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**Our Say**



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

**Silencing the media has never worked and never will**

Through its despicable and pathetic move to close Al Jazeera's offices, Israel has once again proved that it is a liar, does not believe in democracy, free journalism nor follow the international laws or the orders from the International Court of Justice. It is unfortunate that the world is a mute witness the state of gangsters trying to get away with their unpardonable crimes against humanity while blaming others to hide the failure of their management. As Al Jazeera Media Network stated yesterday, ironically as the world marked World Press Freedom Day, the Israeli government closed Al Jazeera's offices, preventing the public from accessing its content, disregarding the universally recognised fundamentals of freedom of expression. Israel's ongoing suppression of the free press, seen as an effort to conceal its actions in the Gaza Strip, stands in contravention of international and humanitarian law. Israel has killed more than 140 Palestinian journalists since the beginning of the war on Gaza. The world has not forgotten that Israeli forces used lethal force without justification when they shot and killed Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in the occupied West Bank in May 2022, violating her "right to life". None other than the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel "concluded on reasonable grounds that Israeli forces used lethal force without justification under international human rights law." Abu Akleh, a Christian American citizen and acclaimed correspondent for the Doha-based media network, was shot in the head while covering an Israeli military raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. The killing of Shireen Abu Akleh in Jenin is a direct result of Israel's militarisation of law enforcement operations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem," said Navi Pillay, chair of the Commission. "Shireen Abu Akleh is another victim of the excessive and disproportionate force used by Israeli security forces in these operations. This was also an attack against journalists, who were all clearly identifiable, which is a recurring pattern identified by the Commission. Al Jazeera Gaza bureau chief Wael al-Dahdouh is a living martyr with numerous members of his family killed by the Israeli military during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. His wife, seven-year-old daughter, and 15-year-old son were killed in an Israeli airstrike on the Nuseirat refugee camp on October 28, 2023, in addition to eight of his other relatives. **To Page 9** [falmudahka@gulf-times.com](mailto:falmudahka@gulf-times.com)

## Al Jazeera offices in Israel shut down

**• Network condemns violation of right to information access**

In a deceptive and slanderous move, the Israeli cabinet, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, unanimously voted to shut down Al Jazeera's offices in Israel, the network said in a statement issued in Doha yesterday. "They also chose to withdraw crew accreditations as well as banning media service providers from transmitting its broadcasts and blocking Al Jazeera Media Network websites. "Ironically as the world marked World Press Freedom Day; the Israeli government closed Al Jazeera's offices, preventing the public from accessing its content, disregarding the universally recognised fundamentals of freedom of expression. "Al Jazeera Media Network strongly condemns and denounces this criminal act that violates human rights and the basic right to access of information. Al Jazeera affirms its right to continue to provide news and information to its global audiences. "Israel's ongoing suppression of the free press, seen as an effort to conceal its actions in the Gaza

Strip, stands in contravention of international and humanitarian law. Israel's direct targeting and killing of journalists, arrests, intimidation and threats will not deter Al Jazeera from its commitment to cover, whilst more than 140 Palestinian journalists have been killed since the beginning of the war on Gaza. "The Network vehemently rejects the allegations presented by Israeli authorities suggesting professional media standards have been violated. It reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the values embodied by its Code of Ethics. "Al Jazeera urges all media freedom, human rights, and other concerned organisations, to condemn the repeated attacks on journalists and the press by Israel, and to hold those responsible to account. The Network will pursue all available legal channels through international legal institutions in its quest to protect both its rights and journalists, as well as the public's right to information. "Targeting journalists is a crime," the statement added.

## Hamas, Israel in truce stalemate

AFP  
Gaza Strip

A Hamas official said yesterday the group's delegation for Gaza truce talks in Cairo was leaving, after public disagreement with Israel intensified over demands to end their seven-month war. Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "surrendering" to a demand to end the war would amount to defeat. The political chief of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, countered by accusing Netanyahu of sabotaging the talks. The Hamas official, who requested anonymity to discuss the negotiations, told AFP that "the meeting with the Egyptian intelligence minister has ended and the Hamas delegation is leaving for further consultations". The Hamas negotiators are due back in Cairo tomorrow, said Al-Qahera News, a site linked to Egyptian intelligence services. CIA director Bill Burns meanwhile was headed for "emergency" talks on mediation efforts, a source with knowledge of the discussions told AFP. Netanyahu yesterday also announced a government decision to close operations in Israel of Qatar-based news channel Al Jazeera, which has broadcast round-the-clock coverage of the conflict.



Mourners react near to the bodies of Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike at Abu Yusef Al-Najjar hospital in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. (Reuters)

It went off-air a short time later. The network condemned Israel's decision as a "criminal act", and said it would take legal action. Israel's military offensive has killed at least 34,683 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. An AFP correspondent and witnesses reported shelling and gunfire in Gaza City yesterday, helicopter fire in central and southern Gaza, and a missile strike on a house in the Rafah area. "We want a ceasefire and for Gaza to return to how it was, or even better," said displaced woman Umm Jamil al-Ghoussein in the southern city of Rafah, where about 1.2mn Gazans have sought shelter. Arwa Saqr, displaced from Khan Yunis, said she has "lost hope that the negotiations will succeed". The Palestinian civilian toll has strained ties between Israel and its main military supplier and ally the United States. Negotiators met in Cairo yesterday without an Israeli delegation present. Any truce reached would be the first since a week-long November ceasefire saw a hostage-prisoner swap.

## MoECC launches aerial monitoring service



The aircraft has the ability to early detect fires in wild areas, by searching for any smoke plumes or abnormal temperature points.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) yesterday launched an environmental and meteorological monitoring initiative through autogyro or gyrocopter. The launch event at Umm Shakhout airstrip was attended by HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaia, who took a tour in the small aircraft over a large swathe of land and sea. Commenting on the event, HE the Minister said the initiative comes within the framework of the MoECC's direction

to use modern means and advanced technology to achieve its mission aimed at protecting the local environment and its biodiversity. He described the aerial monitoring as a new phase in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, relying primarily on the use of technological development and artificial intelligence. The MoECC seeks to augment its collaboration with national scientific and research institutions, including Hamad Bin Khalifa University, University of Doha for Science and Technology, Qatar University, and

ExxonMobil Research Qatar. A statement from the MoECC explained that the gyrocopter deployed for the task features advanced technologies including remote sensing and high-resolution photo and video cameras, wireless communications system with various devices installed on the ground. During its flights to monitor the environment and conduct scientific research, there will be an environmental observer accompanying the pilot of the craft, and communicating directly with the MoECC's ground teams, which undertakes rapid measures as required. **To Page 9**

## MoFA unveils new website

HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, launched yesterday the MoFA's new website, which was built in accordance with the latest global technologies. The newly launched website is set to carry the MoFA's activities and events and highlight its vision and mission, and the achievements of Qatar's diplomacy. Director of Information Technology at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abdulaziz bin Mohamed al-Naemi, said the new site would offer several advanced E-services, including those related to attestations. For attestations, applicants can log in using the national authentication system (NAS), and submit their requests, while handing the documents to be carried in collaboration with Qatar Post, he said.



He added that the new website would offer around-the-clock support in nine languages, in collaboration with the Government Contact Center (109). Meanwhile, Media and Communication Department Director, Ibrahim bin Sultan al-Hashmi, said that the new website will serve in its first phase as a reference and open archive for the MoFA's data before expanding in the second phase to a photo gallery and a page that documents Qatar's

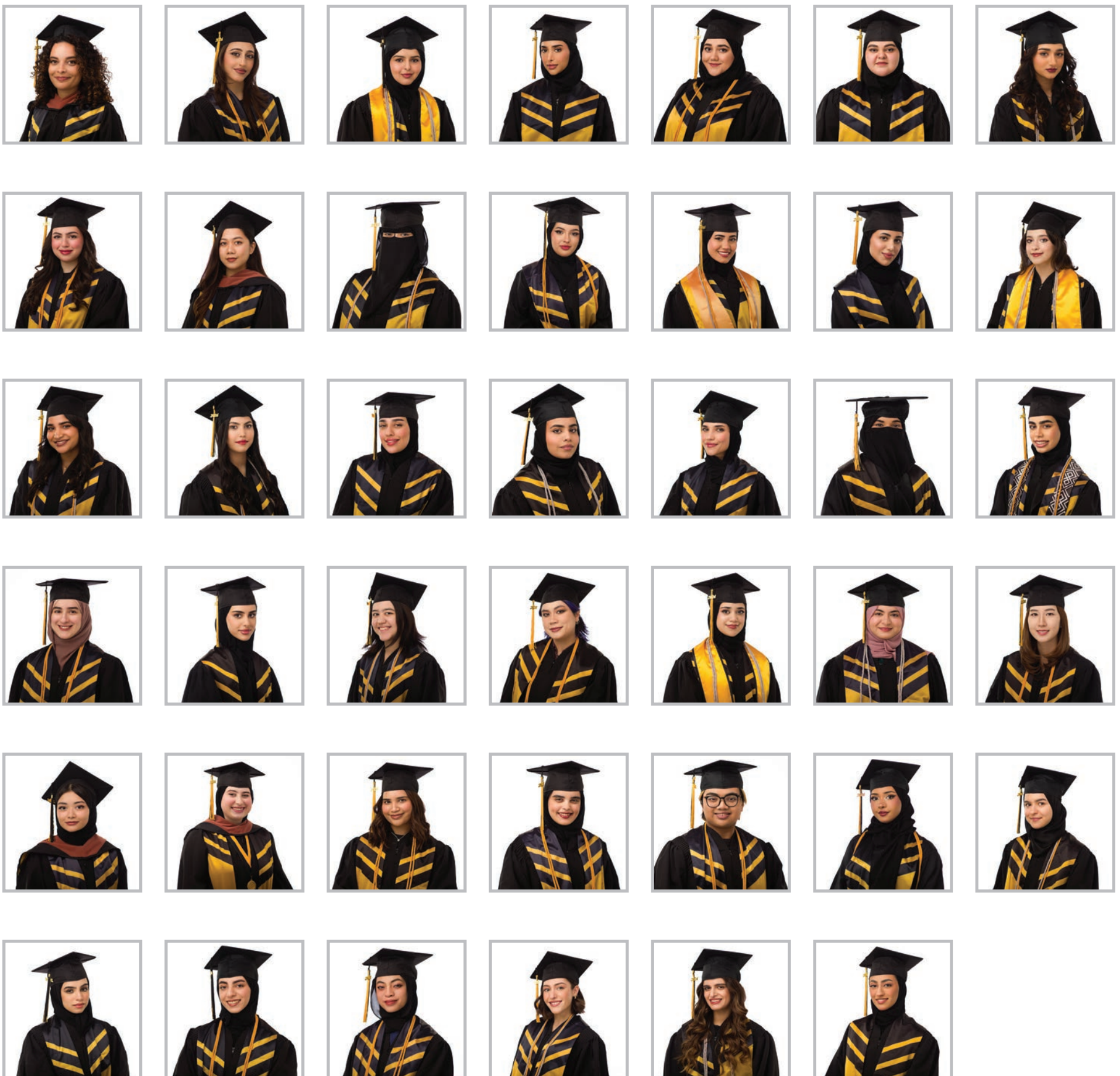
**Introducing: Digital endowment**

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs' General Directorate of Endowments has launched a digital endowment, in keeping pace with developments in technology, digitisation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and their role in developing the work of institutions, society, and human resources. This comes as part of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy For Qatar, which is structured around six thematic pillars which together will guide Qatar to transform itself for an AI Future. This strategy should enable Qatar to produce world-class artificial intelligence applications, have a business environment that uses AI as an engine of innovation, and become an effective AI consumer, with the country enjoying a well-educated population, sound laws, and ethical guidelines. Moreover, this launch comes in the context of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs adopting information technology and raising its efficiency to its ultimate level. Director of General Directorate of Endowments Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Mohamed bin Ghanem al-Thani said that launching digital endowment is necessary to keep pace with the tremendous developments of this age of rapid changes, and stemming from the great Islamic heritage, which laid the foundation for the scientific method and algorithms which shaped modern mathematics that gave birth to information technologies and AI. The director added that the goal behind launching this new endowment is to enhance information technology and AI in developing legal, educational, health and research, and other aspects that touch human lives and the environment surrounding them.



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

مبروك دفعة ٢٠٢٤



# Shura, GCC to hold panel discussion on diversity, safeguarding Gulf identity

The Shura Council, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) will organise tomorrow a panel discussion on cultural diversity and challenges of change and role of legislative councils in safeguarding the Gulf identity.

The panel will feature several speakers including members of the Shura Council, a number of professionals, academics and stakeholders, alongside several representatives of the Gulf legislative councils.

HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem will inaugurate the panel discussion.

The event will host HE the Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari as keynote speaker.



The function aims to highlight cultural diversity and how to capitalise on it, with emphasis on the importance of strengthening the Gulf identity, in addition to underscoring the shared commonalities in this identity, sharing expertise and experiences and to shine spotlight on the role of legislative

councils in promoting the Gulf identity. The organisation of this panel comes at the request of heads of the Shura, representatives, national and Umamah Councils of the GCC countries in the 17th regular meeting of the heads of the Gulf legislative councils held in November 2023 in Doha. (QNA)

## The Gambia president meets al-Muraikhi



President of The Gambia Adama Barrow met with HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi on the margins of the 15th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Banjul, Gambia. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs conveyed, during the meeting, the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to The Gambian president, and His Highness' wishes of good health, happiness to the president, and the government and the people of The Gambia continued progress and prosperity. The Gambian president entrusted the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, and wished His Highness good health and happiness, and Qatar enduring progress, development and prosperity. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties and co-operation between the friendly countries. (QNA)

## Amir sends condolences to King Salman

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia on the death of Prince Badr bin Abdulmohsin bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. (QNA)

## Municipality minister in Muscat meetings



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met with Minister of Housing and Urban Planning of the Sultanate of Oman Dr Khalfan al-Shuaili. They discussed co-operation between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them in the fields of urban planning, infrastructure, smart cities, and various areas of common interest. HE the Minister of Municipality highlighted the comprehensive urban renaissance unfolding in Qatar, a testament to the unwavering commitment towards the realisation of Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met in Muscat yesterday with Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources of the Sultanate of Oman Dr Saud bin Hamoud al-Habsi. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed aspects of co-operation between Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, and food security. Officials from the private sector and several Omani entities and companies attended the meeting. (QNA)

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# Sustainability, innovation in focus as Teffa begins today

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

**M**sheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) highlighted its commitment to sustainability and innovation as it launches its 2nd edition of the Technology Education Finance Fashion and Art (Teffa) at M7 today.

Msheireb Properties' Corporate Communications senior director Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla recently explained that upcoming initiatives at MDD this year aimed at fostering knowledge-sharing and engaging the participants in topics such as design thinking and artificial intelligence (AI).

A partnership between Doha Design District and M7, he said these events at MDD, including Teffa (concluding on May 8), form part of a series of initiatives that target the young generation: "To know more about AI, design and



Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla

there will be a number of workshops (and talks) that will engage people to learn (more) about it?"

Building on the success of the recently concluded Innovation by Design Summit in April, Dr Abdulla stressed Msheireb's role as a leader in sustainable urban development, describing it as the region's first sustainable smart city regeneration project.

Teffa, is set to shine a spotlight on AI, blockchain, and the business of fashion, aimed at showcasing how technological innovation can shape the future of design and fashion industries with a focus on sustainability and the circular economy. Over three days, attendees will participate in panel discussions, artistic performances, and interactive workshops on topics such as upcycling and AI gaming.

Msheireb unveiled on Saturday a strategic collaboration with Metahub, the innovative gaming studio, aimed at introducing an immersive Roblox experience. This interactive platform enables players to explore Qatar's rich culture.

In a press statement, Msheireb noted that this partnership was launched on the sidelines of Teffa, seeking to merge educational content with engaging gaming elements, highlighting Qatar's sustainable innovations, creative expertise, and rich heritage.

# Qatar showcases World Cup legacy at UN headquarters

**T**he Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations inaugurated an exhibition titled "Journey and Legacy", showcasing Qatar's experience in hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, at the United Nations headquarters in New York in collaboration with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy.

The opening ceremony was attended by President of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly Dennis Francis, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina Mohamed, and various UN officials and permanent representatives of the member states in New York.

HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, in a speech during the exhibition's opening, highlighted the positive impact of hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on the



Middle East and the Arab world; pointing to the lasting legacy the tournament had left for future generations.

The tournament focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and set new standards for future World Cups in areas related to social, economic and environmental development, and infrastructure, she added. The opening ceremony also featured a special presenta-

tion on the meticulous planning involved in all aspects of Qatar's hosting of the tournament, and the alignment between the completed projects for the tournament and Qatar National Vision 2030, which are still beneficial as vital facilities at the national, regional and global levels, in addition to the positive impact of the programmes and initiatives launched as part of this significant event. (QNA)

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## HEC Paris in Qatar's panel talk focuses on female leadership

**H**EC Paris in Qatar, one of Qatar Foundation's partner universities, hosted a panel discussion that explored the need for new, inclusive leadership models to drive organisational growth and innovation, accelerating the representation of women in leadership roles across the region.

The panel discussion, titled "Take the Lead: The Need For New Models of Leadership", was held at Qatar National Library, and brought together a distinguished panel of regional change-makers to discuss nurturing female leadership and unlocking the immense potential of women in business.

"By nurturing a regional pipeline of talented and capable women leaders, we are positively impacting business growth, organisational development, and economic expansion, thereby contributing to national vision goals," commented Dean of HEC Paris in Qatar, Dr Pablo Martin de Holan.

Dr Shaheena Janjuha-Jivraj, Associate Professor at HEC Paris in Qatar and an expert in innovation, leadership, and di-



versity, said: "By promoting diversity and gender equality, organisations can shape sustainable and resilient cultures that foster belonging and groundbreaking ideas."

"The role of leaders is crucial in fostering inclusive cultures. To strengthen the pipeline of female talent, we need to move past the one-and-done mindset and normalise female leaders in all sectors of business, government and wider society. Qatar has a strong profile of women leaders, and the pipeline of highly educated women creates a solid foundation for equitable opportunities," Dr Shaheena added. (QNA)

## Qatar National Archive holds second meeting

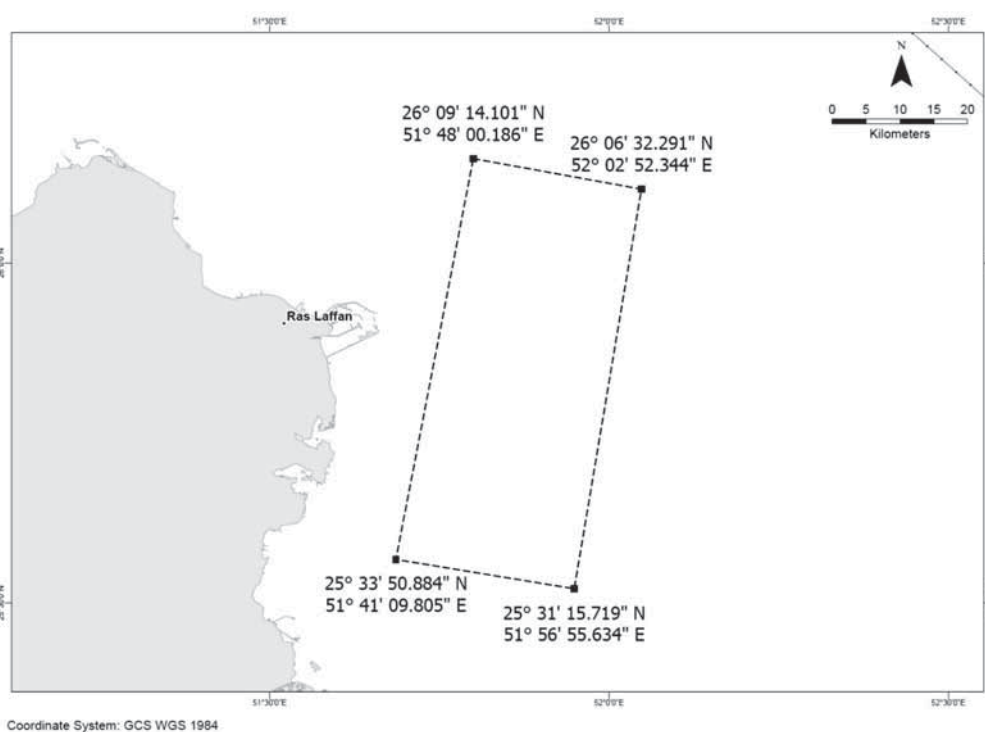


HE the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Qatar National Archive Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah chaired the 2nd meeting of the Qatar National Archive in 2024 at its premises yesterday. The meeting tackled the topics on the agenda, foremost of which are the latest developments and future plans, and took the appropriate decisions accordingly. (QNA)

## Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L. Public Announcement to Fishermen and Mariners Geotechnical Survey Offshore Qatar



In pursuant and under directives from the Registration and Seafarers Affairs Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform that starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 till 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L. will commence Geotechnical surveys within the marked area:



Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L. requests that all vessels keep well clear of the site. Fishermen are requested to remove their equipment and keep away from the area.

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Qatar Shell Service Company assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of equipment following this advertisement.

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## MoPH marks 'World Hand Hygiene Day'

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with its partners, launched an awareness campaign to commemorate World Hand Hygiene Day, which falls on May 5, under the theme "Why is sharing knowledge about hand hygiene still so important. Because it helps stop the spread of harmful germs in healthcare." The campaign aims to intensify awareness on the importance of hand hygiene for visitors to governmental, semi-governmental, and private health facilities through social media, as well as through numerous awareness activities held on May 5 and May 6. The central theme of the 2024 awareness campaign revolves around promoting knowledge and capacity building for healthcare workers through innovative and impactful training and education on infection prevention and control (IPC), including hand hygiene. As part of the celebration of World Hand Hygiene Day, the MoPH Infection Control and Prevention Team organised a training workshop yesterday, for all healthcare workers on the importance of hand hygiene, at the Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Center in Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City. (QNA)

## Ford, Mercedes-Benz models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, has announced the recall of Ford F 150, 2022 model, as in some of the affected vehicles, a possible defect in the front windshield glass might cause air and water leakage inside the cabin. The MoCI, in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles, also announced the recall of Mercedes CLS, E-Class, and GT, 2021-2022 models, as a defect in the grounding wire connection may lead to a short circuit and the wire to overheat, which increases the risk of fire.

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No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/FMD/6586/24 FOR DESIGN, FABRICATE, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SIGNAGE FOR QATARENERGY LNG PREMISES WITH NEW BRANDING	05/05/2024 to 14/05/2024	0	39,702	03/06/2024

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

### Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

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

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

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Kareem Chaar	كريم شعار
Yousuf Mohamed Ismail Mostafa Darwish	يوسف محمد اسماعيل مصطفى درويش
Wellage Ushara Ovidu De Silva	ويلاج أوشارا أوفيدو دي سيلفا
Mohamad El Halabi	محمد الحلبي
Nadine Sherif Hashem Hussin ElKholi	نادين شريف هاشم حسين الخولي
Mennatallah Hany Mohsen Fawzy Taha Fawzy	منة الله هاني محسن فوزي طه فوزي
Habiba Hussein Abdelrahman Abdelhafez Ghoneim	حبيبه حسين عبد الرحمن عبد الحافظ غنيم
Tarik Karic	تاريك كاريك
Mohamad Afif Kibbi	محمد عفيف كبي
Rackan Sami Mansour	ركان سامي منصور
Moamen Ahmed Aly Moustafa Moursy	مؤمن أحمد علي مصطفى مرسي
Muhammad Saad	محمد سعد
Ahmad Yatim	أحمد يتيم

## MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

ماجستير الهندسة في الهندسة الكيميائية

Hazim Moustafa Hassan Mohammed	حازم مصطفى حسن محمد
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## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

بكالوريوس العلوم في الهندسة الكهربائية

Abdelaziz S. A. Abuelrub	عبدالعزیز شمس الدین عبد العزیز أبو الرب
Jude Tawfik Ahmed	جود توفيق أحمد
Haya Khalid M N Al-Dehaimi	هيا خالد محمد ناصر الدهيمي
Sara Taleb A I Al-Hail	ساره طالب أحمد إبراهيم الهيل
Deema Ahmed H A Al-Hammadi	ديما أحمد حسن علي الحمادي
AlDana Ghanim A A Al-Mannai	الدانه غانم علي الحيين المناعي
Maryam Ali M A Al-Mannai	مريم علي محمد عبدالعزيز المناعي
Khalifa Mohammed F H Al-Mansoori	خليفة محمد فرج حمد المنصوري
Ibrahim Mohamed I M Al-Mohannadi	إبراهيم محمد إبراهيم المطوي المهندي
Fatima Fahad H S Al-Mousawi	فاطمه فهده حسين سيد كمال الموسوي
Noof Saleh A A Al-Muhannadi	نوف صالح أحمد المحري المهندي
Hind Sultan A J Al-Mulla	هند سلطان أحمد جاسم الملا
Maha Ali Y M Al-Mulla	مها علي يوسف ملا صالح الملا
Fatima Saoud A H Al-Neama	فاطمه سعود عبدالعزيز حسين النعمه
Aman Adhed Kamal Al-Saigh	أمان عضيد كمال الصائغ
Fay Hamad M A Al-Shahwani	في حمد مبارك آل شايج الشهواني
Eisa Hemaid M H Al-Suwaidi	عيسى حميد محمد حميد السويدي
Tamim Ahmad Faiq Al-Tamimi	تميم أحمد فائق التميمي
Ahmed Jabor A. J. Al-Thani	أحمد بن جبر علي جبر آل ثاني
Miznah Abdulrahman A AlElaiwy	مزنه بنت عبدالرحمن بن علي العليوي
AlAnoud Mohammed N A AlEmadi	العنود محمد نجيب عباس العمادي
Tuana AlHaidari	توانا الحيدري
Amna Jassim M Y AlHor	أمته جاسم محمد يوسف الحر
Fatima Saleh I M Ali	فاطمه صالح إبراهيم محمد علي
Fatima Hassan H GH Ali	فاطمه حسن حاجي غلوم علي
Mona Amani	منى أماني
Mohammed Ishaq Mohammed Shoeb Ansari	محمد إسحق محمد شعيب أنصاري
Mohammed Yaqoob Mohammed Shoeb Ansari	محمد يعقوب محمد شعيب أنصاري
Mohammed Mohsen M S Baghazal	محمد محسن محمد سعيد باغزال
Muhammad Bin Mughees	محمد بن موجيس
Salar Mehboob Bugti	سالار محبوب بوغتي
Arvin Clyde Dejoras Crisme	أرفين كليد كريسم
Ali Darwich	علي درويش
Khalid Darwish	خالد درويش
Abdullah Azzaam Faisal Chaudhry	عبدالله عزام فيصل تشودري
Hind Mohamed A A Fakhroo	هند محمد عبدالرحمن عبدالله فخرو
Moustafa Faraj	مصطفى فرج
Ziyad Tarek Waleed Ghalayini	زياد طارق وليد الغلاييني
Joumana Jamal Hassan	جمانه جمال حسن
Sara Mahmoud J A Heidous	ساره محمود جعفر عبدالله هيدوس
Talal Waleed M A Kaldari	طلال وليد محمد علي عبدالله كلداري
Mayar Mohamed Abdelsamie Elazab Mahmoud	مييار محمد عبد السميع العزب محمود
Hitansh Murgai	هيتانش مورغاي
Abdul Qadeer	عبدل قدير
Yomna Mahmood Zakaria Abdeltawab Sultan	يمنى محمود زكريا عبدالنواب سلطان
Nikoloz Vashakidze	نيكولاز فاشاكيدز
Fatima Sayed Adnan Mustafa Sadeq Yusuf	فاطمه السيد عدنان مصطفى صادق يوسف

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PETROLEUM ENGINEERING

بكالوريوس العلوم في هندسة البترول

Basil Ibrahim Kamel Abdelmaksoud	باسل إبراهيم كامل عبد المقصود
AlAnoud Reyad S S Al-Araer	العنود رياض سعدي شاكر العرعير
Shaikha Rashid A R Al-Dosari	شيخة راشد عبدالله راشد الدوسري
Alyaa Yousef H Y Al-Jaber	عاليه يوسف حسن يوسف الجابر
Omar Belal Ibraheem Al-Khateeb	عمر بلال إبراهيم الخطيب
Njoud Hazaa H M Al-Kubaisi	تجود هزاع حمد محمد الكبيسي
Fahad Rashid A G Al-Madadi	فهد راشد علي غانم المعضادي
Nawaf Hassan SH H Al-Mahsin	نواف حسن شكري حسين المحسن
Haya Ali E A Al-Naimi	هيا علي عيسى عبدالله النعيمي
Dhabya Fahad A M Al-Obaidli	ظبيه فهده عبدالله محمد العبيدلي
Noof Khalid M Y Al-Qatabri	نوف خالد محمد يحيى القطابري
Faisal Tariq D N Al-Shukri	فيصل طارق داوود نصيب الشكري
Maha Mohammed J A Al-Sulaiti	مها محمد جابر آل شاميين السليطي
Sara Ahmed Y A Al-Yaqoub	ساره أحمد يعقوب أحمد اليعقوب
Mohammad Nabil M I AlAssi	محمد نبيل محمد اسماعيل الآسي
Aisha Mohammed K A AlKuwari	عائشه محمد خميس البوعفره الكواري
Omer Adil Mohamed Omer	عمر عادل محمد عمر
Ruba Abdelmoneim Bashir Yousif	ربي عبد المنعم بشير يوسف

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

ماجستير العلوم في الهندسة الكيميائية

Amera Yaser Mohamed AlShstawi Abdelbar	أميره ياسر محمد الششتاوي عبد البر
Asma Emhemed Mohamed Abousrafa	أسماء امحمد محمد أبوسرافه
Shaikha Abdulla A A Al-Kuwari	شيخة عبدالله عبداللطيف آل الشيخ الكواري
Amani Tariq Wahid Grati	أماني طارق وحيد كراطي
Waad Mahmoud Yousif Ismail	وعد محمود يوسف اسماعيل
Wafaa Noureldein Ali Majzoub	وفاء نور الدين علي مجزوب
Ahmed Mohamed Nabeeh Mohamed	أحمد محمد نبيه محمد
Insha Ayaz Shaikh	إنشا آياز شيخ

## GRULAC meeting discusses trade, investment, cultural exchange



The Group of the Ambassadors of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) held a meeting at the Diplomatic Club, underscoring the growing strategic value placed on the relationship with Qatar, a statement from the Embassy of Peru said. Envoys from Peru, Panama, Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, Guyana, Ecuador, Argentina, Venezuela, Guatemala, Uruguay, Cuba, Brazil, and the charges d'affaires of Costa Rica, Mexico, and Paraguay attended the meeting. Discussions focused on enhancing co-operation in various sectors, such as trade and investment and cultural exchange. Under

trade and investment, they explored potential partnerships and investment opportunities in infrastructure, technology and sustainable development projects. In the realm of cultural exchange, the topics included promoting greater understanding and appreciation of both the GRULAC region and Qatar through educational, tourism, and cultural activities to be held in the upcoming months. Ambassador of Peru, Jose Benzaquen Perea, representing GRULAC, emphasised the commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and co-operation between GRULAC and a state that plays a significant issue in the international arena, the statement added.

## EAA in joint project to aid 100,000 out-of-school children in Nigeria



Education Above All (EAA) Foundation launched a programme under the title 'Reaching Out-of-School Children in Kaduna State Project (ROOSC)' to benefit 100,000 out-of-school children (OOSC), including girls and children living with disabilities.

According to the statement issued by the foundation, the project is implemented in co-operation with Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) & Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and Save the Children alongside other partners including, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Kaduna State Ministry of Education. The project employs a comprehensive, multifaceted strategy to overcome major obstacles to access to education in a region plagued by instability and a lack of infrastructure and resources.

Over the span of four years, the partnership will focus on four objectives: improving access and retention, quality of teaching and learning, learning environments and education management. To reach these objectives, the project – with support from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), will be structured into five components and deliver interventions to ensure inclusion, community mobilisation, teacher train-



ing, quality assurance, flexible learning opportunities, psychosocial support, child protection, and the provision of teaching materials.

In this regard, CEO of EAA Fahad al-Sulaiti said that "strong partnerships that deliver relevant and effective interventions are the pillars that will build the pathway to educational transformation in Nigeria. By joining forces, we can provide children with the opportunity to thrive and grow towards a brighter future through equitable and inclusive education."

For her part, ISFD Director-General Dr Hiba Ahmed expressed ISFD's pride to be part of this international partnership addressing the education needs of out-of-school children in Kaduna State, Nigeria, adding, "this initiative aligns perfectly with ISFD's mission of empowering and developing communities in need through quality education. By working collaboratively with our partners, we can provide children with the tools and knowledge they need to reach their full potential and contribute to the development of their communities." For her part, CEO of Save the Children Inger Ashing said, "we are honoured to work with all the partners involved to ensure that even in the most difficult circumstances, children can fulfil their right to a safe, inclusive and quality education." (QNA)

## Katara musical event draws crowds

The Cultural Village Foundation - Katara in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain in Qatar, organised a musical event on Friday featuring the renowned Korean pianist Sonja Park and the Korean violinist Joo Young Oh at Katara Drama Theatre, attended by a large audience of various nationalities.

Spain's ambassador to Qatar Javier Carbajosa Sanchez highly appreciated Katara's efforts in promoting different forms of culture and arts and stressing the good Qatari-Spanish relations in various fields. The repertoire included excerpts from famous and elegant Spanish



musical compositions in classical and romantic music. Pianist Sonja Park has performed in major concert halls worldwide. She is considered a unique talent in piano performance, enchanting audiences with her magnificent playing that transports listeners



to imaginative and creative realms. Joo Young Oh is one of the most prominent multi-specialty violinists. He has been active as a solo performer worldwide, giving musical performances and appearing solo in numerous international music halls.

## LuLu Hypermarket honoured with 'Best CSR Initiative in the Retail Sector' award



Shaijan M O, regional director of LuLu Group International, received the award from Dr Saif Ali al-Hajari, CEO of Qatar CSR National Programme, in recognition of LuLu's exemplary commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility.

Retail giant LuLu Hypermarket has been honoured with the 'Best CSR Initiative in the Retail Sector' award at the recently held Qatar CSR Summit and awards ceremony in Doha.

Shaijan M O, regional director of LuLu Group International, received the award from Dr Saif Ali al-Hajari, CEO of Qatar CSR National Programme, in recognition of LuLu's exemplary commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Qatar CSR Summit, organised by Qatar University and under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, convened industry leaders, professionals, and stakeholders to deliberate on the future of CSR in a circular economy.

LuLu Hypermarket's achievement underscores its dedication to making a positive impact on society through a wide array of CSR initiatives. From environmental conservation to community welfare, LuLu has consistently demon-

strated its commitment to corporate citizenship.

LuLu's commitment to CSR is evident in a range of impactful initiatives. Notable among these is the introduction of the 'Price Freeze Policy', aimed at ensuring affordability for customers.

Additionally, LuLu has forged a partnership with the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, supporting the 'Educate a Child' programme with substantial annual donations totalling \$8mn by 2024.

Further exemplifying its dedication, LuLu has contributed QR250,000 to support Qatar Charity and has engaged in various partnerships and initiatives with the Qatar Cancer Society.

Moreover, LuLu actively promotes sustainability through initiatives, such as biodegradable shopping bags and reusable bags, aligning its practices with environmental conservation goals. Through these efforts and more, LuLu demonstrates its commitment to supporting local communities, whether through direct donations,

charity campaigns, or sponsorship of events, making a tangible difference in the lives of people.

Shaijan M O said: "At LuLu, we believe in the importance of giving back to the communities we serve. This award is a testament to our ongoing efforts to create a positive impact on society and the environment. We are truly honoured to be recognised for our CSR initiatives and remain committed to advancing sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations."

LuLu Hypermarket's 'Best CSR Initiative in the Retail Sector' award reaffirms its position as a leading corporate entity in Qatar and reflects its unwavering commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of people in Qatar.

As a leading retailer, LuLu Hypermarket has established a prominent presence in Qatar, offering a unique shopping experience across its retail stores strategically located throughout the country. They remain a key player in the retail sector, committed to sustainability and customer satisfaction.

## talabat wins Qatar CSR Award again



talabat awarded Qatar CSR Award 2024 under the category "Best CSR Initiative in Food Sector".

talabat, announced that it has been selected as a recipient of the Qatar CSR Award 2024 under the category "Best CSR Initiative in Food Sector" for the second time consecutively. This prestigious recognition highlights talabat's dedication and commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Qatar, a statement said.

The Qatar CSR Awards Gala Dinner on May 1 served as a celebration of achievements in the arena of CSR, honouring unique winners and providing a valuable networking opportunity for industry professionals.

The award was given particularly appreciating talabat's compassionate and prompt response to unforeseen events that took place during the earthquake in Türkiye, Syria, Morocco and the unrest in Gaza. The overnight action taken by talabat has garnered widespread attention, positioning talabat as a trusted provider of emergency relief.

In a press statement, talabat managing director Francisco Miguel De Sousa expressed heartfelt gratitude upon receiving the award, stating:

"We are deeply honoured and humbled to be recognised for our dedication to corporate social responsibility in Qatar. This award is a testament to the efforts of our team and the impact of our initiatives on the community across the globe. We take pride in our contributions and remain committed to creating positive change and making a meaningful impact on society. This recognition fuels our determination to continue innovating and driving sustainable practices that benefit both our stakeholders and the wider community."

## Ashghal's stormwater drainage tunnel project aims to protect vital assets

The Public Works Authority 'Ashghal' announced the commencement of construction of a stormwater drainage tunnel within the Critical Asset Resilience Programme (CARP), with the aim of protecting vital assets as part of the Flood Prevention Scheme - Phase 3 (Doha South).

Manager of the Drainage Networks Projects Department at Ashghal Eng Khalid Saif al-Khayareen explained that the project comes within the Authority's efforts to protect people and assets from the negative impacts of rainwater accumulation in several vital areas in Doha South, the most important of which is the intersection of Mohamed Bin Thani Street and Ahmed Bin Ali Street, Hamad Hospital tunnel and the surrounding areas, in addition to a number of government facilities and institutions in the area, including the Ministry of Interior, the Shura Council, the Fire Station Museum and others.

In line with the sustainable development objectives and the Qatar National Strategy for En-



vironment and Climate Change, the project will provide a long-term solution to reduce rainwater accumulation in the aforementioned areas instead of relying on the use of temporary pumps during the rainy season. These works would increase road safety and enhance the protection of public and private assets, Eng Khalid Saif al-Khayareen underlined.

The project work includes constructing a stormwater drainage

tunnel with a length of approximately 1.7km and a diameter of 1,400mm. Excavation work will be conducted at depths ranging between seven and 10 metres below the ground level, using a tunnel boring machine, and with the aim of reducing the impact of the work on traffic and on the area's residents and institutions. It is expected that the construction of the stormwater drainage tunnel will be completed in Q4 of 2024. (QNA)

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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holder of  
Indian Passport No. V8741081  
QID No. 30735604070  
hereby change my name  
from  
ANAGHA MITHRA  
to  
ANAGHA MITHRA AINIPPULLY REMITH

Any objection, please contact  
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ABBU KHALLIL MIYA  
holder of  
NEPAL Passport No. 07957431  
QID No.28852401473  
hereby change my name  
from  
ABBU KHALLIL MIYA  
to  
ABU KHALIL MIYA

Any objection, please contact  
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NATIONALITY AFFAIRS  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



Some of the officials at the conference.

## Over 1,500 healthcare professionals attend HMC conference

More than 1,500 healthcare professionals attended the 8th Qatar Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Conference 2024 from May 2-4, hosted by Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Endocrine and Diabetes Division, Department of Medicine, and the Qatar Metabolic Institute (QMI).

The conference, held in person and online with attendees and speakers from around the world, brought together local and international experts in the fields of endocrinology, obesity, and diabetes to discuss the latest research, treatments, technological advances, and preventative measures for these conditions.

The event also incorporated the 3rd Qatar Diabetes and Obesity Research Symposium. World-renowned international, regional and local speakers presented and updated delegates on a diverse range of topics including advances in both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, pituitary/adrenal and thyroid dis-

orders, obesity, osteoporosis, paediatric endocrinology, genetics, as well as highlight important research initiatives on diabetes and obesity taking place in Qatar.

Dr Mahmoud Ali Zirie, chair of the organising committee and clinical director of National Diabetes Centre, HMC, said the conference provided an opportunity to share the important work being done in Qatar and to deliver real results for the community.

Prof Abdul Badi Abou Samra, director, QMI, said the event provided an important platform for frontline clinicians, scientists, and researchers to discuss strategies and approaches for the management and prevention of diabetes and associated conditions.

"Diabetes is a complex condition which can lead to debilitating long-term complications and acute illness. The disease in Qatar is quite prevalent with about 17% of Qatar's adult population thought to have diabetes. About 20% of Qatar's population is esti-

mated to be pre-diabetic," he said. "Qatar is at the forefront of research and treatment of this condition. Earlier this year we opened the Qatar Diabetes Research Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation and also launched the landmark Qatar Diabetes Prevention Programme which are spearheading a personalised approach diabetes and its prevention."

Dr Ibrahim al-Janahi, chair of the Scientific Committee and senior consultant in Endocrine and Diabetes Division said many diabetics live with other associated complications such as high blood pressure, kidney disease, and vision impairment which require additional consideration.

"It is important for the local and international medical community to meet and discuss trends, best practice, and long-term strategies for the prevention and mitigation of complications related to this disease so we can continue to provide the best care for our patients," Dr al-Janahi added.

## Karwa showcases sustainable mobility innovations

Mowasalat (Karwa) played a prominent role as the Official Transport Partner at the Autonomous e-Mobility Forum, organised under the patronage of HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

The forum, according to a statement from Karwa, served as the perfect stage for the launch of its latest initiative - the introduction of 10 electric school buses that will run during a pilot project for schools until the end of this academic year, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE).

Dr Eng Saad bin Ahmed al-Mohannadi, chairman of the Board of Directors of Mowasalat (Karwa) said Mowasalat is committed to environmental sustainability across all its business segments and has already successfully electrified more than 70% of its public transport fleet, resulting in environmental benefits and economic gains.

"The company is moving steadily towards the utilisation of renewable energy and the adoption of modern transport technologies and innovations to achieve the Qatar National Vision 2030," he said.

On the first day of the forum, Mowasalat (Karwa) presented the latest technologies used in fleet operation rooms, at the company's exhibition booth. Attendees and delegations had the opportunity to take rides in the autonomous e-bus that was set up on a route around the QNCC to experience Level-4 autonomous e-mobility.

Visitors also learned about the electric school bus that was launched during the forum. Ahmad Hassan



al-Obaidly, CEO of Karwa extended his gratitude to the Ministry of Transport (MoT) and the organisers of the forum, the first of its kind in the region.

On the second day, Ahmed Mohamed al-Binali, Public Transport director at Karwa, participated in a panel discussion titled 'Success Factors for Qatar's AV Strategies'. His insights shed light on the strategic approach and technological advancements that Mowasalat adopted to help drive Qatar's progress in the field of autonomous vehicles (AV) in the public sphere.

On the third day, Karwa welcomed a special delegates' tour at Lusail Depot, the world's largest electric bus depot. This event offered an in-depth look at the company's extensive facilities and operations that support the country's sustainable transport network.

## Exams start at Awqaf's Qur'an centres

The first semester exams for the Qur'anic centres of the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs began last week.

The examinations, according to a statement from Awqaf, are organised and supervised by the Section of the Holy Qur'an and its Sciences in Awqaf's Department of Da'wa and Guidance. The exams will continue until the middle of May.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani, head of the Section of the Holy Qur'an and its Sciences, said a total of 11,100 students from 135 Qur'anic centres applied for the tests.

"The committees were formed for the conducting of exams with 561 members. The exams are supervised by 17 supervisors," al-Thani said.

He stressed the section is keen to implement quarterly tests regularly. "The tests are one of the main indicators in knowing the levels of our stu-



dents and the extent of their progress in memorising the Holy Qur'an. These tests also incite the students' enthusiasm towards mastery in memorising the holy book and improve their reciting," he said.

## Kia EV9 wins coveted Red Dot 'Best of the Best' Award



red dot winner 2024 best of the best

Kia EV9 named 'Best of the Best' in Cars and Motorcycles category at Red Dot Award: Product Design 2024

Kia's 29th Red Dot Design award since 2009 follows streak of award wins and critical acclaim for EV9

Global design competition recognizes influential power of Kia's 'Opposites United' design philosophy

The Kia EV9 has been recognized with the prestigious 'Best of the Best' award at the Red Dot Award: Product Design 2024 in the Cars and Motorcycles category. Success at the highest level of the global design competition acknowledges the contribution Kia as a brand, and the EV9 in particular, has made to setting exceptional standards of design innovation.

The Red Dot: 'Best of the Best' award, presented only to the most pioneering designs, further validates the success of the Kia design team in creating the EV9, the brand's first flagship electric SUV.

"With the EV9, we created an EV with a bold and authentic SUV character that pushes the boundaries, not only of design, but also of usability, connectivity and environmental responsibility. Receiving the Red Dot: 'Best of the Best' design award is immensely gratifying, not just for the Kia design team, but also for all our global colleagues, and represents our continuous push to bring innovative and inspiring solutions," said Karim Habib, Executive Vice President and Head of Kia Global Design.

"The accolade is recognition of the inspiring power of Kia's design philosophy, 'Opposites United', that has guided us at every stage of the EV9's development. Reinforcing Kia's strong design identity, 'Opposites United' continuously inspires us to create products that are relevant and meaningful, and positively impact our customers. The exterior radiates confidence, clarity, and serenity through its upright stance, defined lines, and smooth surfaces. Signature features such as the Digital Tiger Face, Digital Pattern Lighting Grille, and vertical headlamps further accentuate the design and imbue the vehicle with a visionary and futuristic appeal.

The EV9 also represents Kia's strategic commitment to becoming a leader in sustainable mobility. When

it was launched in 2023, the flagship SUV was the first model to embrace the brand's three-step Design Sustainability Strategy, initiated to gradually phase out the use of animal-sourced leather, apply ten 'must-have' sustainable items to all new Kia models, and commit to ongoing research into the development of natural and bio-based materials.

The Red Dot Design Award is one of the most highly sought-after seals of design quality. Each year, a jury of international experts examines the submissions for design quality and degree of innovation. This year, the jury acknowledged the creative influence of Kia's 'Opposites United' design philosophy, highlighting the EV9's successful exterior design, contemporary character, and strong classic lines.

The Red Dot Award ceremony will take place on June 24, 2024, in the Aalto Theatre in Essen, Germany. The presentation of the Red Dot Design: 'Best of the Best' will represent Kia's 29th success at the globally acclaimed awards ceremony since 2009. This latest success follows the 2024 iF Design Awards, where the EV9 received a coveted 'Gold' award.

Since its launch in 2023, the Kia EV9's design values and customer appeal have been critically acclaimed on numerous occasions. Earlier this year, the flagship SUV achieved double success at the World Car Awards 2024 as the overall winner ('World Car of the Year') and the best electric vehicle ('World Electric Vehicle'). Other awards include: 'Women's World Car of the Year 2024,' 'German Luxury Car of the Year 2024,' 'Golden Steering Wheel 2023' (Family Cars category), TopGear.com Awards 'Family Car of the Year 2023' as well as the titles 'UK Car of the Year 2024' and 'North American Utility Vehicle of the Year 2024.'

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PROCESS	Contact the dealer for the free required repair
CONTACT	Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles Phone: 44624444 mercedescars@nbks.com




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## Msheireb Museums marks successful cruise season in partnership with QT

Msheireb Museums, in partnership with Qatar Tourism (QT), announced the successful conclusion of the 2023-24 cruise season recently, highlighting its vital role in enhancing visitors' experiences by offering a glimpse into Qatar's rich culture and heritage. The 2023-24 cruise season, which ran from October 2023 to April 2024, welcomed a record-breaking 378,000 passengers across 73 vessels, showcasing Qatar's growing prominence as a global cruise destination.

As part of its partnership with QT and in collaboration with the cruise contracted DMCs, Msheireb Museums hosted an average of 8-10 cruise group visits per week since October, introducing visitors to the district's four heritage houses: Bin Jelmoor House, Company House, Radwani House, and Mohammed Bin Jassim House, while visiting Msheireb Downtown Doha. During these visits, cruise passengers explored Qatar's fascinating history and appreciated the district's



Mohamed al-Yousuf

modern, eco-friendly design while exploring the area via the district's eco-friendly trams.



The visitors' experiences were further enriched by the coinciding events, such as the

Asian Cup, which showcased Doha's vibrant culture and hospitality.

Mohamed al-Yousuf, acting manager Operations and Visitor Relations of Msheireb Museums, expressed his enthusiasm for the successful season, stating: "We are thrilled to have been a part of Qatar's record-breaking 2023-24 cruise season and to have welcomed so many visitors to Msheireb Museums." Maryam Saoud, head of Tourism Product Support Section at QT, said: "The success of the 2023-24 cruise season is a testament to the collaborative efforts of Qatar Tourism and its partners, such as Msheireb Museums."

## Sheraton Fitness announces membership offer

Award-winning Sheraton Fitness, known for its top-tier amenities and exceptional service, has announced a new summer short-term membership.

Situated in the heart of West Bay, Sheraton Fitness offers a welcoming environment for those seeking a remarkable fitness experience, a statement said.

Boasting state-of-the-art facilities, including the latest cardio, strength, and weightlifting equipment, alongside a picturesque outdoor pool, infinity Jacuzzi, sandy beach, and lush gardens, Sheraton Fitness sets the standard for excellence in Doha.

Sheraton Fitness's short-term membership, includes: Unlimited access to Sheraton Grand Doha resort facilities and the Fitness Centre, 15% discount on food & beverage (terms & conditions apply), on laundry services, and massages; 20% discount at the Skin & Soul salon; and 10% discount on motorised water-sports.

The summer short-term membership starting from QR1,500 is available until August 31, 2024. The latest happenings at Sheraton Fitness include: Resort access from QR50, group fitness classes for members at QR40 and non-members at QR70, kids weekend activities every Friday and Saturday from 9am to 6pm. In-house guests enjoy free access, while outside guests and members can join for QR50 per child, in addition to resort access fees.

Weekday after-school kids activities are available Sunday through Thursday from 2pm to 6pm. Prices start from QR50 per child, the statement added.



## Qatar Charity honours 'Khair Homes-5' winners

An accompanying exhibition was held, reflecting the creativity and talent of the participants in the 'Khair Homes' programme

Qatar Charity (QC) has honoured Qatari families who participated in the fifth edition of the 'Khair Homes' programme implemented in the holy month of Ramadan. The programme was aimed at supporting humanitarian projects, a statement said.

Several female figures in the fields of entrepreneurship, training, and sustainability, as well as humanitarian and social activists, alongside the participating families and many employees of QC attended the ceremony.

The top three winning families in each category were announced. The first category focused on the best creative exhibition design, while the second category highlighted the highest entrepreneurial revenue. Additionally, all participating families in the programme were honoured, along with the judging committee.

Furthermore, the children (under school age) who participated in the 'Our Heroes' competition were also honoured. They crafted water vessels with the help of their families.

Maysoon Ali, the programme officer, said: "Throughout this programme, we have witnessed exceptional efforts from



"Throughout this programme, we have witnessed exceptional efforts from the participating families, as they came together to design humanitarian exhibitions in their homes and present products that reflect the spirit of entrepreneurship and sustainability"

the participating families, as they came together to design humanitarian exhibitions in their homes and present products that reflect the spirit of entrepreneurship and sustainability."

On the sidelines of the ceremony, an accompanying exhibition was held, reflecting the creativity and talent of the participants in the 'Khair Homes' programme. It featured an array of handicrafts and artistic creations, ranging from clothing to

paintings, ceramics, and incense. Certificates of appreciation were presented to all participating families, children, and the judging committee. Plaques of recognition were awarded to the top three families who raised the highest amount through entrepreneurial endeavours from the profits of the booths they each hosted. Plaques were also given to the top three families for the best exhibition designs.

*Chopard*

THE ARTISAN OF EMOTIONS - SINCE 1860

## Happy Sport

A vibrant legacy of *Joie de Vivre*



Happy Sport is a timepiece for women who stride confidently towards their destiny. Since 1993, the vitality of this Chopard watchmaking icon has been staging a mesmerising show thanks to the mischievous choreography of the Maison's legendary dancing diamonds. With each passing season, the collection is regularly reinvented in an infinite palette of colours, confirming its playful character and its perpetual celebration of *Joie de Vivre*. Today, it welcomes a new 250-piece limited edition attired in luminous blue. Framed by a diamond-paved bezel, its silver-toned dials featuring a finely guilloché centre is enlivened by an exquisite ballet of aquamarines and dancing diamonds. Exuding a deliciously carefree mood, this subtly joyful touch extends to the colour of the strap and of the stone set on the crown. Magnificently demonstrating the workshops' ability to blend watchmaking excellence with the art of jewellery-making, this Happy Sport model in Lucent Steel™ appears in the 33 mm-diameter case designed by the Manufacture according to the principles of harmony defined by the golden ratio and beats to the rhythm of the Chopard 09.01-C self-winding movement with its 42-hour power reserve.

### A colourful dance

One look at the Happy Sport timepiece and you'll see a lively mirror of your own energy, picked up in the ballet of dancing diamonds representing a marvellous game of random chance and kinetic energy. Happy Sport is the story of the free-spirited attitude and *Joie de Vivre* daily reinvented by women around the world. Dancing diamonds now invite a new coloured stone to join their perpetual whirl. Aquamarines dictate the colour scheme of a new timepiece: set against a silver-toned background with a finely guilloché centre, the dial is adorned with hands and hour-markers in matching tones further echoed by the



aquamarine set in the crown and by the glossy alligator leather strap.

### Mechanical performance

By using the golden ratio in direct relation to the diameter of the Chopard 09.01-C movement with automatic winding powering its ladies' watch collections, the round, gently curved and all-embracing proportions of this Happy Sport 33 mm are particularly well suited to the wrists of their elegant wearers.

Endowed with a 42-hour power reserve, this timepiece beats to the tune of a calibre entirely developed, produced and assembled in the Maison's watchmaking workshops. Its precision makes it the best possible ally for women with fast-paced lifestyles, who make every minute a precious moment. A perfect example of horological performance and jewellery design equally mastered by the Manufacture, Happy Sport showcases its artisans' virtuosity.



### A responsible material

As part of its Journey towards Sustainable Luxury, Chopard has chosen to enhance the whirl of dancing diamonds by crafting the Happy Sport case from its exclusive Lucent Steel™. This alloy manufactured from at least 80% recycled material features properties comparable to surgical steel making it brighter, stronger and more comfortable to wear than its standard counterpart. Since 2023, Chopard has been using Lucent Steel™ for the production of all its steel timepieces.

### Happy Sport, story of a watch icon

In 1993, Caroline Scheufele (Co-President and Artistic Director of Chopard) effectively captured the spirit of the times by designing a sports watch based on the unprecedented combination of steel and diamonds. Happy Sport was the result. Since then, it has continued to celebrate the *Joie de Vivre* and free spirit that women reinvent every day to conquer the world. The Happy Sport watch offers a veritable show in which a woman plays an indispensable role in which her own movements provide the impetus for the mobile diamonds and this constantly recomposed tableau. A metaphor for the emancipation of women in the 20th century, the collection is a reflection of this hectic life, and has lent itself to infinite metamorphoses since its beginnings.

## QF Class of 2024 graduates advocate for change

As they stand on the threshold of graduation, the students of Qatar Foundation's Education City are ready to embark on their journey beyond academia.

Among them are Muna al-Musalmani and Tamim Younis, graduating this year from Qatar Foundation partner university Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q), who as advocates of the Palestinian cause are committed to making a meaningful impact in the world.

Muna al-Musalmani, a filmmaker, human rights advocate, and health enthusiast, hails from a background with a Palestinian mother and Qatari father. She believes that the opportunities she received at NU-Q has allowed her to become a proactive member of the community.

"Belonging to the broader Education City community has not only afforded me various employment opportunities but has also provided the resources and skills necessary to complete projects, papers, research articles, and more," explains al-Musalmani. Al-Musalmani's passion for Palestine has been a key aspect of her university experience. "When I felt like I was helpless, that I couldn't do much, I created a documentary to help teach others," she explains. Her documentary chronicles her family's story alongside a broader exploration of Palestinian identity.

Collaborating with other students and organisations, al-Musalmani participated in solidarity stands, amplifying the voice of Palestinian issues within the university community. Despite challenges in acquiring footage from the Palestinian conflict and facing resistance on social media platforms, she remained resilient, driven by her commitment to driving change. Looking ahead, al-Musalmani is determined to continue making a difference. "It's difficult to change everyone's perspective, to side with what's right - but it's not impossible," she says.

Tamim Younis, a Palestinian born and raised in Qatar, pursued a major in Journalism at NU-Q, and highlights how the Education City environment has enriched his life by saying: "The diversity among faculty and students played a significant role in my experience." He also acknowledged the opportunity that being a QF student has given him to experience a global education in the heart of Qatar, adding: "I seized the opportunity to pursue a minor at another QF partner university, Georgetown University in Qatar."

Over the last year, Younis has participated in peaceful marches, charity initiatives, and awareness campaigns. From solidarity stands to charity bake sales, he and his peers have actively raised awareness about Palestinian rights and the ongoing struggles. "It is important to remember that your voice matters," he said. Looking to the future, Younis is committed to furthering his advocacy efforts. From organising educational events to volunteering internationally, he remains dedicated to the Palestinian cause, embodying the spirit of resilience.

Al-Musalmani and Younis are among the QF Class of 2024 graduates who will be celebrated at QF's Convocation ceremony May 7.



Muna Ali K M al-Musalmani



## Silencing the media has never worked and never will

From Page 1

On December 15, 2023, while al-Dahdouh and his cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa were covering the Haifa School airstrike in Khan Younis, they were hit by an Israeli missile, injuring Dahdouh and fatally wounding Abu Daqqa.

His son, journalist Hamza al-Dahdouh, was killed by an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis on January 7 this year, and two of his nephews were killed in an airstrike the following day.

Of the more than 34,000 Palestinians killed by Israel in the seven months, the majority are women and children.

In its annual report published in January this year, the New York-based Human Rights Watch accused Israel of war crimes and said many governments were expressing "selective outrage" over atrocities committed in the conflict in Gaza.

Undoubtedly, the Israeli government's decision to shut down Al Jazeera in the country is a blatant violation of press freedom and an effort to hide the truth of the Gaza war.

The action is a repressive and retaliatory measure against the professional role of Al Jazeera in exposing the crimes and violations in Gaza, and represents the culmination of the declared war against journalists, aimed at concealing the truth.

If Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet are thinking that they can continue to fool the world by continuing their autocratic and ruthless actions, they should realise that their masks have been torn away long ago.

It is high time Israel understood that there is no solution except an immediate ceasefire and negotiations.

Silencing the media has never worked in human history, and it never will.

The earlier Israel comprehends this, the better for them.

The Gulf Times family hereby condemns in the strongest possible terms, the draconian action by Israel, in its desperate attempt to silence Al Jazeera.

## DFI opens submissions for Ajyal 2024

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) has announced that submissions for the 12th edition of the Ajyal Film Festival will be accepted from May 12.

The festival is set to take place from November 16-23.

Filmmakers from around the world will have until September 1 to submit their entries for the Ajyal Competition, which is divided into two sections – a Feature Film Competition for narrative and documentary films, and a Short Film Competition covering short narratives and documentaries.

In addition, the festival's "Made in Qatar" section will also make a return.

The programme has become an internationally recognised and applauded initiative that shines a spotlight on the country's film industry.

Submissions for the "Made in Qatar" section close on September 15 and are open to locals and Qatar residents.

In a press statement, DFI chief executive Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "We are excited to announce the dates for Ajyal Film Festival and look forward to bringing together filmmakers, industry professionals, and cinema enthusiasts for a memorable celebration of storytelling and creativity."



## MoECC launches aerial monitoring service

From Page 1

The gyrocopter is a great addition to the operations of environmental monitoring and scientific research to serve the country's biodiversity, by way of collecting and providing accurate information and data, which supports planning efforts to confront challenges and find sustainable solutions for them.

The aircraft also has the ability to early detect fires in wild areas, by searching for any smoke plumes or abnormal temperature points, in addition to raising awareness and education through the use of photos and video clips that are captured, to spread awareness and education to preserve the wild environment and diversity.

The gyrocopter also provides support for terrestrial environment patrols in their conservation operations and communicates and coordinates with the Environmental Operations Department, the statement added.



The Class of 2024 of Tamuq with officials yesterday.

# Tamuq graduates 144 engineers from the Class of 2024

Texas A&M University at Qatar (Tamuq), a Qatar Foundation (QF) partner university, graduated 144 engineers during commencement exercises yesterday at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

The Class of 2024 comprised 136 students who graduated with bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and petroleum engineering, and eight who graduated with master's degrees in chemical engineering.

The Class of 2024 includes 70 Qatari graduates and 73 female engineers, and represents 26 nationalities.

To date, Tamuq has awarded a total of 1,656 degrees, with 43.5% awarded to Qatari graduates and 44% to female graduates.

The night's invited speaker was Qatar Petrochemical Company managing director and chief executive Dr Mohamed al-Mulla, who was also past chair of the Tamuq Dean's Development Council.

"This persistent journey of learning equips you to navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving world, ensuring you remain at the forefront of innovation and leadership," al-Mulla told the graduates.

"The detection of knowledge does not stop upon graduation; rather, it marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of continuous learning and improvement."

"I encourage each of you to embrace this mindset of continuous growth and curiosity, understanding that every day presents a new opportunity to learn something valuable, not just about the

world, but also about ourselves," he continued. "As graduates of Texas A&M, you are now ambassadors of this transformative power of education, remember that your education is a beacon that guides your way, not just in your careers but as lifelong learners."

Khalid al-Sada, a Class of 2024 chemical engineering graduate and president of the Student Government Association, was selected to address his fellow graduates during the ceremony.

He highlighted how the Class of 2024 overcame several challenges, including a global pandemic, and expressed his gratitude to his peers, family and faculty for their support during the undergraduate years.

"Thank you to the faculty and staff, and our families, who have



Dr Mohamed al-Mulla



Student speaker Khalid al-Sada

spent years shaping and building us into the emerging engineers we have become," al-Sada said. "We have all matured and grown together, whether through laughing hysterically in the middle of the night studying or stressing over our grades. You have all been magnificent, not just as students, classmates or friends."

Tamuq dean Dr Cesar Octavio Malave congratulated the graduates on their resilience and resourcefulness in completing their degree, and urged them to uphold the Aggie core values of respect, excellence, loyalty, leadership, integrity and selfless service in everything they do.

"A degree in engineering is one of the most challenging degrees a student can earn, and the Aggie engineers we recognise tonight have completed an intense course

of study to fulfil the requirements for their engineering degree," he said. "And not just any engineering degree – an engineering degree from Texas A&M University, a globally recognised leader in engineering education and research."

"Your hard work has paid off, and tonight is the start of a lifetime of learning, leading and lending expertise to the challenges of the future," Malave said.

After the degrees were awarded, Tamuq alumnus Tabarak al-Lami, a Class of 2018 petroleum engineering graduate, inducted the graduates into The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M's alumni organisation that comprises the nearly 575,000 graduates of the university worldwide and is known as the Aggie Network.



The UDST is to hold its annual graduation ceremony on May 22.

## UDST announces graduation date for the Class of 2024

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) will hold its annual graduation ceremony on May 22 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

More than 900 students will graduate from the university. This year's ceremony is particularly special as the UDST will graduate its first cohort of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence specialists, an increasingly important field of expertise in today's labour market and a strategic enabler for all four pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

"We look forward to the graduation ceremony where we witness our remarkable students embark on a new journey," said UDST president Dr Salem Al-Naemi.

The UDST is Qatar's first applied university, and offers over 70 programmes from its five specialised colleges – the College of Engineering and Technology, the College of Computing and Information Technology, the College of Health Sciences, the College of Business, and the College of General Education.

## JBL Soundgear Sense headphones launched in Qatar

Jumbo Electronics has introduced JBL Soundgear Sense wireless open-ear headphones in Qatar, through Video Home and Electronic Centre, the authorised distributor of authentic JBL products in Qatar, a statement said.

They feature OpenSound technology with air conduction, which does not completely close off the ear canal, making them comfortable to wear for hours.

"OpenSound technology in the JBL Soundgear Sense earbuds provide a natural sound experience, with almost zero sound leakage. Thanks to this innovation, the sound pressure is directed through waves towards the ears. You enjoy your sound, while your privacy is protected."

"Two smartly designed 16.2mm drivers – one for each earbud – provide enhanced dynamic sound," it added. "The earbuds will give six hours of wireless performance and the earbud case will hold another 18 hours of charge. The Type-C USB cable allows quick 15-minute charge that provides four hours of music."

"JBL keeps amazing us with its new and innovative products," said Video Home & Electronics Centre director and chief executive C V Rappai. "We at Video Home believe that this open ear earbud will be a true game changer."

JBL true wireless earbuds is available at all Jumbo retail outlets, Jumbo souq.com and leading supermarkets across Qatar.



## QNA launches course on editing, media monitoring

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) launched a new training course on "Editing and Media Monitoring" at its headquarters yesterday.

This course is part of a series of training initiatives aimed at developing the skills of national media personnel and enhancing their efficiency in specialised media and journalism fields.

The five-day course – attended by 19 people, 17 from the QNA and various Qatari government sectors, and two from the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) – aligns with the QNA's plans to improve the performance and efficiency of media and journalism cadres in various institutions. – QNA



## Ministry honours winners of 'Know Your Prophet' competition

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has honoured the winning students of the 10th edition of the "Know Your Prophet" competition for the academic year 2023/2024. The contest, organised by Khalifa Secondary School for Boys in co-operation with Qatar Charity, and involving the memorisation of the text of "The Hundred-Verse Poem in Commemoration of the State of the Best of Creation, peace be upon him", saw some 180 public and private schools for boys and girls taking part.

The competition's winners, which numbered 90 students, were honoured, and the 20 arbitrators of the competition honoured the supporting parties. Head of the MoEHE's Islamic Education Department, Nasser al-Marri, praised the efforts of the organisers of the competition. The assistant chief executive of the Programs and Community Development Sector at Qatar Charity, Faisal Rashid al-Fuhaida, expressed pride in the partnership with the MoEHE. – QNA

## QU research reveals link between obesity, metastasis in lung cancer

A study by researchers at Qatar University (QU) Health's College of Nursing has revealed the complex relationship between metabolically healthy obesity and metastasis in lung cancer patients.

The study analyses the complexities of obesity's impact on lung cancer outcomes.

With a focus on metastasis – the threatening spread of cancer cells to distant organs – the study revealed alarming statistics about the prevalence and patterns of metastasis in lung cancer patients.

This highlighted the urgent need for more comprehensive research to address the challenges posed by the disease.

Traditionally, obesity has been viewed as an adverse prognostic factor in various diseases; however, the study introduces a paradoxical association with lung cancer outcomes.



Studies have indicated that the inverse association between obesity and lung cancer is primarily observed among smokers, suggesting that smoking may confound this relationship. Other studies suggest that weight loss, resulting from damage to lung tissue over a long period of time and declining lung function, may precede the diagnosis of lung cancer.

The researchers revealed that while obesity significantly increases readmissions in lung cancer patients, it reduces the risk of surgical complications.

Dr Waqas Sami, assistant professor of Pre-Clinical Affairs at QU's College of Nursing (pictured), said: "To gain a more detailed comprehension of the link between metabolically healthy obesity and lung cancer metastasis, a heightened emphasis on follow-up or randomised controlled trials, coupled with the application of advanced meta-analysis techniques, is recommended."



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**GULF TIMES**

## New self-recycling plastic could combat ocean pollution

Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes. This statement from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) website, drives home the point that plastic pollution is a global problem. Every year 19-23mn tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas. Plastic pollution can alter habitats and natural processes, reducing ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change, directly affecting millions of people's livelihoods, food production capabilities and social well-being, according to the UNEP.

So much for a depressing but factual introduction about plastic pollution. But a latest breakthrough has come as a beacon of hope. A team of researchers from UC San Diego has created a form of plastic that can basically recycle itself. Dr Adam Feist and Professor Jon Pokorski combined traditional polyurethane with a microbial spore to create plastic that can break down in compost or any other natural environment in around five months. The newly crafted biodegradable thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) is just as durable and elastic as traditional polyurethane, with the ability to stretch up to 15 times its original size. TPU is used in footwear, floor mats, cushions, and memory foam. But unlike other plastic, the new blend almost completely decomposes much faster.

The biodegradable TPU was made with bacterial spores from a strain of *Bacillus subtilis* that has the ability to break down plastic polymer materials. Pokorski and Feist say that will help the environment by eliminated waste. They say plastic companies can start to mass-produce this kind of "self-eating" plastic right now, simply by adding the microbial spores to their existing ingredients. It's about 10% more expensive, but they believe that's worth it to help with pollution and climate change. "To make the biodegradable plastic, the researchers fed *Bacillus subtilis* spores and TPU pellets into a plastic extruder. The ingredients were mixed and melted at over 200F, then extruded as thin strips of plastic. To assess the material's biodegradability, the strips were placed in both microbially active and sterile compost environments. Prof Pokorski said the compost setups were maintained at around 100F with a relative humidity ranging from 44-55%. Water and other nutrients in the compost triggered germination of the spores within the plastic strips, which reached 90% degradation within five months. Although the researchers still need to study what gets left behind after the material degrades, they believe that any lingering bacterial spores are likely harmless. Pokorski explained that *Bacillus subtilis* is a strain used in probiotics that's generally regarded as safe to humans and animals and can even be beneficial to plant health. For the study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, the bacterial spores were evolutionary nudged to adapt to the hot temperatures necessary for manufacturing the TPU. The spores also serve as a strengthening filler, similar to how rebar reinforces concrete, resulting in a TPU variant with enhanced mechanical properties—requiring more force to break and showing greater stretchability. "This is great because the addition of spores pushes the mechanical properties beyond known limitations where there was previously a trade-off between tensile strength and stretchability," said Pokorski. The research team is now working on optimising the approach for use on an industrial scale.

**The newly crafted biodegradable thermoplastic polyurethane is just as durable and elastic as traditional polyurethane, with the ability to stretch up to 15 times its original size**

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Emperor's New Cloth

## In the dock: Pivotal climate change testimonies in US

- Court to clarify how climate change affects human rights
- Hundreds of people offer testimony on climate upheaval
- Court's advisory opinion to shape future litigation

By Anastasia Moloney  
Bogota

From Mexicans left homeless by rising seas to Colombians affected by coral bleaching, hundreds of people are telling the top human rights court in the Americas what climate change means to them in an historic case that could shape international law.

Environmental lawyers also hope the hearings at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR), which were requested by Colombia and Chile, will define the duties of states to confront the climate crisis and stop it infringing on human rights.

As well as receiving submissions from climate victims, the Costa Rica-based court, which started its inquiry in Barbados in April, will hear from UN agencies, legal experts, grassroots environmental campaign groups, and youth groups.

The next sessions are due to be held in Brasilia and then Manaus, Brazil at the end of May, and an advisory opinion is expected by May 2025.

"We're hoping that the court's legal opinion is a guide and reference for Mexico, and other states, to develop public policies from a climate justice perspective," said Nora Cabrera, a lawyer and head of Our Future, a Mexico-based youth climate justice campaign group.

"And that it includes loss and damage compensation for affected communities, and adaptation policies for those not yet directly affected by climate change," said Cabrera, who will be speaking at the next hearing in Manaus.

In January, Colombia and Chile asked the IACHR to issue the advisory opinion, saying that they were experiencing the "daily challenge of dealing with the consequences of the climate emergency," including fires, landslides, droughts and floods.

"These events reveal the need for an urgent response based on the principles of equity, justice, co-operation and sustainability, with a human rights-based approach," they said in their petition.

"There is a close relationship between the climate emergency and the violation of human rights," they added.

It is this link between climate change and human rights that the IACHR will seek to define, while also examining how climate change affects migration and looking at the disproportionate effect on children, women and Indigenous people.

Chile and Colombia also asked the court for clarification on a state's duties to protect environmental activists.

Latin America is the most dangerous place in the world for environmental and land defenders, according to advocacy group Global Witness. Around 90% of the 177 killings

of environmental activists recorded in 2022 took place in the region.

"The hearing aims to ask for clarity about human rights obligations and the climate crisis," said Jacob Kopas, senior attorney at the Earthjustice environmental group, one of a group of lawyers who spoke at the Barbados hearing on April 26.

"It will help to create a more concise framework to guide state behaviour and policy to confront the climate crisis and protect human rights," said Kopas.

Among those submitting testimonies will be the residents of the El Bosque fishing community in Tabasco, Mexico, where rising sea levels caused by climate change have swept away about 200 meters of coastline.

Since 2019, the school and more than 50 homes have been destroyed, forcing about 200 people to leave.

El Bosque community leader, Guadalupe Cobos, said she and 10 neighbours will probably have to leave within a year and resettle in an area about 12km away, where new homes are being built by the government.

"We depend on the sea but coastal erosion has affected our way of life. It's important for the court to know that we're living climate change now and that this isn't something that will happen in the future in 20 or 50 years' time," said Cobos.

"We want the court to hear our experiences and to know that our rights have been violated, that

we have been forced to migrate," Cobos told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The court's advisory opinion could have important implications for climate litigation across Latin America and the Caribbean and make it easier for communities living with the effects of global warming to take legal action.

The opinion will apply to all signatories of the American Convention on Human Rights, most of whom are members of the Organization of American States. The United States and Canada have not ratified the treaty however.

The advisory opinion will help shape the region's legal systems as many countries incorporate its jurisprudence into their laws and constitutions.

"We're hoping that the court makes the link between the climate crisis and human rights violations and that it recognises climate displacement," said Cabrera, whose organisation has been supporting the El Bosque community.

The IACHR is known for its progressive stance on climate justice and human rights.

In March, it recognised that citizens in Peru have the right to a healthy environment when it ruled in favor of people living in the Andean mining town of La Oroya, who had suffered from decades of environmental pollution.

Other courts are also breaking new ground in this sphere.

In Colombia in April, in response to a lawsuit filed by a farming couple who were driven out of their home by flooding caused by heavy rains, the country's constitutional court recognised the links between environmental disasters and climate change and people being forcibly displaced.

Across the world, other top courts are also examining the connection between human rights and climate change. On April 9, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled that the Swiss government had violated the human rights of its citizens by failing to do enough to combat climate change.

Two other courts - the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS) - are also expected to give advisory opinions on international legal obligations of states regarding climate change.

Kopas said the IACHR ruling could lead the way by delivering a "forward-reaching and progressive" advisory opinion.

"It's historic because of the climate crisis we are in. This is the crisis of our lifetime and of all future generations." - Thomson Reuters Foundation



A resident of El Bosque cries in front of what is left of her house as rising sea levels are destroying homes built on the shoreline and forcing villagers to relocate, in El Bosque, Mexico. (Reuters)

## Police kill 'radicalised' teenager in Australia

Western Australian police shot and killed a "radicalised" 16-year-old boy with a knife who had stabbed a man in a Perth car park, police and the state premier said yesterday.

The teenager "rushed" at police who responded by shooting him twice with Tasers before firing a single fatal shot, they said.

"There are indications he had been radicalised online. But I want to reassure the community at this stage it appears he acted solely and alone," Premier Roger Cook said.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he had been briefed on the incident by police and intelligence agencies, which advised there was no ongoing threat.

Police received a call late on Saturday from a male warning that he was going to commit "acts of violence" but without giving his name or location, the state's police commissioner, Col Blanch, told reporters.

Within minutes, another emergency call alerted police that a "male with a knife was running around the car park" in Willetton, a southern suburb of Perth, he said.

Police body camera images showed the teenager refused officers' demands that he put down the knife, the police chief said.

Officers fired two Tasers at him but "both of them did not have the full desired effect", he said. "The male continued to advance on the third officer with a firearm who fired a single shot and fatally wounded the male."

The "middle-aged" man who had been stabbed was in a "serious" but stable condition and appeared to be doing well, the police commissioner said.

Police believe the teenager sent "relevant messages" to some members of the Muslim community who immediately called police, he said, without giving details of the messages. - *AFP/Reuters*

# UN accuses Israel of continued denial of aid access to Gaza

*Reuters/AFP*  
New York/Jerusalem

Top United Nations official has accused Israel of continuing to deny the United Nations humanitarian access in the Gaza Strip, where the UN food chief warned a "full-blown famine" has taken hold in the north of the enclave of 2.3mn people.

While not a formal famine declaration, World Food Programme (WFP) executive director Cindy McCain said - in an *NBC News* interview broadcast yesterday - that based on the "horror" on the ground: "There is famine, full-blown famine, in the north, and it's moving its way south."

Israel's government did not immediately respond to a request for comment on McCain's remarks.

The head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, meanwhile accused Israel of continuing to deny the United Nations aid access in Gaza as it tries to avert famine.

"Just this week, they have denied - for the second time - my entry to Gaza where I planned to be with our UNRWA colleagues, including those on the front lines," he posted on X.

Lazzarini has been to Gaza four times since the war broke out including on March 17.

"Only in the past two weeks, we have recorded 10 incidents involving shooting at convoys, arrests of UN staff including bullying, stripping them naked, threats with

arms and long delays at checkpoints forcing convoys to move during the dark or abort," Lazzarini wrote yesterday.

Israel's government did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Lazzarini's remarks.

Lazzarini also called on "Hamas and other armed groups to stop any attacks on humanitarian crossings, refrain from aid diversion and make sure assistance reaches all those in need".

The militants claimed responsibility yesterday for an attack that shut down the main humanitarian aid crossing into Gaza.

A UN-backed report in March said famine was imminent and likely by May in northern Gaza, and could spread across the enclave by July.

Famine is assessed as at least 20% of the population suffering extreme food shortages, with one in three children acutely malnourished and two people out of every 10,000 dying daily from starvation or from malnutrition and disease.

UN officials say that generally by the time a famine is formally declared somewhere it is too late to save many people.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last week that the most vulnerable in northern Gaza "are already dying of hunger and disease".

Israel is retaliating against Hamas over the events of October 7 in which Israel about 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 people taken hostage.

Gaza health authorities say Israel has killed more than 34,600 people in Gaza since then.

## Xi in France for Macron talks on Ukraine

*AFP/Reuters*  
Paris

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in France yesterday on a state visit hosted by Emmanuel Macron where the French leader will seek to warn his counterpart against backing Russia in the conflict over Ukraine.

Xi's arrival for the visit marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between France and China heralded the start of his first trip to Europe since 2019, which will also see him visit Serbia and Hungary.

However, Xi's choice of France as the sole major European power to visit indicates the relative warmth in Sino-French relations since Macron made his own state visit to China in April 2023 and acknowledges the French leader's stature as an EU powerbroker.

The leader of the one-party Communist state of more than 1.4bn people, accompanied by his wife Peng Liyuan, was welcomed under umbrellas at a drizzly Paris Orly air-

port by Prime Minister Gabriel Attal.

Xi is to hold a day of talks in Paris today - also including EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen - followed by a state banquet hosted by Macron at the Elysee.

Tomorrow Macron take Xi to the Pyrenees mountains to an area he used to visit as a boy for a day of less public and more intimate talks.

In an op-ed for *Le Figaro* daily, Xi said that he wanted to work with the international community to find ways to solve the conflict sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while emphasising that China is "neither a party nor a participant" in the conflict.

"We hope that peace and stability will return quickly to Europe, and intend to work with France and the entire international community to find good paths to resolve the crisis," he wrote.

A key priority of Macron will be to warn Xi of the danger of backing Russia, with Western officials concerned Moscow is already using Chinese machine tools in arms production.

Beijing's ties with Moscow have, if anything, warmed after the invasion and the West wants China not to supply weapons to Russia and risk tipping the balance.

"It is in our interest to get China to weigh in on the stability of the international order," said Macron in an interview with the *Economist* published on Thursday.

Macron also said in the same *Economist* interview that Europe must defend its "strategic interests" in its economic relations with China, accusing Beijing of not respecting the rules on international trade.

However, he acknowledged in an interview with the *La Tribune Dimanche* newspaper that Europeans are "not unanimous" on the strategy to adopt as "certain actors still see China essentially as a market of opportunities" while it "exports massively" to Europe.

The EU's 27 members - in particular France and Germany - are divided on their attitude towards China.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will not join Macron and Xi in Paris due to prior commitments, sources said.

## French bakers make world's longest baguette, beating Italy

*Reuters*  
Paris

French bakers cooked the world's longest baguette yesterday at 140.53m (461'), reclaiming a record for one of the nation's best-known emblems taken by Italy for five years.

The baguette, about 235 times longer than the traditional one, was made in Suresnes in the suburbs of Paris during an event for the French confederation of bakers and pastry chefs.

The previous longest baguette of 132.62m was baked in the Italian city of Como in June 2019.

To better that, the French bakers began kneading and shaping the dough at 3am before putting it in a specially-built slow-moving oven on wheels.

"Everything has been validated, we are all very happy to have beaten this record and that it was done in France," Anthony Arrigault, one of the bakers, said after the baguette was approved by the Guinness World Records judge.



Part of the baguette, which had to be at least 5cm thick throughout, was cut and shared with the public.

The rest was to be given to the homeless. The traditional French baguette must be about 60cm long, be made from wheat

flour, water, salt and yeast only, and weigh about 250g, according to the official regulation.



A baker poses with the Guinness World Records certificate for the longest baguette in the world.

Left: A baker is seen near the baguette as it comes out of a large rotating oven.

## Niger gold mines ordered shut over animal deaths

Several gold mines in northern Niger managed by a Chinese company were ordered to temporarily close after dozens of animals died from drinking wastewater, local authorities told *AFP* yesterday.

Herdsmen around the town of Tabelot had pointed to Sahara SARM's mines as the only explanation for their animals' deaths, saying the region was not suffering from drought or any epidemics.

"We counted 24 dead over two days and at the end of April we finally realised that the slaughter was being caused by harmful products in the water the mines were rejecting," said Youssaf Houssa, the chief of Tamannit, one of the affected villages.

Almou Akoli, who lives in Fasso, another village, said he lost 16 animals while some of his "neighbours cannot keep track of how many they have lost".

China's Sahara SARM started mining gold in January in the middle of grazing grounds where there are hardly any natural waterholes.

Following a visit on Friday by police investigators, Niger's ministry of mines ordered the temporary closure of at least four of the mining sites, according to the sources.

"The Chinese have suspended work and we are monitoring our animals," said Houssa.

Private local newspaper *Air Info* said an official report confirmed that "the catastrophe" was caused by chemical products used in the mines that threaten the water table in what is already a hostile environment for animal husbandry.

French company Orano (formerly Areva), which has been extracting uranium in northern Niger for more than 40 years, is regularly accused by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of polluting the environment. - *AFP*

## Lord of the Rings actor Hill dies aged 79

British actor Bernard Hill (pictured), best known for his supporting roles in *Titanic* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, died yesterday aged 79, his agent announced. He played Captain Edward Smith in the Oscar-winning 1997 epic romance *Titanic*, and earned worldwide recognition playing Theoden, King of Rohan, in two of the three *Lord of the Rings* films directed by Peter Jackson. His agent Lou Coulson confirmed his death in the early hours of yesterday to British media outlets. - *AFP*



## Panamanians go to polls to elect president

Panamanians voted yesterday in presidential elections featuring a crowded field of eight candidates led by the protégé of a former head of state convicted of corruption.

The vote comes as Panama is grappling with deep-rooted corruption, a severe drought that has hobbled its economically critical Panama Canal, and a stream of US-bound migrants passing through its jungles.

Lines formed outside polling stations early in the morning as eligible voters in the Central American country of 4.4mn people cast ballots for a new president, congress and local governments.

Conservative lawyer Jose Raul Mulino, 64, is far ahead in opinion polls, with about 37% of voter support, according to the latest survey.

However, he was made to wait for a last-minute court decision on Friday that finally validated his run.

Of the seven other candidates, only three have approached 15% support. Polls show voters' main concerns are the high cost

of living, access to drinking water and crime.

Panama has no leftist parties and the main candidates for president made similar pledges: create lots of jobs, stimulate the economy, and enact reforms to fight corruption.

"We are in a country that is in a political, social, economic and environmental crisis," said a 74-year-old retiree who gave only her family name, Mollick.

"My hope is that the new government will face corruption and poverty. I hope that this time they keep their promises, otherwise they will have to deal with the people," said Amalia Brown, 80, a retiree, after casting her vote.

Jennifer Navarro, a 50-year-old teacher, added: "Panama must change. There is too much corruption." Corruption has become a hot-button issue for voters.

Local media has recently reported on generous student loans and scholarships granted to the children of politicians and wealthy high-profile families. - *AFP/Reuters*

## Bangladesh reopens schools as searing temperatures drop

Schools in Bangladesh reopened yesterday after a heatwave a week ago that suspended lessons as the country baked in temperatures that surged to well over 40°Celsius.

Bangladesh has wavered over reopening schools for some 33mn students amid pressure to prepare pupils for exams, even as the worst heatwave in seven decades sent temperatures

as high as 43.8C (110.84° Fahrenheit) last week. Many people have died across the region, and experts warned the heat could exacerbate inequalities, widen a learning gap between developing and developed nations in the tropics.

Bangladesh will hold classes on Saturdays until further notice, the education ministry said.

Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury has said schools would open on Friday if needed to complete the curriculum.

Parents have welcomed the decision. "Children don't want to study at home. This will help them make up for the loss," said Fatema Akhtar, who was waiting to pick up her grade-two daughter outside a school. - *Reuters*

## This year's Eurovision begins in Malmo

Eurovision 2024 began in the Swedish city of Malmo yesterday when 37 contenders walked the "Turquoise Carpet" amid heightened security and calls for boycotts due to Israel's participation. The 68th version of the song contest, which is always billed as non-political, is taking place against the backdrop of the devastating Israeli military campaign in Gaza, triggered by the events of October 7.

The contest comprises three live shows, with half a dozen countries having a shot at the title this year, according to fans and bookmakers. - *Reuters*

## Japan urges 400 to evacuate city over fire

More than 400 residents in northern Japan were urged to evacuate yesterday over fears a forest fire that has been blazing for two days could spread to residential areas. Helicopters poured water for hours on the mountains around Nanyo city in Yamagata prefecture to douse the flames, but the operation was called off after dark with the fire still burning.

"We're urging over 400 residents in the three districts" of the city to evacuate, an official in charge of the disaster response said. - *AFP*



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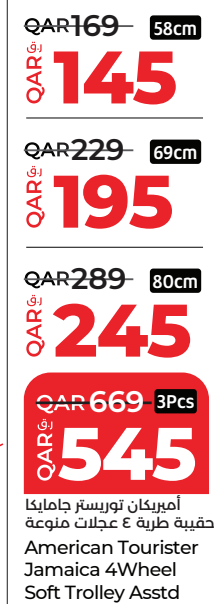


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