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Conducted in academic collaboration with the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto, Canada, the study renders Middle Eastern genetics accessible and comprehensible on an international scale. **To Page 2**





## Chairperson of African Union Commission receives credentials of Qatar's ambassador



Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki received the credentials of Saad bin Mubarak al-Nuaimi as Qatar's ambassador and representative to the African Union. Faki wished the ambassador success in performing his duties, and bilateral relations further progress and development. (QNA)

## Al-Ansari meets Japan's special envoy



Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari, met with the visiting Special Representative of Japan's government and Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace, Uemura Tsukasa. The meeting discussed bilateral relations, the latest developments in the situation in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories, and the seriousness of the humanitarian situation there. The two parties also discussed the importance of accelerating and ensuring the continuity of aid entry into the Gaza Strip and co-ordinating international efforts to support mediation efforts. Additionally, they discussed regional security developments in the Middle East. Japanese ambassador to Qatar, Satoshi Maeda, attended the meeting. (QNA)

# Shura Council extends support for advancement of tourism economy

QNA  
Doha

The Shura Council held its weekly meeting yesterday, under the chairpersonship of its Speaker HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. At the outset of the meeting, HE the Secretary-General of Shura Council Nayef bin Mohamed al-Mahmoud read out the session's agenda, and the minutes of the previous session were approved.

During the session, the council reviewed the report of its Financial and Economic Affairs Committee on the request for general discussion submitted by members of the council, in regard to developing the tourism economy and studying possible solutions that lead to its development and advancement.

In the context of discussing the report, HE al-Ghanem pointed out that tourism has become a self-contained industry, as it constitutes a complex economy in which the public and private sectors interact to create an integrated tourism experience.

He highlighted the country's keenness to advance the tourism sector and support it with the aim of diversifying sources of national income, pointing out — in the same context, the role of the Shura Council in supporting the country's efforts to advance this important sector.

As he reviewed the report, the Head of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee Mohamed bin Youssef al-Mana noted that, the meetings held by the committee to



The Shura Council in session.

discuss the issue, by inviting several officials from the concerned authorities, in addition to the members of the committee discussing the responses received from those authorities regarding the committee's proposal.

He stressed the tourism industry must be a sustainable industry that does not end with the end of the activities during specific periods, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and its third pillar of economic development. He also emphasised the great competitiveness that Qatar enjoys in tourism attractions, stressing the need to invest in this advantage in order to achieve its sustainability.

After extensive discussions of the report's outcome, and the exchange of views and opinions in its regard, the council decided to submit a pro-

posal to the esteemed Cabinet on the aforementioned topic.

The proposal included several visions that would contribute to the development of the tourism sector as well as the involvement of the public and private sectors in supporting and promoting it.

The visions included emphasising that the targeted tourism be compatible with the values, customs and traditions of the Qatari society, derived from the Islamic law.

The proposal also called for supporting private sector initiatives in establishing tourism projects, to encourage domestic tourism, and to provide the necessary support to Qatar Tourism, with the aim of building sustainable tourism, as well as to create a mechanism for the visa system according to easy and quick procedures, and develop en-

try procedures through land, air and sea ports, to be more flexible. The proposal stressed the need for Qatar Tourism to improve the investment environment for the tourism sector, pointing out the importance pre-preparing and promoting programmes for annual tourism events, in accordance with the religious values as well as the customs and traditions of the Qatari society.

As the session continued, the council was informed of the esteemed Cabinet's response to the proposal submitted by the council regarding the violations of some individuals and companies and their impact on the wild environment, after which the council took the appropriate decision in their regard.

On the other hand, the council reviewed the report on the partici-



pation of its delegation of Arab Parliament members in the Arab Parliament session on the Palestinian cause, which was held in December 2023, under the slogan 'Supporting Palestine and Gaza'. As he presented the report, member of Shura Council and member of Arab Parliament Salem bin Rashid al-Meraikhi pointed out that the Arab Parliament issued a statement at the conclusion of the session, in which it affirmed its firm position towards the Palestinian cause. He praised the resistance and national struggle of the Palestinian people to end the occupation.

The report's statement called for working by all means to achieve a ceasefire and stop the genocide and ethnic cleansing against Palestinians. The council also reviewed the report of the participation of members of Shura Council Abdulla bin

Jaber al-Lebdah and Mubarak bin Mohamed al-Kuwari in the 5th extraordinary Meeting of Permanent Committee on Palestine at the Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), and the first meeting of the Palestine Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), which were held in Tehran in January 2024.

During the presentation of the report, al-Kuwari indicated that the two meetings addressed the situation in the Gaza Strip, the suffering that the brotherly Palestinian people have been subjected to as a result of the continuing aggression committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Strip, and ways to mobilise parliamentary efforts to support the brotherly Palestinian people.



## Bosnian community in Qatar provides Iftar meals to over 1,100 workers

The Bosnian community in Qatar has provided Iftar meals to over 1,100 workers in the Abu Nakhlah area in collaboration with Wa'hab, a local company committed to minimising food wastage, a statement said.

The community also distributed 40 Ramadan packages at a labour camp in the industrial area. Vahid Suljic, project manager of the Bosnian community, emphasised the significance of volunteering and

communal good. "There are a million reasons why we should help one another. It's beyond amazing when people from all different walks of life come together for a noble cause," he said. Community member Seid Halilcevic stressed the importance of involving children in such activities to teach them the value of communal good and the belief in things larger than themselves, essential traits in today's world.

"Ramadan is a month of blessings. We want to share the blessings we have received with our brothers who are in need," said Adin Omeragic. Senad highlighted the importance of serving not only during Ramadan but throughout the year. "If we all pitch in, we'd be able to help more deserving people. Hopefully, we will remember those people in our prayers and do our best to assist them not only during Ramadan but all year."

## Arab genetics research in autism goes global

From Page 1

This was made possible through SickKids's partnership with the Autism Speaks' MSSNG Whole Genome Sequencing Project (MSSNG), an innovative open-science based collaboration platform between Autism Speaks, Google, and the research community.

Dr Fakhro also noted that around 350 families, totalling approximately 1,500 participants, have been enrolled from Qatar. He added: "Our collaboration with SickKids and MSSNG have assisted us in designing the Baraka study to international standards,

using shared models and analysis pipelines across our respective groups. Over the years, we have ensured that a number of trainees and sub-projects benefited from this joint mentorship. We continue to increase the size of our cohort to capture more individuals living with ASD in Qatar, which will aid in understanding underlying causes and development of personalised interventions in the future."

Dr Madeeha Kamal, senior attending paediatrician at Sidra Medicine, stated: "Understanding that there are specific mutations associated with autism allows us to gain a deeper view of

the variations among children with this condition. Some children are high-functioning, while others are low-functioning. We found more mutations in our study than any other research conducted globally which will aid us in learning more about each individual patient."

Dr Stephen Scherer, chief of research at SickKids said: "International research collaborations are essential to building a more fulsome picture of ASD. Only by collecting more data, from people all over the world, can we more completely understand the genomic architecture underpinning autism."

## Qatar hosts Gulf Housing Week in May

QNA  
Doha

Qatar will host the 2nd edition of the Gulf Housing Week, scheduled to be held from May 13-16 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC). In a statement, the Ministry of Social Development and Family said that this event is an important platform for government entities and agencies across the GCC region to meet and exchange visions and ideas, and chart an advanced path to achieve sustainable social development and family well-being.

The ministry indicated that the Gulf Housing Week is a significant

pivotal forum for dialogue and co-operation between the main parties, decision and policymakers, housing sector experts, and innovators from the GCC countries, in addition to addressing relevant issues and researching and exploring innovative solutions aimed at promoting comprehensive growth and prosperity in the region, with full attention and focus on housing and community well-being.

In turn, Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs Fahd Mohamed al-Khayarin stressed the Ministry of Social Development and Family's commitment to promoting social development and family well-being, noting that the Gulf Housing Week will see

a review of joint efforts to address the challenges facing the housing sector, as well as promoting the process of sustainable urbanisation and development. Al-Khayarin said that they aspire, through meaningful and constructive dialogue, to chart a clear path towards a brighter future for the societies, characterised by flexibility, prosperity, and well-being. He added that the Gulf Housing Week will host a variety of sessions, panels, and workshops, and will provide attendees with an exceptional opportunity to participate in a meaningful dialogue to enhance co-operation and participation, which contributes directly to the process of sustainable development.





# Qatar Charity to launch '27th Night Challenge' to build largest city for orphans

As part of its Ramadan campaign "Endless Giving", Qatar Charity (QC) will launch tomorrow, Wednesday, a three-day '27th Night Challenge', which is considered to be the largest fundraising event on YouTube. It aims to raise QR 50 million to build Al Hayah City, the world's largest multi-service city for orphans.

The '27th Night Challenge' event will take place in the Wisdom Square at the Katara Cultural Village, with the participation of social media influencers, who are Abdulla AlGhafri, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Harami, and Mohamad Adnan. It will start on Wednesday (the 25th night of Ramadan) and will end on Friday (the 27th night of Ramadan) at midnight.

The challenge comes during the last ten days of Ramadan, which are the most auspicious nights, reflecting Qatar Charity's commitment to raising awareness about humanitarian issues and mobilizing support for qualitative charitable projects, including those dedicated to orphans, through a group of influencers and digital platforms.

Mr. Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, CEO's assistant for the Resources Development and Media sector, urged benefactors in Qatar, including companies, individuals, and organizations, to compete in goodness and acts of charity in order to reap the abundant rewards of Ramadan's auspicious nights.

He encouraged them to contribute to constructing the world's largest multi-service city for orphans through the '27th

## تحدي ليلة 27

### مدينة الحياة



محمد عدنان

د. عبد الرحمن الحرمي

عبد الله الغافري

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يوم الجمعة 2024/5/4 (ليلة 27 رمضان)

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الوعد ليلة 27 رمضان





rewards, and bless them with the Prophet's companionship in paradise.

The event will feature a photo exhibition showcasing orphans, alongside participation from several cafes in the challenge. The proceeds from their sales will go towards the challenge.

It is worth mentioning that the city will be a residential educational city for orphans. It is to be established by Qatar Charity in Istanbul, Türkiye, providing basic education for 2000 orphaned students, including 1200 resident orphans from various countries around the world, as well as 800 non-resident orphans who will benefit from its diverse educational and health services.

The city aims to provide a social educational environment dedicated to caring for orphans by offering the necessary support to ensure essential services,

especially education. It seeks to facilitate learning under favorable conditions, and to provide services that help in developing the capabilities, talents, skills of young people and adolescents.

**Qatar Charity aims to raise QR 50 million to build Al Hayah City, the world's largest multi-service city for orphans.**

The city will span over 88,000 square meters. It will have a school, student dormitories, a dining hall, workshop and training buildings, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, a swimming pool, a mosque, a garden, and green spaces, as well as administrative, guest, and reception buildings and a big meeting hall.

#### How to Donate

People can donate through Qatar Charity's website to build the world's largest orphan city and provide a dignified life for them. To make donations, a "Home Collector" can be requested through the app ([qch.qa/appen](https://qch.qa/appen)), in addition to dialing 44920000 for this purpose. Furthermore, benefactors can donate at Qatar Charity's branches, as well as at its collection points in the commercial complexes.



Feed a Fasting Muslim									
Country	Cost of an Iftar meal	Target	Number of Beneficiaries	Total Cost	Country	Cost of an Iftar meal	Target	Number of Beneficiaries	Total Cost
Bosnia	350 QR	501 Ramadan Food Parcel	2,505	175,350 QR	Ghana	20 QR	37,958 Iftar Meal	37,958	759,160 QR
Montenegro	350 QR	252 Ramadan Food Parcel	1,260	88,200 QR	Tunisia	25 QR	22,120 Iftar Meal	22,120	553,000 QR
Sudan	350 QR	1,659 Ramadan Food Parcel	8,295	580,650 QR	Turkey	35 QR	56,000 Iftar Meal	56,000	1,960,000 QR
Somalia	350 QR	3,476 Ramadan Food Parcel	17,380	1,216,600 QR	Turkey Northern Syria	35 QR	31,500 Iftar Meal	31,500	1,102,500 QR
Niger	350 QR	812 Ramadan Food Parcel	4,060	284,200 QR	Indonesia	275 QR	949 Ramadan Food Parcel	4,745	260,975 QR
India	350 QR	1,201 Ramadan Food Parcel	6,005	420,350 QR	Ethiopia	275 QR	889 Ramadan Food Parcel	4,445	244,475 QR
Yemen	350 QR	6,300 Ramadan Food Parcel	31,500	2,205,000 QR	Jordan	275 QR	763 Ramadan Food Parcel	3,815	209,825 QR
Pakistan	350 QR	1,285 Ramadan Food Parcel	6,425	449,750 QR	Senegal	275 QR	987 Ramadan Food Parcel	4,935	271,425 QR
Burkina Faso	350 QR	889 Ramadan Food Parcel	4,445	311,150 QR	Philippines	275 QR	372 Ramadan Food Parcel	1,860	102,300 QR
Burundi	350 QR	501 Ramadan Food Parcel	2,505	175,350 QR	Bangladesh	275 QR	3,462 Ramadan Food Parcel	17,310	952,050 QR
Tanzania	350 QR	179 Ramadan Food Parcel	895	62,650 QR	Benin	275 QR	720 Ramadan Food Parcel	3,600	198,000 QR
Djibouti	350 QR	333 Ramadan Food Parcel	1,665	116,550 QR	Chad	275 QR	1,554 Ramadan Food Parcel	7,770	427,350 QR
Sri Lanka	350 QR	252 Ramadan Food Parcel	1,260	88,200 QR	Togo	275 QR	616 Ramadan Food Parcel	3,080	169,400 QR
Palestine	350 QR	3,871 Ramadan Food Parcel	19,355	1,354,850 QR	Gambia	275 QR	204 Ramadan Food Parcel	1,020	56,100 QR
Kyrgyzstan	350 QR	1,038 Ramadan Food Parcel	5,190	363,300 QR	Malaysia	275 QR	458 Ramadan Food Parcel	2,290	125,950 QR
Kosovo	350 QR	452 Ramadan Food Parcel	2,260	158,200 QR	Mauritania	275 QR	434 Ramadan Food Parcel	2,170	119,350 QR
Kenya	350 QR	1,502 Ramadan Food Parcel	7,510	525,700 QR	Nigeria	275 QR	679 Ramadan Food Parcel	3,395	186,725 QR
Lebanon	350 QR	3,150 Ramadan Food Parcel	15,750	1,102,500 QR	South Africa	275 QR	592 Ramadan Food Parcel	2,960	162,800 QR
Nepal	350 QR	203 Ramadan Food Parcel	1,015	71,050 QR	Mali	350 QR	1,250 Ramadan Food Parcel	6,250	437,500 QR
Morocco	350 QR	662 Ramadan Food Parcel	3,310	231,700 QR	Albania	350 QR	501 Ramadan Food Parcel	2,505	175,350 QR

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# MoPH, partners participate in World Autism Awareness Day



Dr Nouf al-Siddiqi



Dr Sadriya al-Kooheji

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) are participating in observing the World Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day, which falls on April 2.

Qatar has played an important role in raising awareness of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at the international level. In 2007, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser supported the campaign calling for World Autism Awareness Day during the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was unanimously approved by all United Nations Member States.

MoPH and its partners are organising many awareness events aimed at enhancing understanding, acceptance, and communication among all participants through activities, focusing on supporting people with autism, creating a positive and supportive atmosphere for families with children with autism. MoPH's headquarters and several health facilities will be lit in blue during the event.

Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani, director of the Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention Programmes Department, MoPH, said that strengthening co-operation between the health sector

and the authorities concerned in Qatar contributes to improving the quality of services provided to people with autism, and increasing accessibility, inclusion, and support for services dedicated to them.

He added that MoPH pays special attention to people with ASD, as the ministry is keen to co-operate with its partners to work on improving the lives of such people and their families in Qatar. Dr Nouf al-Siddiqi, health leader of the National Autism Plan at MoPH, said: "The activities and events organised by the health sector in Qatar on this occasion contribute to promoting awareness building and providing valuable insights and information about autism, to promote greater understanding and deeper empathy for people with autism, stressing that comprehensive awareness and education based on scientific evidence is an essential step to integrate people with autism into society."

She added that MoPH, in co-operation with the Qatar Foundation, through the Rafad training programme, will organise a virtual workshop on April 27 to educate parents of people with autism and the public.


Dr Sadriya al-Kooheji, assistant medical director, Child and Adolescent Health Services at PHCC, said that the Healthy Child clinics in PHCC's health centres



Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani

provide ASD screening services for young children at the age of 18 and 30 months, stressing that correct rehabilitation starts with early detection of ASD.

She added: The comprehensive and specialised rehabilitation of autism includes diagnosis, speech therapy, occupational and movement therapy, behavioural, special education, and many others, stressing that the integrated support plan for people with autism with from early detection, then diagnosis and rehabilitation, school, and community integration and later occupational.



### QAPCO invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

SI No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender Fee	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	RFQ: P06-01-196 Provision of Warehousing Services on Call-off Basis for 5 Years <b>Mandatory Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bidder is Owner or has min. 5 years lease agreement for the building.</li><li>Civil Defense Certification</li><li>License for chemical storage &amp; handling</li><li>24/7 operations</li><li>Cold Room space of min. 1000 m<sup>2</sup>.</li><li>Adequate warehousing management system (WMS).</li></ul>	03-Apr-2024 12:00 PM	QAR 1000.00 (03-Apr-2024 12:00 PM)	04-Apr-2024	QAR 150,000.00	21-Apr-2024, 12:00 PM, Qatar Local Time

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement ([procurement@qapco.com.qa](mailto:procurement@qapco.com.qa)) indicating company name, address, telephone, official e-mail...etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee indicated above is payable to QAPCO through **QNB account # 0013-001688-060** only at any QNB branch latest by the deadline indicated above. (by 03-Apr-2024 12:00 PM)

iii. Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the proof of tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval. QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

iv. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Tender closing date & time:

**Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C.**  
P. O. BOX 756, QAPCO Doha Office, Building No. 135, Zone 42, Street 230, C Ring Road, Doha, Qatar  
Tel.: +974 4033 8109/102  
**Attention: Procurement Group Manager**  
Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

Clarifications: Communicate queries with tender reference and description to [procurement@qapco.com.qa](mailto:procurement@qapco.com.qa).

**Notes:**

1. ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website [www.qapco.com](http://www.qapco.com))

2. ICV: Effective from 01<sup>st</sup> July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender closing date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned / notified) will not be accepted. Local companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement.

**For more information about QAPCO please visit our website: [www.qapco.com](http://www.qapco.com)**

## UDST college receives EQual Accreditations

The College of Health Sciences at University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) received the Canadian EQual Accreditation for three of its distinguished bachelor programmes, Bachelor of Science in Medical Radiography, Bachelor of Science in Paramedicine and Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy.

The accreditation award certificates were presented to President of UDST Dr Salem Al-Naemi by Accreditation Canada CEO Laurelee Thompson. The accreditation is a true testament to the quality of applied and academic education provided at UDST. The recognition ensures that graduates of these programmes are well-prepared with the latest knowledge and best practices, equipping them to deliver effective care upon entering their respective fields. The success of UDST's programmes in meeting assessment requirements was highlighted during on-site surveys conducted by EQual specialists. The engagement of faculty instructors,

clinical practicum supervisors, and students was particularly noted, reflecting an undeniable commitment to excellence.

In addition to honing healthcare skills, the four-year degrees provide students with the opportunity to delve into their roles within a holistic learning experience. Emphasis is placed on developing clinical competency, fostering the right attitudes, and practicing sound judgment, strengthening the quality of healthcare these graduates can provide in their communities.

Vice-President, Academic Affairs at UDST Dr Rachid Benlamri commented on the programmes' remarkable achievement, stating that UDST takes pride in educating the next generation of healthcare providers in Qatar and across the globe. He added that the recognition received by EQual Accreditation is a testament to UDST's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional programs that meet internationally recognised standards and con-

tribute to the nations labour needs and Qatar National Vision 2030. For his part, Director of Health Education Accreditation, Accreditation Canada Roman Savka commented on the notable achievement by the University, stating that the Accreditation Canada congratulates UDST for receiving its first EQual accreditations. These accreditations for Paramedicine, Medical Radiography, and Respiratory Therapy are a sign of excellence in health education and show UDST's commitment to ensuring its graduates provide safe, high-quality care at their entry to practice in Qatar's health system.

The College of Health Sciences offers 13 cutting-edge programmes including two masters, nine bachelor's and two diplomas. Students learning experience takes place in state-of-the-art facilities and is guided by a high calibre of faculty with comprehensive international experience. This exemplary array of programmes and offerings support the university's mission to build a strong and thriving healthcare workforce.

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## Qatar's ambassador presents credentials

Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde received the credentials of Saad bin Mubarak al-Nuaimi as Qatar's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Addis Ababa. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the president, wishing her the best of health and happiness, and the government and people of Ethiopia further progress and prosperity. For her part, the Ethiopian president entrusted the ambassador to convey her greetings to the Amir, wishing His Highness the best of health and happiness, and Qatar further development and progress. **(QNA)**

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### QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/OFS/6514/24 CHARTER OF SELF-PROPELLED JACK-UP BARGE	28/03/2024 to 04/04/2024	0	5,000,000	30/04/2024

**Scope of Work:**  
Charter of Jack Up Barge (s) from experienced, competent, and qualified Owner/Contractor, who shall provide Jack Up Barge(s) having inbuilt facility of accommodating approximately 150 Persons on Board (POB), not more than 10 years of age, in order to support all Company's existing & future offshore operations and installations. The Charterer's requirements of Jack up Barge are categorized as below: a) One DP2 Jack Up Barge to be mobilized with a Delivery Date of 1 January 2025 at Ras Laffan Port. b) Additional Jack Up Barge (s) availed through optional call-offs based on operational needs.

**Bid Validity:** Bid should be valid for 270 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>





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# Get Eid ready with glowing skin - your guide to transformative Facial Treatments

Eid al-Fitr, a joyful celebration marking the end of Ramadan, is just around the corner. As families prepare for gatherings and festivities, many look to enhance their natural beauty and feel their most confident. Facials offer a multitude of benefits that can leave your skin feeling refreshed, revitalized, and glowing – the perfect complement to your Eid attire. Here are some information about the two common facials.



## Hydroxy facial

A hydroxy facial, also commonly known as a hydra facial, is a popular facial treatment that offers multiple benefits for your skin. It's a multi-step treatment that cleanses, exfoliates, extracts impurities, hydrates, and infuses your skin with antioxidants. A special device equipped with various attachments is used to perform these functions.

### How Does it Work?

The hydroxy facial typically involves these steps:

- **Cleanse and Exfoliate:** A gentle solution with hydroxy acids (AHAs) helps remove dead skin cells and promote cell turnover, revealing brighter and smoother skin underneath.

- **Exfoliation:** This may involve a gentle mechanical exfoliation or another method to further remove dead skin cells.
- **Extraction:** A painless suction tip extracts blackheads, whiteheads, and other impurities from your pores.
- **Hydration:** Serums and hyaluronic acid are delivered deep into the skin to hydrate and plump it.
- **Antioxidant Infusion:** Antioxidant-rich solutions are applied to protect your skin from free radical damage and environmental stressors.

### Benefits of a Hydroxy Facial:

Hydroxy Facial is suitable for all skin types, even sensitive skin. It improves hydration, brightness, and overall skin texture. The appearance of fine lines



and wrinkles is minimized. It leaves skin feeling refreshed and revitalized.

### Things to Consider:

While there's no downtime, you may experience slight redness that disappears shortly after the treatment. Multiple sessions are recommended for optimal results, especially for addressing specific concerns. A hydroxy facial is a gentle yet effective treatment that can improve your skin's health and appearance.

### Carbon Facial:

A carbon facial, also known as a Hollywood Laser Facial or China Doll Laser Facial, is a non-invasive laser treatment that targets various skin concerns. Here's what you can expect:

#### Process:

1. **Carbon Application:** A thin layer of medical-grade liquid carbon is applied to your face and neck. The carbon dries, allowing it to penetrate your pores and bind to oil, dirt, and dead skin cells.
2. **Laser Treatment:** A Q-switched laser is used to target the carbon

particles. The laser's energy heats up the carbon, causing two things to happen:

- **Exfoliation:** The heat breaks down the carbon particles, taking away the bound impurities along with them. This results in deeper exfoliation than a typical facial.
  - **Collagen Stimulation:** The laser's heat penetrates deeper layers of the skin, stimulating collagen production. Collagen is a protein that provides structure and elasticity to your skin.
3. **Post-Treatment:** After the laser treatment, a cooling mask or soothing moisturizer may be applied to calm the skin.

#### Benefits:

- **Reduced Pore Size:** The treatment effectively removes dirt and oil from pores, minimizing their appearance.
- **Improved Skin Tone:** By targeting pigmentation and sun damage, the laser helps even out skin tone and promote a brighter complexion.
- **Reduced Fine Lines and Wrinkles:** Collagen stimulation plumps the skin, reducing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.
- **Acne Control:** The treatment can help control acne by removing excess oil and bacteria from pores.
- **Improves pigmentation:** Reduces the appearance of sunspots and age spots.
- **Overall Skin Rejuvenation:** The combination of exfoliation and collagen stimulation leads to smoother, firmer, and younger-looking skin.

#### Downtime and Side Effects:

Carbon facials are known for minimal downtime. You may experience slight redness or temporary flaking that resolves within a day or two. While uncommon, some people may experience temporary hyperpigmentation, especially if they have darker skin tones.

#### Conclusion

Ultimately, the best facial for you depends on your individual skin concerns and desired outcome. Consulting a dermatologist is recommended to determine which treatment is suitable for your specific skin concerns and to discuss the number of sessions you might need for optimal results.

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# Culture ministry marks World Theatre Day



The Ministry of Culture celebrated on Sunday evening the World Theatre Day.

To mark the occasion, a Ramadan gathering was organised by the Theatre Affairs Centre, bringing together Qatari playwrights from different generations. Additionally, a seminar was held at the Social and Cultural Centre for Blind to discuss the issue of theatre for people with disabilities.

During the Ramadan gathering held at the Diplomatic Club, young artist Mohamed al-Mulla delivered a speech on World Theatre Day, written by Norwegian playwright Jon Fosse, titled “Art is Peace”.

Several playwrights, on the sidelines of the World Theatre Day celebration, emphasised the need to uplift Qatari theatre, regain its shine and revive its illustrious history.

In this context, Abdelrahim al-Sadiqi, director of the Theatre Affairs Centre, told journalists on the sidelines of the celebration, that the centre is keen on annually celebrating this occasion, a longstanding tradition that brings together Qatari playwrights who were the first to celebrate this event in the Gulf region in 1980.



He noted the cohesion over the past years between the World Theatre Day celebration and the Doha Theatre Festival. However, this year, the festival will be held in May after the conclusion of the Doha Book Fair.

He added that the gathering of playwrights on this occasion, although lacking a theatrical performance this year due to Ramadan, is an opportunity to exchange ideas and bring together different generations to study what contributes to the advancement of Qatari theatre, a priority for the Ministry of Culture.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), theatre critic Dr Hassan Rashid emphasised the early interest of Qatari theatre in celebrating World Theatre Day. He stressed the need to revive the spirit of theatrical movement and exert more efforts that contribute to the progress and revival of theatre in Qatar through the annual festival, theatrical season, workshops and courses



that polish the artistic talents of playwrights.

Similarly, renowned artist Ghazi Hussein said that this celebration reflects the Qatari artists’ passion for theatre and realisation of its importance. He emphasised that theatre is the “father of arts” and plays an educational and enlightening role in society, stating his hope that these gatherings will later showcase substantial works on the Qatari theatre stage.

Director Saad Burshid, an associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts at the Community College, said the celebration of World Theatre Day reflects the successive generations’ interest in Qatari theatre on this day. He also noted the Ministry of Culture’s interest in engaging with playwrights in line with its vision for a theatrical movement embodied in the Doha Theatre Festival and continuous theatrical activity in the country. (QNA)



# Qatar Charity’s Eid clothing project begins its outreach



As part of its Ramadan campaign, ‘Endless Giving,’ Qatar Charity (QC) began implementing the Eid clothing project in many countries and for orphans and children from low-income families in Qatar.

Within Qatar, the campaign by the Programmes and Community Development sector at QC will benefit 3,200 children. In Somalia, 435 children sponsored by QC, received Eid clothing. Salman S Hussein,

a 12-year-old beneficiary, said: “I am very happy to receive this wonderful gift. I will be able to wear new clothes on Eid al-Fitr.”

Iqra Yousef Mahmoud Abu Bakr, a 11-year-old beneficiary, said: “We thank the people in Qatar and Qatar Charity for this wonderful initiative that brought happiness to our hearts.”

QC in Bangladesh is expected to begin distributing Eid clothing soon to its 700 sponsored orphans.

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# ‘Hyatt Plaza Ramadan Super Sale a big success’

Hyatt Plaza celebrated ‘the resounding success of its much-anticipated Ramadan Super Sale Campaign’, which ran from March 28 to March 31, a statement said yesterday. The Ramadan Super Sale Campaign featured substantial discounts on a wide array of products, including fashion, toys, jewellery, furniture, cosmetics, electronics, home décor, and more. Visitors also had the opportunity to take advantage of exclusive offers such as buy-one-get-one-

free deals, flat sales, special promotions, and offers. Mohamed al-Hawamdeh, head of marketing at Hyatt Plaza, said: “We extend our deepest appreciation to all the tenants and visitors who wholeheartedly embraced our Ramadan Super Sale Campaign. Their unwavering support and remarkable enthusiasm have been instrumental in our success. We eagerly anticipate welcoming our visitors to experience a plethora of fun family activities throughout

the Ramadan Nights campaign, which will last until the end of Eid al-Fitr.” “Hyatt Plaza continues to redefine the shopping experience by offering an exceptional blend of world-class retail brands, remarkable customer service, and captivating events and campaigns that leave shoppers wanting more. Stay tuned for upcoming promotions and prepare to indulge in the ultimate retail extravaganza at Hyatt Plaza,” the statement added.



# QIB holds annual staff Ramadan Ghabga



Among the attendees of the Ramadan Ghabga were Bassel Gamal, Group CEO of QIB, the bank’s executive management team, and employees from all departments of the bank.

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) recently hosted its annual staff Ramadan Ghabga, a traditional Qatari celebration that resonates with the customs of the holy month, while also serving as a platform to fortify employee relations and foster the spirit of unity. Among the attendees were Bassel Gamal, Group CEO of QIB, the bank’s executive management team, and employees from all departments of the bank. In his inaugural address, Gamal lauded the incomparable efforts of the employees during the past period. The evening featured a variety of activities, such as interactive Q&A sessions with attendees, engaging competitions, and concluded with the distribution of assorted gifts. “At QIB, fostering a sense of unity among our diverse workforce is essential, especially during Ramadan. Our long-standing tradition of hosting such events exemplifies our genuine dedication to enhancing interconnection and fostering a familial atmosphere within our organisation,” said Gamal.

In its commitment to enhancing customer experience during Ramadan, QIB has unveiled two new campaigns, delivering added value to its customers alongside social media competitions, cash prizes, and a motivational TVC promoting healthy habits during Ramadan. The first campaign, the annual Ramadan Auto Finance offer, caters to new and existing customers looking to purchase regular, electric, or hybrid cars. This exclusive offer features attractive profit rates and additional benefits. Furthermore, QIB presents a distinctive Ramadan spending campaign titled ‘Double Loyalty Points’ Ramadan campaign. Running until April 10, 2024, this month-long campaign enhances the rewards experience for credit cardholders, offering them the opportunity to double their points with every supermarket purchase of daily essentials during this festive season. In addition, QIB has launched a Cash Bonus campaign extending over two months until May 11,

2024, and offering a unique opportunity for customers who have commitments with other banks to transfer them to QIB and receive a guaranteed cash bonus that can reach up to QR100,000. This new offer presents a good opportunity to streamline customers’ commitments by combining multiple outstanding finances into a single finance and reducing the value of monthly payments. The bank also introduced the Eidiya ATMs once again this year in 10 different locations across Qatar, which offers the opportunity to customers to easily get fresh banknotes for Eidiya. Collaborating with Qatar Charity, QIB sponsored the ‘Endless Giving’ Ramadan campaign, distributing meals to low-income workers and providing informative materials about the QIB Lite app to empower them to fulfil their financial needs. QIB is renowned for its strong focus on social responsibility, supporting numerous initiatives aimed at promoting financial inclusion, education, health, and the environment in Qatar.

# QIIB sponsors QU CBE alumni chapter inauguration



At the launch ceremony of the QU CBE alumni chapter, QIIB was recognised.

Highlighting its commitment to serving diverse sectors of the Qatari community, with a particular focus on bolstering education, QIIB sponsored the inauguration of the alumni chapter of Qatar University’s (QU) College of Business and Economics (CBE), entitled ‘Competent Graduate.’ QIIB said in a statement that its collaboration with QU has been rooted in the institution’s esteemed position as one of Qatar’s premier educational establishments. Known for providing knowledge and education to both male and female Qataris, QU plays a key

role in empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to their country and advance in their careers. Within the realm of community service, QIIB strategically forges partnerships with leading institutions to provide significant value addition to the Qatari society. QU stands out as one such institution with which the bank actively cooperates. This collaboration extends to various activities aimed at creating a lasting impact on different segments of society, including students and graduates.

At the launch ceremony of the QU alumni chapter, QIIB received recognition for its initiative in supporting the establishment of the alumni chapter and its broader role in aiding QU and associated educational initiatives for graduates. QIIB has been actively involved in numerous initiatives supporting education across all stages and activities, including training programmes and collaborative efforts with universities, institutes, schools, and research centres across the country, the statement added.

# QIC Group honours long-serving employees



Qatar Insurance Group (QIC Group) presented long-service awards to 125 employees in Qatar and across the group’s regional and international operations in recognition of their dedication and invaluable contribution. The ceremony, which coincided with the group’s 60th anniversary, was held during QIC Group’s yearly Ramadan Suhoor. The group’s chief administrative officer, Rashid al-Buainain, presented awards to 65 employees for five years of service, 19 employees (10 years of service), 30 (15 years), six (20 years), and five (25 years). Al-Buainain said, “Today, we celebrate your individual and collective achievements that have contributed to QIC’s journey which began as a national insurance company to now becoming the largest insurance group in the Mena region with a strong presence across the globe.” He added: “We continue to be driven by a commitment to delivering innovative products and an unparalleled standard of customer experience while contributing to the growth of Qatar’s economy, none of which is possible without each and every staff member’s commitment, whom we recognise as the backbone of the group.”

# Porsche, Ford, Lincoln models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Porsche Centre Doha Al Boraq Automobiles, has announced the recall of Porsche Carrera, 2020-2025 models, as it is possible that the front and rear windows do not meet manufacturer specifications, and therefore are not bonded sufficiently to the body. The MoCI, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, has announced the recall of Ford F 150 and Bronco, 2023 model, as in affected vehicles, the gateway module may lose Internet connection, which may cause inoperative remote start and/or inoperative remote lock and unlock. The MoCI, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, also announced the recall of Lincoln Nautilus, 2024 model, as in affected vehicles, a defect in Accessory Protocol Interface Module might cause software reboot, freeze, and cause performance concerns while using the infotainment system. The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, X (formerly Twitter) - @MOCIQATAR, Instagram - MOCIQATAR. The MoCI mobile application, MOCI\_QATAR, is available on iPhone and Android devices.

# Alfardan Automotive: New Training Academy Opening for Employees



Alfardan Automotive is thrilled to unveil its new Training Academy, catering to employees across its diverse divisions. The President and CEO of Alfardan Group, Mr. Omar Hussain Alfardan, alongside general and senior managers, inaugurated the Training Academy at Jery Al Samur within Alfardan Automotive Complex, a new pinnacle of excellence by Alfardan Automotive in Qatar with cutting-edge sales, service, and spare parts facilities. This Training Academy offers comprehensive training in various functions, from technical skills to product knowledge and customer support. Aligned with the brands’ commitment to investing in its workforce, the Academy aims to enhance employee capabilities and enrich their skill set relevant to their field of work. Certified trainers have already conducted several training courses. Tailored to meet diverse role requirements, it provides training courses of varying durations

depending on the complexity of the subject matter. Technical and product courses typically span 1 to 5 full days, while non-technical programs range from half a day to 3 days, ensuring employees acquire essential skills. Mr. Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and CEO of Alfardan Group, emphasized the Academy’s significance, stating, “Providing professional development opportunities remains a top priority for us at Alfardan Group, and this Training Academy reflects our dedication to sustainable growth and investing in our human capital.” As Alfardan Automotive adapts to global industry shifts towards connectivity, electrification, digitalization, and ecological energy, investing in human capital remains paramount. The Training Academy is a gateway to transformative progress, empowering employees to thrive in an ever-evolving landscape.



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GULF TIMES

How democracies can win tech race

The world is on the precipice of a technological cold war. As authoritarian regimes develop new digital tools that endanger open societies and threaten democratic values, the West must decide whether to compete or concede.

Winning the race for future technologies demands a united front. Just as the West came together to deter Soviet expansionism and stop the spread of communism in the postwar period, the United States and the European Union must revitalise the transatlantic alliance to win the competition for global tech leadership. That means developing a new joint strategy, pooling resources and capabilities, streamlining regulations, and leveraging their strengths – such as advanced tools for semiconductors and lasers, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and genomics in Europe, and fusion energy, commercial space operations, and synthetic biology in the US.

It will also be necessary to build resilient supply chains. With China dominating the supply of metals and rare-earth elements necessary for batteries, semiconductors, and other technologies, the US and the EU are sleepwalking into a critical-minerals crisis. For example, China's market share of high-powered permanent magnets for offshore wind turbines is nearly 90%.

Lastly, both the US and the EU must focus their efforts on achieving new breakthroughs in vital sectors, including AI, biotech, advanced networks, clean energy, and the manufacturing technologies of tomorrow. To that end, the US CHIPS Act and the European Chips Act offer a blueprint – or at least the beginnings of one – for bolstering competitiveness in the next big technologies.

A revitalised transatlantic alliance must ensure that emerging technologies reflect democratic principles and boost strategic autonomy

This could be a good idea, but it is not the only way to move forward. After all, the existence of the WHO is fundamental, but while it has played a vital role in the eradication of some diseases, it did not prevent the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moreover, regulation should be a means to an end, not an end in itself. Despite the so-called Brussels effect, the EU's alleged ability to set global standards, the bloc's landmark regulations on electric vehicles or the General Data Protection Regulation have hardly made the EU a superpower in electric mobility or in data privacy. That is why transatlantic co-operation should be broadened to include research and development programmes and large "moonshot" projects.

Just as sanctions alone have not curbed Russia's aggression against Ukraine, regulation will not be enough to prevent bad actors from misusing AI. Similarly, the West will have to go on the offensive against China's techno-authoritarian model. Sharing intelligence can identify supply-chain vulnerabilities and facilitate "friend-shoring." In addition to developing technological ecosystems with like-minded partners, it will be crucial for US and EU policymakers to expose short-sighted private ventures that play into the hands of those who see technology as a tool of oppression, not liberation.

Moreover, the US and the EU cannot expect to win the technology race – which is also a war of ideas – when their citizens have been herded into social-media echo chambers, and when 44% of children globally use TikTok. On this cognitive battlefield, the West must lead the charge to develop technologies that encourage critical thinking and protect privacy, and to stop the destabilising fragmentation of the digital sphere and the spread of online hate and disinformation.

A revitalised transatlantic alliance must ensure that emerging technologies reflect democratic principles and boost strategic autonomy. Forging partnerships with like-minded countries, including Australia, India, Japan, and South Korea, and enhancing co-operation among the G7 and the OECD could support these efforts. Together, they could develop an alternative model of technological empowerment – free of digital repression and authoritarianism – for developed and developing countries alike.

Western leaders should take inspiration from the Covid-19 vaccines, which, building on collaboration, massive experimentation, and decades of fundamental science, were developed in a record eight months. We must keep this spirit alive. – Project Syndicate

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Why inflation forecasts have been off the charts

By Willem H Buiter and Ebrahim Rahbari  
New York

Last year, following the Great Inflation of 2021-22, central banks, leading academics, and international institutions issued a smattering of post-mortems. Yet even before the ink was dry on their analyses, inflation forecasts were being revised down almost as fast as they had been revised up during the two preceding years.

For example, in June 2023, the US Federal Reserve's median projection for core year-on-year personal-consumption-expenditures inflation (excluding food and energy prices) in the fourth quarter was 3.9%, with the Federal Open Market Committee's projections ranging from 3.6% to 4.5%. In the event, it was 3.2%.

Before addressing what forecasters are missing, two clarifications are in order. First, central banks' inflation forecasts are no worse, and may be somewhat better, than private-sector forecasts, on average – which is what one would expect, given that they tend to have better access to data and more expertise. Second, inflation forecasts have not obviously gotten worse.

Yes, the International Monetary Fund, among others, has noted that inflation forecast errors were 2.5 and five times larger for 2021 and 2022, respectively, than the average for 2010-19. But the levels of annual inflation in 2021 and 2022 were 1.3 and 2.5 times larger than the 2010-19 average, and the changes in annual inflation rates were 2.6 and 7.1 times larger.

The benign interpretation is that the shocks got bigger, not that inflation forecasting became less competent. But an obvious rejoinder is that forecasts don't particularly matter when the variable being forecast doesn't change much. We still need to

know why forecasts continue to miss the mark.

Two factors are now well-documented. First, forecasts underestimated the demand impact of massive monetary and fiscal easing, alongside high spending multipliers associated with significant pandemic-related transfers to households. Second, major demand stimulus hit just as supply chains were under major, unexpected strain, owing first to the pandemic and then to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Shocks are by definition difficult to predict, and they were particularly large in 2020-22.

But the forecasts also had a more fundamental flaw: they lacked realistic representations of price and wage setting. Large shocks differ from small shocks in that they change key features of the transmission mechanism. For example, firms tend to change prices more frequently when faced with large shocks. According to the Fed, during the second half of 2021 and again during the second half of 2022, firms updated prices twice as often as they did before the pandemic.

Large shocks may well have been the reason. But firms also find it more straightforward to raise prices when others are already doing so, and the combined pandemic and energy shocks probably were an effective co-ordination device for price increases.

Wage setting is different from price setting. According to a 2009 European Central Bank study, firms tend to change wages about one-third less frequently than prices. Wage growth did pick up throughout 2021-22 as workers quit at record rates (a trend that closely tracked wage pressure). But the models underestimated how long it would take for tight labour markets and large price increases to feed into wage setting. Those delays prolonged

the underlying inflationary impulse without necessarily magnifying it in a cumulative sense.

Importantly, many of the factors that pushed up prices were "one-off" adjustments in response to supply and demand shocks. They called for more significant relative price changes than would have been the case if there had been a shock to trend inflation driven by persistently excessive aggregate demand. This was most evident in the major energy-price shock in 2022. It was exactly that: a relative price shock that partly reversed in 2023. Similar dynamics played out in the prices of goods that were closely tied to energy prices or were immediately affected by major supply-chain strains. These, too, reversed – as we saw with car prices and container freight rates.

There is a vibrant debate about whether firms abnormally raised their profit margins in recent years.

A recent Fed study finds that nonfinancial corporate profits rose to 19% over gross value-added in the second quarter of 2021, up from 13% in the fourth quarter of 2019. But once prices have risen and profit margins are high, they are less – not more – likely to rise further than before the large price adjustments. Normalising energy prices, supply chains, and profit margins all contributed to the faster-than-expected decline in inflation in the second half of 2023.

The Great Inflation will be as transformational for central banks' models as the 2008 financial crisis was. Back then, the models were adapted to include a more realistic mapping of financial impacts. Now, we need a more realistic treatment of price and wage setting. Specifically, three changes are in order.

Most importantly, understanding inflation requires analysis at the sectoral or sub-sectoral level, ideally in a way that also reflects supply-chain linkages. This will make forecasts even more complex, but there is no way around it.

Considering disaggregated data is essential to identifying, and disentangling, the relevant changes in supply and demand and their persistence. Individual sectors sometimes significantly affect aggregate inflation, with house prices in the US being a prominent example.

Second, forecasts should account for the level (or size) of shocks to capture non-linearities, especially for profit mark-ups. And lastly, forecasts should regularly re-examine changes in circumstances and assumptions.

During the Great Inflation, important changes in the US included the major boost to aggregate demand (from monetised fiscal transfers to households); the higher frequency of price adjustments, given the size of the combined supply and demand shock; and the high number of recently refinanced mortgages that locked in low rates.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell, paraphrasing Winston Churchill, recently called forecasters "a humble lot – with much to be humble about." Though they will have learned many useful lessons from the Great Inflation of 2021-22, remaining humble may be the best way to avoid being humbled again. – Project Syndicate

- Willem H Buiter, a former chief economist at Citibank and former member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England, is an independent economic adviser.
- Ebrahim Rahbari, an independent strategist and economist, is a former chief currency strategist, global head of foreign-exchange analysis, and head of global macroeconomics at Citigroup.



Fed Chair Jerome Powell, paraphrasing Winston Churchill, recently called forecasters "a humble lot – with much to be humble about."



# The Qur'an and the last ten days of Ramadan

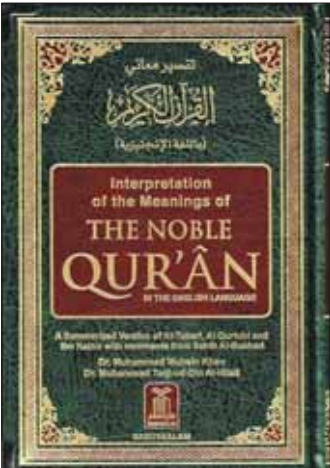
The Glorious Qur'an is the everlasting miracle of our Prophet – Muhammad, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam – that addresses all human generations and shall continue to do so till the end of time. It convinces the human intellect with various proofs in order to subject it to the truth and make it surrender to Allah willingly or turn away from the truth after it has recognised it out of arrogance.

The Messenger, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said: "No Prophet was sent by Allah except that he was given what would make people believe in him, and what I was given is Revelation and I hope to be the greatest of all the Prophets in (terms of) followers" [Al-Bukhari].

The Qur'an is the everlasting miracle given by Allah to His Messenger, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, which no human being or

Jinn is able to produce a book like it. Even if all mankind and jinn were to collaborate to produce something like it, they would not be able to do so. Allah says (what means): "Say (O Muhammad): 'If mankind and the jinn gathered in order to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like of it, even if they were to each other assistants!'" [Qur'an 17: 88]

Allah even challenges those who have doubt about the Divinity of the Qur'an when He Says (what means): "And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down upon Our Servant [Muhammad], then produce a chapter the like thereof and call upon your witnesses other than Allah, if you should be truthful. But if you do not - and you will never be able to - then fear the Fire, whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers." [Qur'an 2:23-24].



Reciting the Qur'an in appropriate times assists in letting it have an impact on human soul. Ramadan is the best time to recite the Qur'an, for it is a food for the soul and because of the fact that

the authority of the mind that tells man to do evil weakens during this month. The soul will then prevail and get strength by the Qur'an and, as a result, will derive the highest possible benefit from it. The Qur'an is like a beneficial rain, the soul is like the earth and Ramadan is like the good season for rainfall that enables the hearts to produce the blooming crops.

The Messenger of Allah, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said: "The similitude of the guidance and knowledge with which I was sent, is like a rain that falls on a land of which there was a good part that accepted the water and produced therefrom many plants and grass. There is also a barren part that holds water and Allah made it beneficial to people as they drank thereof, fed their animals and irrigate their farms. It also affected some parts that are just lowland that could neither hold the water

nor produce grass. The first two are the example of him that acquired the knowledge of the religion of Allah, benefited from that which I am sent with and taught it to others. The third is the example of him who never paid attention to the Qur'an and did not accept the guidance of Allah with which I am sent." [Al-Bukhari & Muslim]

We must seize the opportunity of the remaining days of Ramadan to read the Glorious Qur'an with reflection and understanding of its meanings and try our best to put its injunctions into practice. Our righteous predecessors, may Allah be pleased with them, used to pre-occupy themselves in Ramadan, with the recitation of the Glorious Qur'an and they always used to mention Allah.

We have to know that any one who puts the injunctions of the Qur'an in practice is among the people of the Qur'an (who are

dear to Allah) even if he has not memorised it. Also, he who does not work by the injunctions of the Qur'an is not among its people even if he memorises it.

We have to do good deeds in this excellent month, be kind to the poor and needy as a sign of emulating the Messenger of Allah, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam. It is narrated that Jibreel (Angel Gabriel) used to review the Qur'an with the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, once in a year and that was during Ramadan. In the year that the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, died, Jibreel reviewed it with him twice. Whenever Jibreel came to meet him, the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, used to be more generous and faster in spending charity than a dispatched wind."

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

## Fanar continues its Ramadan programmes

The Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (Fanar) at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs continues its Ramadan programmes. The activities, according to a statement from Awqaf, were launched at the beginning of Ramadan and they include religious discourses and Ramadan forum for Muslim communities.

Under the Ramadan Forum to introduce Islam, an introductory event about the holy month was held at the Cuban Hospital in co-operation with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC). This was in the presence of 25 hospital staff. The participants expressed their desire to hold a monthly meeting for extensive dialogue on aspects of Islamic and Qatari culture.

Fanar continues its Iftar activities for reverts at its branches in the Industrial Area and Al Khor. The activities are attended by hundreds every day from different communities. They include preaching sessions and interaction sessions to answer fasting questions.

As part of the activities of the Ramadan Forum for non-Arabic



speaking Muslim communities, Fanar organised lectures for Bengali, Urdu and Malabar communities with an attendance of about 3,000 participants.

The Filipino Muslim community also organised a ceremony for the Holy Qur'an competition for children for the first time.

There were participants. A total of 25 diplomats from 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries visited the Grand Mosque. The delegation was accompanied by preachers from Fanar. They were briefed about Islamic and Qatari culture and Islamic prayers and rituals.



### MoI teams take part in MoD's Ramadan Football Championship



The Ramadan Football Championship, hosted by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) at Al Sadd Sports Club, saw notable participation from the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The Police Institute and Police College, both affiliated with the Police Academy, represented the ministry in the championship, according to a statement from MoI. The Police Institute team claimed the second spot, earning the silver medal. The Air Force team secured victory in a penalty shootout, with a score of 4-1, clinching the championship. The Police College team secured third place by defeating the Internal Security Force team (Lekhwiya) with a score of 7-1 in the third-place playoff. In individual honours, First Lt Fahad Mohamed al-Qasaimi of the Police Institute team, was recognised as the best goalkeeper of the championship. First Lt Hamid Saeed al-Qahtani, also from the Police Institute team, received the top scorer award.

### Steps to boost real estate sector soon

From Page 1

Further, it aims to activate legislation and laws that contribute to the advancement of the real estate sector. It also works to collect business owners' viewpoints, study them, and address the relevant authorities to find appropriate solutions, he said.

Al-Obaidli also outlined the authority's aim to stimulate and regulate the real estate sector, ensuring compatibility of laws and legislation with the market, attracting foreign investments, and issuing licenses for real estate developers.

"One of the most important initiatives to be launched soon is the adoption of international real estate specifications that are commonly used in the leading countries in the real estate sector," he noted.

It would also enact soon the Real Estate Development Regulation Law, addressing various challenges. Further, he said the authority would establish a digital platform containing all authenticated information about Qatar's real estate market and that it would activate the real estate dispute resolution committees.

In his remarks, al-Kuwari emphasised the significance of the real estate sector as one of the most important economic sectors. He lauded the authority's prompt response to the chamber's in-

itation for this meeting, which aims to address all challenges and obstacles facing the sector and to learn from the private sector's viewpoints and proposals.

Al-Abdulghani stressed the chamber's Real Estate Committee's interest in fostering collaboration with the authority and all bodies concerned to address all challenges and streamline investments and businesses in the sector.

During the meeting, several business owners expressed the need for a review of service fees on properties in new cities. They emphasised that these fees were not in the interest of investors and did not contribute to the sector's development.

In response, al-Obaidli said discussions were underway with real estate developers to reconsider service fees. Additionally, he emphasised that the authority prioritises attracting foreign investments, as well as domestic investments from both citizens and residents by offering them special benefits.

"The authority is preparing to organise the second edition of the real estate conference in October, which will be held annually to promote the sector. Further, several field tours will be organised to showcase investment opportunities in new cities," he said, citing the significance of promoting investment opportunities available in Qatar's real estate sector to international markets.

## Ashghal's Ramadan Championship concludes after high participation



After witnessing the participation of more than 600 players from various departments, companies and consultants, the curtain fell on the 11th edition of the Ramadan Championship

by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal). Competitions were held in football, basketball, table tennis, PlayStation and Baby Foot, a statement said.

Engineer Yousef al-Emadi, director

of Project Affairs and Abdullah Saad al-Saad, director of the Public Relations and Communications Department crowned the winners. The ceremony also marked honouring the tournament officials and

supervisors and the federations and companies that supported the tournament.

Mohamed Majid al-Muhammadi, director of the Ashghal Ramadan Championship, said the continuation of the

tournament for 11 consecutive years is evidence of its success." Mohamed Saad al-Mughaisib, president of the Basketball Federation, praised the co-operation with Ashghal.



# Zumra Group organises Ramadan event

Zumra Group under the leadership of its founder Nasser al-Naama, organised ‘After Hardship Comes Ease’ Ramadan event on March 28 at the Mondrian Doha, a statement said.

The evening was dedicated to inspiring stories of resilience and breakthrough in the face of challenges, focused on living verses from the Qur’an and heard testimonies from five distinguished speakers. Noor al-Kuwari, Ahmed al-Sumaiti, Hameed al-Qahtani, Khalifa al-Obaidaly and Vicky Yaghi, shared their inspiring journeys of overcoming challenges.

Al-Naama announced the highlight of the event, the Charity Art Exhibition “Art for Palestine”, with 100% of proceeds from the artwork sales directly benefiting Qatar Red Crescent Society’s humanitarian efforts in Palestine. “In light of the current challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in Palestine, especially during the holy month of Ramadan,” he said.

The ongoing exhibition is featuring a diverse selection of 30 artworks including paintings, sculptures and photographs of well known artists like Ismail Az-zam, Azzam al-Mannai, Ahmed Nuh, Bachir Mohamad, Lulwa al-Misfer, Banan Soliman, Maria



Zumra Group founder Nasser al-Naama, speakers and other dignitaries at the event. **PICTURES:** Qatar Living

Ovsyannikova, Saeed al-Habshi, Aryam Elizabeth Ladera Ramos, Hassan Bahou and Hameed al-Qahtani.

More information about the exhibition and ways to support, can be had from Zumra Group [IG zumragrp]. The art exhibition in the Mondrian’s EllaMia venue was extended to allow more art enthusiasts and the general public to view and purchase artworks.

The beauty of Zumra Community lies in discovering and embracing the diverse identities and experiences of others, the statement added.



Some of the artworks on display.



Some of the participants in the event.

# Qatar gears up for Eid festivities, array of events in April

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

As the Eid al-Fitr holidays approach, Qatar is gearing up for a bustling calendar filled with a diverse array of interactive, educational and fun-filled events catering to residents and visitors of all ages and interests.

The highly anticipated Lego Shows Qatar 2024 is kicking off the holiday season, and set to enthrall families at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) from April 10-25.

Organised by Visit Qatar, this event promises an immersive experience into the world of Lego with 26 creatively themed areas covering more than 10,000sq m. The event is crafted to appeal to guests of every age, boasting various interactive zones, life-size Lego Minifigure characters and a wide selection of dining and hospitality choices.

Exciting features include captivating Lego themes, interactive

zones, life-size Lego figures, an inflatable bricks bounce park and delectable culinary offerings.

Msheireb joins in the festive spirit with the Al Sikka Eid Festival at Sikkat Wadi Msheireb, running from April 10-28. The festival will feature theatrical performances, interactive games and diverse competitions, promising entertainment for the whole family.

The Old Doha Port will host the Coffee Tea & Chocolate Festival 2024 from April 11-20, giving beverage and chocolate connoisseurs a variety of offerings and indulging them in the finer delights of these culinary treasures.

On April 12, *The Lion King Live in Concert* is expected to captivate audiences at QNCC’s Al Mayassa Theatre. With a live musical performance of the timeless classic film, accompanied by a live orchestra, organisers promise an enchanting celebration of Disney’s beloved tale.

Sports enthusiasts can witness extraordinary athleticism at the Al Maha Island Aquathlon on April

13. Hosted by the Qatari Triathlon Club, participants can engage in excitement on one of Qatar’s newest tourist islands.

From April 15-22, the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) will offer themed tours, providing participants with insights into the social practices, customs and festivities associated with Eid al-Fitr.

The second edition of Technology Education Finance Fashion Art (Teffa) 2024, set from April 16-18, will explore the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) across various domains of life. Themed “AI R Evolution”, this must-attend event for those interested in the future of technology will feature panel discussions, workshops and live performances.

Marking 15 years of exceptional music-making, the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra will deliver an extraordinary performance from April 18-20 at QNCC’s Auditorium 3. Led by conductor Elias Grandy, the festival will feature solo repertoire from renowned



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Lego Shows Qatar 2024



The Lion King

composers and highlight the orchestra’s international journey.

Meanwhile, artistic gymnastics enthusiasts can witness world-class performances at the 16th FIG

Artistic Gymnastics World Cup Taishan from April 19-20 at the Aspire Ladies Sports Hall.

From April 30-May 2, the Autonomous e-Mobility Forum at

QNCC will provide a platform for experts to discuss the future of driverless e-mobility, addressing technological and policy challenges.

# QF volunteers experience true joy of giving back to community



Volunteers at QF’s Al-Mujadilah Centre and Mosque for Women .

Volunteers from a wide spectrum of backgrounds are coming together at QF’s Al-Mujadilah Centre and Mosque for Women to serve the community during Ramadan.

Established in January 2024, Al-Mujadilah Centre and Mosque for Women is dedicated to supporting Muslim women and fostering society. It offers a blend of religious, developmental and social programmes for Muslim women.

Ranaa Smith, head of events and outreach at Al-Mujadilah, emphasised the importance of volunteering and how it is a reflection of the centre’s values, saying: “Al Mujadilah’s core values are dignity, service, integrity and knowledge, and our volunteers are a living embodiment of these values.”

With Al-Mujadilah offering volunteering opportunities dur-

ing Taraweeh and Qiyaam prayers, Smith explained that, when seeking volunteers, specific qualities or skills are sought to enhance the impact of the centre’s Ramadan initiatives.

“Al-Mujadilah takes great care to ensure that all volunteers are adequately prepared to fulfil their roles with proficiency and compassion,” she said. “Our volunteers are engaged members of our growing community who are committed to ensuring that Al-Mujadilah is a place that welcomes women from all backgrounds.”

“During Ramadan and throughout the year, we want everyone at Al-Mujadilah to feel welcome and have a meaningful and fulfilling experience.”

Faizah Abdullah was among those who joined the volunteer team during Ramadan whose role included welcoming worshippers,

guiding them to the centre’s designated prayer area and answering their queries.

And her most cherished moment came on the 10th night of Ramadan, when a woman from Spain embraced Islam at Al-Mujadilah. “Simply being present there as a volunteer reaffirmed the profound reasons behind my commitment to volunteering,” she said. “It’s a memory that I hold dear in my heart.”

Noura Faraj Abuzeuair, another volunteer, cited her love for initiating goodness during Ramadan as the driving force behind her volunteerism.

“I’m constantly eager to discover volunteering opportunities through social media, so when I discovered this particular one through Al-Mujadilah’s social media account, I knew I couldn’t miss it,” she said.

# Japan Airlines launches Tokyo-Doha daily service

Japan Airlines (JAL) has commenced daily operations to and from Qatar, linking Tokyo Haneda Airport with Doha’s Hamad International Airport (HIA), in the first-ever direct flight to the Middle East by a Japanese airline.

The inaugural flight was operated on March 31 by a Boeing 787-9 aircraft with a capacity of 203 seats. On the historic partnership, Sujata Suri, senior vice-president (Finance and Procurement) at HIA, said: “We are thrilled to welcome Japan Airlines to the Middle East through its renowned hub in Doha. The launch of Japan Airlines’ daily flights from Tokyo Haneda to Hamad International Airport is a landmark achievement and a testament to the flourishing partnership between both Qatar and Japan.

“Combining Japan Airlines’ latest launch with Qatar Airways’ recent resumption to Osaka, is projected to result in a 50% increase in weekly flight frequency between Qatar and Japan, which underscores Hamad International Airport’s commitment to advancing global travel and enhancing passenger experiences.”

“Our new Doha service perfectly complements JAL’s global network and enables customers to seamlessly connect to Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South America through our partnership with Qatar Airways, a member of the same oneworld alliance as JAL,” said Ross Leggett, JAL man-



The inaugural flight, operated on March 31 by a Boeing 787-9 aircraft with a capacity of 203 seats, marks the first-ever flight to the Middle East by a Japanese airline - signifying a historic moment in the aviation industry, according to Hamad International Airport.



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aging executive officer and Route Marketing senior vice president.

“The demand for business and leisure travel from Doha to Asia continues to grow, and we are excited to offer JAL’s renowned five-star service and unique approach to hospitality to even more travelers,” Leggett added.

Qatar Airways chief commercial officer, Thierry Antinori said: “We are very pleased to welcome our

oneworld partner Japan Airlines to Doha and look forward to further building our successful relationship for the worldwide customers flying from and to Japan and North Asia.” The inclusion of JAL as the 10th oneworld airline at HIA further solidifies the airport’s status as a crucial oneworld hub - promising world-class services and connectivity to over 190 passenger destinations.