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## Our Say



Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka, Editor-in-Chief of Gulf Times

### Qatari mediation and historical lessons

Qatar's stellar track record as a mediator has earned it lots of praise from across the world. But, of late Qatar has found itself at the centre of geopolitical tensions, facing attempts to distort its image and undermine its role as a mediator in regional conflicts. Such efforts, reflect a broader trend of political manoeuvring and propaganda. Against this backdrop, Qatar stands firm in defending its reputation and commitment to impartial mediation. The attempt to tarnish Qatar's image is denounced as a disingenuous tactic, with private discussions differing starkly from public accusations. Drawing from personal experiences, Qatar highlights the insidious nature of such propaganda campaigns, which have intensified during crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, preparations for the World Cup, and political upheavals.

**To Page 11**  
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## Qatar, Bangladesh sign numerous agreements

**QNA**  
Dhaka

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed yesterday witnessed the signing ceremony of a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoU) and co-operation between the governments of both countries.

His Highness the Amir and the Bangladesh prime minister witnessed the signing of an agreement on mutual encouragement and protection of investments, a memorandum of understanding on co-operation in the field of diplomatic training between the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar, and the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh, a memorandum of understanding for co-operation in education, higher education and scientific research, a



memorandum of understanding for co-operation in the fields of sports and youth, an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, and an agreement in the legal field.

They also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on co-operation in the field of labour, a maritime transport agreement, a memorandum of understanding on co-

operation in the field of ports between Qatar Ports Management Company and the Bangladesh government, and an agreement to establish a joint Qatar-Bangladesh Business Council.

The signing ceremony, which took place at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka, was attended by members of the official delegation. On Bangladesh's side, it was attended by a number of ministers and senior officials.

**Pages 6, 7, Business Page 7**



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani inspects a guard of honour during a ceremonial reception in Kathmandu yesterday. His Highness the Amir was accompanied by Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel. **Pages 2, 3, 4**

## Amir meets Nepal president

**QNA**  
Kathmandu

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday held a meeting with Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel at the Sheetal Niwas Presidential Palace in Kathmandu.

The Nepal president welcomed His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation, praising His Highness' visit as the first Arab leader to visit Nepal, which reflects the depth of relations between the two countries.

The president said he was looking forward to working with His Highness the Amir to enhance mutual co-operation and advance relations to broader levels.

His Highness the Amir voiced his deep thanks to president of Nepal for

the warm reception and hospitality. His Highness the Amir stressed that his visit reflects the importance of the distinguished relations that bring together the two countries, hoping that the visit and the resulting discussions, agreements, and memoranda of understanding will contribute to developing friendly relations and co-operation for the benefit of the two nations and their friendly peoples.

His Highness the Amir praised the Nepalese community in Qatar and its contribution to several developmental fields in the country.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them, in addition to the most prominent regional and international issues of common interest. **To Page 3**

### Qatar 'committed to sparing children from the ravages of war'

Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' official spokesperson, yesterday reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to sparing children from the horrors of war, regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds. He emphasised the necessity for the international community to consider the situation in Gaza from this perspective. During the foreign ministry's weekly media briefing, Dr al-Ansari highlighted that the number

of children dying in Gaza exceeds that of any conflict in past decades. He stressed the need for international co-operation to understand the suffering resulting from this prolonged conflict and the daily tragedies the children endure. There is a generation of orphans suffering from the consequences of this war and they must be cared for and spared the scourge of this humanitarian catastrophe and its aftermath, he stressed. **(QNA) Page 11**

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## Amir on historic visit to Nepal



# Nepal president says Amir's visit fosters friendship, bolsters co-operation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Nepal will give the two countries opportunities for further multi-field co-operation and boost the bonds of friendship, said President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, stressing that the two countries have a longstanding relationship, enriched by friendliness and co-operation which is steadily growing and also expanding with the passage of time.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he added that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani is making his first official visit to Nepal, hailing His Highness the Amir as a "visionary leader" and said this is clear in the enormous progress of Qatar and efforts in establishing peace in the Middle East under His Highness' leadership. He added: "This visit shall provide us (with) strides in our socio-economic engagements and also an occasion to strengthening bonds of friendship." He hailed the cordial Qatar-Nepal relations based on "friendliness, mutual trust, support and co-operation" since the establishment of their diplomatic relations in 1977. He added that "the Government of Nepal always attaches high importance to its relation with Qatar."

Highlighting Qatar's unwavering support for his country, he expressed appreciation for Doha's assistance when "Nepal was devastated by the earthquake in 2015 followed by Covid-19 pandemic", a gesture of deep and warm relations between the two countries. "I'd like to thank His Highness and the government of Qatar once again for this assistance," he said.

Commenting on the future of bilateral relations and important areas of co-operation between

**President of Nepal:**  
**HH the Amir's Visit Embodies Bonds of Friendship and Beefs Up Bilateral Cooperation**

**HE Ram Chandra Poudel**  
President of Nepal

**Exclusive statements to Qatar News Agency |**

“HH the Amir's visit is the first to Nepal. HH is a visionary leader, and this is evident in the enormous progress of Qatar under his leadership. This visit shall provide us with opportunities to make strides in our socio-economic engagements.”

The Government of Nepal always attaches high importance to the relation between the two countries, based on mutual trust since establishment of diplomatic relations.

Cooperation on climate change and the protection of the mother Earth has been a major concern for both countries, and this will help elevate bilateral relations to the next level!

Doha and Kathmandu have achieved great successes in their cooperation in the areas of labor employment, air connectivity, tourism, and legal, economic and technical cooperation.

The State of Qatar implemented extensive reforms to strengthen labor laws and increase protection for migrant workers.

two countries, he highlighted the great successes in their co-operation in the areas of labour employment, air connectivity, tourism, legal, economic and technical co-operation, as well as the exchange of high-level visits and the strengthening of relations between the people of the two countries. "We will give continuity to these domains of co-operation, yet with higher degree of zeal," he said.

He added that bilateral co-operation will cover other global issues, primarily the environmental challenges. He said, "On top of that, the issue of climate change has been a major concern for both of us and also to protect the mother Earth collectively. "The global warming has adversely been affecting the Mount Everest and adjoining Himalayas, a major source

of fresh water in the region. All this (co-operation) will help elevate our bilateral relations to the next level!"

Regarding his evaluation of bilateral agreements to protect workers' rights, improve their conditions, and the contribution of Nepalese workers to supporting the Nepalese economy, he hailed Qatar's extensive reforms to strengthen labour laws and to increase protection for workers, spotlighting the reforms' positive impact on the protection of workers and promoting their interests, as well as regulating the supply of Nepali manpower to Qatar.

"As a result, Nepali migrant workers have largely got benefit from the reforms and thereby an ensuing positive effect in the Nepalese economy by dint of their remittances," he said. (QNA)

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# Qatar, Nepal set to expand economic ties

In accordance with its vision for international relations, Qatar has always been keen on building a robust network of foreign relations and is working to strengthen these relations through engagement and openness towards many fraternal and friendly nations and peoples, in addition to advancing co-operation with them in multiple fields to serve shared interests, objectives and aspirations.

In confirmation of these orientations, comes the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Nepal within His Highness' Asia trip, where His Highness is set to hold a session of official talks in the capital Kathmandu with President Ram Chandra Poudel to discuss bilateral relations between the countries and ways to enhance them, in addition to a range of regional and global issues of shared interest.

The visit of His Highness the Amir and the discussions he is set to hold with the Nepali officials are expected to broaden the horizons of the relations between the two

countries, especially in economy, trade, energy, and investment fields.

The Qatar-Nepal relations date back to more than forty years, as the two nations established their diplomatic relations on Jan 21, 1977. Since then, the bilateral relations and co-operation have evolved through years and became rock solid at all levels based on understanding and mutual respect.

The two countries share an array of agreements and memorandums of understanding in economic, trade, labour, sporting spheres, along with agreements on the cancellation of visa requirements for those who hold diplomatic and official passports, as well as co-operation in the areas of agriculture, food security and aviation services.

The relations between Doha and Kathmandu have been strengthened throughout the past years through shared visits of high-ranking officials in the two countries, including the visit of former president of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari to Doha during the period October 30-Nov 2, 2018.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a session of official talks with Bidya Devi Bhandari at the Amiri Diwan during which they discussed avenues to upgrade bilateral relations between the two countries in the areas of investment, education, agriculture, food security and exchange of expertise, especially that Qatar hosts a large number of Nepali manpower.

During these talks, the former Nepali president hailed the steadfast efforts made by Qatar to protect the rights of expatriate workers in Qatar, including the Nepali ones, noting the legislations and measures enforced by Qatar in this regard. Also, she met with a delegation from Qatar Chamber (QC), alongside Qatari businessmen at Sheraton Grand Doha and discussed ways to boost economic and trade ties between the two countries. She also urged the Qatari businessmen to invest in Nepal, describing the investment climate as secure. She affirmed that the Nepali government would guarantee these investments, highlighting that numerous in-

ternational firms were operating in Nepal. Last November, political discussions were held in Kathmandu between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the two countries co-chaired by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bharat Raj Paudyal during which they discussed co-operative relationships and ways to reinforce them.

The trade relations between Qatar and Nepal are constantly evolving with the Nepal's main exports to Qatar including cloth and textile, magnetic storage discs, vegetables, and other goods. Nepal's imports from Qatar include polyethylene, polypropylene and some food products.

Nepal gives foremost priority to the economic development under "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" mantra. The country abounds with enormous potential for investment in multiple fields, such as water, infrastructure, tourism and mining industry, as well as hydroelectric power generation fields. (QNA)



**Qatar-Nepal**  
Relations on Stronger Footing,  
with New Prospects to Reinforce  
Economic Cooperation and Partnership

**40** years  
as the two nations established  
their diplomatic relations on  
Jan. 21, 1977

Qatar-Nepal relations date back to more than 40 years

- The two countries share an array of agreements and memorandums of understanding in economic, trade, labor and sporting spheres
- The relations between Doha and Kathmandu have been strengthened throughout the past years through shared visits of high-ranking officials in the two countries
- Last November, political discussions were held in Kathmandu between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the two countries
- Last January QC and the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) discussed reinforcing cooperation and investment opportunities available in the two countries
- In April 2018, QC and FNCCI inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Doha
- Encouraging businessmen in the two countries to forge investment partnerships that would lend impetus to bilateral relations and increase the volume of trade exchange

Qatar News Agency | Education | Trade, Sports | On-air logo

# Amir's visit 'to broaden Qatar-Nepal relations'

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal said the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the country is a testimony to the strength and friendly relations and cooperation between the two nations.

This visit will broaden relations between Doha and Kathmandu and lead them to new horizons, Dahal added, describing the visit by His Highness the Amir as "historic".

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dahal expressed his firm belief that the visit of His Highness the Amir will elevate relations between the two countries to new heights, adding: "We are equally hopeful that several agreements will be signed during this visit. Furthermore, in-depth discussions on important areas of bilateral co-operation will also be pivotal in enhancing our co-operation in various areas."

Dahal expressed confidence that the visit of His Highness the Amir will herald a new beginning for friendship and that it will set another milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two nations. The prime minister stressed the importance of enhancing co-operation between the two countries in areas including health, education, infrastructure development, and economic empowerment.

He hailed the level of development Qatar is witnessing at various levels, as it represents an exemplary experience, adding, "We are impressed to see Qatar's phenomenal development."

"Nepal looks forward to learning from Qatar's experience in this regard, especially since it aspires to achieve better development indicators within a short period of time," he added.

"It is my understanding that we have many avenues in which we can collaborate and learn from each other's development efforts," Dahal said, adding: "We can forge pragmatic collaboration for developing partnership for assisting in



Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal speaks to QNA.

bridging the gap in the developmental processes."

He pointed out the importance of future co-operation and collaboration between the two countries in regional and multilateral forums to serve the general interest of humanity, including unifying efforts to confront climate change.

Dahal said a collective voice can be raised, and efforts in regional and multilateral forums can be unified to confront climate change, adding, "It is high time to consolidate our individual efforts into collaborative ones for the benefit of humanity. I have been raising the issue of climate change at different forums, and I look forward to working closely with like-minded countries in the future."

Dahal expressed appreciation for the humanitarian support provided by Qatar to Nepal, especially during the 2015 earthquake. "Qatar has always lent generous support in the humanitarian sector in Nepal. The government of Qatar has provided invaluable support and goodwill to Nepal in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake as well as in instances of other natural disasters," he said.

Dahal extended his thanks to the government of Qatar for its assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic, expressing his heartfelt gratitude for taking care of Nepali workers in Qatar during the pandemic.

The prime minister hailed the role played by Qatar in resolving conflicts and promoting peace and security around the globe, emphasising his country's appreciation for Doha's efforts in resolving differences through negotiations and diplomacy.

He underscored Nepal's belief that peace should prevail for humanity to prosper.

Given the turbulent situation in the Gulf region, the diplomatic acumen and leadership by Qatar in thawing tensions is highly commendable, he added.

Dahal expressed his country's "high regard for Qatar for playing a significant role as a mediator in the ongoing conflict in Gaza," adding: "The facilitation for negotiations and securing temporary ceasefires in the past has been of great importance."

"I have been keenly following the situation in the Middle East. We are worried about the scenario of further escalation in hostilities and the worsening plight of the civilian population. We wish for an end of war and restoration of peace in the region as soon as possible," he added.

"It is indeed heartening to see Qatar's leadership pitching hope and ardently trying to bring the warring parties to table to negotiate for peace and humanity," the premier pointed out. (QNA)

# Qatar's envoy highlights Amir's landmark visit

Qatar's ambassador to Nepal Mishaal bin Mohamed Ali al-Ansari affirmed that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Kathmandu earns a special significance since His Highness the Amir is the first Arab leader to visit this friendly country, highlighting that the visit will take relations between the two countries to broader horizons.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said the visit comes following high-level visits from the Nepali side to Qatar, affirming that it will certainly promote relations between the two countries and broaden their horizons because numerous agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two nations are poised to be signed during this visit to further enhance the existing rock solid co-operation and open new fields of co-operation.

The visit of His Highness the Amir represents a milestone in the bilateral relations that will hopefully lay the groundwork for a fresh start and explore broader co-operation fields. Also, there is a great optimism about the fact that the visit will result in a lot of goodness to reinforce relationships and bilateral co-operation between the two nations and their peoples, al-Ansari added.

Established in 1977, the diplomatic relations between the two countries were based on mutual respect, friendship and co-operation and have been constantly evolving, the ambassador pointed out, highlighting that the visit of His Highness the Amir is a testament to the depth of these relationships that have been advancing in the past years.

He talked about the most important fields of co-operation between the two countries that will have foremost priority in the current time, indicating that they are open to multiple hori-



**Ambassador of Qatar to Nepal:**  
HH the Amir First Arab Leader  
to Visit Nepal

HE Mishaal bin Mohamed Ali Al-Ansari  
Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Nepal

The visit comes following high-level visits from the Nepali side to Qatar and it will certainly promote relations between the two countries

The visit represents a milestone in the bilateral relations that will hopefully lay the groundwork for a fresh start and explore broader cooperation fields

Since their establishment, the diplomatic relations between the two countries were based on mutual respect, friendship and cooperation and have been constantly evolving

Many agreements and memoranda of understanding are expected to be signed in the fields of education, youth, sports, culture, etc

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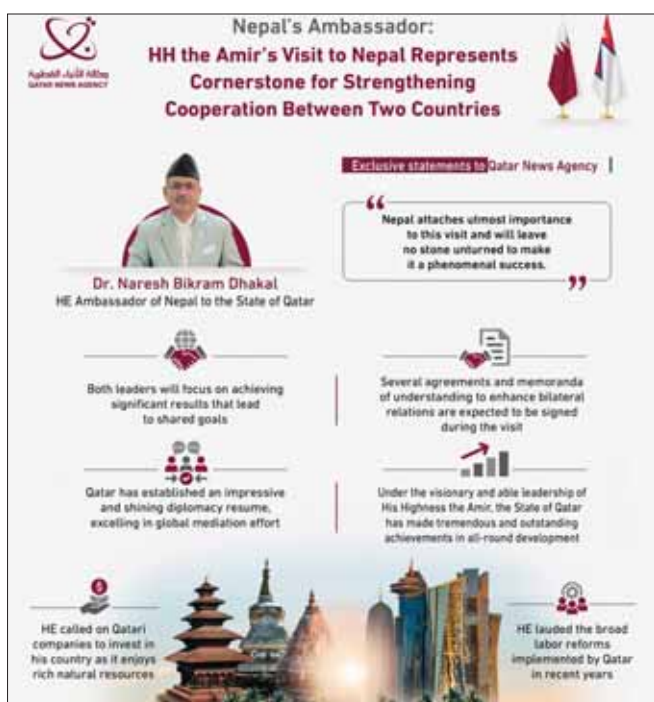
zons, primarily the labour field which is significantly prioritised by Nepal. Particular focus is on training and rehabilitation levels to ensure the flow of talented workers to Qatar, which is also one of the most important destinations for the Nepali workers, along with co-operation in a variety of fields, such as sports, tourism and investment. Mishaal bin Mohamed Ali al-Ansari added that many agreements and memoranda of understanding are expected to be signed during the visit of His Highness the Amir that patently encompass the fields of education, youth, sports, culture etc.

Regarding economic co-

operation, he highlighted that preparations are afoot to prepare agreements with respect to investment and protection for the Qatari investment to push the economic relationships forward and ultimately upgrade the economic co-operation to the best level that keeps up with the iron-clad friendship ties between the two nations.

In conclusion, Qatar's ambassador underlined that he is confident that the visit of His Highness the Amir will open new horizons of co-operation not only with Nepal but with the entire South Asia region to generate benefits for the people of the region. (QNA)

# Amir's visit to bolster bilateral ties: Nepal envoy



**Nepal's Ambassador:**  
HH the Amir's Visit to Nepal Represents  
Cornerstone for Strengthening  
Cooperation Between Two Countries

Dr. Naresh Bikram Dhakal  
HE Ambassador of Nepal to the State of Qatar

Nepal attaches utmost importance to this visit and will leave no stone unturned to make it a phenomenal success.

Both leaders will focus on achieving significant results that lead to shared goals

Several agreements and memoranda of understanding to enhance bilateral relations are expected to be signed during the visit

Qatar has established an impressive and shining diplomacy resume, excelling in global mediation effort

Under the visionary and able leadership of His Highness the Amir, the State of Qatar has made tremendous and outstanding achievements in all-round development

HE called on Qatari companies to invest in his country as it enjoys rich natural resources

HE lauded the broad labor reforms implemented by Qatar in recent years

Qatar News Agency | Trade, Investment, Energy, Tourism, ICT, Infrastructure, Human Rights

Nepal's ambassador to Qatar Dr Naresh Bikram Dhakal described His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Nepal as a cornerstone for consolidating the foundations of co-operation, partnership and building a bright future for bilateral relations.

"The visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Nepal is going to be unprecedentedly historic and cornerstone in the annals of our diplomatic relations," he said in a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA).

The ambassador stressed that His Highness the Amir's visit paves the way for new opportunities and contributes to achieving significant milestones in bilateral relations by further expanding the areas of co-operation and benefiting from the strength and experience of the two countries to achieve mutual benefits, adding: "Both leaders will focus during the talks on achieving significant results that lead to shared goals in development, pros-

perity, innovation, and growth."

The Government of Nepal has therefore attached utmost importance to this visit. With preparations in full swing, the government and people of Nepal are eagerly looking forward to welcoming His Highness the Amir on the land of Mount Everest in a visit that we are confident will be successful by all standards, he said. "Without any doubt, His Highness the Amir's visit will elevate our bilateral relations to a new height, with an extraordinary level of accomplishment. People of both countries will cherish the sweet memories of this visit for years to come," he added.

Dr Naresh Bikram Dhakal expressed confidence that the visit will pave the way for further deepening and broadening co-operation with each other in various fields. "Trade, investment, energy, tourism, ICT, infrastructure development are areas where both countries are highly likely to make partnership creating a win-win situation," he added. During the visit,

several agreements and memorandums of understanding to enhance bilateral relations will be signed, building on previous agreements. These include co-operation in the fields of press and information, health, education, higher education and scientific research, power sector and cultural co-operation, among others, he said.

His Highness the Amir's visit to Nepal is also expected to open up the various avenues of bilateral co-operation between the two countries such as trade, tourism, agriculture, investment, education, science and technology, and culture, he explained, adding the countries have signed memorandums of understanding and agreements over the past few years in various fields, including manpower employment, air service, economic, commercial and technical co-operation, avoidance of double taxation, human rights, abolishing visa requirements for the diplomatic and official passport holders, security co-operation, agriculture, and food security.

**"Both leaders will focus during the talks on achieving significant results that lead to shared goals in development, prosperity, innovation, and growth"**

The ambassador further explained, "Over the years, bilateral ties between our two countries have witnessed steady progress through co-operation in various areas including labour field. Qatar has become one of the popular destinations among Nepali migrant workers in the past two decades. Nepali workers have made significant contributions in the overall development of Qatar involving construction, agriculture, service sectors and so on." (QNA)



# Nepal deputy PM says Amir's visit signifies stronger co-operation

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Narayan Shrestha said the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Nepal heralds a new era in the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that they are extremely proud to welcome His Highness the Amir in Nepal and are very excited about this historic visit, which strengthens friendship and co-operation between the two countries.

He added that the two countries have always had good bilateral relations since the beginning of their diplomatic relations in 1977, adding, "Since then, the two countries have been working to expand their relationship in a climate of cordial friendship, mutual trust, and co-operation."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal noted, "In light of this wonderful bilateral relationship, the visit of His Highness the Amir to Nepal comes, and we attach great importance to the visit, which primarily heralds a new era in the bilateral relations between the two countries. We also hope that the visit will help advance relations towards new horizons."

He concluded his remarks to QNA by emphasising that the visit of His Highness the Amir represents a milestone and a bedrock to expanding co-operation and bilateral partnership between the two countries.

## 'NEW CHAPTER IN RELATIONS'

Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal Devraj Ghimire said the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Nepal adds a new chapter to the relations between the two friendly countries in all fields, including parliamentary ties.

Speaking to Qatar News



Agency (QNA), he said that this visit will be the first for His Highness the Amir to Nepal, adding that it will undoubtedly bring bilateral relations to new heights.

He said that the visit of His Highness will serve as an important opportunity to discuss co-operation in the fields of the economy, investment, and cultural exchange, along with enhancing bilateral parliamentary co-operation and strengthening relations between the two friendly peoples. Devraj Ghimire added, "Nepal and Qatar have close ties in the areas of labour, trade, and tourism. We have close co-operation in international communities and forums."

The two countries have signed some agreements, in addition to the successful visits of senior officials of Nepal to Qatar including the former prime minister and the former president of Nepal, he said, adding: "I believe that this high-level visit will add more importance to strengthening the relationship between the two countries."

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal expressed the need for increased parliamentary co-operation between the House of Representatives of Nepal and the Shura Council of Qatar, widening areas of bilateral co-operation and consolidating ties at formal and people-to-people levels.

He added that both

countries have multiple mechanisms in the parliamentary field to work in areas of mutual interest and goals, such as through "Parliamentary Friendship Groups, which provide parliamentarians with a platform to discuss areas of mutual interest." Devraj Ghimire said that the exchange of bilateral visits at different levels can be another avenue for exchanging mutual expertise in the areas of lawmaking.

He said that a robust relationship between the parliaments of both countries can add another important chapter to Nepali-Qatari relations, which could be done by exploring new areas of co-operation between the House of Representatives of Nepal and the Shura Council of Qatar and addressing issues through continuous dialogue. "All that will inevitably lead to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries."

In his interview with QNA, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal highly commended Qatar's role in bringing peace and settling regional tensions, including bringing peace to Afghanistan and helping the country to develop.

Devraj Ghimire highly appreciated Qatar's effort to stop the war in Gaza and provide humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. (QNA)

## Nepal minister commends Qatar's proactive approach to labour reform

Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Nepal Dol Prasad Aryal stressed that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Nepal will enhance the relations between the two countries in the field of labour, praising Qatar's approach in reforming and developing the labour market and adopting exemplary employment practices.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that "the forthcoming visit of His Highness the Amir to Nepal promises to elevate this friendship to new heights...Our ongoing communication and dialogue pave the way for signing a new agreement in the field of labour between Nepal and Qatar, which underscores our commitment to strengthening labour relations and mutual prosperity."

"I am confident that His Highness the Amir's visit will deepen the ties between our two nations even further. This visit will present a valuable opportunity to enhance collaboration and foster mutual understanding across various sectors. Also, we believe that it will lead to fruitful discussions and initiatives that will benefit both Nepal and Qatar, strengthening the bond between our countries for years to come," he added.

He commended the extensive reforms in the labour market in Qatar, saying that the labour market in Qatar has witnessed comprehensive reforms reflecting its proactive approach to labour reform, adding that "Qatar has demonstrated significant commitment to enhancing workers' rights and ensuring a healthy and safe work environment through important legislative and regulatory reforms. Measures such as the introduction of the Wage Protection System, the enactment of the landmark Domestic Workers Law, and the establishment of the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund reflect Qatar's proactive approach to labour



reform." The minister stressed that these measures reflect Qatar's pioneering approach in labour market reform, as these reforms aim to protect workers' rights and enhance fair treatment in the workplace.

He also stressed that these reforms fosters a more conducive environment for both local and migrant workers, contributing to Qatar's reputation as a responsible global player in labour rights and employment practices.

He noted that Nepalese workers serves as a vibrant bridge between our two nations, fostering communication and deepening ties in various sectors, adding, "their active engagement has stimulated the opening of numerous channels of co-operation and partnership. Firstly, through their participation in Qatar's workforce, Nepali

workers contribute significantly to the country's development, thereby strengthening economic co-operation between our nations."

He also pointed out that the Nepalese community actively engages in cultural exchange programmes, educational initiatives and social events, which promote mutual understanding and friendship between Qatar and Nepal. Remittances have played a significant role in Nepal's economy and maintaining Nepal's foreign exchange reserves and supporting its development, he said.

He said that upon their return from Qatar to their homeland, Nepali workers contribute to various industries and entrepreneurship, benefiting from the skills and knowledge acquired abroad. (QNA)

## Amir's visit fosters co-operation to achieve common goals: minister

Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal Hit Bahadur Tamang underlined that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Nepal would promote the joint co-operation within the framework of the common interests of both countries.

"His Highness the Amir's visit will play an important role in strengthening economic co-operation between our two countries in a wide array of fields including investment, tourism, culture and trade," the minister said in a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA).

"We have already a solid foundation of cordial relationship on the backdrop of a huge number of Nepali youths working in Qatar and other GCC countries from which a sizeable amount of hard currency remittance contributes to our country's economy. Reciprocally, our workforce has been also contributing to the fast growing economies of the Gulf countries," he added. In this context, the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal praised the level of co-operation between his country and Qatar in the labour field, which provided good job opportunities for Nepali youths.

He pointed to Nepal's cultural and tourism potential that make it a destination for Gulf tourism, saying that Nepal is a culturally rich country, and is one of the oriental civilisation centres at the lap of the Himalayas, making it one of the prominent destinations on the global tourism destination map. He added that the country has much to offer to the world and friendly countries like Qatar at the cultural and tourism level.

The minister noted that Qatar has a unique heritage and authentic culture that is totally different from Nepal, which makes the cultural co-operation between the two countries interesting. In this context, he noted that the big community of Nepali people in the Gulf region is an important advantage for the cultural exchange between two rich and unique cultures, leading to a harmonious relationship at the people's level.

The Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal looked forward to a significant tourism co-operation with Qatar in light of Nepal's distinguished potential, saying: "I am enthusiastic about tourism co-operation between our two countries. Nepal is a popular



destination on the global tourism map and there is a huge potential to attract tourists from Qatar and the GCC to our world famous national parks, Himalayan towns and Unesco heritage sites. Even mountaineering expeditions on the Himalayan mountains including the highest Mount Everest is getting popular among sporty young Arabians in the recent years." He added that there are mountaineering expedition teams from Qatar, the GCC countries and other Arab countries who visited Nepal in recent years to climb the +8000m high Himalayan mountains including Mount Everest – the highest in the world.

The minister pointed out that Nepal offers attractive tourism facilities and world-class services.

He praised the role of Qatar Airways in connecting Kathmandu to the world.

### NEPAL KEEN TO CO-OPERATE IN FIELD OF YOUTH, SPORTS

The Minister of Youth and Sports of Nepal Biraj Bhakta Shrestha emphasised the significance of the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim

bin Hamad al-Thani to Kathmandu, noting his country's eagerness for broader co-operation with Qatar in the fields of youth and sports, strengthening the growing relations between the two countries and opening channels of communication between the people in both countries.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said the visit of His Highness the Amir to Nepal will enhance Nepal's keenness to launch broader co-operation in the field of sports and youth, especially since Qatar has a pioneering and extensive experience spanning decades in youth development and in the sports sector, making it a global example to be followed.

He added that Nepal, both the government and the people, are enthusiastic about this historic visit of His Highness the Amir, noting that the visit that will enhance areas of co-operation and partnership in many fields, including youth and sports, in addition to highlighting the country of Nepal and expanding communication channels with the Gulf region specifically. (QNA)

## Amir meets Nepal president

### From Page 1

The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-

Thani, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

On the Nepalese side, the meeting was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Narayan

Kaji Shrestha, the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Shakti Bahadur Basnet, and a number of senior officials. The Nepal president hosted a dinner banquet in honour of His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation. (QNA)

## QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY INVITATION TO TENDER

### QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
SR-1879204315	SALE OF VARIOUS SCRAP MATERIALS (CONSIST OF ALUMINUM SHEETS-SANDWICH PANEL, WATER TANKS & STEEL STRUCTURES, MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS, INSTRUMENT SPARE PARTS, HVAC SPARE PARTS, PIPES & FITTINGS, CHEMICAL DRUMS, OIL BARRELS/DRUMS, USED OFFICE FURNITURE AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS)	500/- (Non-refundable)	10% of the Bid Value	24.04.2024 25.04.2024 28.04.2024 29.04.2024 30.04.2024 01.05.2024 02.05.2024	08.05.2024

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)
  - Account Number : 0013-025828-058
  - IBAN : QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058
  - Bank Name : QATAR NATIONAL BANK
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (Very Important), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 0930 – 1130 hours and 1230 – 1400 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".





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# Amir affirms expanding, boosting Qatar-Bangladesh partnerships

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has expressed his pleasure at visiting Bangladesh, and meeting Bangladesh President Mohamed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

"I was pleased to visit Bangladesh and hold a meeting with President Mohamed Shahabuddin on ways to consolidate our growing bilateral relations," His Highness the Amir said on his official X account. "During my extended discussions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, we touched on all aspects of fruitful co-operation between our two countries and the opportunities available to enhance it with more bilateral partnerships in various fields." - QNA

## Amir holds meeting with Bangladesh president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a meeting yesterday with Bangladesh President Mohamed Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban presidential palace in Dhaka.

Shahabuddin expressed a warm welcome to His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation, hailing the constructive co-operation between the two countries in various fields.

His Highness the Amir expressed thanks to Shahabuddin for the warm reception and hospitality.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways of enhancing and promoting them in various fields, and exchanged views on a number of regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, and members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

On Bangladesh's side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid Bipu, and other senior officials.

Shahabuddin hosted a luncheon banquet in honour of His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation. - QNA



## Amir, Sheikh Hasina hold talks

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed held official talks at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka yesterday.

During her welcome address to His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation, Sheikh Hasina praised the friendship and co-operation between the two countries that spans decades, and added that His Highness the Amir's visit is a significant boost to enhancing the ties.

She also applauded the role carried out by Qatar in resolving conflicts in the region.

His Highness the Amir expressed his appreciation to Sheikh Hasina for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and the accompanying delegation.

His Highness the Amir also expressed appreciation for the part played by the Bangladeshi community in Qatar's development and progress.

The official talks addressed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways and means of enhancing and promoting them, in addition to the prominent regional and international issues of common concern, in particular the latest developments in the Palestinian territories and the Gaza Strip.

The session was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, and members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

On Bangladeshi side, the session was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, Home Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Mohamed Faruk Khan, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Private Industry and Investment Salman Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Finance Waseqa Ayesha Khan, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid Bipu, State Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Shofiqur Rahman Choudhury, State Minister for Commerce Ahasanul Islam Titu, and a number of high-ranking officials. - QNA

## Road and park in Dhaka is named after Amir

Bangladesh authorities have named a road and a park in the capital Dhaka after His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in a step reflecting the welcome and deep appreciation for his visit.

The park is located in the Kalshi area of Dhaka's Mirpur municipality.

The road connects Mirpur Square and the Kalshi bridge.

The road and park are now known as the "Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani Road and Park".

The park was built under the supervision of the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC).

His Highness the Amir's visit to Bangladesh received widespread coverage in the local media, which described it as an important opportunity to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries in various fields, especially trade, energy security, diplomacy, and the military field.

The media also hailed the naming of a road and a park in Dhaka after His Highness the Amir as a kind of welcome and warmth to the visit, which will undoubtedly open new horizons for bilateral co-operation.

His Highness the Amir arrived in the capital Dhaka on Monday for state visit to Bangladesh as part of his Asian tour. - QNA



### Road and Park Are Named After HH the Amir

In Celebration of His Highness' Visit to Bangladesh



**The park**  
is located in the «Kalshi» area of the «Mirpur» municipality in the capital, Dhaka



**The road**  
connects «Mirpur» Square and the «Kalshi» Bridge in the capital, Dhaka.



The visit to Bangladesh attracted the attention of local media, which described it as an important opportunity to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries in various fields



The media described the naming of a road and a park in the capital, Dhaka, after HH the Amir as a kind of welcome and warmth to the visit









## Seychelles president receives credentials of Qatar's ambassador



Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan has received the credentials of Mohamed bin Mutair al-Anazi as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Qatar (non-resident) to the Seychelles. The envoy conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to Ramkalawan and the people of Seychelles continued progress and prosperity. Ramkalawan in turn entrusted al-Anazi with his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness and Qatar further progress and growth. Seychelles Vice-President Ahmed Afif also held a meeting with al-Anazi, in which bilateral co-operation was discussed. - **QNA**



## Real estate authority chairman meets UAE, Singapore envoys

HE the Chairman of Real Estate Regulatory Authority engineer Khalid bin Ahmed al-Obaidli met the UAE and Singapore ambassadors to Qatar, Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhboot al-Nahyan and Wong Chow Ming, separately yesterday, to discuss bilateral co-operation. - **QNA**

# Qatar CSR Summit promises key topics

The second edition of the Qatar CSR Summit, slated from April 30-May 2 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), is expected to represent a substantial advancement over its inaugural iteration last year, whether in terms of participation or the topics covered.



Professor Rana Sobh



Haider Mshaimesh

Prof Rana Sobh, dean of Qatar University (QU)'s College of Business and Economics and chairperson of the Conference Steering Committee, made the statement during a press conference yesterday.

Themed *The Future of CSR in a Circular Economy*, the event will be under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.

An initiative by Mubadara for Social Impact, the upcoming Qatar CSR Summit 2024 comes as part of the 11th Qatar CSR National Programme.

Alongside the conference and exhibition would be the annual Qatar CSR National Report and the prestigious Qatar CSR Awards.

Sobh said the event enjoys the vast support of dozens of public and private Qatari entities, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ooredoo.

In addition to leading local organisations, she said this year highlights extensive international participation from a range of esteemed academic and humanitarian institutions, such as the UN Global Compact, Unesco, and International Labour Organisation.

Sobh said that the conference also features the Mena Business Schools Alliance for Sustainability (MEBAS) as an academic partner.

Launched by the QU's College of Business and Eco-

nomics in October of the preceding year, the MEBAS boasts 15 accredited business schools from the region, bringing academic insight and expertise to the event.

Dr Saif Ali al-Hajri, president of Mubadara for Social Impact and chief executive of the National CSR Programme, said: "The success of last year's event has captured the interest of numerous regional and international stakeholders in corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and social development. We are excited about the extensive international participation anticipated this year."

Speaking about Qatar CSR Awards, Mubadara general manager Jack Saba said: "Last year, Qatar CSR Awards honoured the best CSR programmes and initiatives in Qatar, spanning over 37 government and private entities across various sectors."

"We are delighted to invite all organisations and companies implementing CSR programmes and initiatives to apply this year for one of the awards given in 20 different categories," he said. "Selection of winners will be carried out by a special judging committee comprising professors and academics from Qatar University."

"Coinciding with International Workers' Day, the Awards Gala Dinner will be held in the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel on May 1," Saba added. "The ceremony will also pay recognition to the event's sponsors and supporters."

IFP Qatar general manager Haider Mshaimesh said: "Organising Qatar CSR Summit is a testament to our company's commitment to enhancing social responsibility in Qatar."

## Minister meets Kuwaiti ambassador



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier met Kuwait's ambassador to Qatar Khaled Badr al-Mutairi yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation between the two countries and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. - **QNA**



## QNA chief meets Malta ambassador

Qatar News Agency (QNA) Director-General Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with Malta's ambassador to Qatar Simon Pullicino. The meeting discussed aspects of joint co-operation between the two countries in the field of media. - **QNA**

## MoECC holds workshop on preparation of Second National Communication

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) organised on Monday a workshop on preparing Qatar's Second National Communication and the biennial update report (BTR and BUR), in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) West Asia Office.

The two-day workshop addresses methods and approaches for preparing the report, which includes a list of greenhouse gases for five main sectors: energy, industrial activities, agriculture and land use, and waste.

It also covers technical matters related to emission sources for a national emissions inventory, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals and Qatar National Vision 2030, in addition to contributing to writing the required reports under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Assistant Director of the MoECC's Climate Change Department, Mahmoud al-Marwani, said that the workshop is part of the ministry's efforts to qualify national cadres in preparing the Second National Communication and to inform them of the most im-

portant updates continuously made in this regard by relevant international bodies.

He noted that the workshop was attended by representatives of relevant local government agencies and institutions, contributing to aligning visions among state institutions to work on preparing these important reports.

A detailed action plan was developed with a specific timetable to enable the timely preparation of the required database.

The workshop included sessions and presentations where UNEP technical adviser Susan al-Banna presented an overview of the data collection mechanisms within the national communications and updated reports for the two-year period.

The proposed official data collection book was also reviewed to reach the final version required according to national circumstances.

The Second National Communication (SNC) and the First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) work to disseminate issues related to climate change and its environmental, social, and economic impacts. - **QNA**

## Philippine media praise outcomes of Amir's visit

Philippine media has praised the outcomes of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's state visit to the Philippines, considering it an important occasion to intensify co-operation and deepen standing bilateral relations.

The Philippines media noted that the nine agreements were signed between the two countries, aimed at enhancing trade and investment as well as countering global challenges such as climate change and human trafficking.

In its news article titled *Philippines, Qatar mark stronger ties, ink 9 deals*, the *Manila Bulletin* praised the signing of the agreements, through which both states deepen their 43-year-old ties.

The newspaper reported that during their bilateral meeting, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr expressed his confidence that his discussions with His Highness the Amir will translate into stronger co-operation in areas of common interest.

The newspaper also reported His Highness the Amir's comments on the first visit to the Philippines: "We aspire to improve these relations to increase communication between the two countries. I just had a fruitful discussion with His Excellency, the President...on common interests that will contribute to developing our relations in different fields."

His Highness the Amir stressed that the Philippines is an important partner for Qatar in many fields, particularly in commerce and economic co-operation, and

**Philippine Media Praise Outcomes of Visit of HH the Amir to the Manila**

- POLITIKO** <<Politiko>> newspaper: HH the Amir of the State of Qatar praises the Filipino community in Doha.
- GMA NEWS** <<GMA News>> website: President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed his happiness at welcoming HH the Amir.
- MANILA BULLETIN** <<Manila Bulletin>> newspaper: 9 cooperation agreements were signed during the visit aimed at enhancing trade and investment and countering global challenges.
- PHILSTAR** <<Philstar>> newspaper: The visit is a strong indicator of flourishing relations between our two countries and an opportunity to exchange views on bilateral issues.

praised the Philippine community's role in developing Qatar.

In the *Politiko* report titled *Amir Lauds Pinoys For Contribution To Qatar's Economy*, the newspaper quoted His Highness the Amir addressing Marcos Jr by saying: "This is my pleasure to take this opportunity to praise the Filipino community residing in the State of Qatar and their effective contribution to the development, progress in our country."

The newspaper elaborated that Qatar is home to more than 20,000 Filipinos, who in 2022 sent \$895.33mn in remittances to the Philippines.

*Philstar's* article, titled *President Marcos, Qatar Amir meet today to tackle bilateral ties*, highlighted a statement issued by the Philippine embassy in Doha regarding the visit, saying: "Such a high-level visit is a strong indication of

flourishing relations between our two countries. It also provides an excellent opportunity for the two sides to have a personal exchange of views on bilateral issues and foster greater engagement arising from a shared sense of responsibility as regional and global actors."

Philippine news site GMA News said in its article with the heading *Amir of Qatar arrives in Palace to meet Marcos* that during the bilateral meeting, President Marcos Jr expressed his happiness at welcoming His Highness the Amir to the Philippines.

The *Inquirer* article titled *PH and Qatar to sign agreements as part of Amir's state visit* reported Marcos Jr's welcoming of His Highness the Amir to Malacanang Palace with arrival honours, and in the attendance of top government officials from the Philippines and Qatar. - **QNA**

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## Qatar at forefront of promoting women's representation at global level

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

A prominent diplomat has hailed Qatar for its efforts to encourage women's representation in diplomacy and international relations.

"Qatar has been at the forefront of promoting women's representation at the global level," said ambassador Androulla Kaminara, inaugural Distinguished-Diplo-

mat-in-Residence at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q).

She was speaking at *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of GU-Q's 'Gender in Foreign Policy' Hiwaraat conference, which discussed the role of gender-informed strategies and gender diversity within international institutions to drive better and more equitable foreign policy and outcomes.

"Qatar has been the key promoter of the idea of the UN having its first woman secretary general.



Ambassador Androulla Kaminara

Qatar has been active in the initiatives to ensure the presence of more women in the UN General Assembly," she noted adding that several such initiatives are spearheaded by Qatar at the global level. "These are very important and Qatar has a competent representative in the UN," she explained.

She called for efforts to give women the possibility to be at the table of international relations and diplomacy. "Let them express their opinions and listen to them. If that takes place,

the condition will be improved. The selection should be based on excellence not based on gender," she said.

Kaminara, who noted the presence of women in UN agencies and governments is too low, said the condition is improving and better.

"The scenario is getting better, but is not fast enough," she said. Despite evidence that women's full participation makes peace-building much more effective, the number of women in decision-making roles is falling, she said.

"At the current rate of change, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will take 170 years, including SDG 5 - gender equality, integral to all SDGs," she said.

"There are challenges. But, things are getting better. We still have to talk about the issue. Women should be given better allocation. Some countries are allocating quotas for women to make the changes fast. Whatever the means change needs to happen," she said.

## QNB launches unique Olympic Games Paris 2024 campaign for Visa credit cardholders

QNB, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, announced an exciting new campaign for its Visa credit cardholders.

This campaign offers cardholders an exclusive opportunity to attend Olympic Games Paris 2024, courtesy of Visa.

Throughout the campaign, taking place up to June 6, 2024, Visa cardholders stand a chance to win one of six all-inclusive travel packages for two to the Olympic Games Paris 2024, courtesy of Visa.

This incredible opportunity includes the privilege of witnessing the opening and closing ceremonies of The Olympic Games.

To enter the draw, customers are required to spend a minimum of QR50,000 during the campaign period.

Each additional QR1,000 spent beyond the qualifying amount will grant cardholders one additional entry for local spending and five entries for international spending to the draw.

Newly issued QNB Visa credit cardholders will receive 10 entries once they reach the minimum spending criteria.

Commenting on the launch of



the campaign, Adel Ali al-Malki, senior executive vice-president (QNB Retail Banking Group), said: "We are thrilled to launch this latest Olympic Games Paris 2024 campaign, thanks to Visa, bringing exclusive packages for this major event to the winners, including both Opening and Closing Ceremony. We remain committed to provide safe, convenient, and rewarding electronic payment experience to our customers"

Shashank Singh, Visa's vice-president and general manager for Qatar and Kuwait, said: "QNB's Olympic Games Paris 2024 promotion is a great example of how our clients can leverage Visa's sponsorship to create exclusive, rewarding, and memo-

orable experiences for their Visa cardholders.

"Given that the Olympic Games is one of the most watched sporting events globally, it's also a strategic move that can significantly promote the use of digital payments and support local businesses. We are proud to enable these initiatives that bring value to our clients and Visa cardholders, while also contributing to Qatar's digital commerce agenda."

QNB Group currently ranks as the most valuable bank brand in the Middle East and Africa. Through its subsidiaries and associate companies, the group's presence spans 28 countries across three continents providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services.

## Two-day Empowerment conference opens at Katara

The activities of the two-day Tamkeen (Empowerment) Conference for International Arbitration in the light of artificial intelligence (AI) started yesterday at Katara - the Cultural Village.

The conference is under the patronage of Educational Professions and Competencies, the International Business Council, the International Academy of Arbitration and Mediation Carthage.

The opening session was attended by Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration's International Relations board member and Qatar Lawyers Association vice-chairman Sheikh Dr Thani bin Ali bin Saud al-Thani, Tamkeen Academy chairman Dr Khamis bin Ubaid al-Ajmi, and the International Academy of Arbitration and Mediation Carthage president Dr Inas bin Nasser, alongside a group of international arbitrators, lawyers, and arbitration enthusiasts.

Prof al-Sulaiti, pointed out that the conference provides a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and information related to international arbitration in the age of AI.

He pointed out the tremendous and rapid development seen recently in the field of information technology, digital transformation, and AI applications, which have become of great importance in various processes and areas of international arbitration.

This includes mediation in banking disputes, dispute resolution processes, specialised international arbitration, international trade, investment, and other subjects and issues that the conference will discuss with the aim of increasing efficiency, improving quality, and adopting the most effective methods in the field.

He also expressed hope that the conference would witness a new stage of work characterised by extending bridges of cognitive and cultural cooperation in using modern technology and AI in international arbitration issues, through exchanging experiences and preparing a distinguished genera-



tion of lawyers and arbitrators in the field.

Sheikh Dr Thani bin Ali bin Saud al-Thani said that Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration has shifted arbitration in Qatar from ad hoc arbitration to institutional arbitration.

He pointed out that the rules of the Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration is in line with the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration. The centre has ruled on many arbitration cases with enforceable judgments, including banking arbitration cases and mediation cases related to major projects, giving the centre a distinguished position among regional and international centres.

Dr Nasser stressed that the conference represents a universal platform for experience exchange, and relationship strengthening to create an environment for joint work among all stakeholders in the field of international arbitration.

She noted that the culture of arbitration, locally and internationally, is a continuous and ongoing effort that does not depend on time, place, or individuals. She further noted that the conference would lay the foundation for holding other conferences in Qatar and in several Arab countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, and Oman.

The conference aims to disseminate the culture of AI among all stakeholders in arbitration and mediation cases and to explore the achievements of international arbitration centres in the Middle East and North Africa in the use of AI.

# Chery set to unveil latest technological advancements at Beijing Auto Show

Chery, the foremost vehicle exporter in China and a pioneering force in global technology, is poised to showcase its latest technological strides at the upcoming Beijing Auto Show.

Set to take place from April 25 to 30 at the Beijing International Exhibition Centre, this event has transformed from a modest domestic motor show in 1990 into the premier global platform for the automotive industry. With its innovative offerings, Chery is reclaiming the spotlight once more.

Leveraging advancements in 5G, big data, and artificial intelligence, the paradigm of automobiles has undergone substantial expansion. Concepts such as "third living space" and "second living room" are increasingly employed to articulate the evolving role of cars in daily life. Against the backdrop of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, consumer demands for automobiles have become increasingly stringent. The automotive industry is undergoing a multidomain technological revolution, where batteries, motors, and electronic control systems are replacing traditional components like engines, transmissions, and drivetrains.

Furthermore, previously unrelated technologies, such as internet communication, radar, sensors, chips, computing platforms, controllers, high-definition maps, cloud control platforms, and AI algorithms have become integral components of the automotive industry and its supply chain. Cars are evolving into comprehensive, integrated entities that require support from multiple technologies and industries. As technology continues to advance, cars are no longer just means of transportation; they are becoming sophisticated mobile devices deeply connected to people's daily lives, work, and entertainment. The automotive industry competition is transitioning from focusing solely on products to encompassing products and ecosystems, fostering new ecosystems through intelligent technologies and platforms.

As the integration of the global automotive ecosystem becomes standard practice, prioritizing user experience and embracing sustainable development have become paramount.

Chery Automobile is actively addressing this trend by firmly establishing new energy technologies as core elements and driving forward green transformation.

Chery Automobile will unveil its latest achievements at the Beijing International Auto Show from April 25th to 30th, simultaneously hosting the Global Dealer Conference. The central theme of this event, "New Eco," encapsulates Chery Automobile's dedication to ecological sustainability, philanthropy, and environmental protection principles.

The automotive landscape, distinguished by smart technology and sharing, is evolving swiftly. In response, Chery is thoughtfully cultivating a varied ecosystem that revolves around "people," "vehicles," and "lives," facilitating a plethora of smart living situations. This endeavour seeks to furnish users worldwide with pervasive intelligent living experiences in harmony with Chery's core brand values of "sustainability, innovation, family, and companionship." Chery projects a warm and accountable presence on the



international stage, committed to fostering user engagement and societal well-being through groundbreaking innovations. It aspires to forge a brighter future in partnership with its users, aiming for a reciprocal and mutually beneficial collaboration.

### Providing Global Users with a Green Travel Experience

Chery places a strong emphasis on green technology, family, and companionship as the cornerstones of its brand development, embodying its vision for a sustainable way of life. In the contemporary landscape where automobiles and daily life are increasingly intertwined, Chery has consistently advocated for principles of sustainability

and low carbon emissions. From its commitment to user-centered design to the implementation of eco-friendly manufacturing processes within its facilities, culminating in the provision of environmentally conscious travel solutions, Chery is unwavering in its dedication to fostering an ecosystem that harmoniously blends automotive technology with contemporary living standards. Chery aligns its product development with cutting-edge Internet and smart car advancements, advancing the growth of electric vehicles, interconnected systems, and intelligent shared transportation platforms.

With features such as streamlined reservations,

guided pickups, immersive driving experiences, hassle-free returns, as well as seamless payment and sharing options, "Smart Chery" is shaping the future of travel experiences for consumers.

Chery rigorously incorporates the principle of green manufacturing, strictly adhering to environmental protection legislation regulations, and international conventions. It places a strong emphasis on pollution prevention, energy efficiency, and clean production processes, aiming to create a green industry chain covering green procurement, design, production, and consumption practices. Chery regards energy saving, emission reduction, and the promotion of a low carbon economy not only as its social obligation but also as a catalyst for sustainable development. In adhering to the green manufacturing ethos, Chery enforces green management in product production, logistics, recycling, and additional operations. By harnessing the capabilities of industrial Internet platforms, Chery is expediting the development of a series of intelligent connected "super factories." These "super factories" are characterized by green manufacturing principles and smart digital technologies, achieving high-quality production with zero defects, efficient manufacturing with zero inventory, and overall energy conservation and environmental protection. They are designed to be low-energy, low-emission, and eco-friendly factories.

Beyond its commitment to environmental stewardship and energy efficiency within its manufacturing operations, Chery persistently investigates green and intelligent modes of transportation. It advocates for the "Dual-V" technology route of intelligent autonomous driving (AV) and new energy electric vehicles (EV), making significant strides in the development of new energy technologies and products.

### Actively Participating in Public Welfare Initiatives

As a global enterprise, Chery actively participates in economic development, livelihood improvement, and public welfare initiatives worldwide. In 2023, Chery Automobile donated \$6 million to UNICEF for the Global Education Thematic Programme and partnered with the IUCN for global cooperation in areas such as children's education and environmental conservation. Furthermore, Chery joined hands with IUCN in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to explore innovative approaches for ecological restoration and protection of forests, wetlands, and oceans, actively promoting the conservation of fragile environments worldwide. From earthquake relief in Turkey to women's welfare activities in Kuwait and childcare in South African welfare homes, the compassionate initiatives of "Love Chery" are spreading across more and more countries. The launch of the "Green Public Welfare Fund Program" elevates corporate social responsibility to a global strategic level, partnering with various types of public welfare organizations worldwide to contribute greater efforts to social welfare causes.

Chery remains dedicated to user-centered approaches, striving to develop a new, user-focused ecosystem that delivers greener, more intelligent, and enjoyable travel experiences to users around the globe.



# Qatar Rail stresses commitment to sustainable transportation

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

Qatar Rail reiterated its steadfast commitment to advancing eco-friendly transportation solutions on Earth Day 2024, marked on April 22, highlighting its dedication to preserving the environment.

"On Earth Day 2024, Qatar Rail continues its efforts to raise awareness and promote the use of sustainable transportation solutions such as Doha Metro and Lusail Tram. It plays a key role in environmental preservation, mitigating the adverse effects of transportation and bolstering Qatar's journey towards a sustainable future," Qatar Rail said on its social media pages.

Aimed at promoting eco-friendly mobility, Qatar Rail recently announced its participation as a gold sponsor in the upcoming Autonomous e-Mobility (AEMOB) Forum, scheduled from April 30 to May 2 at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

Hosted by the Ministry of Transport, this forum will bring together more than 500 industry experts, policymakers, and technology innovators from more than 20 countries.

Qatar Rail also underlined its commitment to supporting an integrated and sustainable public transportation system in Qatar through partnerships with various stakeholders.

The recent inauguration of Lusail's Pink Line and the completion of all Orange Line



stations marked significant milestones for Qatar Rail. Once the full tram network becomes operational, Qatar Rail said it is poised to seamlessly connect government offices, residential towers, leisure and sports facilities, marinas, and other major attractions across Lusail City.

The Lusail Tram fleet comprises 28 'Citadis X05' trains equipped with ground power

supply technology, manufactured by Alstom in France. Each tram train features 64 seats and a comfortable capacity of 209 passengers across Standard and Family Class compartments. With features such as travel information screens and USB ports, the trams promise a modern and convenient commuting experience.

Compared with the metro system, each tram operates with a driver and cruises at a maximum speed of approximately 60km/h.

Recognised for their environmental friendliness, the trams use LED lighting and electric brake systems.

Qatar Rail anticipates that these developments will encourage the public, including visitors to the country, to opt for safe, efficient, reliable, and environmentally friendly transportation options during their commutes.

During the holy month of Ramadan and the Eid al-Fitr holidays, Qatar Rail's network facilitated seamless transport for a large number of commuters, taking them to various destinations across Doha, including key mosques.

In addition to its operational achievements, it is learnt that Qatar Rail recently received the prestigious five-star recognition for overall organisational excellence from the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM).

This accolade, achieved on the first assessment under the new and improved EFQM model, reflects Qatar Rail's unwavering dedication to excellence and its relentless pursuit of quality and efficiency in operations.

## Attorney-General meets Gambia's chief justice



HE the Attorney-General Dr Issa bin Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi met with the chief justice of Gambia Hassan Bubacar Jallow and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting Qatar. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on a number of topics of common interest, and discussed ways to strengthen co-operation in the legal and judicial field and the exchange of experiences. (QNA)

## Andrea Bocelli concert tickets go live

Tickets are now live for the first-ever Qatar concert by the Italian music icon Andrea Bocelli on May 13 at the Lusail Multipurpose Arena. Visit Qatar is bringing Bocelli to Qatar as part of his 30th anniversary in the music industry tour. He has transformed the name of classical and pop music over the last 30 years.

The concertgoers can expect an evening full of incredible classical and pop music, featuring Bocelli's greatest hits.

The tickets to Andrea Bocelli's concert are on sale at <https://tickets.virginmegastore.me/qa/music/23990/andrea-bocelli>. The ticket categories start at Emerald (QR1,200), Gold (QR900), and Silver (QR300). Platinum and Diamond tickets are also offered (QR3,000 and QR1,800).



## Qatar Charity's income-generating projects create success stories

Qatar Charity (QC) continues its efforts to combat poverty around the world to provide decent livelihoods for needy and low-income groups. In 2023 it implemented more than 2,370 projects around the world, and the number of beneficiaries reached more than 17,000 in Jordan, Bosnia, Senegal, Somalia, Morocco, Niger, Yemen, Pakistan, Djibouti, Nepal and several other countries. The fields of these projects have

varied, such as professions and crafts, transportation, communications, and others. In Jordan, QC has implemented 76 projects during the past three years. Umm Ahmed is a low-income Jordanian woman who drew her success story with perseverance, diligence, and a lot of belief in herself and her ability to succeed. She started with 30 chickens, but now owns 50 and aspires to reach 1,000 eggs per day soon.

Ahmed said: "Thanks to the poultry project provided by Qatar Charity, I helped my children continue their studies, including providing for their daily needs. One of my children completed a master's degree in mathematics, while my other son and daughter are continuing their education at the university. Thank you to the people in Qatar and to Qatar Charity for this support, which has left an impact on our lives and the lives of our children."

## EAA expands education support in Haiti

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Education Above All Foundation (EAA) and Global Partnership for Education (GPE) have teamed up to support education in Haiti with a five-year project, by increasing access to quality education for vulnerable children, including those at-risk of dropping out of primary education, out-of-school children and students with disabilities.

The \$44mn grant for the five-year project will support the Ministry of National Education in achieving results by strengthening its information management system, enabling effective curriculum reform and high-quality sector management.

The project will also address the economic and food insecurity context of Haitian households by providing school feeding, and improve attendance and retention through remedial classes, reintegrating children into schools, and enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.

The worsening security situation in Haiti has exacerbated the challenges children face in accessing and remaining in education.

While in the majority of the country, the school year continues to proceed, in the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince, many children in areas controlled by armed groups, are deprived of their right to education due to school closures caused by instability.

This partnership between the EAA Foundation, IDB and GPE represents a firm commitment to addressing the educational crisis in Haiti. By combining resources and expertise, the partnership is committed to creating lasting positive change for Haitian children and their communities.

"Our commitment to Haiti remains steadfast. Together with the Education Above All Foundation, the Global Partnership for Education, and other partners, we're increasing access of vulnerable youth to quality education,



EAA with partners supports education in Haiti with a five-year project.

providing school feeding, remedial classes, and improve student retention in an effort to offer young Haitians a better future" said IDB president, Ilan Goldfajn.

"Supporting access to and retention in quality primary education in Haiti is not just a moral imperative but a strategic investment in the country's long-term stability and development," said, Fahad al-Sulaiti, CEO, EAA. "This partnership marks a significant step forward in our mission to ensure that most vulnerable children - regardless of their circumstances - have access to quality education. By joining forces, we are able to amplify our impact and reach even more at-risk and out-of-school children in Haiti.

"Our support to the children of Haiti, through access to schools, textbooks and qualified teachers, is more critical than ever to counter the impact of insecurity in the country," said, Laura Frigenti, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education. "With partners, GPE remains strongly committed to building a more resilient education system in Haiti so that the most vulnerable girls and boys can learn and build better lives for themselves and their communities."

## MGD unveils 'Golden Gift' offers

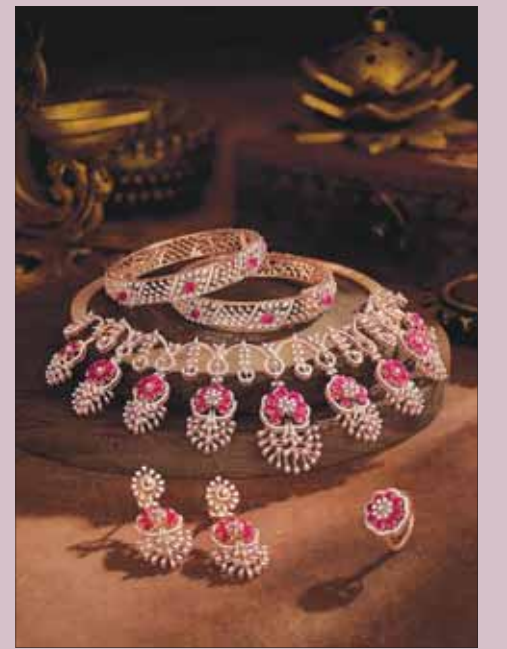
Malabar Gold & Diamonds (MGD), the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with a retail network of 350 outlets across 13 countries, has unveiled their 'Golden Gift' offers providing customers the chance to get free gold coins, a statement said. Customers can get assured gold coins with gold and diamond jewellery purchases until May 11. MGD will also be showcasing an exquisite array of jewellery collections in gold, diamond and precious gems across their numerous sub brands such as Mine, Era, Precia, Viraaaz, Ethnix and Divine.

As part of the Golden Gift offers, for every diamond or precious gem jewellery purchase worth worth QR5,000, customers will get free 1gm gold coin and for diamond and precious gem jewellery purchase worth QR3,000 they will be eligible for a half gram gold coin. Customers can also exchange their old 916 jewellery for the latest designs from MGD at zero deduction.

In light of the gold rate fluctuations, customers can take advantage of the Gold Rate Protection offer provided by MGD. Customers can block the prevailing gold rates by paying 10% as advance, until May 10. If the gold rate goes up during this period, customers can purchase at the blocked rate and if the rate happens to go down, customers can draw mileage from the lower rate.

The Gold Rate Protection offer can be availed by visiting any MGD outlet, or online through their mobile app.

"The Golden Gift offers from Malabar Gold & Diamonds will definitely be a great compliment to the prosperity that our customers usher in when they buy jewellery. With the assurance of



free gold coins on jewellery purchases along with many more offers, we are certain that connoisseurs of jewellery across the nation will flock to our showrooms.

"Offering great value on purchase along with a wide host of trendy designs that are a treat for jewellery lovers, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is once again solidifying its position as the go-to place for jewellery shopping," commented Shamlal Ahamed, managing director-International Operations, MGD.

## Saudi artist's exhibition opens at Katara



Katara - Cultural Village has inaugurated the Nostalgia exhibition by Saudi artist Mudhi Muslih. Running until May 1 in Hall 2, Building 18, the exhibition features 21 paintings. Katara's deputy general manager and human resources department director Saif Saad al-Dosari was present at the opening. Mudhi Muslih has participated in many local and international exhibitions. Her first exhibition, titled "Silent Confession," was held in Riyadh in 2018. Among her



most important participation was at Unesco, Paris in 2019, and she has received several awards, including the Souq Okaz Award in 2017 and the Best Presentation Award at Expo 2023 Doha.

## Msheireb Museums, Sidra Medicine hold Science Cafe event

Msheireb Museums and Sidra Medicine held the second edition of the Science Cafe series recently, focusing on topics related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in recognition of World Autism Month.

Titled "Managing the Puzzle: Autism Research, Inclusion, and Life Skills," the event explored critical topics shaping the healthcare landscape concerning ASD diagnosis and management with a focus on a holistic, person-centric approach.

Fahad al-Turky, manager, exhibitions and programmes at Msheireb Museums shared his thoughts after the event: "We are delighted to have partnered with Sidra Medicine once again to host an engaging and informative Science Cafe session. This event was a wonderful opportunity to increase our understanding of what it's like to live with autism, and to appreciate the efforts that are being made



The event focused on topics related to ASD in recognition of World Autism Month.

towards research in this area."

The event brought together a diverse array of insightful speakers, including presentations from Sidra Medicine's senior attending paediatrician Dr Madeeha Kamal who discussed ASD management, and Dr Aljazi Almaghri who shared the latest ASD research.

Breegeen Doherty, head of inclusion at The Hamilton International School, focused on education inclusion, and Ryan Moignard, Qatar

Foundation's Senior ASD/Special Needs Football Specialist and Coach, discussed insights from the Ability Friendly Programme. Co-founder and chief operating officer of Life Skills HUB, Nicole Alexander covered life skills development for people with ASD, while certified autism specialist Noora al-Eida represented the Autism Parents Platform.

In addition to hearing from clinical experts, attendees had a

valuable opportunity to hear from a person living with autism, who shared their powerful story and commented on the impressive strides Qatar has made in addressing the needs of people with ASD.

Dr Sahar Da'as, research manager at Sidra Medicine, who was instrumental in launching Sidra Medicine's Science Cafe initiative said: "I am proud of the work we have done as a community, along with our partner Msheireb Museums, to host the second Science Cafe on autism. As a parent of a child with autism, this topic holds a special place in my heart. Sidra Medicine is leading the way in ASD research and care in the region, making it one of the first hospitals in the GCC with an Autism Friendly initiative and the first to conduct a Middle Eastern based genetic study. I am inspired by the progress, healthcare and inclusive services available for children and families with ASD in Qatar."





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**GULF TIMES**

## Red-hot US economy: 'Cool it,' say global finance chiefs

The US economy is heating up despite the interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve. After another burst of growth in early 2024, the economy is on track to expand by at least 2% for the seventh quarter in a row. The last time the US pulled off such a feat was 20 years ago, in 2003-2004, according to a Dow Jones report. New forecasts released by the International Monetary Fund show just how much of an outlier the US is. The fund boosted its 2024 growth outlook for the US to 2.7%, up from 2.1% in January – more than double the pace of each of its Group of Seven counterparts.

While that's helping support global growth, it also means the US is "slightly overheated," IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva has said – thanks in part to Washington's fiscal stance, with the budget gap pushing toward 7% of GDP.

As President Joe Biden hailed America's booming economy as the strongest in the world, global finance chiefs who convened in Washington last week had a different message: Cool it.

The push-back from central bank governors and finance ministers highlights how the sting from a surging US economy – manifested through high interest rates and a strong dollar – is ricocheting around the world by forcing other currencies lower and complicating plans to bring down borrowing costs.

Fed chair Jerome Powell on April 16 issued a warning that the long-anticipated interest-rate cuts will be delayed yet further due to

disappointingly high US inflation readings.

That shift triggered a global government-bond selloff that sent yields to the highest levels in months and put pressure on a raft of currencies including the yen, which hit the lowest since 1990 against the dollar.

Japanese and South Korean authorities scrambled to talk up their currencies, Indonesia told state firms to hold off on big dollar purchases and Malaysia issued an intervention warning.

IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, earlier last week said the US budget stance creates "longer-term fiscal and financial stability risks for the global economy."

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner was more blunt, calling out Biden administration industrial policies including the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which offers subsidies for clean energy and the electric vehicle sector. A resurgent US dollar is exasperating central bankers and governments around the world, forcing them into action to relieve the pressure on their own currencies.

The greenback has gained against virtually every major peer in 2024, defying many on Wall Street who came into the year predicting a dollar selloff.

The US economy's standout performance will be a major driver of global growth this year but could make America's inflation problem harder to solve, according to the IMF.

The surprising resilience of the US economy would seem, on the face of it, to be good for corporations. But as the expansion ploughs ahead, pressures are forming beneath the surface to threaten some of the country's riskiest companies.

The relentless string of hot economic data pushes back the expected timing of rate cuts, and even calls them into question. Now, struggling companies instead face an extended period of elevated borrowing costs, pinched cash flows and rising defaults.

"America is rising," Biden has said. "We are the strongest economy in the world."

Yet the renewed use of industrial policy, export controls and other protectionist measures is also stoking a backlash from trading partners.

Trade protection is likely only to intensify should former president Donald Trump win re-election. Trump's plan to raise tariffs on US imports would spark a "free for all" in the global trading system that renders existing rules useless and hurts every economy, according to World Trade Organisation director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

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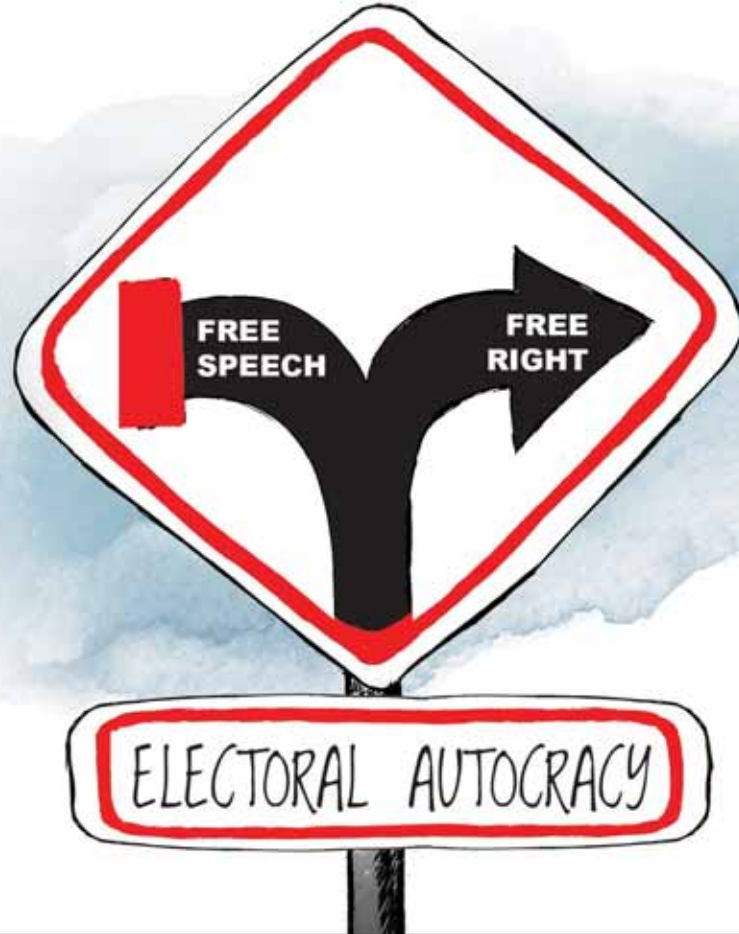
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## Recalling Doha Expo 2023: A greener future for our planet



**By José Benzaquén Perea**  
Ambassador of Peru

**U**nder the motto "Green Desert, Better Environment" and with the aim of seeking innovative and sustainable solutions to combat desertification – while also improving the environment – His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, inaugurated Expo 2023 Doha Horticulture, in Al Bidda Park, in early October 2023.

Since then, we have spent pleasant moments in the spacious environments, in which 77 countries participated with their pavilions in a global setting. The design of the facilities, accompanied by the greenery of the plants and the multicoloured flowers kept us in a permanent state of satisfaction, while valuing the importance of turning our world into green habitats, taking care of our environment.

The expo facilities were designed in an unbeatable way. Everything was in its proper place accompanied by a myriad of activities.

It was a monumental event, as predicted by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, for environmental development and an inspiration for all of us.

We were filled with joy, with music and dances from many nations, and expressions of different types of art for all. It was truly an international party, a meeting of peace and tranquility. A magnificent idea of the organisers was the celebration



of the "national days" of the participating countries with the attendance of high-ranking visitors and musical and artistic expressions, highlighting dances from afar.

We rode in the electric carts with friendly drivers, along with the high quality of visitors who were there during the 179 days of the exposition.

Each pavilion of the participating countries showed all its possible attractions in the development of horticulture and other aspects of interest to visitors and their families, a reflection of the union of nations of the world in friendship.

The great leadership of the State of Qatar was manifest in the objective of a greener future on our planet earth, for the benefit of future generations.

We have received many lessons from this global event, as the participating countries showed the latest trends in sustainability, modern agriculture and environmental

preservation, technologies and innovation.

The fact that this fair was held in a territory with its own characteristics took on a greater value as the challenges are greater and the conquest of the desert with other lives in flora and fauna requires a lot of effort and dedication, which we are seeing.

The ministers of State of Qatar highlighted this great and unique exhibition, such as the attendance of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; and the Minister of Municipality, Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiya, amongst others.

Special mention is reserved for the Secretary-General, Mohamed Ali Alkhoodri; the General Commissioner of the event, ambassador Bader Omar al-Dafa, as well as all his collaborators who could not have done better.

Having become

aware of what we must do, Expo 2023 Doha, undoubtedly, leaves us with a great life lesson and responsibility to continue with the development of projects in this vital space for the good and life of the planet.

I also admire Sidra, a beautiful tree, which with its strength symbolically keeps perennial the example of overcoming all difficulties to live, grow and multiply, becoming a beautiful haven for various species of birds that are adapting to new habitats.

I must express that this international meeting also led us to reaffirm our respect for nature and with Mother Earth, the "Pacha Mama" (in Quechua language), revered by our ancient Peruvian cultures, such as the Inca Empire, creator of the world wonder "Machu Picchu"; and that, to this day, they are revered.

With that generosity so characteristic of Qatar, we had the opportunity to install the Peruvian Pavilion, where we showed our quinoa, blueberries, avocados, asparagus, pomegranates, grapes, products that we find in the markets of Qatar.

I must express that my country has become a large producer of high quality fruits and vegetables, while rescuing extensive cultivation areas that were previously desert and its territory houses 84 of the 117 life zones and biodiversity of the world, thanks to the work of our farmers.

We have reached the first places of export in various products, highlighting blueberries, asparagus, avocado, mangoes, grapes, quinoa, organic bananas, olives, coffee and cocoa.

Finally, I would like to state that within the framework of Expo 2023 Doha and in co-ordination with HE the Minister of Municipality and the Department of Public Parks Mohamed Adullah Mohamed, at the beginning of March the ambassadors of Latin America and the Caribbean – GRULAC, planted future Sidra trees in the gardens of Al Bidda Park, which will perpetuate our friendship with a great country, Qatar!





## QC, QMC partner for journalism workshops

The activities of the "How to be a journalist" programme have been organised by Qatar Charity (QC) in co-operation with the Qatar Media Centre (QMC), affiliated with the Ministry of Culture (MoC).

The aim is to develop the talents of students in the middle school in the field of media and journalism, and to enhance the values of citizenship.

The programme includes a number of media training workshops on voice and voice-over skills, writing skills and journalistic editing.

The group of trainers, academics and specialists include Dr Abdullah Faraj, Dr Ahmed al-Janabi and Ahmed Zarfa.

The workshops are presented at the QMC headquarters at the rate of one per week, and certificates distributed to participants at the conclusion of the programme.

## Hyundai bus models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with National Car Company, has announced the recall of Hyundai County Bus, Universe Bus, and Aerocity Bus, 2017-2023 models, as the emergency exit sticker and glass breaker are not installed, leading to difficulty exiting the vehicles in emergency situations.

The MoCI urged all customers to report any violation 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.

## Community Police hold awareness lecture

The Community Police Department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) organised a lecture on Monday at the residential complex of Qatar Energy in Al Khor area, a statement said, as part of the department's plan to implement an educational and guidance programme aimed at raising awareness among the company's employees and enhancing community partnerships.

Community Police Department director Brigadier Dr Ibrahim Mohamed al-Sameeh outlined the concept of community policing and the roles it performs, as well as the strategy, objectives and implementation requirements.

## Culture ministry launches flagpole design contest

The Ministry of Culture has announced the launch of a flagpole design competition for the national flag of Qatar, starting from April 22 until the deadline on June 25.

Visual Arts Centre director Hoda al-Saadi said that the competition consists of designing and implementing a flagpole for the national flag, to be installed in various locations in the country and to become an artistic landmark and tourist attraction.

She added that the design must be innovative and artistic, exhibit a unique conceptual design and skillful production, and must be inspired by the local environment, history, and/or society, in an expression of national unity, solidarity, and pride.

The application must include a clear, executable, original and personally-made design, attached with a comprehensive description of all aspects and stages of the design, including the concept behind it, as well as all technical and engineering aspects and specifications such as measurements, dimensions, and raw materials to be used and their specifications.

The design must be three-dimensional, have at least two interfaces, and be designed using design software programs such as AutoCAD, 3D Max, Sketchup, or Revit, with all software programs used for the design indicated in the application.

The application must be sent in PDF format to visualartmoci.gov.qa, in addition to being submitted in hard copy format, printed on A3 paper, with the designer's name indicated at the back of the sheet, and must be placed in a sealed envelope and handed in at the Visual Arts Centre.

For quality purposes, the winner is obliged to attend all meetings and design workshops with the implementing agency and follow through with the project until the flagposts are installed on site.

Participants must be Qatari nationals and must participate with one design only.

The design must not have been submitted to other entities, competitions, or projects in Qatar, and cannot be used for any other entities, competitions, or projects until the winning design is announced.

The winning design's intellectual property rights will be transferred to the Ministry of Culture. - QNA

## Helicopters crash in Malaysia, killing 10

Two Malaysian navy helicopters collided in mid-air during a rehearsal for a naval parade yesterday, killing all 10 crew members aboard. The incident occurred at the Lumut naval base in the western state of Perak at 9.32am yesterday (0132 GMT), the navy said. "All victims were confirmed dead at the scene and sent to the Lumut naval base military hospital for identification," the navy said. The navy said it would carry out an investigation into the cause of the accident. - Reuters

## China issues highest-level rain warning

More than 100,000 people have been evacuated due to heavy rain and fatal floods in southern China, with the government issuing its highest-level rainstorm warning for the affected area yesterday. Torrential rains have lashed Guangdong province in recent days, swelling rivers and raising fears of severe flooding that state media said could be of the sort only "seen around once a century". - AFP

# Ministry reaffirms Qatar's commitment to sparing children from ravages of war

The Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari, has reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to sparing children from the horrors of war, regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds, and emphasised the necessity for the international community to consider the situation in Gaza from this perspective.



Dr Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari

During the Foreign Ministry's weekly media briefing, Dr al-Ansari highlighted that the number of children dying in Gaza exceeds that of any conflict in past decades.

He stressed the need for international co-operation to understand the suffering resulting from this prolonged conflict and the daily tragedies they endure.

Dr al-Ansari added that there is a generation of orphans suffering from the consequences of this war, and said that they must be cared for and spared the scourge of this humanitarian catastrophe and its aftermath.

He pointed to a prevailing sense of frustration, not only among mediators but also across the international community, due to the failure to reach an agreement during Ramadan or Eid al-Fitr to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian brethren.

Dr al-Ansari said that Qatar is currently reassessing this phase of mediation efforts and has expressed displeasure on several occasions regarding continuous and fabricated attacks on mediators, especially Doha, despite its commitment to play a significant role in achieving a positive outcome that halts the war machine.

He highlighted Qatar's success in brokering a seven-day ceasefire, during which prisoners were exchanged between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The official reiterated that Qatar's diplomatic efforts continue through Gulf, Arab, and United Nations platforms, and said that HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani will meet the Greek foreign minister today.

Dr al-Ansari added that HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs will meet his Armenian counterpart on Sunday, and lead the Qatar delegation participating in the World Economic Forum

Special Meeting on Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development, scheduled to take place in Riyadh on the same day.

The official added that Qatar will host the third edition of the Arab Economic and Co-operation Forum with the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan on Monday, where the minister will deliver the opening speech, in addition to holding meetings with top officials the same day.

Dr al-Ansari emphasised that all these diplomatic activities and ongoing efforts are aimed at de-escalating tensions in the region and end the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

He also expressed dismay at statements made by Israeli officials and ministers regarding Qatar's role in the negotiations, saying that they are fabricating lies for political purposes.

Dr al-Ansari called for the cessation of these statements, which distort reality and do not reflect commitment and seriousness in reaching a peaceful agreement and ending the conflict.

He pointed out that Qatar's mediation efforts that have yielded positive results on numerous occasions, leading to the return of 109 individuals to their families and halting the war multiple times.

Regarding the possibility of a military operation in Rafah, Dr al-Ansari said that any Israeli attack under the current situation in Rafah is entirely unacceptable amidst the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

He stressed the importance of halting the anticipated attack on Rafah and compelling the Israeli side to adhere to the decisions of the International Court of Justice, the United Nations General Assembly, and the Security Council.

Dr al-Ansari affirmed Qatar's ongoing humanitarian commitment, with continuous airlifts and aid efforts, and diplomatic endeavours through the Gulf, Arab, and United Nations platforms.

He highlighted the arrival of 20 Russian and Ukrainian families, including 37 children, in Doha under a comprehensive programme aimed at providing healthcare and comprehensive support to these families and their children, as part of Qatar's ongoing mediation efforts to reunite families displaced by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Doha will host these families until April 27. - QNA

## UN calls for international probe into deaths at Gaza hospitals

The United Nations has called for an international investigation into reports of mass graves at two Gaza hospitals destroyed in Israeli sieges, saying war crimes might have been committed.

The UN rights office said it was "horrified" by the destruction of Gaza's biggest hospital, Al-Shifa in Gaza City, and its second largest, the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis.

Gaza's Civil Defence agency said yesterday that health workers had uncovered nearly 340 bodies, updating an earlier figure, of Palestinians allegedly killed and buried by Israeli forces at the Nasser complex. Israel's army dismissed claims that its troops had buried bodies during its operation at Nasser as "baseless and unfounded".

The UN rights office demanded "independent, effective and transparent investigations into the deaths". "Given the prevailing climate of impunity, this should include international investigators," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement.

Hospitals, which are protected under international law, have repeatedly come under Israeli bombardment over more than six months of war in Gaza. - AFP



mentation requirements.

He emphasised the role of community police in serving the community, strengthening ties with individuals and institutions, promoting a culture of crime prevention, reducing crime rates and enhancing public security.

The official also explained several key principles for crime prevention and combating crime, highlighting the importance of constructive and positive communication between the community members and the MoI to achieve comprehensive security.

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Despite serving as a mediator in various conflicts, Qatar asserts that it does not benefit from such endeavours.

Instead, the primary beneficiaries are the conflicting parties themselves and external actors, including the US.

Qatar refuses to succumb to congressional pressure or electoral propaganda, rejecting any involvement in tarnishing its national reputation.

It should be noted that Qatar and the US are strategic allies. Qatar has been designated a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) ally by the US.

Qatar's partnership with the US has indeed strengthened over the years, with both countries engaging in various sectors beyond oil and gas.

Qatar has been a trustworthy partner for the US in the Middle East.

It has supported US military operations in the region and hosts the Al Udeid Air Base, one of the largest US military bases in the Middle East.

The trade relationship between Qatar and the US has flourished, with trade exceeding \$200bn.

Qatar is a significant market for US exports, particularly in sectors such as aircraft, machinery, and technology.

The US is also a key destination for Qatari exports, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petrochemicals.

Qatar has been a major buyer of aircraft from the US aerospace company Boeing and the F16 fighter. These purchases have contributed to the US economy and job creation in the civil and military aerospace industry.

The military relationship between Qatar and the US extends beyond hosting military bases.

Both countries engage in military exercises, training programmes, and defence co-operation agreements. This partnership enhances regional security and interoperability between Qatari and US military forces.

The sixth US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue was held in Washington DC in March this year, highlighting the breadth and depth of the 50-year relationship between both countries, from economic and security

## Qatari mediation and historical lessons

co-operation to emerging technology and fostering connections among cities and communities.

Qatar and the US collaborate closely on security issues, including counterterrorism efforts and intelligence sharing.

Qatar has taken steps to combat terrorism financing and extremism, aligning its efforts with US priorities in the region.

According to the US State Department, the US and Qatar have continued to increase counter-terrorism co-operation since the signing of a bilateral counterterrorism memorandum of understanding in July 2017.

Beyond traditional sectors, Qatar and the US also collaborate in commercial ventures such as infrastructure development, finance, and technology.

Qatari investment in the US spans a range of industries, including real estate, hospitality, and entertainment.

### Qatar refuses to succumb to... (US) pressure or electoral propaganda, rejecting any involvement in tarnishing its national reputation

While Qatar is known for its significant reserves of oil and natural gas, the relationship with the US extends beyond energy exports.

Qatar has invested in US energy projects and companies, and there is ongoing co-operation in many energy research and technology development projects.

Yet another solid example of Qatar's deep-rooted ties with the US is co-operation in the education field.

Qatar Foundation's Education City is home to branch campuses of several elite American universities from where thousands of students have graduated over the years.

Further, a large number of Qatari students have graduated from many American universities, and many are studying currently.

Overall, the partnership between Qatar and the US is multifaceted and extends across economic, military, and security domains, contributing to stability and

prosperity in the region and beyond.

That said, Qatar recently rejected US congressman Steny Hoyer's comments regarding the Gaza hostage crisis and his threat to "reevaluate" the US relationship with Qatar.

Hoyer said that Qatar, which along with Egypt is mediating negotiations for a ceasefire in Gaza, should tell Hamas there will be "repercussions" if it continues to block progress.

In response, Qatar said Hoyer's comments were not "constructive".

Qatar's embassy in the US said that "it is useful to remember that Qatar's mediation role exists only because we were asked by the US in 2012 to play this role, since regrettably, Israel and Hamas refuse to speak to each other directly".

It was reiterated that "Qatar is only a mediator".

Needless to say, such false accusations destroy relationships.

In November last year, Republican senator Ted Budd and Qatar's ambassador to the US Meshal Hamad al-Thani argued back and forth on social media, with the US lawmaker criticising the Gulf country for hosting Hamas while at the same time negotiating for the release of hostages held by the group in the Gaza Strip.

The Qatari envoy reminded Budd that he had earlier explained that the channel of communication between Qatar and Hamas was set up at the request of the US.

It was only because of Qatar's historic mediations that the US could withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Qatar sponsored the negotiations between the US and Afghanistan for several years.

Qatar's role as a facilitator of dialogue between all parties in Afghanistan during the two-decade war is widely considered one of the Gulf state's most prominent mediation efforts.

Qatar has been involved in talks both before and after the Taliban captured the Afghan capital, Kabul, on August 15, 2021.

Later, it assumed a more pivotal role by evacuating more than 100,000 Afghans and foreigners from the country, in what

has been described as history's largest airlift of people.

With regard to the ongoing Israeli incursion into Gaza, Qatar hosted all the American and Israeli parties and the Hamas movement, and the first phase was crowned with success.

If the negotiation process had continued, we would have stopped the war of genocide and ethnic cleansing and saved the lives of thousands of innocent children, women, civilians, and also Israeli prisoners.

The idea of demonising Qatar is a ridiculous and despicable idea that we have become accustomed to, and it has several factors, including that of political gains and the failure of all parties to reach a solution.

The reason is a desire for ultimate revenge and also the disgusting international support for Israel by obstructing

### It is useful to remember that Qatar's mediation role exists only because we were asked by the US in 2012 to play this role

the Security Council from issuing any resolution against Israel.

We return to mediation.

I applaud my country's role in the courage to continue in the role of regional mediator, but we will not accept the affixation of accusations and the transmission of the narrative of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the failed, fanatical politician and his fascist government that uses religious texts, such as ISIS and others, that Qatar supports Hamas and is conveyed by members of the US Congress for unscrupulous political gain.

Qatari public opinion supports the government's approach to reconsider mediation because we do not accept that there will be political gain based on our country's reputation, and enough of the political hypocrisy.

It should not be forgotten that the Hamas office in Qatar is under special arrangement by the US.

Financial transfers to Gaza were part of

the global Qatari humanitarian aid.

Qatar's role in Gaza has always been developmental and supporting the Palestinian brothers in Gaza and all of Palestine.

Some of Gaza's projects are in supporting schools, including the Al-Fakhoora programme, developing communications network, and urban development, building housing for people with limited income, and hospitals in Gaza, including Hamad Hospital.

All of these projects are working with the knowledge and co-ordination of all parties; it is not a secret.

In the face of political obstinacy, Qatar singles out Netanyahu for his intransigence, driven by internal ideological agendas and religious fervour.

It underscores the limited international support for Israel's actions, with only a handful of countries backing its stance in international forums such as the International Criminal Court.

Qatar reaffirms its commitment to mediation based on principles of mutual respect and trust.

It emphasises that genuine mediation requires integrity and a willingness to uphold impartiality, rather than succumbing to internal political skirmishes or external pressure.

Qatar's track record as a respected mediator, trusted by all parties, underscores its dedication to fostering peace and stability in the region.

Despite criticism, Qatar contemplates the possibility of withdrawing from mediation altogether, calling upon the international community, particularly superpowers, to bear their moral responsibility.

Qatar suggests that relinquishing its role as a mediator would compel powerful nations to assume greater accountability on the global stage, resonating with the sentiments of the Qatari public.

In conclusion, Qatar's response to political pressure and propaganda underscores its unwavering commitment to mediation integrity and impartiality.

As the nation navigates geopolitical challenges, it remains steadfast in upholding its reputation as a trusted mediator and advocate for peace on the world stage.



# Mesaieed Park opened by Municipality Minister

**H**E the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah yesterday inaugurated the Mesaieed Park, under the jurisdiction of Al Wakra Municipality.

Designed and implemented by the Public Gardens Department at the ministry according to the highest international standards, the new park will serve the residents of Mesaieed and neighbouring areas, by encouraging them to practice running and walking.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Central Municipal Council (CMC) deputy chairman Mubarak bin Fareesh al-Salem, Ministry of Municipality's General Services Affairs assistant undersecretary engineer Abdullah Ahmed al-Kirani, Urban Planning Affairs assistant undersecretary Turki Fahd al-Turki, CMC member for Constituency 20 Saeed Ali al-Marri, several other officials, including some from QatarEnergy.

HE the Minister of Municipality stressed Qatar's interest, in increasing the construction and development of public parks and gardens, planting trees, and expanding green areas across the country as a healthy and recreational outlet for citizens, residents, and visitors, aiming to achieve sustainable environmental development goals, based on the Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030) towards National Vision 2030.

He also highlighted the considerable development seen at all the parks, recreational areas, and green spaces in the country.

By 2023, there were 144 parks, plazas and corniches. Besides, the green spaces in the country amounted to 43sq km in 2023.

Al-Kirani pointed out that the General Services Sector at the



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah yesterday inaugurated the Mesaieed Park, in the presence of a number of officials. **PICTURES:** Ram Chand and supplied

Ministry of Municipality pays great attention to establishing new public parks, and renovating the old and dilapidated ones.

The ministry, in co-ordination with relevant entities, has developed a strategic plan to increase green spaces and the number of parks across the country, distributed among all municipalities in the coming years.

Mohamed Ibrahim al-Sada, acting director of the Public Gardens Department, said that the construction of the Mesaieed Park was completed within 10 months, and the department will supervise its maintenance and operation. The park, spread across 38,029sq m, includes a 676m sports track with rubber surface.

The green areas cover about 11,316sq m with natural grass, trees, and palms, irrigated using the latest automatic methods.

Further, the park features three football fields: the first with 1,847sq m for adults, the second with 450sq m for children aged



6-15, and the third with 288sq m for children under eight. In addition there is a basketball court covering 553sq m and a tennis court across 667sq m.

The park includes an illuminated water fountain covering an area of 130sq m, and six illuminated pergolas of a total area of 350sq m.

The park has also a covered children's play area, with rubber flooring, for ages 3-15. There are

sports equipment for children and adults in four areas. The park has air-conditioned toilets, including facilities for people with special needs, a furnished women's prayer area with its own ablution area.

The park is equipped with all safety and security features, including surveillance cameras. There are 132 parking lots, including for people with special needs and police vehicles.



# Qatar lays foundation stone for pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, Japan

**Q**atar yesterday laid the foundation stone for its pavilion at EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, aiming to further fortify the comprehensive strategic bilateral partnership, which has been flourishing for more than 50 years.

The event was attended by Jaber Jaralla al-Marri, Qatar's ambassador to Japan and Commissioner-General of Qatar at EXPO 2025; and Sheikh Ali Alwaleed al-Thani, deputy commissioner-general and chairman of the preparation committee for Qatar's participation in EXPO 2025 Osaka, as well as a number of political, media, social and business figures in addition to EXPO organising committee representatives.

The EXPO, which will be held from April 13 to October 13, 2025, will focus on three sub-themes "Saving Lives, Empowering Lives and Connecting Lives."

The pavilion was collaboratively designed by Qatar Museums and Kengo Kuma and Associates after extensive visits to Doha by the designers.

The pavilion's design is inspired by a fusion of Qatari and Japanese cultures, particularly the shared elements such as the wood used in the building of traditional dhows, the wood used in the construction of traditional Japanese houses and the fabric used in their interiors. The total area of the pavilion is estimated at 1,292sq m.

Highlighting that Qatar's participation aims to showcase the country's achievements across various fields; al-Marri said it offers an opportunity to strengthen and foster economic and social links not only between the two friendly countries but also with other nations participating in the exhibition.

Sheikh Ali said Qatar's participation involves establishing a distinguished, high-level pavilion characterised by its innovative design and state-of-the-art equipment, showcasing the nation's rich history, vibrant present and promising future across various fields.

"This endeavour also presents

an opportunity to spotlight the country's developmental milestones, promoting Qatar as both a prime tourism destination and an attractive hub for global businesses and investors across diverse economic sectors," he added.

The activities planned at Qatar Pavilion will underscore the nation's progress towards Qatar National Vision 2030, in addition to presenting the incentives and investment prospects offered by the state to implement its plans aimed at achieving economic diversification under the targets of the Third Qatar National Development Strategy 2024-30.

The exhibition will additionally feature an exceptional experience that exemplifies the strong ties between Qatar and Japan in many areas, including culture, trade, customs and traditions. About 150 countries and 25 international organisations will participate in the exhibition, attracting 82mn visitors including 3.5mn from outside Japan.



# China Southern Airlines' Guangzhou-Doha services commence



**H**amad International Airport has announced the commencement of four weekly flights from Guangzhou to Doha by China Southern Airlines, further enhancing connectivity between China and Qatar.

This follows the codeshare announcement between Qatar Airways and China Southern Airlines in February this year.

Commenced on Monday, the route was being served by a Boeing B787-9 aircraft with a capacity of some 203 seats.

This new service by China Southern Airlines supplements Qatar Airways' existing operations to seven major cities in China - Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Chengdu, Chongqing, and Xiamen, offering over 27,000 weekly seats to and from Doha through Hamad International Airport.

As one of China's largest airlines, China Southern Airlines operates around 3,000 daily flights to more than 200 destinations globally.

It joined Hamad International Airport as the second Chinese airline, following Xiamen Airlines, and marks the fourth airline to commence operations to the airport in 2024, after Akasa Air,



Water cannon salute for the China Southern Airlines plane at Hamad International Airport.

Japan Airlines, and Garuda Indonesia.

Sujata Suri, senior vice-president (Finance and Procurement) at Hamad International Airport, said: "China is one of our strategic markets and plays a crucial role in the aviation and tourism industry. The commencement of China Southern Airlines' flights to Hamad International Airport will bolster tradelines between both countries, cater to the anticipated growth in traffic movement and offer better connectivity for millions of travellers. This partnership will strengthen our

position in becoming the preferred hub to connect China with Europe, the Middle East, and Africa."

HIA said, "The extensive network between China and Qatar underscores the importance of robust connectivity to facilitate travel demand, as travel recovery is expected to grow this year.

"The addition of China Southern Airlines to Hamad International Airport's roster is anticipated to further stimulate tourism, nurture trade relationships and fortify business relations between the two countries."