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Amir appoints Shura secretary-general

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 11 of 2024, appointing Nayef Mohamed Abdullah Zaid al-Mahmoud as Secretary-General of the Shura Council. The decision is effective starting from its date of issue, and is to be published in the official gazette. (QNA)

Israel committed acts of 'genocide'

A UN rights expert said yesterday there were "reasonable grounds" to determine that Israel has committed several acts of "genocide" in its war in Gaza, also evoking "ethnic cleansing". "The overwhelming nature and scale of Israel's assault on Gaza and the destructive conditions of life it has inflicted reveal an intent to physically destroy Palestinians as a group," Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the rights situation in the Palestinian territories, concluded in a report.

Boeing CEO to exit as safety risks mount

Boeing announced yesterday a leadership shakeup headlined by the departure of CEO Dave Calhoun as the aviation giant faces heavy scrutiny following safety incidents and manufacturing issues. Besides Calhoun, who will stay in his post through the end of 2024, Boeing announced two other major changes. Stan Deal, Boeing's head of commercial airlines since 2019, will exit immediately, while the company's chairman, Larry Kellner, will depart after the company's annual meeting this spring.

Trump gets respite in \$454mn fraud ruling

Donald Trump won a bid yesterday to pause his \$454mn civil fraud judgment if he posts a smaller \$175mn bond within 10 days, in a victory for the former US president that blocks New York state authorities from taking steps to seize his assets. The decision eases an acute cash crunch for Trump, who has said he would be forced to sell assets at "fire sale prices" to post bond in the case. It delays enforcement of a judgment in a case that found he overstated his wealth to dupe investors and lenders.

Moscow attack: Putin refuses to blame IS

Russian President Vladimir Putin is refusing to blame the Islamic State (IS) for the Moscow attack despite a claim by the extremist group, instead insinuating a link to Ukraine in a possible bid to limit the responsibility of the Russian security services. IS claimed the attack Friday that left at least 137 people dead. Putin acknowledged that "radical Islamists" had carried out the attack but made a link with Ukraine.

RAMADAN THOUGHT



O you who believe! Do your duty to Allah and fear Him. And seek the means of approach to Him, and strive hard in His Cause (as much as you can), so that you may be successful. (Qur'an 5: 35)

Prayer times

Fajr...4:15; Zuh...11:40; Asr...3:07; Maghrib...5:51; Isha...7:21

Fasting times

Iftar today 5:51pm
Imsak tomorrow..... 4:03am

UN Security Council demands Gaza truce

- Failure to implement resolution would be unforgivable: Guterres
- War will not end until the hostages are freed: Israel

AFP
Washington

After more than five months of war, the UN Security Council for the first time yesterday demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza after the United States, Israel's ally which vetoed previous drafts, abstained. Drawing unusual applause in the normally staid Security Council, all 14 other members voted in favour of the resolution which "demands an immediate ceasefire" for the ongoing Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The resolution calls for the truce to lead to a "lasting, sustainable ceasefire" and demands that Hamas and other militants free hostages seized in their October 7 attack.

"The bloodbath has continued for far too long," said Amar Bendjama, the representative of Algeria, the Arab bloc's current member of the Security Council and a sponsor of the resolution alongside a diverse group that included Slovenia, Switzerland, Japan and South Korea.

"Finally, the Security Council is shouldering its responsibility," he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanded that the resolution be implemented. "Failure would be unforgivable," Guterres wrote on X.

Palestinian envoy Riyad Mansour fought back tears as he said that the resolution should be a "turning point" in ending the war.

The United States had repeatedly blocked Security Council resolutions that put pressure on Israel but has increasingly shown frustration with its ally as the United Nations warns of impending famine in Gaza.

Moments after the United States declined to veto the latest resolution, Netanyahu announced that he would no longer send to Washington a delegation requested by President Joe Biden to discuss Rafah.

The resolution "gives Hamas hope that international pressure will allow them to accept a ceasefire without the release of our abductees," Netanyahu said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav



Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations Riyad Mansour speaks with the media following a meeting of the Security Council to vote on a Gaza resolution that demands an immediate ceasefire at UN headquarters in New York City, yesterday.

Qatar welcomes resolution

Qatar welcomed the UN Security Council's resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza during the blessed month of Ramadan, expressing hope that it represents a step towards a permanent cessation of hostilities in the Strip, particularly given the dire humanitarian situation affecting civilians, including children and women. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised the necessity of

implementing the resolution, especially the cessation of hostilities, facilitating the urgent and unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid into all areas of the Strip, and engaging positively in the ongoing negotiations, stressing in this context the continued mediation of Qatar, in co-operation with partners, to stop the war on Gaza, and addressing its humanitarian repercussions. **Page 4**

Gallant, who was already in Washington on a separate trip, said his country will not end the war until the hostages are freed.

"We have no moral right to stop the war while there are still hostages held in Gaza," he said outside the White House.

Hamas welcomed the resolution and said it would engage in talks on a prisoner exchange brokered by Qatar, after repeated delays in securing a deal.

The White House insisted that

its abstention did not signal a policy shift.

US ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who had previously warned that pressure on Israel would jeopardise ongoing talks, said that Hamas must now accept the deal to free hostages.

"A ceasefire can begin immediately with the release of the first hostage," Thomas-Greenfield said. "This is the only path to securing a ceasefire."

Israel pounds Rafah despite truce calls

Israel's military carried out new airstrikes in Gaza and laid siege to two hospitals yesterday, despite what the UN chief called a growing international consensus to tell Israel a ceasefire is needed. Rafah came under heavy fire in the latest Israeli attacks, witnesses said. Palestinian medics said 30 people had been killed in the previous 24 hours in Rafah.

US 'perplexed' by scrapped Israeli visit

The White House said yesterday it was "perplexed" and "disappointed" by the cancellation of an Israeli delegation's planned visit to discuss US concerns over a possible offensive in southern Gaza. Israel scrapped the visit after the United States abstained from a UN Security Council vote demanding an "immediate ceasefire" in Gaza.

Countries call for immediate implementation

Here are some reactions to the resolution to halt fighting in Gaza over the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with an aim for a "lasting" truce, which drew rare applause at the Security Council: **Hamas** - Palestinian resistance movement Hamas welcomed the resolution saying it was ready to negotiate the release of hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the UN vote "hurts both the war effort and the effort to release the abductees".

Palestinian Authority - Hussein al-Sheikh, minister for civilian affairs of the Palestinian Authority hailed the resolution in a post on X. "We call for a permanent cessation to this criminal war and Israel's immediate withdrawal from the Gaza Strip," he wrote.

United States - Following the vote, the United States said a ceasefire can "only" be implemented once Hamas begins releasing hostages it still holds.

EU - Top European Union officials welcomed the resolution, calling for a ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages. "Implementation of this resolution is vital for the protection of all civilians," EU President Ursula von der Leyen wrote on X.

France - France's UN representative called for a sustained truce between Israel and Hamas beyond the ongoing month of Ramadan.

Spain - Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez applauded the resolution, saying it was "in line with what Spain has been saying since the start of the conflict."

The Netherlands - Outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte welcomed the resolution, adding, "What is now needed is to stop the violence, free the hostages, immediately send in vastly more humanitarian aid to Gaza."

Blockchain tech to help realise Qatar's sustainability efforts

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar's drive for sustainability can be supported through blockchain technology by creating an efficient energy marketplace, a Qatar Foundation (QF) scientist noted.

"Blockchain technology is a decentralised digital ledger that uploads and presents data in a transparent and secure manner, using a network of computers to approve transactions without the need for a central authority," said Dr Amani Boumaiza, a scientist at Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (Qeeri), part of Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

"However, it is now being used across a variety of fields - such as healthcare and real estate - and Qeeri is coupling it with Artificial Intelligence to create an efficient energy marketplace. It is aiming to achieve this by encouraging people to shift to renewable resources and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy through energy trading," explained Dr Boumaiza.

According to the scientist, as a secure, transparent, and efficient way to share data,



Dr Amani Boumaiza.

blockchain has the potential to transform everyday transactions across a variety of fields.

She continued: "Blockchain is important as it is helping to drive sustainability. The technology will offer new, innovative ways to reduce carbon footprint - which is also

"The idea of the blockchain is to automate the trade and exchange of energy through AI, as it can gather and analyse data from sensors, identify patterns, make predictions, and optimise energy consumption"

one of the main goals of Qatar National Vision 2030."

Dr Boumaiza uses the community housing at Education City as an example, as this is the project's test bed. There are 623 houses and most of these have Solar Photovoltaic installations, allowing sunlight to be converted into electricity.

She highlighted: "In this situation, for example, I produce energy from my roof. Whenever I produce an excess of energy, I can share this energy or sell it to my neighbours, for which I would get tokens as a reward. I could use those tokens, for example, to reduce my energy consumption invoices."

"Trading energy among peers means that if I have an excess of energy, I can sell it to my neighbours at a competitive price, compared to the price on the market." **To Page 4**

Shura boost to hosting of sport tournaments

The Shura Council held its regular weekly meeting at the Tamim bin Hamad Hall yesterday, under the chairmanship of HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem.

The Council approved a draft law regarding exemptions and facilitations for the State's hosting of sport tournaments, after having reviewed the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee's report on the matter and the members discussing the provisions of the draft law.

Moreover, the Council reviewed a draft law amending some provisions of the Qatar Financial Center law promulgated by Law No. 7 of 2005, referred to the Council by the esteemed government. The Council decided to refer the draft law to the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee to study it and submit its report thereon to the Council.

On the other hand, the Shura Council approved a request to extend the work of the Internal and External Affairs Committee to consider a request to hold a general discussion regarding the procedures for domestic workers departure from the country. Furthermore, the Council approved a request to extend the work of the Information and Cultural Affairs Committee to study a draft law on higher education institutions. (QNA)



QATAR

AlKhater meets top UN official in Doha



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met in Doha on Sunday with UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator Martin Griffiths. The meeting discussed the developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, stressing the need to reach a ceasefire agreement and open the crossing borders to bring more humanitarian aid into the Strip. The two sides voiced their concern about Israeli threats of a military operation in Rafah. The meeting also discussed the developments in Sudan, Afghanistan, and Yemen. The two sides stressed the need for the international community to find solutions to the Sudanese crisis and find effective mechanisms to deliver humanitarian aid to all regions. **(QNA)**

Official

Amir sends cables of congratulations to Greek president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou on the anniversary of her country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. **(QNA)**

Deputy PM meets Omani envoy



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met yesterday with Omani ambassador to Qatar Ammar bin Abdullah bin Sultan Albusaidi. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them. **(QNA)**

PHCC to begin new students' health check-up in April

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has announced the commencement of students check-up procedures as of April 1 with a single visit to the health centres.

This comes in parallel with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's (MoEHE) announcement regarding the enrolment of new students in government schools for the academic year 2024/2025, facilitated through continuous co-ordination and

collaboration with the MoEHE Schools and Students Affairs Department. PHCC has emphasised the readiness of its all-health centres and has implemented all essential precautions to ensure the safety of students through the development of check-up mechanisms and procedures for students joining schools this year. PHCC has developed mechanisms and procedures ensuring that the checkup is conducted in a single scheduled visit. During the visit, a series of se-



quential procedures will take place: the check-in procedure at the reception, the nursing assessment,

the conduct of necessary laboratory tests and social worker assessment. Then, attending the booked dental appointment for dental check-up followed by attending the booked appointment with the family physician for clinical examination, view of all test results and issuance of the health certificate electronically. The parent then collects the student's e-file from the reception before leaving the health centre to submit it to the relevant authorities.

HMC campaign highlights World Optometry Day '24

To highlight the vital role of optometry in eyecare and promote awareness about maintaining good vision, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) observed the World Optometry Day with a public campaign under the theme: "A better vision leads to a better life".

The objectives of the day observed annually on March 23 included advocating eye health, emphasising the contributions of optometrists, combating vision impairment, educating the public, advocating for optometric services, fostering collaboration, commending achievements, and promoting research and innovation.

Every year, the World Council of Optometry (WCO) celebrates World Optometry Week (March 21 to 25) and World Optometry Day (March 23) to urge support for colleagues in the field of optometry, and to increase awareness of the role of clinical optometry and the health aspects of optometry around the world.

HMC campaign featured different activities such as visual acuity screening to provide free visual acuity tests to assess participants'



clarity of vision and identify any potential refractive errors. Optometry staff utilised cutting-edge facilities to conduct contact lens screenings, providing participants with information about contact lens options and fittings in addition to conducting education sessions on refractive errors to raise awareness about different

types of refractive errors such as myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, and presbyopia.

These sessions also covered the assessment and management options available for each type of refractive error.

Dr Nabila al-Tamimi, head of optometry at HMC and senior clinical scientist said: "Our

campaign provides resources and information about different eye conditions, treatment options, and preventive measures to empower participants to take control of their eye health. We also encourage follow-up appointments and screenings to monitor eye health, track any changes, and adjust treatments as needed."



Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani.



Dr Wafaa al-Mulla

MoPH launches oral care awareness campaign

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has launched a campaign for raising awareness about the importance of oral and dental care in co-operation with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC).

The campaign targets all segments of society such as children, adolescents, adults and pregnant women to guide them follow a healthy and balanced diet.

MoPH also encourages all members of society to adopt healthy lifestyles from earlier age and reduce the spread of dental caries, in addition to change wrong behaviours towards oral and dental health-care. The launch of the campaign comes within the framework of the celebration of the World Oral Health Day observed annually on March 20, under the theme 'A happy mouth is a happy body'; in addition to the GCC Oral Health Unified Week from March 25-31.

Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani, director of the Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention Programme at MoPH, said that the ministry is keen

to implement a number of programmes and courses at preventing oral diseases. He pointed to the launch of health care programme for the elderly last year, which targeted the medical staff concerned with the care of the elderly. He stated that MoPH will continue to implement such programmes.

Dr Wafaa al-Mulla, oral and dental health specialist, MoPH, said that through the campaign, educational awareness publications will be published via all social media accounts of the ministry and other health sector partners. Dr al-Mulla added that the ministry began implementing the national oral and dental health survey for young students aged 12-16 from February.

The survey aims to determine the level and quality of oral health information and its sources among parents of children and participating students, as well as to determine the level of tooth decay among school students in Qatar. Moreover, the survey will show the relationship between the level of oral health information and health practices, including dietary habits.

QU announces dates for female graduation ceremonies

Qatar University (QU) will organise separate graduation ceremonies for its Class of 2024 female students, from May 9 to 12 in the QU Sports and Events Complex, a statement said. The graduation ceremonies will be streamed live on the QU YouTube Channel.

The graduates will be received on stage by the dean of their respective college as well as

the ceremony organisers. The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024 will include graduates of the semesters: Summer 2023, Fall 2023 and Winter 2024, in addition to those who are expected to graduate by the end of Spring 2024.

The graduates of Summer 2024 will celebrate their graduation with the Class of 2025. Graduation of College of Engineering, College of Law and College of Sharia students will take

place at 4pm on May 9 while College of Arts and Sciences graduation will take place on May 11 9pm. Graduation of the students of College of Business and Economics will be held on May 11 at 4pm and the QU Health Colleges graduation will be on May 12 at 9am.

The graduation of the students of the College of Education will take place at 4pm on May 12.

Strong wind forecast for today



Strong wind and poor horizontal visibility are forecast today (Tuesday) inshore across Qatar, the Met office said. The offshore forecast is strong wind and high sea. Visibility began to be affected yesterday (Monday) afternoon, when dust descended on the country to the accompaniment of rain and wind. The minimum and maximum temperatures today are expected to be in the 18C-21C and 23C-28C, respectively. Yesterday's minimum and maximum temperatures were in the 22C-24C and 27C-30C range, respectively. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam





Qatar Charity constructed 700 mosques in Bangladesh over 5 years

Qatar Charity (QC), with the support of philanthropists in Qatar, has completed the construction and equipping of 32 mosques in various areas of Bangladesh in less than a year, providing a comfortable and safe environment for over 10,000 worshippers. Additionally, 700 mosques have been constructed across the country in the past five years, benefiting over 200,000 worshippers.

This comes in conjunction with the 'Double Your Ajir' campaign launched by Qatar Charity to run in the second ten days of Ramadan. The campaign aims to provide clean drinking water and housing for needy families, as well as to construct mosques at the lowest possible cost.

The construction of mosques was initiated due to the financial inability of local communities in villages and remote areas, as they had to use bamboo wood and zinc sheets to build their mosques, which did not provide a safe and suitable worship environment.

The construction of these 32 mosques took approximately 8 months, starting in August 2023 and completing in the current month of March. The area of each mosque ranges from 70 to 150 square meters, accommodating between 250 to 400 worshippers. Additionally, each mosque has been wonderfully designed and



The construction of these 32 mosques took approximately 8 months, starting in August 2023 and completing in the current month of March. The area of each mosque ranges from 70 to 150 square meters, accommodating between 250 to 400 worshippers.

equipped, as well as provided with carpets, loudspeakers, ceiling fans, and copies of the Quran before being handed over to local authorities.

Positive Impact

The locals and members of the mosque committees have expressed their gratitude to Qatar Charity and its donors for providing support to build beautiful mosques in their regions.

Mohammad Rezaul Islam, president of a mosque committee in 'Alomdostar' Village of Madaripur district, said, "The locals had no financial capabilities to build such a spectacular

mosque. We are truly pleased and grateful to the kind people of Qatar for extending their supporting hand."

Md Bachchu Mia, the president of the Mosque Committee in 'Chitrovishram' village of Magura district, expressed gratitude to the benefactors who made it possible to replace their old and dilapidated mosque with a new one.

Similarly, Babur Ali, the Secretary of the Mosque Committee in 'Char Mogra' village of Manikganj district, expressed his gratitude for the new mosque they received.

He mentioned that previously, they were praying in a mosque made of bamboo which was not suitable for the rainy season, causing them difficulties. But now they are blessed to have a well-equipped mosque to pray in.

How to Donate

To address the pressing need for mosques in remote areas worldwide and to replace old ones, Qatar Charity invites generous donors to support the "Double Your Ajir" campaign. This initiative aims to build mosques and provide clean drinking water and housing for needy families. Donations can be made through Qatar Charity's website.

<https://www.qcharity.org/en/qa/campaign?campaignId=621&UTMMid=0>



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Qatar chairs meeting between GCC representatives to UN, head of Independent Review Group on UNRWA

Within the framework of Qatar's presidency of the 44th session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN HE Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani convened a meeting at the permanent mission headquarters in New York between permanent representatives of the GCC countries to the UN and Catherine Colonna, Chair of the Independent Review Group on the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near

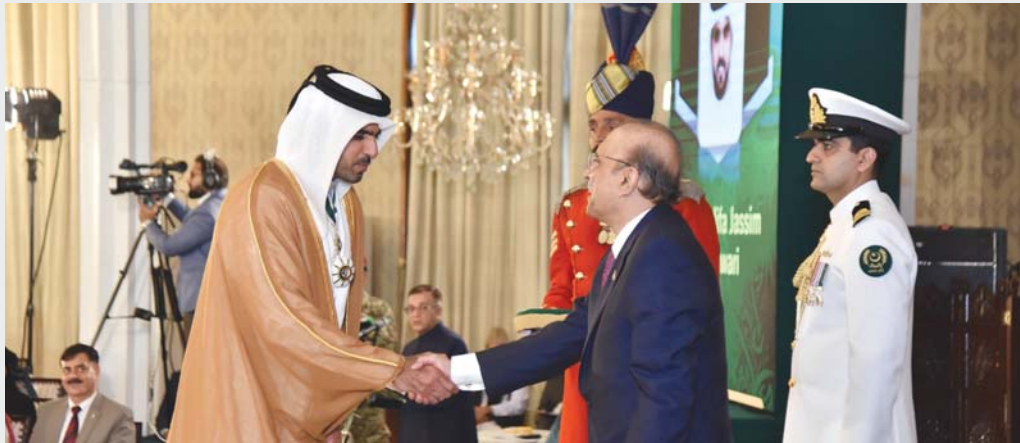
East (UNRWA). The meeting was held in light of Colonna's presentation of the initial report to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the investigations of the Group tasked with conducting an independent review of the work of UNRWA. During the meeting, Colonna discussed the preliminary findings of the Independent Review Group on UNRWA, taking into account the vital and important role of the Agency in supporting the solution of the Palestinian refugee problem.

For her part, HE Sheikhha Alya conveyed the full support of the GCC countries to the Independent Review Group on UNRWA in order to implement its mandate to the fullest extent. She said that the GCC countries also steadfastly support UNRWA for its noble and humanitarian role for more than 70 years, which is to provide relief and humanitarian assistance to the brotherly Palestinian people who are living in difficult humanitarian conditions due to the ongoing Israeli aggression. (QNA)

UNSC praises Qatar's diplomatic efforts for Gaza ceasefire

The UN Security Council (UNSC) praised the diplomatic efforts made by Qatar along with the United States and Egypt to end the aggression in Gaza, release all hostages, and expand the scope of aid and facilitate its reach to civilians in light of the catastrophic humanitarian situation and the threat of famine in the Strip. This came in a resolution adopted by the UNSC in New York yesterday presented by non-permanent members demanding an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip during Ramadan. (QNA)

Pakistan felicitates QFFD chief with Hilal Quaid-e-Azam Award



Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari awarded the Hilal Quaid-e-Azam Award to Director-General of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kuwari during the celebration of Pakistan Day at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad. The honour comes in recognition of the efforts made by Qatar, through the QFFD, to strengthen developmental co-operation with Pakistan, particularly in education, infrastructure, and humanitarian aid. (QNA)



Invitation to Auction

Qatar National Broadband Network is announcing the following Auction:

Auction Number	Subject	Closing date
AUC-2024-001	Selling electrical cables, electromechanical devices, equipment and accessories	14-April-2024

In accordance with the following requirements:

- Auction documents can be obtained by sending an official request via email to Tender@qbnb.qa no later than "7-April-2024."

**For clarifications, please contact us at
Tel: 4404 1450, 4404 1456, Fax: 4404 1405
Email: Tender@qbnb.qa**

Blockchain tech to help realise Qatar's green efforts

From Page 1

"We are trying to not go through the main utility grid, and so we are creating a decentralised paradigm. This helps consumers to have greater control over their energy choices and they do not have to rely solely on large companies for energy supply."

Dr Boumaiza noted that the idea of the blockchain is to automate the trade and exchange of energy through AI, as it can gather and analyse data from sensors, identify patterns, make predictions, and optimise energy consumption.

"So, as a household, I will not care about what's going on within the system - everything will be automated. And this automation uses 'smart contracts', which is an AI technology, where everything is coded in a separate file.

And this smart contract is automated; it will orchestrate the trade, determine the price of the energy, and match the best buyers with the best sellers," pointed out the scientist.

Dr Boumaiza added that the Qeeri team is currently trying to encourage people to increase their use of green energy. "One method we are implementing is a system where individuals can trade in their revenue or tokens for incentives, benefiting both themselves and the environment.

These incentives may range from reduced utility bills to vouchers for environmentally friendly products, resulting in a mutually beneficial outcome."

Qatar participates in 17th Meeting of Arab League's Reform Committee

Qatar participated in the 17th meeting of the open-ended committee at the level of permanent delegates concerned with the reform and development of the Arab League, which was held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia at the headquarters of the League's General Secretariat in Cairo. The meeting was attended by Hamad bin Ghanem al-Hajri, representative of Qatar's Permanent Delegation to the Arab League. The meeting dealt with the follow-up and implementation of the decision of the Arab League Council at the level of Arab foreign ministers, which was held on March 6 to reform and develop the Arab League, and to invite its working teams to continue their work and present their results periodically to the League Council at the ministerial level. (QNA)



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/SOH/6541/24 INSPECTION & TESTING OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENTS & SYSTEMS	26/03/2024 to 02/04/2024	0	358,184	14/05/2024

Scope of Work:

Tenderer shall be a registered fire protection contractor according to the laws of the State of Qatar. Tenderer shall have all their resources like manpower, equipment etc. inside Qatar and provide services in onshore /offshore facilities. Duration of the Contract shall be for an estimated duration of 3 years with an optional extension of 1 year.

Bid Validity: Bid should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that has been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/US>



QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following
Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:**

S.N	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fee	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/022/24	Four (4) Years Call off Contract for Courier Services at QAFAC	Qrs. 300/-	Qrs. 200,000/-	21 st April 2024
2	QTC/028/24	Four (4) Years Call off Contract for Standardization, Installation of Safety Boards at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed	Qrs. 300/-	Qrs. 20,000/-	21 st April 2024
3	QTC/029/24	Four (4) Years Call off Contract for Catalyst Handling Services at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed	Qrs. 300/-	Qrs. 300,000/-	21 st April 2024
4	QTC/030/24	Two (2) Years Call off Contract for Offsite Storage, Preservation of Materials (Spare Parts, Equipments and Hazardous Materials), Supply of Manpower and Equipments	Qrs. 300/-	Qrs. 300,000/-	21 st April 2024

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender document as follows:

- **Collection Date :** From Tuesday, 26th March, 2024 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- **Collection Time :** 08:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **Location :** The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- **Tender Fees :** As shown above, (*Non-refundable*) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- **Validity :** Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- **Bid Bond :** Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- **Authorization :** Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 1. Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 2. Proper Identification
 3. Copy of Company's Commercial Registration
 4. Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)
 5. Valid ICV Certificate (Mandatory for S.No. 1, 3 & 4)

Note: "Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of state of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that have been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV digital Portal :- <https://icv.qa/US>



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
PUE-RFQ-8	Consultancy for Performing Arts Strategy in QF Schools	500.00	N/a	29th April 2024, 2:00 PM
HBKU-RFQ-57	Supply & Installation of Research Equipment (Additive Mfg Alloys) for QEERI	300.00	N/a	30th April 2024, 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement & Program Management Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

- 1) **Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender[s]. Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.

Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 26th March until 2nd April 2024.

- 2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.

- 3) Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.

- The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
- The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
- The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
- Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>

Overeating During Ramadan: Strategies for Moderation

Ramadan, the holy month observed by Muslims worldwide, is a time of spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and increased devotion. Central to this observance is fasting from dawn until sunset, and abstaining from food & drink. However, for some individuals, the period of fasting can inadvertently lead to overeating during the non-fasting hours. This article aims to explore the phenomenon of overeating during Ramadan fasting, its potential health risks, and strategies for moderation.

Understanding Overeating During Ramadan:

The practice of overeating during Ramadan can stem from various factors:

- Hunger and Deprivation:** After a day of fasting, we may experience intense hunger, leading us to consume large quantities of food at Iftar and Suhoor to compensate for the hours of fasting.
- Social and Cultural Norms:** In many cultures, Ramadan is a time for communal gatherings and feasting. Social pressures and expectations to indulge in lavish meals during Iftar parties or family gatherings can contribute to overeating.
- Lack of Awareness:** Limited awareness of proper nutrition and portion control, combined with the desire to maximize energy intake for the upcoming day of fasting, may result in overeating.
- Iftar and Suhoor buffets:** To maximise value for money, overeating in the Iftar and Suhoor buffets is also quite common.



Dr. SHAKIR TP
Associate Specialist - Family Medicine
Aster Medical Centre - Rayyan



Health Risks of Overeating During Ramadan:

Overeating during Ramadan fasting can have several adverse health consequences:

- Digestive Issues:** Consuming large meals in a short period, especially high-fat and high-calorie foods, can lead to digestive discomfort, bloating, and indigestion.
- Weight Gain:** Excessive calorie intake during Suhoor and Iftar can contribute to weight gain, particularly if coupled with a sedentary lifestyle during the fasting month.
- Nutritional Imbalance:** Overeating may lead to an imbalance in nutrient intake, with excessive consumption of certain food groups (e.g., carbohydrates, fats) and insufficient intake of others (e.g., fruits, vegetables, protein).
- Increased Risk of Chronic Diseases:** Poor dietary habits during Ramadan, including overeating, may increase the risk of developing chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disorders.

Strategies for Moderation:

Consider the following strategies to avoid overeating during fasting and promote healthy eating habits:

- Plan Balanced Meals:** Prioritize nutrient-dense foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and healthy fats in your Suhoor and Iftar meals to ensure adequate nutrition and satiety.
 - Practice Portion Control:** Be mindful of portion sizes and avoid loading your plate with excessive amounts of food. Use smaller plates to help control portion sizes and prevent overeating.
 - Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of water between Iftar and Suhoor to stay hydrated and prevent thirst during fasting hours. Limit consumption of sugary drinks and caffeine, which can contribute to dehydration.
 - Choose Nutrient-Rich Snacks:** Opt for nutritious snacks such as dates, nuts, yogurt, or fresh fruits during non-fasting hours to curb hunger and provide sustained energy.
 - Listen to Your Body:** Pay attention to hunger and fullness cues and eat mindfully without rushing. Stop eating when you feel satisfied, rather than waiting until you are overly full.
 - Engage in Physical Activity:** Incorporate light to moderate physical activity during non-fasting hours to promote metabolism, energy expenditure, and overall well-being.
- Conclusion:**
- While Ramadan fasting holds significant spiritual significance, it is essential to practice moderation and mindful eating habits to avoid overeating during non-fasting hours. By prioritizing balanced meals, practicing portion control, and listening to your body's cues, you can maintain optimal health and well-being throughout this holy month. Remember, Ramadan is not just about abstaining from food but also about fostering self-discipline, empathy, and gratitude.



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QC implements ‘Feed the Fasting’ project in Gaza

In parallel with the persistent humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Qatar Charity (QC) continues its humanitarian efforts as part of its Ramadan campaign ‘Endless Giving’.

Under the ‘Feed the Fasting’ project, QC distributes meals, food packages, and bags of flour. Approximately 300,000 individuals have so far benefited from these distributions, with further assistance expected to be distributed to the crisis-affected in Ramadan.

So far, the number of the distributed ready-to-eat meals has reached 150,000, in addition to providing 12,000 food baskets and 13,200 bags of flour.

The ‘Feed the Fasting’ project contributes to alleviating the suffering of the people of Gaza due to the severe shortage of food supplies and the absence of provisions for breaking fast during the sacred month.

This initiative stands as a continuation of the humanitarian efforts spearheaded by QC in Gaza since October.

QC is actively implementing its



Ramadan projects in 40 countries through its field offices and local partners. With a focus on Palestine, internally displaced Syrians, Somalia, Yemen, and Bangladesh, including Rohingya refugees, these Ramadan projects encompass Feed the Fasting, Zakat al-Fitr, and Eid Clothing.

QC encourages benefactors in Qatar to seize the opportunity of the blessed month to provide relief to the people in Gaza and other countries, especially crisis-

affected regions. Donations can be made through the following link: <https://www.qcharity.org/en/qa/campaign?campaignId=617&UTMMid=0>

To make contributions, a “Home Collector” can be requested through QC’s app (qch.qa/appen), in addition to dialling 44920000 for this purpose. Furthermore, benefactors can donate at QC’s branches, as well as at its collection points in the commercial complexes.

Nando’s sharing platters for Ramadan

Nando’s is offering special sharing platters during Ramadan for Iftar and Suhoor, a statement said yesterday.

The platters from the South African brand, is crafted from fresh ingredients bursting with flavour, it was explained.

There are four sharing platter options. Feast platter: Espetada, two regular sides, one ‘Appetiser’, half chicken Arroz, two lentil soups and sweet chilli jam for QR149.

Family platter: Espetada A Torre, three regular sides, ‘All Together Now’, full cashew chicken Arroz, four lentil soups and



sweet chilli jam for QR249.

Festive platter: Full chicken, two pulled chicken wraps, two regular sides, ‘Festa Fries’ and sweet chilli jam for QR149.

Fiesta platter: Full chicken, three regular sides, ‘Festa Fries,’ one ‘Appetiser’ and sweet chilli jam for QR149.

Nando’s has expanded with two new restaurants in Doha at Avenue Mall in Steigenberger Hotel and Tawar Mall.

The Nando’s Ramadan sharing platters are available for dine-in, takeaway, or delivery using the Nando’s app or website.



QRCS inspects relief projects in Turkiye, northern Syria



Dr Mohamed Salah Ibrahim, director of Relief and International Development Division at Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), took part in the inauguration ceremony of the Katara Village in Qabasin, northern Syria.

Designed to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for displaced families, the QRCS-constructed model village comprises 30 housing units, with all utilities such as water supply, electricity,

sewage, school, and mosque.

Funded by Education Above All Foundation and designed by Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA), the village is the first of its kind in northern Syria. Its residential and educational structures adopt a unique approach to alternative shelter and provide decent transitional housing for the steadily growing numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) all over the world.


After that, Dr Ibrahim and his accompanying delegation from

QRCS’ representation office in Turkiye visited several humanitarian projects undertaken by QRCS in northern Syria, including the Humanity First Village in Qabasin. It has a capacity of 1,000 displaced families, with an extra 144-flat expansion.

“The inauguration of Katara Village is an example of how we and our partners are committed to securing decent transitional housing for IDPs,” Dr Ibrahim added.

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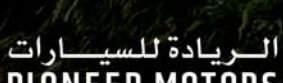
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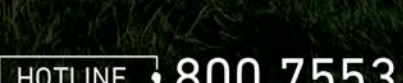
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Cleo collection among highlights of Marli New York Suhoor event



Maral Artinian, founder and creative director of Marli New York, said the Suhoor is an important event for the brand as it offers a "great opportunity" to meet with Marli's clientele in Doha. PICTURE: Feroze Ahamed

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

Marli New York, in partnership with Alfardan Jewellery, recently hosted a Suhoor event, which was celebrated by many clients, jewellery connoisseurs, and distinguished guests.

The unique event, at the Marsa Malaz Kempinski The Pearl – Doha, was highlighted with the presentation of Marli New York's latest 'Cleo Collection', which is now available at the brand's boutique in Doha.

Speaking on the sidelines, Maral Artinian, founder and creative director of Marli New York, said the Suhoor is an important event for the brand as it offers a "great opportunity" to meet with Marli's clientele in Doha.

"After a long while, this Suhoor is our first opportunity to sit down with our clients and to get to know more about them. It is also a great occasion for us to present our different collections, especially the Cleo by Marli," Artinian pointed out.

According to Artinian, Marli New York is keen on constantly showcasing the brand's latest collections, emphasising that in



Some pieces from the Cleo by Marli collection. PICTURE: Peter Alagos

the coming months, Marli New York will be introducing another new collection "mainly to celebrate and give back to the community."

Artinian also lauded the brand's robust relationship with Alfardan Jewellery: "I owe our strong ties with Alfardan Jewellery to Ali Alfardan, whom we consider as part of the Marli New York family because he has always viewed us in a very positive way."

In response to the increasing demand for the brand's varied

collections, Marli New York has expanded its co-operation and partnership with Alfardan Jewellery, Artinian further stressed.

"We greatly appreciate that Alfardan always believes in the brand, which is the reason why we always come here to strengthen this relationship. His feedback is very important because it helps us understand the market. This confirms that our partnership with Alfardan Jewellery extends to the sky," she said.

Artinian noted that Marli New York's designs exude elegance and luxury, expressing the lifestyle and spirit of the modern woman, especially the beauty of New York City; some designs were inspired by the lights and landmarks of the city that never sleeps.

She said Marli continually offers the most beautiful modern pieces, collections, and designs that are characterised by elegance and luxury to satisfy various tastes and meet the aspirations of young people.

"Each piece of Marli New York jewellery emulates an aspect of the brand's history, which is renowned across the globe and in Qatar, resulting in a close partnership and co-operation with Alfardan Jewellery over the years," Artinian added.

Qur'an ... The Word of Allah

The Noble Qur'an is the eternal miracle of Prophet Muhammad, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam. Every Prophet was supported with a miracle(s) and upon his death it disappeared, except Prophet Muhammad whose miracle remained, preserved and protected, namely the Book of Allah, His divine revealed Word. Allah Says (what means): "Falsehood cannot approach it from before it or from behind it" [Qur'an 41:42]

Allah clearly stated that the Qur'an is His Word, Saying (what means):

"And if any one of the polytheists seeks your protection, then grant him protection so that he may hear the Words of Allah [i.e. the Qur'an]." [Qur'an 9:6], and in His Saying (which means): "Those who remained behind will say when you set out toward the war booty to take it, 'Let us follow you! They wish to change the Words of Allah.'" [Qur'an: 48:15] These two verses prove that the Qur'an is the Word of Allah and that He sent it down to Prophet Muhammad, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam.

The Sunnah of the Prophet (his sayings) further proves this fact; Jaabir, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated: "The Prophet used to offer his message to people during the season of Hajj and say: 'Is there a man who would take me to his tribe (i.e. to convey the message to them), because the (tribe of) Quraysh have prevented me from conveying the Word of Allah?'" [Ahmad & At-Tirmithi]

There are many logical and substantial evidences proving this fact, such as the inability of the polytheists to come up with one single verse, let alone a whole chapter, that is similar to it. This is so, despite their eagerness and ambition to prove the Prophet wrong in what he was calling to, and their strong command of the Arabic language in which the Qur'an was revealed. Undoubtedly, this is evidence that



the Qur'an is not made by or the words of humans.

The Qur'an contains news of past nations and other unseen matters which serve as great proof that it is the Word of Allah. When the Persians defeated the Romans in battle, the Qur'an addressed the issue and informed that the Romans would overcome the Persians in few years to come as Allah Says (what means): "The Romans have been defeated (i.e. By the Persians) in the nearest land. But they, after their defeat, will overcome." [Qur'an 30: 2-3]

Furthermore, the Qur'an consists of scientific miracles by highlighting certain scientific facts which were not discovered except fourteen centuries later, such as the Qur'an proving that there is a barrier between the salty water and fresh water where they meet preventing them from mixing, as Allah Says (what means): "He released the two seas (the two bodies of water: fresh and salt), meeting [side by side]. Between them is a barrier [so] neither of them transgresses." [Qur'an 55: 19-20] Modern science discovered this to be a fact.

The fact that tranquility and assurance can be found upon reading the Qur'an which is not felt when reading any other book, is yet another proof that it is the Word of Allah, as Allah Says (what means): "Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by the mention of Allah. Unquestionably by the remembrance of Allah hearts are assured." [Qur'an 13: 28]

Furthermore, being cured by virtue of reading the Qur'an over a sick person can be added to the list of evidences proving it to be the Word of Allah. Allah Says (what means): "And We send down of the Qur'an that which is healing and mercy for the believers." [Qur'an 17: 82]

Lastly, the evidences proving the Qur'an to be the Word of Allah are too many to numerate in one article, and so we conclude with the saying of Al-Waleed Ibn Al-Mugheerah, one of the leaders of the polytheists who was requested to criticise and censure the Qur'an. After hearing parts of it from Prophet Muhammad, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, he said: "What can I say? I swear by Allah! There is no man who knows poetry better than me, and it does not sound like anything I ever heard. The only thing I can say is that it has sweetness to it, and it is so appealing. It is so fruitful (to the heart) and abundant (in its benefits). Indeed, nothing rises above it in style, and it surely destroys anything that challenges it." [Al-Haakim & Al-Bayhaqi]

This is the Qur'an, the Word of Allah, which confounds humans' capabilities due to its inimitable style, justice and accuracy. The Qur'an still challenges people and people remain incapable of challenging it, and it remains the clear evidence from Allah against its enemies and opponents. All efforts to deny its authenticity have failed.

Article source: <http://www.is-lamweb.net/emainpage/>

QU's *Emergent Materials Journal* scores high

Emergent Materials Journal, affiliated with Qatar University (QU), and published on the Springer platform, has achieved an impact factor of 3.8, a statement said yesterday.

The impact factor serves as a crucial gauge for a journal's influence and importance within the scientific community, measuring the average number of citations received per published article over a specific period.

The attainment of this impact factor by the *Emergent Materials Journal* represents an exceptional accomplishment, reflecting the quality and significance of the scientific research published therein, thus solidifying the importance and global impact of the Qatari journal, it was explained.

Since its inception, the *Emergent Materials Journal* has been committed to expanding its scope to encompass various fields of materials science and providing a global platform for disseminating cutting-edge research in this field. This commitment to excellence has garnered increasing recognition from the scientific community, resulting in the achievement of a high impact factor in a short period of time.

The journal's editorial team comprises a distinguished group of scientists from QU who actively contribute to enhancing the quality of the published scientific content.

Prof Karim al-Amgir, director of the Materials Programme and Dow Chair Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Houston, served as the editor-in-chief of the journal from 2018 until the end of 2022. A fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he has published over 300 research papers, including review articles and edited book chapters, with 30 years of research experience.

Subsequently, Prof Mohamed Mehdi Chehimi, senior research director at French CNRS, took the lead to be the journal editor-in-chief in 2023. A PhD in Physical Organic Chemistry from Université Paris 7 in 1988, he has authored over 350 research papers, more than 25 book chapters, and holds three patents, in addition to editing five books and six thematic issues.

Prof Mariam al-Maadeed, the journal's founder and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at QU, said: "We take pride in the journal's achievements and appreciate the exceptional contributions of the editorial team, reviewers, and authors who have contributed to the success of this journal. We look forward to continuing our work with the distinguished global and local team and advancing to the next level of excellence."

The *Emergent Materials Journal* invites researchers and scientists in the fields of materials science and nanotechnology, especially those working in environmental, energy, and health applications, to submit their outstanding scientific research for publication in the journal. The journal provides an ideal platform for sharing groundbreaking discoveries and promoting innovation in this rapidly evolving field.



QM in deal to showcase exhibitions in Hong Kong

The event under a MoU between QM and WKCD promises to illuminate the rich heritage and artistic legacy of Turkiye, Iran and India

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) is set to showcase an exhibition at the Hong Kong Palace Museum next year, featuring splendid carpets and other decorative arts from Turkiye, Iran and India.

This event, under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Qatar Museums (QM) and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD) on the occasion of the first-ever Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2024 on March 24-26, promises to illuminate the rich heritage and artistic legacy of these regions.

Drawing from an exhibition initially unveiled at MIA, QM noted that this exhibition will unveil intricate cultural fabric of Islamic dynasties that will open in 2025.

In addition, in 2026, M+'s exhibition "I. M. Pei: Life is Architecture", which properly appraises the work of one of the greatest architects of the 20th and 21st centuries, will travel to



Shaika Nasser al-Nassr at the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2024.

MIA, a museum designed by the architect.

The MoU was signed between MIA director Shaika Nasser al-Nassr; and Hong Kong Palace Museum director, Dr Louis Ng; and M+ museum director Suhanya Raffel.

The summit seeks to bring together global leaders from arts and cultural institutions to promote international cultural exchange and cultivate long-term partnerships.

One of the world's premier institutions of Islamic art and the first world-class museum in the region, the reimagined MIA provides a more accessible, engaging, and educational experience for guests.

Around 1,000 objects – many newly conserved or acquired – are displayed in the museum's permanent galleries for the first time, alongside the masterpieces for which MIA has long been recognised.

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GULF TIMES

Markets ready for more as Switzerland starts clock on rate cuts

Markets are racing ahead to bet on big central banks lowering borrowing costs after Switzerland last Thursday delivered a surprise rate cut, but analysts cautioned that policymakers elsewhere won't find it as easy to call time on the inflation fight.

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) lowered its key rate to 1.5% from 1.75%, with traders responding by pushing government borrowing costs across Europe lower as the continent's Stoxx 600 share index hit a fresh record.

Caution remained as to whether the US Federal Reserve would rush rate cuts given that inflation in the world's biggest economy is running hot.

Still, investors viewed the Swiss decision as a landmark and traders laid down strong bets for June cuts by the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of England (BoE).

Some analysts said these rate-setters could even risk a bout of inflationary currency weakness in a strong-dollar environment by moving before the Fed.

"I doubt anyone would think Switzerland is the sun around which everyone else gravitates, but the fact they have crossed this threshold has to matter," said Chris Jeffrey, head of macro strategy at Legal & General Investment Management.

Money markets moved to price a 90% chance of an ECB rate cut by June from less than an 80% chance late on Wednesday. BoE expectations moved to a roughly 70% chance of a June cut, from less than 60% on Wednesday.

Jeffrey tipped both the ECB and the BoE, to lower borrowing costs in June, with the Fed perhaps waiting longer.

Some investors said they were keen to own UK and European government debt

economist at Pictet Asset Management and a former SNB staffer, said Switzerland was unique among major central banks in having started to worry about inflation falling too far as its currency had strengthened.

"They were worried that the deflationary impact from a strong Swiss franc will persist, and that was the key trigger for them to start the easing cycle earlier than any other developed market central bank," he said. The Swiss franc, which rose over 6% against the euro last year, fell to nine-month low against the currency on Thursday and dropped over 0.5% against the dollar as the SNB widened the rate gap between Switzerland and its peers.

Elsewhere, after the BoE meeting the yield on the interest rate-sensitive British two year gilt was 12 bps lower on the day at 4.23% as the price of the debt rose, heading for its best daily performance in almost a month.

Germany's equivalent bond yield fell 6 bps to just over 2.9%. Bonds tend to get a boost from lower rates, which flatter the real income return from the fixed interest-paying securities.

Salman Ahmed, global head of macro and strategic asset allocation, Fidelity International, cautioned the Fed could wait longer to start easing borrowing costs and that the ECB and the BoE risked currency weakness and more inflation by going first.

The Fed on Wednesday, after hotter than expected US inflation data for February, stuck with its projections for three 25 bps rate cuts in 2024 but also substantially raised its economic growth forecasts.

"We have a Fed which wants to cut, it wants the opportunity to start the cutting cycle but the data is not giving them that entry point," Ahmed said.

"It is the potential FX moves that obviously worry (the ECB)," he said, adding that the inflationary pressures from a weak pound would create even more of a challenge for the BoE.

UK inflation decelerated to 3.4% in February, but was still above the BoE's 2% target.

Some investors said they were keen to own UK and European government debt, as whatever the timing of the first cut in Europe, rates were likely to fall.

Joost van Leenders, senior investment strategist at Van Lanschot Kempen in Holland, said his firm was "adding a bit to our euro zone bond exposure and moving towards a position where we benefit from falling yields."

He said he expected the BoE to cut rates as early as May. — Reuters

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‘Wild West’ of neuroscience drives new brain privacy laws

By Avi Asher-Schapiro
Los Angeles

US neurologist Sean Pauzauskie used to rely exclusively on expensive and cumbersome hospital kit to capture his patients' brainwaves and analyse problems in their electronic pathways.

But in recent years, the Colorado doctor turned to consumer headbands, commonly sold online to monitor sleep patterns or boost brain function, to capture the brain activity of some patients suffering seizures.

Cheaper and easy to use, the headbands — which can cost just a few hundred dollars — capture similar electronic data as state-of-the-art hospital machines, only with far less fuss.

"In the beginning I was thrilled, I thought: 'patients can even do all this themselves, at home,'" he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"But then I thought: 'wait a second, that means all their brain data is going to some private company.'"

Advances in brain science have made it easier to capture detailed data flows for the human brain and interpret their meaning. Some recent experiments have also shown the possibility of manipulating thoughts through neurological intervention.

By processing electronic brain images with artificial intelligence (AI) systems, researchers at the University of Texas were even able to accurately predict what words were running through a participant's head.

These kinds of advances have led to big breakthroughs,

letting some paralysed patients communicate via brainwaves or helping rewire dormant neural pathways after spinal injuries.

"I am confident that in the next couple of years there will be many devices that can read your thoughts," said Pauzauskie, who is excited to gain this new insight into how minds work.

But he also fears a potential for abuse.

So Pauzauskie recently joined a coalition of lawmakers and scientists pushing Colorado to become the first US state to enshrine privacy guarantees for brain data.

Legislation passed the Colorado assembly last month, on a vote of 61-1, and now goes before the state senate.

It is part of a trickle of bills under consideration countrywide, united by the common aim of ensuring that what goes on in a brain belongs to its owner — and can stay private.

Lawmakers in Minnesota introduced their own bill in March.

California — which often sets the pace for privacy rules — is also preparing a law that could be introduced within weeks.

Experts say the push for 'neural rights' is a rare attempt to lock consumer protection into an emerging technology before its mass adoption.

Some gadgets that capture brain data — with the potential to resell or share that information — are already on sale, and a number of start-ups plan to roll out devices soon.

"We want more guidance from lawmakers," said Adam Molner, co-founder of Neurable, a company developing headphones that can monitor brainwaves.

With its first product due to

hit the market this year, Neurable says it does not plan to sell raw brain data, and will expressly ask users for consent before its collection.

Major companies have not yet rolled out consumer devices that interact with the brain, though many firms — including Snapchat and Meta — are working on the technology.

Last year, Apple filed a patent for airpods that could monitor electrical activity in the brain.

"We have a real patchwork of laws when it comes to this data," said Sara Pullen Guercio, a lawyer with the privacy group at Alston & Bird who is tracking US neural rights legislation.

While neural data gathered in a medical setting is covered by health data protection laws, she said that same data gathered for commercial purposes was much more loosely regulated.

"What we don't want is a Wild West for neural data," she said.

The United States has no federal privacy laws, and while 15 states have passed their own versions of legislation, none directly addresses neural data, said Jared Genser, a lawyer and co-founder of the Neurorights Foundation.

The Neurorights Foundation backed the Colorado law, which would insert neural data into the state's existing privacy bill under the category of "sensitive data".

Companies would then need consent before collecting neural data, and would have to give customers options to limit what can be done with it as well as the right to delete it.

"Neural data is really missing from these existing laws in a large part because people were not thinking of it when they were drafting these laws," Genser said.

The Foundation wants to enshrine rights for the brain around the world; last year, Chile issued the first ever ruling demanding that illegally collected brain data be deleted.

Pauzauskie, the Colorado neurologist, approached his state assembly member Cathy Kipp at a recent fundraiser to raise his concerns about unregulated neural data.

"The fact that a company could capture your brainwaves today, and then resell them and then those brain waves could be used for something totally different in five years — that's a problem," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

As the bill moves through the legislature, there's been back and forth with tech industry groups about how to define neural data and the devices that collect it, Kipp said.

She wants to make sure the language remains broad enough to capture future developments in what is a quickly evolving field: neural data that is recorded by a headset today could be gathered by a wristband tomorrow, she reasoned.

David Stauss, a Colorado lawyer who focuses on privacy law, said the Colorado bill is part of a national pattern: states are increasingly tweaking privacy laws to cover sensitive data.

For example, Oregon and Delaware recently amended their bills to add transgender and non-binary status to their definitions of sensitive data.

In Minnesota, which does not have a state-level privacy law, lawmakers are taking a different tack. They are proposing a law to enshrine "cognitive liberty" and impose penalties for accessing brain data or using neural technology to interfere with thoughts without consent.

"Far too often we wait for bad things to happen, and we respond to a crisis after people have been harmed," said Walter Hudson, a member of the Minnesota state house pushing the bill.

State Senator Josh Becker in California is preparing a draft of a neurorights bill in California to be unveiled this month.

"I am focused on making sure that people own their own neural data," said Becker, who previously spearheaded state legislation to rein in databrokers.

It's still not clear exactly how this patchwork of laws will impact industry, said Rachel Marmor, a privacy law expert at the firm Holland & Knight.

"Until there's a bunch of enforcement actions it's going to be hard to move the needle on how businesses approach this," she explained.

But with any privacy law, there's a risk that compliance comes down to checking countless boxes on a myriad of forms and clicking through long, complex privacy policies, she warned.

"Forcing people to read thousands of privacy disclosures a year is not going to be workable here," she said. — Thomson Reuters Foundation



Advances in brain science have made it easier to capture detailed data flows for the human brain and interpret their meaning.

Close encounter with the versatile Sanam

■ Pakistan’s leading actress on her career choices, humanitarian causes and what makes her tick

By Kamran Rehmat
Doha

In the pantheon of Pakistani entertainment, few names resonate as profoundly as Sanam Saeed’s. An actress of rare versatility and depth, she has carved a niche for herself in an industry that is both vibrant and competitive. Perhaps best known for her role in the critically acclaimed drama *Zindagi Gulzar Hai* which made waves both in her native Pakistan and across the border in India, Sanam has showcased an exceptional ability to bring complex characters to life, earning her a dedicated fan base and critical acclaim both domestically and internationally.

Beyond reel life, she is a real life hero, too, lending her time and energy for humanitarian causes. Sanam was in town over the weekend for something similar – raising awareness about cancer – at the annual Ramadan event organised by Friends of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust (Qatar) in Doha.

In an exclusive interview with *Gulf Times*, Sanam spoke at length about the cause she so fervently espouses, her love of Qatar, and, last but not least, her dynamic acting career across television, cinema, theatre, music and now, web series.

Born on February 2, 1985, in London, UK, and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, her journey from a budding theatre artist to a leading television and film actress mirrors the evolving landscape of Pakistani entertainment.

Excerpts from the interview:

Before we venture into your career as an artist, please tell us about how you came to espouse a real life role such as being an ambassador for Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital (SKMCH)?

I knew about SKMCH and the healthcare they were providing to cancer patients and how it was a huge support system for people in need. Personally, I experienced it closer home with my mother diagnosed with breast cancer, and so I could resonate with the cause and was passionate about trying to spread awareness on prevention through early detection.

Television and media are powerful mediums. I was able to learn quickly about the influence and impact our roles on television have on the public, especially



“It was lovely see the whole world come to Qatar (for the FIFA World Cup) and respect the local culture and appreciate the hospitality. So there were big takeaways from their trip to Qatar”

young women, not many of whom are exposed to avenues of information from where they could learn about their fundamental rights.

In fact, I made it my mission to choose roles that would have these empowering messages for women. We made dramas on child abuse, mental health issues, and the like. And so that is how my “social work” is done through my work. Secondly, anything I believe in strongly, I’m happy to contribute as ambassador.

There’s Shaukat Khanum, The Citizens Foundation, Kiran Foundation, Hunar Foundation and the like that each cater to different needs whether it’s cancer treatment, free education, vocational training centres or improving the community’s overall well-being. These organisations just need that extra push and support to spread awareness and raise funds. I’m grateful to have the honour of being their voice where needed.

I think there’s more awareness and recognition now, which is all very important given that Pakistan is a country with one of the highest breast cancer rates in the world. With all the work it does, SKMCH has enabled the message to reach across



homes in Pakistan.

Tell us about your Qatar experience. What is it that you like most about the country?

My Qatar experience is serene. It’s a beautiful country. I have a very close friend here so it feels like coming home. I was busy at the time of the FIFA World Cup, but I heard about the enriching experience it was. It was lovely see the whole world come to Qatar and respect the local culture and appreciate the hospitality. So there were big takeaways from their trip to Qatar. It is always a pleasure to visit Qatar.

From your initial start in TV with a supporting role in *Daam* to playing complex characters in serials like *Zindagi Gulzar Hai* and *Diyar-e-Dil*, how do you think your acting approach has evolved over the years?

It evolves with every project because every project brings a new director, which brings a new approach, which brings a new aesthetic, a new style. So I’m constantly learning and evolving through my directors, scripts and definitely, through the energy that the cast brings. And then, difficult as it is to watch one’s own past work, I’ve been doing that to learn (from the experience) and see what works and what doesn’t. I think it was the greatest way I could teach myself and evolve as an actor.

Your portrayal of Kashaf Murtaza in *Zindagi Gulzar Hai* received widespread acclaim and numerous awards. What do you think made your character and this serial resonate so strongly with audiences in both Pakistan and India?

Kashaf Murtaza’s character was the story of any young girl in the subcontinent who experiences certain biases, whose path is riddled with obstacles, particularly father issues, financial issues, low self-esteem issues. And finally finding a suitable life partner. This is something many young girls experience, which



FOR A CAUSE: Sanam Saeed addressing the annual Friends of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust (Doha) cancer awareness event at a local hotel.

is why I think people felt very close to the character as they could relate to it.

You’ve successfully transitioned from TV to film, receiving critical acclaim for your roles in movies like *Cake*. How do you prepare for these different mediums?

Television is a very ‘close-ups’ medium; there are lots of close-ups and so your expressions come into play with tighter lens so that the people size up the expressions, emotions and the feelings actors are going through. In contrast, in cinema, you have wider lens, wider shots and open space. And because you have a huge screen, you can show the environment in which the characters perform.

Technically, on the big screen you have to be aware of your movements and body language, given that nothing is hidden in terms of detail from the viewer.

On television, you might still get away with things, but not on the big screen, where the tiniest flaw can stand out like a sore thumb. The theatre background helps a lot with the latter as you learn movements. In terms of preparations, a lot depends on the director: how much they want you to act, emote: do they want it loud, understated, very subtle, or very deadpan.

You had four film releases in 2016, which in itself is a statement. These must have been in the works, but

how did you juggle different roles in that length of time?

These Indie films – or art films as they are sometimes referred to – were shot over several years, but they all happened to come out at the same time, which is interesting. This underpins my love for doing diverse roles.

Finally, what is your take on the current fare on the small screen in Pakistan? Are they substantive in terms of content or suffer from formulaic inertia?

You can’t have great content all the time; at any given time, there will be one diamond in the rough, may be two that stand out in the crowd and make an impact. But you have to keep going at it. There’s a lot of talent in terms of actors, directors, writers. The channels are there to provide the platform – so we’ve got a lot of potential. The fact is that, in Pakistan, what has really helped the economy in our field is television, sustaining the media industry.

There is speculation that you’re doing web series and something big is coming up. What can you tell us about that?

I have been doing web series more recently only out of my love for diversity; hopefully, the projects will come up before the end of 2024 on several different online streaming platforms.

Marchitecture 2024 explores Islamic architecture

The stage is set for an exploration of Islamic Architecture and its global impact as Marchitecture 2024 kicks off at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), it was announced.

From March 28 to 30, participants will embark on a journey examining the intricate beauty and cultural significance of iconic mosques, crafted by world-renowned architects and regional luminaries.

A series of panel discussions, tours, and networking sessions aimed at unravelling the stories behind these architectural marvels over three days.

With a theme centred on “Islamic Architecture and its Global Influence,” QM noted that the event promises to weave together narratives of historical richness and contemporary relevance.

The inaugural day of the event will feature a panel discussion titled “The Roots of Islamic Architecture: A Historical Perspective” at 8.30pm. Under the guidance of Dr Ali Abdulraouf as the speaker and moderated by Dr Akel Ismail Kahera, the session will tackle the exploration of centuries of architectural evolution, shedding light on the intricate designs and cultural significance interwoven within iconic structures.

A series of panel discussions, tours, and networking sessions aimed at unravelling the stories behind the architectural marvels over three days

Following the discussion, attendees will have the chance to join a tour titled “Harmony Unveiled: Exploring I.M. Pei’s Muse – The Museum of Islamic Art” at 9.30pm, led by Dr Abdulraouf. The evening will conclude with a Suhoor and networking session from 10.30pm to midnight.

Day two will feature a keynote lecture titled “Sustainability and Islamic Architecture: A Vision for Tomorrow” at Qatar Foundation. Architects Fanos Panayides and Simon Gathergole will explore the integration of sustainability principles into Islamic architectural traditions, offering insights and strategies for a harmonious and environmentally conscious built environment. The session will be moderated by Fatma Fawzi, manager of Sustainability at Msheireb Properties.

Attendees can also look forward to a tour of Msheireb Downtown Mosques and another Suhoor and networking session.

The final day of Marchitecture 2024 will showcase a panel discussion titled “Contemporary Expressions: Fusion of Islamic and Global Architectural Styles” at 8.30pm at Msheireb Downtown Doha (M7). Speakers including Ali Mangera, Ada Yvars, Taha al-Hiti, and Marwan al-Balushi will explore the seamless blend of traditional Islamic design with modern aesthetics. Suzanne Ghadanfar, research fellow at the College of Islamic Studies, HBUK, will moderate the session.

The event will conclude with a tour of Qatar Foundation’s Education City Mosque led by Ali Mangera and Ada Yvars, followed by a Suhoor and networking session at the mosque.

Marchitecture, initiated in 2018 by QM, has since become an annual celebration of architecture and urban design.

With its focus on Islamic architecture this year, Marchitecture 2024 aims to foster a deeper understanding of the global influence and timeless beauty of Islamic architectural traditions.



Museum of Islamic History. (file photo)

Preserving heritage: The spirit behind popular games

Popular games are considered an integral part of the patrimony of all nations and have great significance in social upbringing and paid special attention to children by including them in stories, songs, chants, games, popular proverbs, as well as popular and expressive arts, which engage children more with the past in the face of the influence of material values. This prompts the significance of maintaining human heritage as popular games find a place for them in memory.

The popular games are any game people have been practicing since childhood that are inherited throughout generations and adding to them new details. These games are equally practiced by both genders and are commonly related to songs with some sort of kinetic steps and roles distributed by children among them before the start

of the game. They learn these games with-out guidance or instructions from adults, but only through watching others.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), researcher in the heritage Saleh Gharib highlighted that popular games had a profound role in the past, especially in the holy month of Ramadan and its beautiful nights, pointing out that there many mental games that are being played until this day in Qatar, notwithstanding the civilisational evolution in the region, as these games are part and parcel of the daily life of children and they draw on kinetic activities.

Gharib stressed the profound role of these games in the values of the child’s socialisation, along with their contribution to the formation of children’s personality, which imbue them with the physical strength to overcome fatigue, especially

when the holy month of Ramadan coincides with the hot weather.

Notwithstanding the social change made in the Gulf states after popular games and their prototypes have debuted in the region, they remained constant and did not diminish by virtue of the community that recognises their value and significance, he said.

Since he is a researcher in the popular heritage, Saleh Gharib stressed that he strenuously advocates for the return of the popular games and reduce the children’s predilections for the electronic games that have manifestly obscured the activity of the popular games.

He highlighted that there are myriad factors that prompted children to pivot away from popular games and pivot towards electronic games, foremost of which is the venue where they had been

practicing their popular games, whether in sea beaches, open or closed places, emphasising that these places are no longer the same as they were, since electronic games that are practiced on smart phones or tablet screens do not require places or settings.

The popular games offer massive healthy values for children, Gharib emphasised, highlighting that electronic games always grab the children’s attention dramatically and drain their physical energy.

Saleh Gharib stressed the importance of promoting the popular games, in addition to designating places for their practice like the games being practiced in Darb Al Saai or other heritage cities nationwide that have been upgraded and renovated, affirming that popular games should dominate all games same as the popular words

and crafts. Speaking to QNA, heritage researcher Abdulaziz al-Bohashem al-Sayed said popular games are a patrimonial repertoire for the people of the State of Qatar, as there were many games practiced by past generations in schools and other places, and most kinetic games are devoted to boys while less kinetic games are dedicated to girls.

The popular games are not solely devoted to achieving entertainment and joy for children, but rather reinforcing social interaction since they collectively practiced and help children communicate with their relatives, al-Sayed outlined, emphasising that popular games perform multiple functions such as promoting the children’s skills and building their mental and physical capacities since the games are predominantly kinetic that require intensive concentration and efforts. (QNA)

Masraf Al Rayan’s strategic initiatives in line with QNV: chairman

Masraf Al Rayan (MAR) chairman HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani has expressed the hope that the new mid-term strategy triggered by the bank to embrace the goals and objectives of the Third National Development Strategy will bear fruits in the years to come.

Addressing the bank’s shareholders at the company’s annual general meeting/extraordinary general meeting last night, he said: “In 2023 we continued our growth in a challenging environment. This was reflected in an increase of 8% in our net profit and enhanced key performance indicators (KPIs). A number of strategic initiatives were launched in line with Qatar National Vision to ensure better and sustainable return for our shareholders on the long run.

“We launched a new IT strategy aiming at transforming the bank into the digital economy era. We triggered the new mid-term strategy exercise to embrace the goals and objectives of the Third National Development Strategy. We



hope the years to come will bear the fruits of such initiatives. Our commitment to ESG principles remains steadfast in alignment with Qatar’s National Environment and Climate Change Strategy. This represents a commitment characterised by deliberate decisions and focused efforts aimed at optimising shareholder value.”

At the AGM, the shareholders endorsed the financial statements for the fiscal year that ended on December 31, 2023 which reflects a net profit after tax of QR1,452mn. Sheikh Mohamed presented the Board of Directors’ report on the bank’s activities and financial position for 2023.

During the meeting, Masraf Al

Rayan shareholders reviewed and endorsed the respective reports of the Shariah Supervisory Board and the external auditors on the bank’s accounts. They considered and endorsed the financial statements for the fiscal year 2023 as presented to the meeting and approved the board’s proposal to distribute a cash dividend equal to 10% of the share nominal value i.e. QR0.10 per share for the financial year that ended on December 31, 2023 including the appropriation of the remaining profits as proposed in the audited financial statements.

Furthermore, the shareholders reviewed and endorsed the External Auditor’s Report on the

requirements of Article (24) of the Corporate Governance Code of Companies and Legal Entities Listed on the Primary Market issued by Qatar Financial Markets Authority concerning the bank’s compliance with the Corporate Governance regulations and Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

They also discussed and endorsed the 2023 Corporate Governance Report including the remuneration policy of the Board and Senior Management.

The shareholders took note of the replacement of Turki al-Khater by Ahmed Ali al-Hamadi as representative of the General Authority for Pension and Social

Insurances on MAR Board for the rest of the current board term.

The shareholders took note of the resignation of the Independent Board member Abdula bin Nasser al-Misnad and elected Abdulla Saad Mohamed Jobara al-Rumeihi to fill-in the vacancy in the Independent seat for the rest of the current Board term 2023-2024-2025.

At the EGM, the shareholders approved the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association of the Bank to comply with the requirements of Qatar Central Bank’s Circular No. (2) of 2023 amending certain regulations on corporate governance of banks.

The shareholders authorised the chairman of the board, vice-chairman, and/or other board delegate to complete the necessary formalities in respect of the amended AoA subject to necessary regulatory approvals.

Sheikh Mohamed concluded, “I present our sincere gratitude and admiration, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Bank, to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim

bin Hamad al-Thani, and to His Highness the Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani for their continuous support to the Qatari economy and institutions.”

The Board also expressed its gratitude to HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani for his constant support.

“Our appreciation is also extended to HE Sheikh Bandar bin Mohamed bin Saoud al-Thani, Governor, Qatar Central Bank, for his dedicated efforts to develop and support Qatar’s banking sector particularly in these challenging times and to all regulators, in particular, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Qatar Financial Markets Authority and the Qatar Stock Exchange for their unwavering support. I would like also to thank MAR executive management and all staff for their dedication and efforts during last year. Finally, I would like to thank our shareholders and customers for their confidence and continued support to MAR.”

Iftar tent at Muraikh hosts 15,000 people

The Iftar tent in the Muraikh area has so far hosted 15,000 fasting people during Ramadan, a statement from the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (Awqaf) has said.

The tent is set up with the contribution in the name of benefactors, late Sheikh Nasser bin Saif bin Ahmed al-Thani and Sheikh Faleh bin Nasser al-Thani.

The tent in the Muraikh area is among 20 sites set up by Awqaf to break the fast. Mohamed bin Yaqoub al-Ali, assistant director general of the General Administration of Endowments, explained that the administration’s aim this year is to provide Iftar for more than 24,000 fasting people daily in 20 sites across Qatar and five meal distribution points.

He urged philanthropists and donors to contribute to supporting Iftar tents, to obtain rewards in the month of good deeds.

This year, Awqaf is reaching out to 700,000 through the Iftar tents and food distribution points. The tents are at Ain Khaled (Thursday and Friday Market), Al Sailiya (New Central Market), Industrial Area (Eid Musalla, Street 23 Al-Attiyah), Industrial Zone Street 38, Al Rayyan (Eid Prayer Hall), Al Montazah, Umm Salal Mohamed, Al Wakra (opposite the old Al Wakra Market), Al Khor (Othman Mosque), Bin Omran (Eid Prayer Hall), Al Aziziyah (Eid Prayer Hall), Souq Al-Ali, Al Sulaimi (North Farms Area), Muraikh, next to Mosque No. (879) and Al Thumama.



Meals are distributed at Old Airport (behind Family Shopping Centre), Umm Ghuwailina (Council Co-operation Traffic Signals), Bin Mahmoud (Jaidah Bridge), Souq Al Faleh (near Al-Qubab

Mosque) and Salwa Road (Azab Abu Nakhla Complex).

Donors can participate in the endowment and choose the tent location via the link: <https://www.awqaf.gov.qa/fasting-breakfast>

QU’s Ramadan football tournament concludes



In the presence of Qatar University’s (QU) president, Dr Omar al-Ansari, the Sports Affairs Department concluded its Ramadan grass football tournament, with participation from 16 teams representing various colleges.

Two teams from the College of Engineering (Team A and Team D) advanced to the final match, with Team D emerging as the champions with a score of 2-1.

In a statement on this occasion, Dr Senaid al-Merri, director of the Sports Affairs Department, noted that organising such tournaments is part of the goal to provide a sports environment for everyone, enhance extracurricular activities for students, and to discover sports talents and gifted players. The grass football tournament was also organised and managed by

students. Dr Khalid Kamal Naji, dean of the College of Engineering, congratulated the winning team and participated in presenting the championship cup.

Abdulrahman Jalal, a student and the captain of the winning team from the College of Engineering, Team D, thanked QU for organising the tournament and providing all logistical and service-related support.



‘Moroccan Night at the Museum’ puts spotlight on traditions



Moroccan artist Othman Belkadi at the event.



Nass El Hal Band performs at MIA.



Berber Jewellery Collection from the Royal Palace exhibition at MIA.

The Years of Culture initiative, in collaboration with the Moroccan embassy in Qatar, brought the local community together at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) on Sunday for the ‘Moroccan Night at the Museum’ event.

Organised to commemorate the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, the event saw more than 300 guests celebrate Qatar’s cultural partnership with Morocco, centred around exploring the Berber Jewellery Collection from the Royal Palace exhibition at MIA.

Brought by the Oudayas, National Museum of Adornment in Rabat, the exhibition showcases over 200 historical and culturally significant pieces of Amazigh jewellery – a first-of-its-kind display outside of Morocco – and is on view at MIA through May 20.

Through this exhibition, guests had the opportunity to delve into the rich heritage of the Amazigh people, appreciating the craftsmanship and symbolism imbued in each artifact.

As a special surprise for the guests, Moroccan artist Othman Belkadi put the finishing touches on an oil painting inspired by the intricate beauty of traditional Amazigh jewellery live at the museum. Guests were also treated to a sensory feast that celebrated the diversity of Moroccan culture.

Attendees sampled traditional Moroccan tea and Ramadan sweets while enjoying a traditional Moroccan performance by Nass El Hal Band and learning about handmade Moroccan Caftans from Maison Chaker.

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