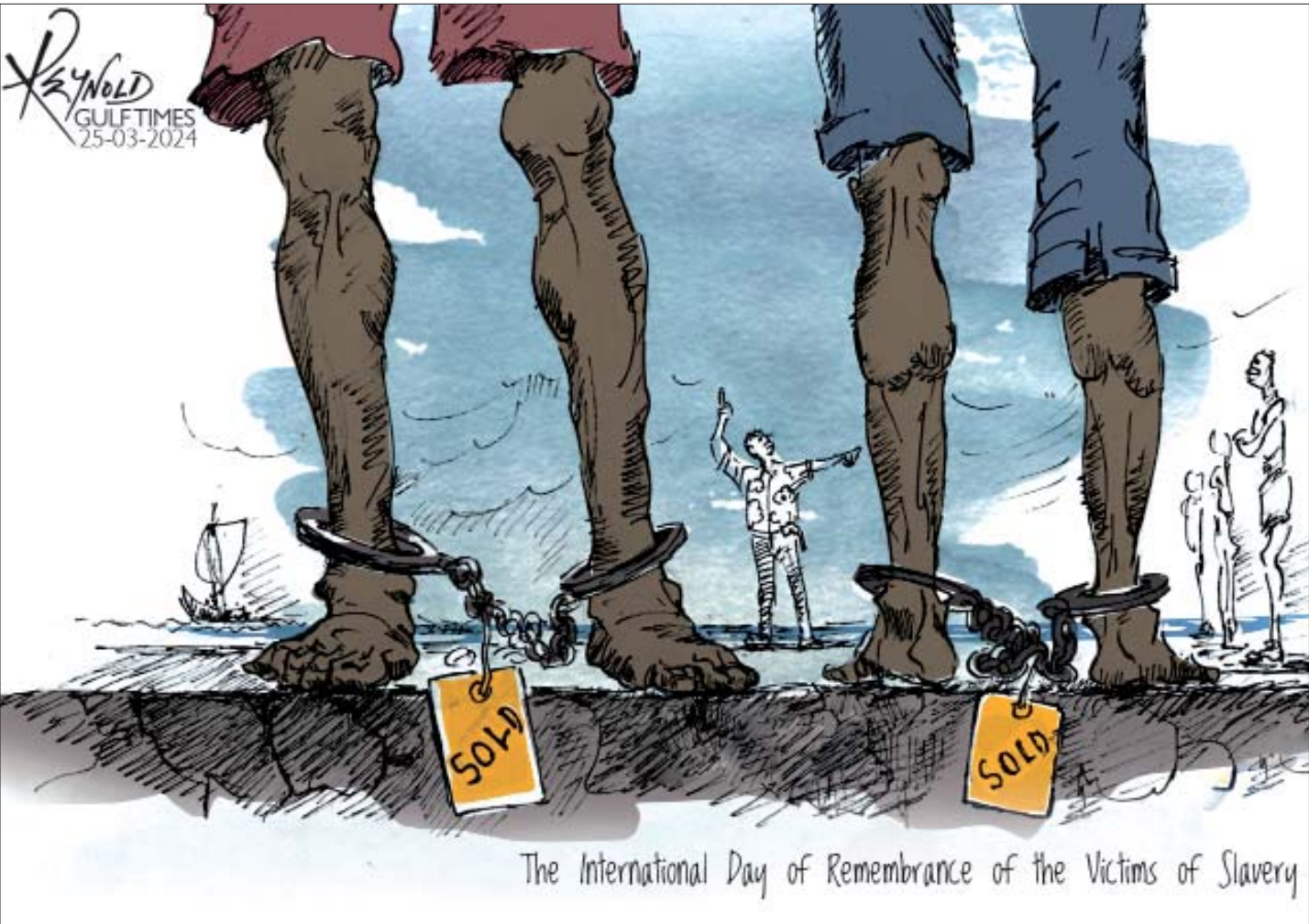
By separating out the genetic differences between these clades, the researchers found that the tumour-infiltrating Fna C2 type had acquired distinct genetic traits suggesting it could travel from the mouth through the stomach, withstand stomach acid and then grow in the lower gastrointestinal tract. The analysis revealed 195 genetic differences between the clades. Then, comparing tumour tissue with healthy tissue from patients with colorectal cancer, the researchers found that only the subtype Fna C2 is significantly enriched in colorectal tumour tissue and is responsible for colorectal cancer growth.

Further molecular analyses of two patient cohorts, including over 200 colorectal tumours, revealed the presence of this Fna C2 lineage in approximately 50% of cases. The researchers also found in hundreds of stool samples from people with and without colorectal cancer that Fna C2 levels were consistently higher in colorectal cancer.

“We have pinpointed the exact bacterial lineage that is associated with colorectal cancer, and that knowledge is critical for developing effective preventive and treatment methods,” Johnston said. He and Bullman believe their study presents significant opportunities for developing microbial cellular therapies, which use modified versions of bacterial strains to deliver treatments directly into tumours. This work was supported by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the W.M. Keck Research Foundation and a Washington Research Foundation Fellowship.

wanted to discover how the microbe moves from its typical environment of the mouth to a distant site in the lower gut and how it contributes to cancer growth.

First they found a surprise that could be important for future treatments. The predominant group of Fusobacterium nucleatum in colorectal cancer tumours, thought to be a single subspecies, is actually composed of two distinct lineages known as ‘clades.’ “This discovery was similar to stumbling upon the Rosetta Stone in terms



Making emerging tech safe for democracy

Democratic leaders need policy-oriented expertise about emerging technology - not lobbyists’ framings

By Marietje Schaake and Steven Schuurman  
Brussels

Dozens of countries around the world, from the United States to India, will hold or have already held elections in 2024. While this may seem like a banner year for democracy, these elections are taking place against a backdrop of global economic instability, geopolitical shifts, and intensifying climate change, leading to widespread uncertainty.

Underpinning all this uncertainty is the rapid emergence of powerful new technologies, some of which are already reshaping markets and recalibrating global power dynamics. While they have the potential to solve global problems, they could also disrupt economies, endanger civil liberties, and undermine democratic governance. As Thierry Breton, the European Union’s commissioner for the internal market, has observed, “We have entered a global race in which the mastery of technologies is central” to navigating the “new geopolitical order.”

To be sure, technological disruption is not a new phenomenon. What sets today’s emerging technologies apart is that they have reached a point where even their creators struggle to understand them.

Consider, for example, generative artificial intelligence. The precise mechanisms by which large language models like Google’s Gemini (formerly known as Bard) and OpenAI’s ChatGPT generate responses to user prompts are still not fully understood, even by their own developers.

What we do know is that AI and other rapidly advancing technologies, such as quantum computing, biotechnology, neurotechnology, and climate-intervention tech, are growing increasingly powerful and influential by the day. Despite the scandals and the political and regulatory backlash of the past few years, Big Tech firms are still among the world’s largest companies and continue to shape our lives in myriad ways, for better or worse.

Moreover, over the past 20 years, a handful of tech giants have invested heavily in development and acquisitions, amassing wealth and talent that empowers them to capture new markets before potential competitors emerge. Such concentration of innovation power enables these few players to maintain their market dominance – and to call the shots on how their technologies are developed and used worldwide. Regulators have scrambled to enact societal safeguards for increasingly powerful, complex technologies, and the public-private knowledge gap is growing.

For example, in addition to developing vaccines and early detection systems to trace the spread of viruses, bioengineers are developing new tools to engineer cells, organisms, and ecosystems, leading to new medicines, crops, and materials. Neuralink is working on trials with chip implants in the bodies of disabled people, and on enhancing the speed at which humans communicate with systems through direct brain-computer interaction.

Meanwhile, quantum engineers are developing supercomputers that could potentially break existing encryption systems crucial

for cybersecurity and privacy. Then there are the climate technologists who are increasingly open to radical options for curbing global warming, despite a dearth of real-world research into the side effects of global interventions like solar radiation management.

While these developments hold great promise, applying them recklessly could lead to irreversible harm. The destabilising effect of unregulated social media on political systems over the past decade is a prime example. Likewise, absent appropriate safeguards, the biotech breakthroughs we welcome today could unleash new pandemics tomorrow, whether from accidental lab leaks or deliberate weaponisation.

Regardless of whether one is excited by the possibilities of technological innovation or concerned about potential risks, the unique characteristics, corporate power, and global scale of these technologies require guardrails and oversight. These companies’ immense power and global reach, together with the potential for misuse and unintended consequences, underscore the importance of ensuring that these powerful systems are used responsibly and in ways that benefit society.

Here, governments face a seemingly impossible task: they must oversee systems that are not fully understood by their creators while also trying to anticipate future breakthroughs. To navigate this dilemma, policymakers must deepen their understanding of how these technologies function, as well as the interplay between them.

To this end, regulators must have access to independent information. As capital, data, and knowledge become increasingly

concentrated in the hands of a few corporations, it is crucial to ensure that decision-makers are able to access policy-oriented expertise that enables them to develop fact-based policies that serve the public interest. Democratic leaders need policy-oriented expertise about emerging technology – not lobbyists’ framings.

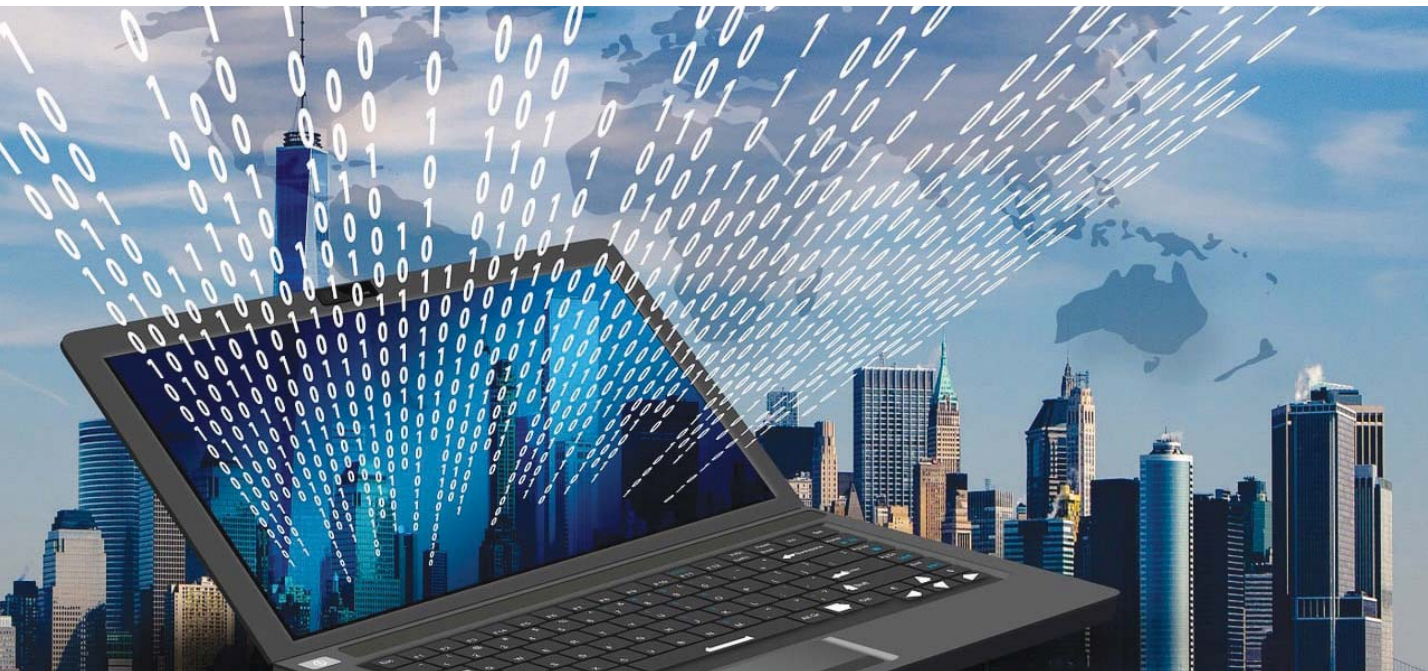
Having adopted a series of important laws like the AI Act over the past few years, the EU is uniquely positioned to govern emerging technologies on the basis of solid rule of law, rather than in service of corporate profits. But first, European policymakers must keep up with the latest technological advances. It is time for EU decision-makers to get ahead of the next curve. They must educate themselves on what exactly is happening at the cutting edge. Waiting until new technologies are introduced to the market is waiting too long.

Governments must learn from past challenges and actively steer technological innovation, prioritising democratic principles and positive social impact over industry profits. As the global order comes under increasing strain, political leaders must look beyond the ballot box and focus on mitigating the long-term risks posed by emerging technologies.

— Project Syndicate

● Marietje Schaake, a former member of the European Parliament, is International Policy Director at Stanford University’s Cyber Policy Center and Practice Lead for Emerging Technology Governance at the International Center for Future Generations.

● Steven Schuurman, Co-Founder and former CEO of Elastic, is Co-Founder of the International Center for Future Generations.



**NEED OF THE HOUR:** It is time for EU decision-makers to get ahead of the next curve. They must educate themselves on what exactly is happening at the cutting edge. Waiting until new technologies are introduced to the market is waiting too long, the authors suggest.

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621 📠 44418811

Classified

☎ 44466609 📠 44418811

✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2024 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



# Russia mourns as concert massacre toll hits 137

AFP  
Moscow

Russia observed a national day of mourning yesterday after a massacre in a Moscow concert hall killed 137 people, the deadliest attack in Europe to have been claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group.

President Vladimir Putin has vowed to punish those behind the “barbaric terrorist attack”, saying four gunmen trying to flee to Ukraine had been arrested.

Kyiv has strongly denied any connection to the attack, with President Volodymyr Zelensky accusing Putin of trying to shift the blame.

“The whole country is in mourning with those who lost their loved ones in this inhumane tragedy,” public television channel Russia 24 said yesterday morning.

Putin, in his only public remarks on the attack, made no reference to IS’s claims of responsibility.

At least 137 people, including three children, were killed when camouflaged gunmen stormed the Crocus City Hall, in Moscow’s northern suburb of Krasnogorsk, and then set fire to the building on Friday evening.

Russia’s Investigative Committee also said yesterday that guns and rounds of ammunition had been found both there and in a car that was used by the suspected gunmen to flee the scene.



A suspect in the Crocus City Hall shooting is escorted inside the Russian Investigative Committee headquarters in Moscow in this still image taken from video released yesterday. **Right:** President Vladimir Putin lights a candle during his visit to a church of the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow. (Reuters, AFP)

The agency posted a video of the four suspects being dragged into its headquarters in Moscow. There was no statement on the other seven suspects arrested in connection with the attack.

Officials have not named the shooters, but said they were all foreign nationals.

The Islamic State group posted Saturday on Telegram that the attack was “carried out by four IS fighters armed with machine guns, a pistol, knives and firebombs” as part of “the raging war” with “countries fighting Islam”.

A video lasting about a minute

and half, apparently filmed by the gunmen, has been posted on social media accounts typically used by IS, according to the SITE intelligence group.

The video, which appears to have been filmed from the lobby of the concert venue, shows several individuals with blurred faces and garbled voices, firing assault rifles with inert bodies strewn on the floor and a fire starting in the background.

Russian investigators said that after walking through the theatre shooting spectators, they set fire to the building, trapping many inside

who died from smoke inhalation.

Russian officials expect the death toll to rise further, with 110 people still in hospital and 40 in “critical” or “extremely critical” condition.

The attack was the deadliest in Russia since the Beslan school siege in 2004.

The emergency situations ministry has so far named 29 of the victims, the blaze having complicated the process of identification.

The ministry yesterday posted a video of heavy equipment arriving at the venue to dismantle damaged structures and clear debris.

On the streets of the capital yesterday, there was shock and grief.

“It is a tragedy. I was morally crushed,” Ruslana Baranovskaya, 35, told AFP.

“People don’t smile... everybody feels the loss,” said 73-year-old Valentina Karenina, a pensioner standing on a street off Red Square.

Museums, theatres and cinemas around the country closed and billboards were replaced with memorial posters.

Mourners continued to stream to the concert hall in northwest Moscow to lay flowers at a tribute to the victims.

More than 5,000 people donated blood following the attack, officials said, with many standing in long queues outside clinics.

Putin on Saturday vowed “retribution and oblivion” to the “terrorists, murderers and non-humans” who carried out the “barbaric terrorist attack”.

Several of his allies have called for the country to lift a moratorium on the death penalty, sparking concern among Kremlin critics.

Putin has pointed to a Ukraine connection and has not publicly addressed IS’s claim of responsibility.

## Korcok tipped to halt Slovakia’s shift towards Russia

AFP  
Bratislava

Slovakia’s recent shift towards Russia has hit a hurdle, analysts said yesterday, after the pro-West former foreign minister Ivan Korcok topped the first round of the presidential election.

Korcok garnered 42.5% of the vote on Saturday, beating parliament speaker Peter Pellegrini with 37%, final results showed.

The two campaign front-runners vying to replace the outgoing liberal President Zuzana Caputova will square off for the top job in a runoff on April 6.

Both were widely expected to reach the second round, though Pellegrini had been the slight favourite.

But “no polls expected Korcok to score a five-point lead over his rival,” Tomas Kozciak, a political analyst at the University of International Business ISM, told AFP.

“Now he seems to be a strong candidate.”

The runoff will feature a showdown between Korcok’s liberalism and Pellegrini’s attachment to the Russian-leaning governing team



Slovakia’s former minister of foreign affairs and presidential candidate Ivan Korcok with his wife Sona Korcokova waves during the first round of Slovak presidential elections in Bratislava, Slovakia. (AFP)

of populist Prime Minister Robert Fico.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine became a fixture of the electoral campaign in the EU and Nato member of 5.4mn people after Fico questioned the sovereignty of Ukraine and called for peace with Russia.

The Slovak government, in office since October and comprising Fico’s Smer party, Pellegrini’s Hlas and the small far-right SNS, has also stopped its military aid to Ukraine.

After the first round, Fico described Pellegrini as “a better solution for Slovakia than Ivan Korcok”. Analysts say that Slovakia’s foreign policy will continue to be a major issue in the runoff campaign.

“If Korcok is elected, Slovakia will maintain a critical attitude towards Russia, pro-European positions and support for Ukraine,” said Grigorij Meseznikov, head of the Bratislava-based Institute for Public Affairs.

Pellegrini, though, would follow

Fico in the “loosening of our ties with our allies and partners in Nato and the EU, a weaker support for Ukraine and leaning towards Russia,” Meseznikov told AFP.

A Korcok victory could also hamper Slovakia’s shift closer to Viktor Orban’s Hungary, which began when Fico became premier.

Orban is an EU and Nato outlier who is close to Russian President Vladimir Putin and recently held up a vital aid package for Ukraine.

“There is a chance that the Orbánisation of Slovakia may not be accomplished” if Korcok wins, Kozciak said.

But Korcok faces a tougher task than Pellegrini in trying to win over supporters of the other candidates, particularly those that are more nationalist.

These include third-placed Stefan Harabin, who won almost 12% in the first round and campaigned criticising the EU and hailing Putin.

## Kyiv says 2 Russian ships hit in Crimea strikes

AFP  
Kyiv

Ukraine claimed yesterday to have hit two Russian military ships stationed at the annexed peninsula of Crimea in overnight strikes, as it suffered another night of “massive” Russian aerial attacks.

Poland said a Russian cruise missile headed for western Ukraine breached its airspace overnight, after it had put its armed forces on high alert amid intense Russian aviation activity.

“The Ukrainian Armed Forces successfully struck the amphibious landing ships Yamal and Azov, a communications centre, and a number of the Black Sea Fleet’s infrastructure sites,” the Ukrainian armed forces’ strategic communications centre said yesterday.

Moscow-installed officials on the peninsula, which Russia seized in 2014, said their forces had repelled a major Ukrainian aerial attack late Saturday night.

“It was the most massive attack in recent times,” the Russian-appointed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said in a Telegram post.

He said a 65-year-old man was killed and four people injured. He did not mention any damage to Russian war ships.

Footage shared on social media

showed a large blast in the city, sending a fireball and plume of black smoke into the air, as well as what appeared to be Russian air defences intercepting incoming projectiles.

Ukraine has claimed to have destroyed around a third of Russia’s Black Sea Fleet since the start of the war, usually in attacks at night using sea-based drones packed with explosives.

Satellite images show Russia has moved much of the fleet further east, to the port of Novorossiysk, amid the spate of attacks.

Moscow also recently replaced its navy chief.

Ukraine’s capital Kyiv and the western region of Lviv also came under a “massive” Russian air attack early yesterday, officials said, though no casualties were reported.

Ukraine’s air force said Russia had fired 29 cruise missiles and 28 drones at its territory overnight.

It said it had downed 18 of the missiles and 25 drones.

Russia has significantly escalated its air attacks against Ukraine in recent days, in what it says is retaliation for a wave of Ukrainian strikes on its border regions.

Russia “does not give up its goal of destroying Kyiv at any cost,” Sergiy Popko, head of the city’s military administration, said on Telegram.

Russia’s defence ministry said yesterday it had launched a “group

strike” against Ukrainian military and energy targets overnight.

“All the goals of the strike have been achieved,” it said, claiming to have hit weapons factories.

US ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink also noted the increased frequency of recent attacks.

“Russia continues to indiscriminately launch drones and missiles with no regard for millions of civilians, violating international law,” Brink wrote on X.

Poland’s army said yesterday that one of the Russian missiles fired at western Ukraine had entered its airspace.

“Polish airspace was breached by one of the cruise missiles fired in the night by the air forces... of the Russian Federation,” the army posted on X.

“The object flew through Polish airspace above the village of Oserdow (Lublin province) and stayed for 39 seconds,” it said.

The country’s Armed Forces Operational Command (RSZ) had said earlier that its forces were on a heightened state of readiness because of the “intensive long-range aviation activity of the Russian Federation tonight” and the missile attacks in Ukraine.

Poland, which has been a staunch ally of its neighbour Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022, said yesterday that it would demand an explanation from Moscow.

## Rescuers race to find trapped people as Brazil storms kill 20

AFP  
Petrópolis

Rescuers in boats and aircraft raced against the clock yesterday to help isolated people in Brazil’s mountainous southeast after storms and heavy rains killed at least 20 people.

With more rain predicted yesterday, the deluge pounded the states of Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo, where authorities described a chaotic situation due to flooding.

The death toll rose there from four to 12 yesterday as rescuers advanced.

The most affected municipality is Mimoso do Sul, a town of almost 25,000 inhabitants located in the south of Espírito Santo, where at least 10 people died in floods, though officials fear the toll may yet rise.

State Governor Renato Casagrande described the situation as “chaotic,” saying that so far it has not been possible to assess the damage in some of the more isolated areas, with fears the toll could yet rise.

At least eight people have been killed in the neighbouring state of Rio de Janeiro, officials said, most of them caused by landslides.

Four of the deaths in Rio state occurred when the storm caused a house to collapse in the city of Petrópolis, 70km inland from the capital.

Search teams rescued a girl buried for more than 16 hours there. Her father, who was found dead next to her on Saturday, had “heroically

protected the girl with his body,” a neighbor told AFP.

The deluge came as Brazil, South America’s largest country, suffers through a recent string of extreme weather events, which experts say are more likely to occur due to climate change.

Such environmental tragedies “are intensifying with climate change,” President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said in a post on X, adding that thousands had been left homeless by the storm.

He expressed sympathy for the victims, and said his government was working with state and local authorities to “protect, prevent and repair flood damage.”

Around 90 people have been rescued since Friday, according to a bulletin from an emergency committee comprising Rio government and civil defense officials.

Images on local media showed rivers of water, mud and debris rushing down slopes in picturesque Petrópolis, which in February 2022 saw at least 241 deaths from another catastrophic storm.

Dozens of soldiers and firefighters, aided by dogs, worked Saturday in the pouring rain. Part of the cemetery had been washed away, an AFP team in the town also saw, with further landslides still a risk.

In Mimoso do Sul, a fire truck was seen being dragged down a street by currents, while images released Saturday by the state fire department showed entire neighborhoods under water, with only the roofs of houses visible.

## Paris museum takes visitors back 150 years

The Orsay Museum in Paris is marking 150 years of Impressionism from tomorrow with an unprecedented reassembling of the masterpieces that launched the movement, and a virtual reality experience that takes visitors back in time.

Using VR technology, visitors to “Paris 1874: Inventing Impressionism” can take a plunge into the streets, salons and beauty spots that marked a revolution in art.

Through VR helmets, they can walk alongside the likes of Claude Monet, Edgar Degas and Paul Cezanne on April 15, 1874, when, tired of being rejected by the conservative gatekeepers of the official art Salon, these rebellious young painters put on their own independent show, later seen as the birth of Impressionism.

The Orsay has brought together 160 paintings from that year, including dozens of masterpieces from that show, including the blood-red sun of Monet’s “Impression, Sunrise”, credited with giving the movement its name, and his “Boulevard des Capucines” where the exhibition took place.

In rapid, spontaneous brushstrokes, the Impressionists captured everyday scenes of modern life, from Degas’s ballet dancers to Camille Pissarro’s countryside idylls to Auguste Renoir’s riverside party in “Bal du Moulin de la Galette”.



A sign reading ‘JOP 2024. A legacy of social cleansing’ is hung by an anti-Olympic protester on one of the statues of the six continents outside the Musee d’Orsay in Paris yesterday. (Reuters)

They came to define the excitement and restlessness of a new, modern age emerging out of a devastating war with Prussia and a short-lived Parisian revolt a few years earlier.

“The Impressionists wanted to paint the world as it is, one in the midst of major change,” said Sylvie Patry, co-curator of the exhibition.

“They were interested in new subjects: railways, tourism, the world of entertainment... They wanted to put sensations, impressions, the immediate moment at the heart of their painting,” she added.

Thanks to loans from the National Gallery in Washington and other museums, it is the first time that many of the paintings — including Renoir’s “The Parisian Girl” and “The Dancer” — have hung together in 150 years.

The exhibition also includes works from that year’s official Salon, showing how the Impressionists rejected the stiff formalism of traditionalists and their obsession with great battles and mythological tales, but also how there was some cross-over, as all sorts of painters gradually adopted new styles.



# Garangao festivities at LuLu Hypermarket, Doha Mall

The Qatari tradition of Garangao, a vibrant mid-Ramadan celebration for children, came alive at Doha Mall yesterday at LuLu Garangao Night, a statement said. The event was inaugurated by renowned Qatari influencer Abdullah al-Ghafri and LuLu officials. LuLu Hypermarket also highlighted a huge display of Garangao products for shoppers, offering special prices and discounts on all Garangao-related items, reaffirming LuLu's commitment to providing quality products at discounted prices. The highlight of the festivities was a costume competition for children under 10. Over 400 attendees witnessed 200 young participants showcasing their creativity in a dazzling display of costumes. The first, second and third place winners received gift vouchers for QR1,000, QR750, and QR500, respectively. In a gesture of inclusivity, LuLu Hypermarket



ensured that every participating child received a special goodie bag filled with treats, in keeping with

the Garangao tradition. An arts and crafts station allowed children to create their own

colourful Garangao-themed decorations. Face painting, henna designs and mascots dressed in

traditional Garangao attire for photo opportunities were also among the attractions.



# Garangao celebrations at Katara, Msheireb



A number of families thronged Katara - Cultural Village and Msheireb Downtown Doha yesterday to join the Garangao celebrations. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen, Shaji Kayamkulam



# QU celebrates Garangao



As part of its campaign 'Ramadan is Knowledge and Light', Qatar University's (QU) Department of Communication and Public Relations in collaboration with Student Leadership and Community Service Department and Early Childhood Centre (ECC), hosted a 'Garangao' celebration for ECC students. Volunteers worked to create a unique experience for children by infusing the event with traditional folk games. Additionally, the event featured activities such as henna and face painting, concluding with the distribution of treats and gifts to the children. Eatidal al-Qatami, director of Communications and Public Relations at QU, said: "This annual celebration is in line with Qatar University's steadfast commitment to preserving Qatari culture and traditions, instilling them in the hearts of the youth, and promoting interaction within the local community."

# Katara Ramadan Chess Championship concludes

Qatar Chess Association has concluded the competitions of the Katara International Ramadan Open Chess Championship, which featured 88 players representing 16 countries, with a total prize money of QR25,000. Filipino player Lioula Robinson clinched the title after topping the overall standings with seven and a half points, ahead of Indian player Sayed Abdulqadir with a margin of tiebreaks at the conclusion of the ninth round, which was held in the classical chess format according to the Swiss system (60 minutes + 30 seconds additional for each move). Tunisian player Zoubir El Amadouini finished third with seven points, followed by Indian player Sajjan Abil with six and a half points, also on tiebreaks ahead of Algerian player Jamal Ferhi, who came fifth. Qatar's player Irfan Mohamed won the Best Qatari Player award after finishing in the eighth place in the overall standings with five points, while Qatar's player Aisha al-Khelaifi ranked 18th with five points. Fahad al-Mansuri was chosen



as the best Qatari player under 20 years old, Ahmed Saif as the best Qatari player under 16 years old, and Khaled al-Jumaa as the best Qatari player under 12 years old. The championship witnessed the participation of several players from Qatar national teams in all age categories including Irfan Mohamed, Aisha al-Khelaifi, Kha-

led al-Jumaa, Ghada al-Khulaifi, Saif Ahmed, Fahad al-Mansuri, Turki al-Kuwari, Hamad al-Kuwari, Khaled al-Khelaifi, Rawda al-Qassabi, Fatima al-Hammadi, Asmaa al-Hamadi, Ali al-Nuaimi, Amer al-Hamadi, Layan al-Qassabi, Abdulaziz al-Mahasnah, and Mohamed al-Subaie. Mohamed al-Mudahka, presi-

dent of Qatar Chess Association, expressed his satisfaction with the final atmosphere of the championship, confirming that the competition was strong among all players during the matches, which witnessed good levels of performance. He stressed that the championship achieved its intended goals

and received a great turnout from participants due to its significant reputation since it was first introduced a number of years ago. Accordingly, he thanked Katara for its great efforts in maintaining the continuity of organising this championship. Meanwhile, Hamad al-Tamimi, executive director of the Qatari

Chess Association, noted that the Association has been keen on monitoring the championship after it became part of its international competitions agenda, expressing his great confidence that the success of this championship will continue to exceed expectations due to the excellent co-operation of Katara.

