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Amir patronises QU graduation ceremony



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani patronised the graduation ceremony of the 47th batch (Class of 2024) of Qatar University students held at QU Sports and Events Complex yesterday.
HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, ministers,

members of QU Board of Trustees, QU Vice-Presidents, students guardians and senior officials attended the ceremony.
HH the Amir honoured the 133 outstanding graduates in all disciplines, while President of Qatar University Dr Omar bin Mohamed al-Ansari handed the certificates to the 761 graduates.
The ceremony featured a film about the students university experience in various disciplines, and the

achievements of Qatar University and its support to the students in their academic choices and equipping them with the necessary skills to launch their professional careers and serve the community and the country.
Dr Omar bin Mohamed al-Ansari gave a speech on the occasion, and student Sheikh Mohamed bin Thamer al-Thani delivered a speech on behalf of the graduates.

HH the Amir wished the 47th batch of QU graduates further success and achievement in their professional and academic careers.
HH the Amir posted on X, congratulating the 47th batch of male and female graduates, wishing them further success and achievement in their professional and academic paths so that they would, in turn, contribute to Qatar's development and excellence.
(QNA) Page 3

Amir, Trudeau discuss ties, Gaza situation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau the friendly relations between the two countries and ways to develop them. This came during a phone call received by HH the Amir yesterday from the prime minister. Developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories were also discussed during the call, in addition to a number of regional and international issues and developments of mutual concern. **(QNA)**

QatarEnergy, Nakilat sign long-term deal

QatarEnergy signed a long-term agreement with Qatar Gas Transport Company (Nakilat) pursuant to which Nakilat will own and operate nine "QC-Max" class LNG vessels, the largest LNG vessels ever built. The agreement was signed by HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, also the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, and Abdullah al-Sulaiti, CEO, Nakilat, at a ceremony held at QatarEnergy's headquarters in Doha yesterday.
Business Page 1

US pauses arms, but Israel pounds Rafah

President Joe Biden decided to hold back delivery of high payload munitions to Israel because Washington believes a possible Israeli offensive in the Gaza city of Rafah could put civilians at risk, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said yesterday.
Israel bombarded Rafah yesterday as the military said ground troops conducted "targeted raids" in the southern Gaza city, with negotiations to halt the seven-month war underway in Cairo. AFP TV footage showed Palestinians scrambling in the dark to pull survivors, bloodied and caked in dust, out from under the rubble of a Rafah building. "We are living in Rafah in extreme fear and endless anxiety," said Muhanad Ahmad Qishta, 29.
"Places the Israeli army claims to be safe are also being bombed," he told AFP.

Qatari-Turkish aid ship sets sail for Gaza Strip

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir, saw off yesterday a Turkiye-Qatar Gaza Goodness Ship departing from the Mersin International Port loaded with 1,908 tonnes of humanitarian aid for the besieged Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The Qatar Fund for Development delivered 1,358 tonnes of the total load, and 550 tonnes was given by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of Turkiye.

In a speech on the occasion of the launch of the aid ship from the Turkish port to Gaza, al-Khatir hailed the move as another image of the close fraternal co-operation between Qatar and Turkiye.

She added that the ship carrying more than 1,900 tonnes of hu-

manitarian and relief aid, set sail from Mersin International Port to the Port of El-Arish in Egypt, to support brothers in the Gaza Strip, who have been struggling for seven months with the horrors of killing, forced displacement, and hunger, while leaving unforgettable stories of steadfastness and sacrifice that inspired the whole world.

Al-Khatir pointed out that this ship is the latest in a series of established and ongoing co-operation between Qatar and Turkiye in all fields that serve common interests and enhance security, stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

She stressed that the flow of sustainable and unhindered humanitarian aid to the entire Gaza Strip is a humanitarian duty and a legal obligation that falls primarily on the occupation forces, according to the Fourth Geneva Convention.



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir making a speech at the sea-off.

33rd – and biggest – DIBF begins today

The 33rd Doha International Book Fair will start today at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center. The theme for this year's event is "Knowledge Builds Civilisations."

The upcoming edition will boast the largest international participation in the fair's history. Over 515 publishing houses from 42 countries are confirmed to attend, along with significant cultural contributions from embassies of friendly nations.

The Sultanate of Oman will be the guest of honour, showcasing its rich heritage through a dedicated pavilion. This pavilion will feature a diverse cultural programme highlighting Omani literature, intellectual achievements, and traditional art forms in addition to live folk and artistic performances.

The fair features a prominent presence of Qatari publishing houses, a testament to the country's commitment to supporting the book, publishing, and creative industries. Local participants include Rosa Publishing House, Dar Al Watad, QU Press, Katara Publishing House, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press), Dar Al Sharq, Dar Al Thaqafa, Dar Napjaj, and Dar Nawa, in addition to Lusail University, the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, and Qatar Museums. **To Page 11**

Thursday
The 33rd Doha International Book Fair Convenes

Sultanate of Oman
The International Book Fair Guest of Honor
Participates with a dedicated pavilion and a diverse cultural program

"Knowledge Builds Civilizations"
The Doha International Book Fair theme

The book fair includes **180,000** titles in various knowledge and sciences

The Book Fair Takes place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center

The Doha International Book Fair is open to the public from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily, except for Fridays when it opens from 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Over 515 publishing houses from **42** countries attend The Doha International Book Fair

MoPH, WHO in Country Co-operation Strategy

Qatar's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and World Health Organisation (WHO) have discussed developing the Country Co-operation Strategy (CCS) 2024-2030 at a two-day joint workshop.

Senior officials from MoPH, other relevant ministries and agencies in Qatar, and representatives from WHO, as well as from the United Nations and their agencies and partners were present.

The objective was to discuss and reach a consensus on the CSS. During the workshop, health priorities and challenges were identified, and a strategic agenda for co-operation be-



Participants at the workshop in which officials of Qatar's MoPH and WHO discussed developing the Country Co-operation Strategy 2024-2030.

tween MoPH and WHO was established.

The CSS is a strategic initiative that aims to align the WHO's work with each member country's unique requirements. By collaborating with all relevant institu-

tions, the CCS creates a framework that prioritises global and regional health while meeting the specific needs of a country.

HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, said: "Qatar is com-

mitted to further strengthening its close co-operation with the WHO, especially in ways that contribute to the support of our national policies, strategies, and plans. Improving the health and well-being of the Qatari com-

munity, aligning with the Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar's Third National Development Strategy, our health strategies, and our Sustainable Development Goals is a priority."
To Page 11



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5 th Prize 5,000 QAR. X 50 Winners = 250,000/- (Vouchers 5,000 x 50 Winners)
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الجائزة السادسة 2,500 ريال قطري. عدد 60 فائزاً = 150,000/- (صحة 2,500 ريال قطري + قسائم 147,500 ريال قطري)

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Amir graces Qatar University graduation ceremony, honours 133 outstanding graduates



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the graduation ceremony of the 47th batch (Class of 2024) of Qatar University students, held at QU Sports and Events Complex yesterday. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, ministers, members of QU Board of Trustees, QU vice-presidents, students, guardians and senior officials attended the ceremony. During the ceremony, His Highness the Amir honoured the 133 outstanding graduates in all disciplines, while the President of Qatar University Dr Omar bin Mohamed al-Ansari handed the certificates to the 761 graduates. The ceremony featured a film about the students' university experience in various disciplines, and the achievements of Qatar University and its support to the students in their academic choices and equipping them with the necessary skills to launch their professional careers and serve the community and the country. Dr al-Ansari gave a speech on the occasion, and student Sheikh Mohamed bin Thamer al-Thani delivered a speech on behalf of the graduates. (QNA)

Culture minister meets Egyptian counterpart

HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with Minister of Culture of Egypt Dr Nevin al-Kilani, who is currently visiting the country on the occasion of the 33rd Doha International Book Fair, which begins today, under slogan: 'Knowledge Builds Civilizations'. They reviewed aspects of joint co-operation between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop it in the cultural field. (QNA)



Minister meets Turkish top officials

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier met with Turkiye's Deputy Foreign Minister Yasin Ekrem Serim, Deputy Interior Minister Munir Karaloglu, Mersin Governor Ali Hamza Pehlivan, and Head of Disaster and Emergency Management Authority Okay Memis, on the sideline of a business lunch in Doha yesterday. They discussed co-operation between the two countries and ways to support and develop it, especially in development fields. They also discussed developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, and the developments in Syria. This meeting came in the context of joint co-operation between Qatar and Turkiye in sending a ship carrying over 1,900 tonnes of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian brothers besieged in the Gaza Strip. (QNA)



Israel committing genocide in Gaza: Karaloglu

Deputy Minister of Interior of Turkiye, Munir Karaloglu, stated that the Israeli regime is waging a genocidal war in Gaza, which has led to an alarming rise in civilian martyrs and injuries. Karaloglu emphasized the unwavering commitment of both Qatar and Turkiye to advocating for the rights of Palestinians and the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, underscoring the joint efforts of Turkiye and Qatar in providing vital aid, including essential food and shelter, to alleviate the suffering of the people in Gaza. He pointed that the co-operation between the two countries is exemplified by the dispatch of a humanitarian aid ship from the Turkish port of Mersin to Al-Arish, Egypt. This initiative was carried out in the presence of HE Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier, and Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Yasin Ekrem Serim. Karaloglu concluded with a firm commitment from Turkiye and Qatar to intensify their efforts in the upcoming phase, particularly focusing on advocating for a ceasefire in Gaza. (QNA)

Turkiye, Qatar will continue to deliver aid to Gaza: Serim

Turkiye's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yasin Ekrem Serim affirmed that Turkiye has exerted tremendous efforts since the beginning of the war to support the Palestinian people in Gaza, especially after the situation reached a very critical stage.

Serim told Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the sidelines of the Turkiye-Qatar Gaza Goodness Ship Farewell Ceremony from the Turkish city of Mersin, that Turkiye was one of the first countries to rush humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

He pointed to the numerous contacts made by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with many countries to put an end to the bloodshed in Gaza. Serim also mentioned the efforts made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan, who emphasized in many international forums the right of the Palestinian people to live in peace and the acceptance of a two-state solution.

Serim said that while Turkiye is working on all fronts to pressure for a ceasefire in Gaza, and that Turkish aid to the people of Gaza has not stopped. He added Turkiye was

cooperating today with Qatar, like it has since the beginning of the war, to deliver aid to Gaza. He added that Turkiye-Qatar Gaza Goodness Ship sets sail from the port of Mersin in southern Turkey to the Egyptian port of Al Arish, preparing to deliver its cargo to Gaza.

The Turkish minister thanked Qatar for its efforts in providing aid to Gaza, confirming Turkiye and Qatar's ongoing efforts to achieve an immediate ceasefire and provide relief to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. (QNA)

Investing in human capital key to sustainable development: al-Ansari

QNA
Doha

Qatar University President Dr Omar bin Mohamed al-Ansari said that investing in the human capital is the cornerstone of achieving aspirations and sustaining development.

This came in his speech at the graduation ceremony of QU's 47th batch, during which he said: "The university senses its role as a strong supporter of sustainable development in Qatar, through preparing young people capable of actively participating with determination and enthusiasm in building their societies and engaging with the issues of their nation driven by the values of brotherhood, justice, and equity."

The QU president highlighted: "Qatar University has contributed to the Qatari job market with over 65,000 young human talent who have actively contributed and continue to contribute effectively to the journey of our ambitious developmental progress."

He added that the university does so within its core role and commitment to providing high-



Qatar University President Dr Omar bin Mohamed al-Ansari speaking at the event.

quality education and impactful research linked to national development. Dr al-Ansari continued: "The prominent position that Qatar has attained regionally and internationally under your wise leadership and within the framework of the principles laid down by the founding fathers places a great responsibility on the university, a responsibility it acknowledges and takes pride in."

He added: "Through a clear vision, mission, and an educational model based on a system of high values, and a scientific framework that adheres to the highest academic standards, this has resulted

in graduating individuals who possess a balanced and comprehensive personality, as well as knowledge, skills, and competencies, with a deep commitment to excellence, integrity, and social responsibility. This has made graduates of Qatar University active and influential in their surroundings, capable of positively engaging with the challenges of the modern world, and raising the name of their country in society and globally."

Moreover, the QU president noted that QU has achieved many accomplishments on various fronts, and has obtained numerous academic chairs through partnerships and agreements with local, regional, and international institutions.

Cabinet approves hosting of higher education conference

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held at its seat at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. After the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi issued the following statement:

The Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda as follows:

First - the Cabinet approved the hosting of the Fifth Regional Conference on Higher Education in Arab Countries.

Second - the Cabinet approved the following:

1. The draft agreement on basic

contribution between the Qatar Fund for Development in the State of Qatar and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

2. The draft contribution agreement regarding the Doha Programme of Action (2023-2031) between the Qatar Fund for Development in the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office represented by its Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

3. The draft memorandum of understanding for co-operation in the field of endowments and Islamic affairs between the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs in the State of Qatar and the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

4. The draft memorandum of understanding between the Communications Regulatory Authority in the State of Qatar and the National Authority for Management and Regulation of Communications in the Republic of Romania.

Third - the Cabinet reviewed the following matters and made appropriate decisions:

1. The national policy regarding the phenomenon of childhood obesity in the State of Qatar, proposed by the Ministry of Public Health.

2. A report on the results of the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science.

3. A report on the results of the participation of the Qatari delegation, led by HE the Minister of Labour, in the 100th session of the Board of Directors of the Arab Labour Organisation.

Interfaith Dialogue stresses on significance of family's role

The 15th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue emphasised the importance of preserving the structure of the family system, strengthening its foundations, and fortifying it against contemporary risks it faces, given that it is the fundamental cornerstone of society.

The concluding statement issued by the conference yesterday, read by Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (Dicid), Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi, stressed that preserving the family system can only be achieved by making religious teachings and values a guide for family life, elevating the importance of virtuous values and ethics, highlighting their role and impact in directing human behaviour and maximizing family cohesion. The statement also emphasised the centrality of education as a vital path

to achieving healthy upbringing for future generations who shape the future.

The conference called for activating the role of families in preventing their children from engaging in morally incorrect practices, and achieving self-awareness within the family unit by restructuring parental roles and responsibilities. This involves building emotional and social bonds between parents and their children to create a harmonious family environment, free from conflicts and negative interactions that distort the image of family in the minds of the young.

The statement also highlighted the importance of official institutional attention to social family services, particularly for vulnerable families, deepening the understanding of their role not only in providing financial support but also in equipping them with beneficial knowledge

to confront the challenges they face.

Furthermore, the statement emphasised the adoption and support of civil and voluntary institutional initiatives aimed at protecting and strengthening the family structure, integrating family dialogues into educational programs and curricula, conducting independent studies and specialized research in various educational institutions to establish this role theoretically and practically by hosting families to develop a culture of dialogue among them.

The conference emphasised the role of educational institutions, especially universities, in supporting and fortifying families against ideologies and philosophies that undermine societies, civilisations, and humanity as a whole, whether through curriculum design that shapes student awareness or through scientific studies and research to address all family-related issues.

Qatari aircraft delivers 11 tonnes of food, medical supplies for Palestinians in Gaza

A Qatar Armed Forces aircraft landed in Al Arish, Arab Republic of Egypt, with 11 tonnes of aid onboard, including food supplies from the Qatar Red Crescent Society, to be delivered to Gaza. This takes the total of Qatari relief planes sent to 94. This aid comes within the framework of the State of Qatar's full support for the brotherly Palestinian people amid the tough humanitarian challenges they are subjected to. (QNA)



Qatar slams bombardment of Rafah, calls for urgent international action

Qatar has condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli occupation forces' bombardment of the Rafah governorate, invasion of the land crossing and threat to displace citizens from shelter and housing centres, calling for an urgent international action that to prevent the invasion of the city and the perpetration of a genocide, and to provide full protection for civilians in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned that forcibly displacing civilians from the city of Rafah, which has become a final refuge for hundreds of thousands of displaced people in the Gaza Strip, constitutes a serious violation of international laws and would double the worsening humanitarian crisis in the besieged enclave. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm position on the justice of the Palestinian cause, the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. **(QNA)**

Asean secretary-general meets Qatar's envoy

Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Dr Kao Kim Hourn met with ambassador of Qatar to Indonesia and the Asean, Fawziya bint Edrees al-Sulaiti, on the occasion of the end of her tenure as ambassador to the association. The secretary-general of the Asean voiced his thanks and appreciation to the ambassador for her efforts that contributed to strengthening and developing relations between Qatar and the General Secretariat of the Asean, wishing the envoy success in her future missions. In turn, the ambassador voiced her thanks to the secretary-general of the Asean for the support she received during her work as ambassador to the association, wishing for more progress and development in the relations with member countries of the Asean. **(QNA)**



QNA director meets Mongolia envoy



HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with ambassador of Mongolia (non-resident) to Qatar Sergelen Purev. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of joint co-operation in the field of media. **(QNA)**


Minister of state in Doha meetings



HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohamed al-Thani met with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for International Affairs of the United States of America Robert Paschall. They discussed topics of common interest, and the relations between the two countries in the security fields and ways to support and develop them. **(QNA)**



HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohamed al-Thani met with ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to Qatar Marat Nuraliev. During the meeting, they discussed a number of topics of common concern, in addition to the relations between the two countries in the security field and ways to support and develop them. **(QNA)**



**قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy**

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

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

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Sale Period Start Date	End Date	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1.	GT24104000	09.05.2024	15.05.2024	09.06.2024	200,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: MAINTENANCE OF SUBSTATION EQUIPMENT AT MIC								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required								
2.	LT24MT0031	09.05.2024	15.05.2024	27.05.2024	10,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: SUPPLY OF OFFICE AND SCHOOL STATIONERY ITEMS ON CALL-OFF BASIS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required								

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


For more information about QatarEnergy and its Tenders, Please visit our website: <http://www.qatarenergy.qa>

Vodafone Qatar opens pre-orders for new iPad line-up from today

Vodafone Qatar will open pre-orders for the new Apple iPad line-up, including the iPad pro and iPad Air, today from 4pm, a statement said.
"The new iPad Pro comes in a stunning, thin and light design, breakthrough Ultra Retina XDR display, and outrageously fast M4 chip with powerful AI capabilities, while the redesigned 11-inch and all-new 13-inch iPad Air, is supercharged by the M2 chip, with phenomenal performance and AI capabilities, providing a new landscape front camera, and faster Wi-Fi. For complete pricing and availability details, visit www.vodafone.qa/ipad2024/preorder/en. Customers may also visit Doha Festival City and Villaggio retail stores to pre-order."

Endowments ministry publishes 3rd issue of Al-Waqf journal

The Centre for Endowment Studies of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs has published the 3rd issue of the international peer reviewed journal *Al Waqf*, translated as endowment. The issue includes four qualitative and analytical studies, along with the research that directly touch the reality.
Director of General Directorate of Endowments Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Mohamed bin Ghanem al-Thani, who is also the journal's Editor-in-Chief, said the journal proved its privileged standing among academic and research circles. He vowed to move forward to strengthen the journal's pioneering role in the peer-reviewed research that unequivocally touch the needs of reality. Sheikh Dr Khalid highlighted that the new issue addresses a contemporary incident, namely the digital assets endowment which have become funds and assets worth trillions of dollars in the world of today and ensures the adaptation of these assets to the Shariah rules, with emphasis on how endowment institutions can further utilise these assets.
Additionally, the new issue comprises Moroccan, Gulf and Asian contemporary experiences, with each one of them tackling different aspects, primarily women's endowments in Kuwait, a qualitative and analytical study from 1821-1961, a historical study that touches on the role performed by Kuwaiti women in the endowment giving, with the second experience focusing on public endowments investment partnership in Morocco, in terms of using endowment real estate and contemporary financing alternatives. Also, it studies contractual investment issues that set out problems and lay out solutions. **(QNA)**



QAPCO
شركة قطر البتروكيماويات
QATAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY

QAPCO invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

Sl No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender fee (non-refundable)	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	Tender No. P10-01-260 Five (5) Years On-Call basis agreement for Professional and Qualified IT Resources for System Administration (SharePoint, Operating System, Cloud, MS Exchange and O365) and Service Desk Technicians, Call center agent, Network Technician, Helper.	15th May 2024	QAR 1000	19th May 2024	QAR 150,000	06 June 2024 12:00 Doha LT

- Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official e-mail, etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.
- Non-refundable tender fee indicated above is payable to QAPCO through **QNB account # 0013-001688-060** only at any QNB branch latest by 15 May 2024
- Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after submitting the evidence of the tender fee payment by the bidder to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa). QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Tender closing date & time:
Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) P.P.J.S.C.
The Gate Mall, Bay Tower 2, Floor 11
Onaiza Area, West Bay, Building: 8, Street: 905, Zone 63,
Tel. : 4033 8109 / 4033 8102
Attention: Procurement Group Manager
Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

Clarifications: Communicate queries with tender reference and description to procurement@qapco.com.qa.

Notes:

- ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)
- ICV: Effective from 01st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender Closing date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned / notified) will not be accepted. Local companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement.

For more information about QAPCO please visit our website: www.qapco.com



**لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات
TENDER AND AUCTION COMMITTEE**

تعلن لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بالحرس الأميري عن طرح المزايدة التالية :

Announce the following Tender:

رقم المزايدة	الموضوع	قيمة الوثائق	قيمة التأمين المؤقتة	نظام تقديم العطاءات	الفترة / التخصص	تاريخ الإغلاق
Auction Number	Tender Title	Document Fee -QR	Tender Bond - QR	Envelope System	Tenderer's Classification /Grade	Tender Closing Date
2024/01/م	تأجير وتشغيل موقع (كافتيريا) بالحرس الأميري لمدة (3) سنوات Renting and Operating a Cafeteria at the Amiri Guard for (3) years	100	6300	مظروف واحد One envelope	كافتيريا / مطعم Cafeteria/Restaurant	2024/05/26

الشروط:

- A copy of the Auction documents can be obtained from the Tender & auction committee located in the Amiri Guard Barzan Camp during official working hours after having deposited a non-refundable amount of money into the Amiri Guard QNB account No. 0013-013303-058 .
- The tender documents are handed over to a company representative after submitting an authorization letter from the company / organization , a copy of the ID , the commercial register , a contractors classification certificate with regard to contracting companies and the receipt showing that the value of the documents has been paid .
- The deadline for the submission of the tenders will be at 12:00 a.m. of the closing date. Any tender submitted after the deadline will be rejected.
- A letter of credit / a certified cheque issued by one of the banks operating in Qatar covering the amount indicated above as a temporary guarantee for (120) days.
- The tender quotation shall be valid for (90) days with effect from the date on which the tender envelopes are opened.
- The original tenders together with copies are put into the tender & auction committee box located at the Amiri Guard Barzan Camp.
- Both the technical tender and financial tender have to be enveloped in one case max-sealed and addressed to the head of the AG Tender & Auction Committee with reference to the Auction number and title.
- The successful tenderer has to submit a final guarantee amounting to (10%) of the total contract value , and valid for (90) days after the project has been accomplished.
- Any tenderer that does not comply with the above conditions will be excluded

يمكن الحصول على نسخة من مستندات هذه المزايدة من لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بمسكن الحرس الأميري (برزان) خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي ، وذلك مقابل دفع قيمة وثائق المزايدة الغير قابلة للرد لدى بنك قطر الوطني بحسب الحرس الأميري رقم (013303-058-0013).

- تسلّم الوثائق لمندوب الشركة بعد إبراز كتاب تفويض من الشركة / المؤسسة + صورة من البطاقة الشخصية + سجل تجاري + شهادة تصنيف مقبول في ما يخص شركات المقاولات + الإيصال الدال على سداد قيمة الوثائق .

- سيكون آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات هو الساعة الثانية عشر من صباح يوم الإغلاق ، ولن يُقبلت لأي عطاء يرد بعد الموعد المحدد.

- يجب أن يرفق مع العطاء خطاب ضمان مصرفي / شيك مصدق من أحد البنوك العاملة في دولة قطر بقيمة المبيعة أعلاه كتأمين مؤقت لمدة (120) يوم.

- يجب أن يكون العرض صالحاً لمدة (90) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.


- تودع العطاءات بصندوق لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات ، الكائن بمسكن الحرس الأميري (برزان) من أصل وصورة .

- يجب أن يكون العطاء الفني والمالي داخل مظروف واحد مغلق ومختوم بالشعاع الأحمر ومغنون باسم رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بالحرس الأميري ، ويكتب عليه رقم المزايدة وموضوعها .

- يقدم صاحب العطاء المقبول تلميحاً نهائياً بمقدار (10 ٪) من إجمالي القيمة الراسية عليه ، ويصير لمدة لا تقل عن (90يوماً) بعد الانتهاء من تنفيذ المشروع .

- سوف يتم استبعاد أي عطاء لا يتزم بشروط أعلاه .

للاستفسار يرجى الاتصال على هاتف رقم (44220292) (44220293) ف (44220266) (tender@qag.gov.qa)
For Further Information / Queries please contact Tel No 44220292 Fax No. 44220266
رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات
الحرس الأميري
Chairman of the Committee of tenders and auctions
Amiri Guard



**قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG**

QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/SDC/6631/24 Supply of OCTG (CRA and Carbon Steel) and related services	09/05/2024 to 23/05/2024	0	250,000	28/05/2024

Scope of Work:
Supply of OCTG Goods, accessories and related services, including design, qualification, manufacturing, preparation, and handling to support COMPANY drilling, completion, workover and well work programs at offshore and onshore well-sites in Qatar covering the following projects:

- North Field South (NFS) development drilling offshore and onshore drilling projects.
- North Field West (NFW) development drilling offshore and onshore drilling projects.

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>

CONDOLENCES

Radisson Hotel Group
extends its heartfelt and sincere condolences to

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Ghanem Bin Ali Al Thani

Sheikh Abdulla Bin Ghanem Bin Ali Al Thani

Sheikh Hamad Bin Ghanem Bin Ali Al Thani

Sheikh Ali Bin Ghanem Bin Ali Al Thani

Sheikh Faisal Bin Ghanem Bin Ali Al Thani

on the passing of their beloved father

Sheikh Ghanem Bin Ali Bin Abdulla Al Thani



'Korea Tourism, Medical and Culture Festival' begins tomorrow

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The '2024 Korea Tourism, Medical, and Culture Festival' is all set to take place tomorrow and Saturday at the Mall of Qatar, marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Qatar and South Korea.

The festival, organised by Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, in collaboration with the Korea Tourism Organisation, aims to deepen awareness of Korean culture and tourism in the country. This festivity promises a vibrant celebration of Korean culture, tourism, and medical offerings.

The festival's grand opening will be marked by captivating performances, including the globally popular Hallyu phenomenon. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore various themed zones, each offering a unique glimpse into different facets of Korean excellence.

K-Tourism Zone will showcase the best of Korean travel experiences, featuring promotions and sales from both inbound and local travel agencies, as well as highlights from various Korean destinations such as Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi, Suwon, and Busan.

Attendees interested in medical tourism will have access to consultations and experiences in traditional Korean medicine and



beauty treatments, provided by medical companies and specialist travel agencies at the K-Medical Zone.

From popular Korean cuisine to immersive experiences in traditional attire and calligraphy, the K-Culture Zone will delight visitors with a diverse showcase of Korean cultural heritage, offering a colourful panorama of traditions and customs.

In addition, Middle East-friendly Korean content will be promoted, fostering cultural exchange and understanding.

Packed with interactive attractions, the K-Event Zone will feature photo booths, live K-pop performances, and engaging activities aimed at showcasing the vibrancy of Korean tourism and entertainment.

Themed 'Korea Tourism, All In One,' organisers noted that the

festival embodies a spirit of unity and collaboration between the two nations, offering a comprehensive showcase of Korean tourism, medical services, and cultural treasures.

Around 35 entities, including travel agencies, medical tourism providers, hotels, and shopping businesses, will participate, ensuring a diverse and enriching experience for all attendees.

In addition to promotional and sales zones, the festival will feature K-pop concerts, non-verbal performances, and digital exhibitions, providing various exploration of Korean culture and entertainment. Attendees can also indulge in Korean culinary delights, participate in hands-on cooking experiences, and avail themselves of special medical tourism zones offering a range of health and wellness services.

Real Estate Regulatory Authority chairman meets Saudi envoy



The Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Eng Khalid Ahmed Saleh al-Obaidli met with Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Qatar Prince Mansour bin Khalid bin Farhan al-Saud. During the meeting, they discussed areas of co-operation in real estate between the two sides and ways to enhance and develop them. (QNA)

Garrard celebrates 20 years of Wings

Until May 18, Garrard is inviting visitors to celebrate 20 years of the Wings collection at its experiential pop-up boutique in Place Vendome Mall, a statement said.

Garrard's Pop-Up is prominently located in the luxury area - Gate 4, themed around the iconic Wings motif and dressed in Royal Blue - the colour of Garrard - while centred around an abstract Wings sculpture.

Wings Rising will be central to the celebrations. A fresh chapter in the Wings story, the new Wings Rising jewels are a major evolution for this signature motif, which made its debut in 2003. Visitors will be greeted by interactive screens telling the story of Wings, from its inception two decades ago to its latest incarnation, giving an insight into why Wings has been a consistent success for Garrard throughout the years. On display will be limited-edition Wings Rising creations set with meteorite from out of space to graphic, ultra-modern diamond Mini Icons pieces that are designed to be worn over and over again, and a wide range of Wings jewels showcasing an array of coloured stones - a Garrard speciality. "The Wings collection has been a Garrard icon



for 20 years and that is cause for celebration," says Sara Prentice, creative director at Garrard. "Jewellery is one of the most joyful forms of self-expression, and we want the pop-up to encapsulate that sense of excitement and discovery. We look forward to sharing our world of Wings in Qatar. Set in the heart of London since 1735, Garrard has crafted some of the most famous jewels of all time, the statement added.

Ashghal develops 7,833 plots of citizens' subdivisions across Qatar

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has completed infrastructure services for 7,833 plots of citizens' subdivisions in various areas in the north, west and south of Qatar.

An advanced road network and integrated infrastructure were provided for these subdivisions to serve the needs of residents and to improve the quality of life, health and environmental conditions, a statement said.

A total of 21 projects have been completed in 12 areas. Projects in the northern areas include north and east of Al Kheesa, Al Kharaitiyat and Izghawa, Al Ebb and Leabaib, west of Semaisma Village, Umm Slal Mohamed, Umm Slal Ali West, Um Ebairiya Village, Um Al Amad South, Bu Fusaila North, Al Egda, Al Heedan and Al Khor.

The completed projects to the west include Al Wajba East, Al Mearad and southwest of Muaither. Projects in the southern areas are at South Al Mashaf, Al Wakra West and West of Al Mashaf.

Engineer Saoud al-Tamimi, Roads Projects Department manager, said the projects are of great importance due to their positive and direct impact on citizens' lives.

Upon completion of all phases, a total of 18,870 residential plots will be served. They will provide services for



these subdivisions with an efficient and safe road network of about 581km, as well as 442km of drainage networks, 290km of TSE networks and 590km of surface and ground-water drainage in addition to providing 27,475 lighting poles

and 992km of pedestrian and cycling paths.

Mubarak bin Feraish al-Salem, vice-chairman of the Central Municipal Council (CMC) and representative of District 15 (Al Gharrafa, Izghawa and South Al

Kharaitiyat), said Ashghal has made great and clear efforts to implement projects in citizens' subdivision areas according to the highest levels of quality.

Engineer Abdullah al-Nuaimi, head of the Northern Areas Section in the Roads Projects Department, said that Ashghal provided services for a total of 5,570 residential plots in the northern areas.

Engineer Fahad al-Otaibi, head of the Western Areas Section in the Roads Projects Department, said that subdivisions served in the western areas include a total of 1,015 plots.

Engineer Ahmed al-Obaidly, head of the Southern Areas Section in the Roads Projects Department, noted that a total of 1,248 plots were provided with infrastructure services at the sub divisions here.

Ashghal supported the Qatari factories and local products within 'Ta'heel' initiative and local products amounted to 70% of the total materials used in these projects.

The projects require a different mechanism to avoid inconvenience for the residents. Ashghal ensures effective communication with local residents by appointing public relations officers who have experience in work implementation and in the country's culture to co-ordinate directly with residents and respond to their inquiries, the statement added.

MDD emerges as premier tourist destination, showcasing Qatar's heritage

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) has firmly established itself as a must-visit destination as it continues to attract a large number of tourists with its harmonious fusion of Qatar's rich heritage and contemporary charm, Msheireb Properties' Corporate Communications senior director Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla said.

Shedding light on the efforts to promote MDD as a regional hotspot, Abdulla underlined MDD's strategic location at the heart of Doha, adjacent to the iconic Souq Waqif and easily accessible via the Doha metro.

He highlighted the unique contrast between historical allure and modern elegance, providing visitors with an engaging journey through time.

"Msheireb has evolved into a tourist destination... it has easy access for everybody to come to Doha and they (visitors) will experience the old heritage Souq and the modern sustainable smart city which is next to each other," Abdulla said, citing its accessibility and the seamless co-existence of heritage sites and smart city infrastructure.

He pointed out the collaborative efforts with Qatar Tourism, noting recent initiatives such as Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr activities, as well as hosting the AFC Asian Cup media hub and several exhibitions.

During the AFC Asian Cup, he said MDD witnessed an influx of around 4mn visitors, signalling a growing in-



Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla

terest in the district. He expressed satisfaction with the high occupancy rates in MDD's hospitality establishments, attributing the success to the growing appeal among tourists, particularly from the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Abdulla stressed that GCC visitors are charmed with MDD's walkability and the opportunity to immerse themselves in both heritage and modernity, citing the district's universal appeal. He noted a significant uptick in visitor numbers in recent months, fuelled by favourable weather conditions, diverse activities, and eased visa restrictions.

"We see a lot of people from GCC countries, they are in love with MDD, and they are in love with what the city has to offer," he said.

With Qatar's ongoing efforts to bolster its tourism sector and host an array of events, Abdulla said they anticipate a continued surge in tourist arrivals from GCC countries, cementing MDD's status as a premier destination for cultural exploration and urban sophistication.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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holder of

PHILIPPINES Passport No. P6306888C
QID No. 28760821975

hereby change my name

from

AUBREY PATRICIO RUIZO

to

AUBREY RUIZO ABRAHAMS

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

MIA launches 'Challenge Camp 1'

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) has launched the first edition of the "Challenge Camp 1", representing a comprehensive experience that combines educational, skill-developing, physical, and exploratory activities.

The camp, in accordance with Qatar's national values and Islamic teachings, aims to broaden knowledge, deepen the sense of curiosity and exploration, and enhance awareness about the history of Islamic arts for students, a statement said.

This camp is organised as part of a series of initiatives aimed at promoting the values of teaching and learning, while also raising awareness of Islamic and artistic culture in Qatar.

According to MIA, this camp reflects a partnership with multiple institutions including the Internal Security Force (Lehkhwiya), the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, the Qatar Scouts and Guides Association, the Qatar



The camp is organised as part of a series of initiatives aimed at promoting the values of teaching and learning, while also raising awareness of Islamic and artistic culture in Qatar.

Foundation's Student Affairs and Community Engagement Department, and the Qatar Calendar House. In a statement, MIA's Learning and Outreach deputy director Salem Abdulla al-Aswad, said: "As one of many MIA events, 'Challenge Camp 1' underscores our efforts in enhancing Qatari youth's awareness and appreciation of Islamic art and heritage. Through co-operating with esteemed

Qatari partners and institutions, we seek to cultivate an inspiring educational environment that ignites curiosity and increases creativity, in addition to preserving our history and adhering to Qatari customs and cultures." The camp targets Qatar Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's Qatari students from sixth to ninth grade from. The camp will also be held on Fridays, until May 17.

Nepal President presents Qatar Charity with Best Performance Prize

Qatar Charity (QC) has been presented with the 'Best Performance' prize by HE President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, in recognition of its humanitarian and developmental efforts over seven years in the country in the fields of education, sustainable livelihoods, social welfare, and health, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

The President awarded a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Meteb Saeed AlMarri, General Supervisor of Qatar Charity's office in Nepal during the recent annual ceremony of the Muslim Commission in Nepal.

Qatar Charity's projects in Nepal contribute to enhancing Qatar's positive image on the humanitarian level and strengthening the relationship between the people of Qatar and Nepal.

Qatar Charity has been working in Nepal since 2017 to contribute to alleviating poverty, combating illiteracy, and increasing access to safe WASH facilities. The humanitarian and development projects carried out by Qatar Charity in Nepal have benefitted approximately 1.5 million people through a variety of interventions in 10 districts located in 4 provinces of the country.

Qatar Charity's projects focus on enhancing the capacity of targeted communities by improving fundamental infrastructure such as water supply, irrigation, WASH, housing, livelihoods, social welfare, health and education support, and relief efforts in Sunsari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Banke, and Kathmandu.



The first phase of the National Development Program was funded with a sum of QR 26.5 million during 2017-2022. Currently, the implementation of its second phase is underway, covering the period from 2023 to 2027.

Mr. Meteb Saeed AlMarri, General Supervisor of Qatar Charity's office in Nepal, expressed his delight at the significant appreciation Qatar Charity received from the country leadership. He noted that Qatar Charity has received numerous certificates of appreciation, performance awards, and honors from various ministries, governmental entities, and local administrations. He mentioned that among these honors, the Best Performance Award stands out as the highest recognition for its humanitarian and developmental efforts over seven years in Nepal. He emphasized that this drives Qatar Charity towards further achievements and better performances, striving for excellence.

In a press statement, he revealed plans to expand the work of Qatar Charity's office in Nepal during this year and in the coming years. These plans include boosting funding in the upcoming years, in addition to the already committed and agreed-upon amount in the Five-Year Plan (2023-2027) approved by the government of Nepal, with a sum of QR 50 million.

“
The award stands out as the highest recognition for Qatar Charity's humanitarian and developmental efforts in Nepal.
”
General Supervisor of Qatar Charity's office in Nepal

He also noted that Qatar Charity implements its developmental programs in Nepal under the Nepal Integrated Development Programme (NIDP) with a focus on social welfare, WASH, education health, and livelihoods, as well as on vocational training courses, and humanitarian response efforts.

He mentioned that Qatar Charity in Nepal engages with various international organizations, UN agencies, embassies, different missions, and donors in Nepal. It strengthens partnerships with them to obtain additional sources of funding aimed at increasing the projects serving the people of Nepal.

“
1.5 million individuals have benefited from Qatar Charity's projects since 2017.
”



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QATAR CHARITY

Ministry of Justice holds workshop on developing culture of innovation

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Justice organised a workshop entitled 'Confronting linear thinking with comprehensive incremental thinking: Stimulating a culture of quality, modernity and creativity,' in the presence of HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi.

In a statement, the ministry stated the workshop aimed at enhancing and developing a culture of quality, innovation, creativity and sustainability, and motivating employees to adopt a comprehensive and multidimensional method in their thinking and

dealing with the various issues and challenges they face while performing their supervisory, administrative or practical tasks in order to achieve innovation and excellence.

In this context, HE Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stressed the importance of the workshop that is consistent with the government's programmes and policies to improve government performance and work on the optimal implementation of the Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030), which requires developing the creative thinking of the human cadre, utilising their skills, enhancing their expertise with the latest successful experiences and best practices in the areas of strategic planning, focusing on



ambitious and innovative ideas to achieve goals with a high level of excellence and creativity, and searching for unconventional solutions and approaches to the problems, challenges and opportunities for the institutional system.

The Assistant Director of the Center for Legal and Judicial

Studies (CLJS) at the Ministry of Justice Nada Jassim al-Abdul-Jabbar stated that the workshop, organised to develop the work environment, comes within a series of training workshops for employees of the Ministry of Justice that the CLJS held, in co-operation with the Planning, Quality and

Innovation Department, to build a culture of creativity and innovation at work as one of the skills necessary to perform the work assigned to employees.

The Director of the Planning, Quality and Innovation Department at the Ministry of Justice Hadeel Abdul Latif al-Jaber noted that the workshop is part of an integrated programme that reflects the Ministry of Justice's commitment to sustainable excellence standards in accordance with the latest institutional performance programmes that encourage raising the quality of procedures and actions and linking creative thinking to the objectives of executive projects of the strategic plan of the ministry as well as to benefit from the pace of technological

progress, especially in the fields of automation, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation programmes, in which Qatar has taken important steps, and to keep pace with the development and improvement of the legal services of the Ministry of Justice.

The workshop addressed important topics, including: institutional innovation, areas of innovation, mechanisms for using digital technology to improve or change traditional processes and service development, the reality of technical transformations and their repercussions on the work environment, and the possibilities of change and their relationship to human staff. It reviewed new technology areas and future prospects.

LuLu hosts Thai Halal Food fest

LuLu Hypermarket Qatar has launched a 'Thai Halal Food Promotion', a culinary celebration highlighting the vibrant flavours and rich cultural heritage of Thailand.

The inauguration ceremony, graced by Thai ambassador Sira Swangsilpa and Shaijan M O, regional director of LuLu Hypermarket Qatar, took place at LuLu Hypermarket D-Ring Road Branch, amidst dignitaries from various sectors and officials from the Thai embassy in Doha.

The collaborative effort between the Thai embassy, the Office of Commercial Affairs in Tehran under the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, and LuLu Hypermarket underscores the commitment to strengthen bilateral ties between Thailand and Qatar through food, culture, and tourism.

The Thai Halal Food Promotion aims to showcase a diverse range of Thai products and foster trade relations between the two nations. As part of the promotion, LuLu Hypermarket has launched a weeklong in-store promotion and online offers on over 1,000 products from Thailand, available across all LuLu stores in Qatar.

In his address, Swangsilpa emphasised the significance of food diplomacy in bringing people together. He expressed gratitude to LuLu Hypermarket for serving as a bridge between Thailand and Qatar, offering an array of Thai products, including wellness items, to the Qatari market.

A spokesperson for LuLu Hypermarket reiterated the company's longstanding commitment to promoting Thai cuisine and products in Qatar. With over 20



Thai ambassador Sira Swangsilpa leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony, in the presence of Shaijan M O, regional director of LuLu Hypermarket Qatar, and other dignitaries from various sectors and officials from the Thai Embassy in Doha.

PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

years of organising Thai food promotions, LuLu has played a pivotal role in popularising Thai foods, fruits, and vegetables, in collaboration with the Thai Trade Commission.

Thailand's reputation as the 'Kitchen of the World' for its high-quality food products and innovations further strengthens the partnership between LuLu Group and Thailand.

LuLu Group's dedication to procuring the best quality products and offering them

at affordable prices resonates with its mission to cater to diverse cultural tastes. Additionally, LuLu Group also has an office in Thailand, May Exports (Thailand) Co, situated on Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok, further emphasising its commitment to fostering strong ties with Thailand. As one of the world's top agricultural and food exporters, Thailand prioritises food security and safety, aligning with LuLu Group's commitment to international standards.

The Thai Halal Food Promotion not only celebrates the culinary delights of Thailand but also reaffirms Thailand's position as a global leader in the food supply chain.

LuLu Hypermarket is inviting the community to indulge in the Thai Halal Food Promotion, available at all LuLu Hypermarket outlets across Qatar until May 11, to experience the essence of Thailand's flavours and the hospitality at LuLu Hypermarket.



Various fruits on display.



The ambassador leading the cake-cutting ceremony.

HMC expands prosthodontics services

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has expanded its prosthodontics services at the Hamad Dental Center with the introduction of dedicated evening and Saturday clinics.

This initiative is designed to significantly reduce waiting times for prosthodontics treatments, including removable treatments, bridges, and crowns.



Nasser al-Naimi

The expanded service, offers patients access to 10 full-day clinics every Saturday, seven full-day clinics on Sundays, five full-day clinics on Mondays, and two evening clinics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 3pm to 7pm.

Nasser al-Naimi, HMC's chief of Patient Experience and director of the Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute, said: "The introduction of the additional clinics at the Hamad Dental Center follows the opening of evening clinics for six high demand specialties in the past 12 months: Ophthalmology, Ear, Nose and Throat, Urology, Audiology, Orthopaedics and Bariatrics.

"The evening clinics have enabled patients to have a greater choice of appointment times to suit their lifestyle. The new clinics have also resulted in a significant increase in the number of patients receiving care and, importantly, the changes mean patients are now being seen by our clinical teams faster - enhancing their care experience."

The expanded clinics at the Hamad Dental Center are expected to decrease the current waiting list for prosthodontics services in the near future - in the first week of opening alone, the evening clinics provided care to 200 additional patients.



QBG gets international accreditation

The Qur'anic Botanic Garden (QBG), a member of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) affiliated with the Qatar Foundation (QF), has obtained global accreditation in the conservation of plant resources from the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

The QBG becomes the first of its kind to obtain this accreditation in Qatar and the second in the Middle East.

BGCI's certificate is an international recognition of the efforts made in preserving plant resources, which enhances QBG's position on the global scene as a pioneer in this field.

This accreditation also reflects QBG's adherence to internationally recognised standards for the conservation of plant resources.

QBG director Fatima al-Khulaifi expressed her pride in the achievement, stating that obtaining the accreditation certificate from BGCI reflects a deep commitment to international conservation standards and continuous efforts to preserve plant resources.

Al-Khulaifi said the appreciation is not only evidence of the exceptional quality of QBG's technical and educational programmes but also an affirmation of the Garden's pioneering role in enhancing knowledge and awareness of the importance of the natural environment and biological diversity.

The QBG is committed to continuing this path to achieve its vision towards reaching a global pioneering position in preserving plants mentioned in the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith, in addition to fungal plants in Qatar, she said. **(QNA)**



Chopard

THE ARTISAN OF EMOTIONS - SINCE 1860

Happy Diamonds Icons

A legacy of Joie de Vivre



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Alfordan Jewellery



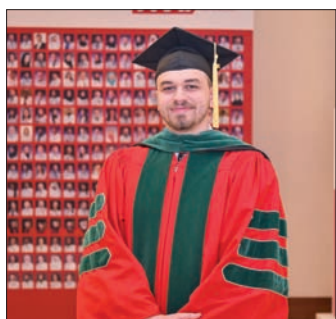
Through its inimitable dancing diamonds, Chopard celebrates unconditional Joie de Vivre and boundless freedom. Almost half a century after the Maison's signature invention of the Happy Diamonds concept, the flurry of diamonds is reinvented in a range comprising a sautoir necklace, a choker and a bracelet showcasing Chopard's ancestral expertise in crafting gold chains.



Since their 1976 invention in the Chopard workshops in 1976, dancing diamonds have been the symbol of a Joie de Vivre pulsating at the heart of bold watchmaking and jewellery creations. Happy because they are free of any setting, and they bear within them women's irresistible pursuit of their own freedom. Dancing diamonds have inspired the Happy Diamonds Icons collection to create a new range of jewellery in ethical 18-carat rose gold. A sautoir necklace, a choker and a bracelet recall the Maison's savoir-faire in the field of handcrafted chains. Naturally proud of its family heritage, the Maison guarantees an exceptional level of quality and expertise for these chains adorned with the legendary dancing diamonds. The jewellery clasp itself becomes a decorative element in its own right, thanks to Chopard's gold-carved initial in English script.

Equally elegant when worn alone or together, the collection's jewellery creations lend themselves to infinite combinations, like the sautoir necklace that can be worn in single or double tour versions, in lariat mode or simply wrapped around the wrist. The playful spirit of dancing diamonds turns Happy Diamonds Icons into true good-luck charms that women can match to their hectic lives, whatever their day or evening outfit and whatever their mood!

WCM-Q students reflect on journey, future plans



Dr Hussam Kawas



Dr Abdulla Mohamed al-Suwaidi



Dr Ibrahim K Saeed Laswi

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

As the Class of 2024 of Weill Cornell Medicine in Qatar (WCM-Q) graduates, many of them recollected their journey that groomed them to be fine young medical doctors.

Dr Hussam Kawas, who passed out with academic distinction and excellence in professionalism in the clinical curriculum noted that the campus life at WCM-Q was vibrant, dynamic and culturally diverse.

“WCM-Q has provided me with unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning, mentorship from esteemed faculty, and exposure to cutting-edge research, all of which have been instrumental in shaping my academic and career trajectory,” he said. Dr Kawas plans to pursue cardiology specialisation, and work in Qatar after completing the training to give back to the community.

For Dr Abdulla Mohamed al-Suwaidi, the most significant milestone was the project he had worked on for incorporating a new method of teaching medical students how to examine patients. He plans to finish his internal medicine training at Hamad Medical Corporation and is considering a career in medical education.

“I have seen the gaps in medical education, and WCM-Q gave me all the resources to fill them. I am grateful for all the support I

have received from the WCM-Q faculty,” he said.

Dr Ibrahim Khalid Saeed Laswi who graduated with academic distinction and honours in research feels that his campus life was very vibrant and supportive.

“I am heading to Yale University to start my training in adult neurology. Following that, I plan on sub-specialising in vascular neurology. I hope to return to Qatar to utilise all my knowledge and skills to serve the community and improve healthcare in the region.”

Dr Turki Almutairi who graduated with academic distinction and a number of other honours said that the most significant milestone during his time at WCM-Q was the matching into his residency programme of choice in his dream specialty of anaesthesiology.

Dr Almutairi - the valedictorian at the convocation - hopes to become a board-certified anaesthesiologist and contribute to patient safety and quality care in the field.

He said: “The rigorous curriculum, mentorship and support from WCM-Q was invaluable in helping me accomplish my goals. I aspire to provide the best possible care for my patients and remain humble in my pursuit of knowledge.”

Dr Areej Nauman who graduated with academic distinction and several other honours said medicine is a challenging but rewarding profession which classically requires a lot of dedication and sacrifice.

Dr Nauman plans to pursue neurology residency training at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. “One of the most valuable aspects of medical school at WCM-Q has been the privilege of gaining a diverse set of experiences both in Qatar as well as at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. It is this unique medical training which has made me strive to become a well-rounded physician who is confident and comfortable in my approach to patient care for people from all walks of life,” she added.



WCM-Q's graduating Class of 2024. (Supplied picture)



Some of the dignitaries at the event. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

WCM-Q graduation ceremony honours Class of 2024

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) has graduated 50 new doctors committed to providing world-class patient care and advancing the practice and understanding of medicine through cutting-edge research.

The graduation ceremony of the Class of 2024 saw the newly qualified physician-scientists presented with their Cornell MD degrees before an audience of family, friends, WCM-Q faculty, and faculty visiting from Weill Cornell Medicine in New York. The Class of 2024 is WCM-Q's largest graduating cohort to date.

The dignitaries included HE the Minister of State and Qatar National Library president Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, the US ambassador Timmy Davis and Kuwait's ambassador Khaled Badr al-Mutairi. HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi was represented by Higher Education Affairs assistant under-secretary Dr Hareb Mohamed Said El Gaberi.

The Class of 2024 comprises 26 women and 24 men, hailing from 13 countries: Qatar, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan, and the US. WCM-Q has now produced 596 medical doctors serving in leading healthcare institutions in Qatar, the US and all over the world since the college's inaugural graduation ceremony in 2008. Eighteen of this year's new doctors are Qatari nationals. This year's class valedictorian was Turki F Almutairi.

Dr Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, said: “Class of 2024, I want to leave you with a reminder that while you are now moving on to pastures new, you will remain a member of the WCM-Q family for good. Keep in touch, share



Some officials at the event.

your challenges and struggles, for in this family you will find you can give and receive humour, strength and support that will nourish your lives and careers in many ways, and which will help you all to be the best physicians you can be.”

Dr Sheikh also thanked Qatar Foundation Chairperson Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and vice-chairperson and CEO HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, along with the leadership of Qatar, for providing the essential support and guidance over many years that enables WCM-Q to produce world-class physicians.

Dr Thurayya Arayssi, vice-dean for academic and curricular affairs at WCM-Q, said: “Seeing this class of exceptional students taking the Hippocratic Oath and becoming fully qualified physicians is a truly special moment. They have shown huge resilience, great intellectual curiosity, and a steadfast commitment to learning the art and science of medicine to earn the right to be here today.”

Dr Robert A Harrington, dean of Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, was in attendance to confer the medical degrees upon the graduating students. He said: “The graduates' success in this endeavour mirrors that of this

remarkable, groundbreaking institution, which for more than 20 years has been a pioneer of medical education, research and patient care in the Middle East.”

Maryam Ali al-Quradaghi gave the graduate English address at the ceremony while the graduate Arabic address was given by Mai Nasser al-Subaie.

Dr Sean Holroyd, associate dean for student affairs, was mace bearer, and Dr James Roach, associate dean for pre-medical education, was university marshal.

Graduating student Ammar Ahmed Khan gave the Qur'an recitation, while the alumnus keynote speech was given by Dr Jehan al-Rayahi of WCM-Q's very first graduating class, the Class of 2008, and now a highly experienced paediatric neuroradiologist at Sidra Medicine. Dr al-Rayahi spoke of the joy and responsibility of providing life-changing and life-saving care. “Medicine is not just a job - it's a calling,” she said. “Each day, we hold the lives and well-being of others in our hands, and that's something we must never take lightly. Embrace it with compassion and never forget that with this great privilege comes great responsibility. Congratulations doctors. Go forth and make us proud.”

VCUarts Qatar celebrates Class of 2024 commencement



VCUarts Qatar's Class of 2024.

Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) held the commencement ceremony for its graduating Class of 2024 at Hamad Bin Khalifa University's Mutaqa Students Centre in Qatar Foundation's (QF) Education City.

A total of 67 students from VCUarts Qatar's Art History, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Painting + Printmaking and MFA programmes, graduated from the art and design university this year.

The Class of 2024 graduates, most of whom had joined the university at the pandemic's peak, include 19 Graphic Design students, 19 Interior Design students, eight Painting + Printmaking students, eight Art History students, seven Fashion Design students, and six MFA in design students.

The dignitaries who attended the ceremony included Sheikh Abdullah al-Thani, US ambassador Timmy Davis, QF Higher Education president Francisco Marmolejo and Arab Engineering Bureau Group CEO and chief architect Ibrahim Jaidah.

The commencement speaker was Sumayya Vally, founder and principal of Counterspace, an award-winning architecture and research practice in Johannesburg, South Africa. She reminded the graduates of the need not to let go of the ideals they forged during their time at VCUarts Qatar.

“The primary foundation of studying here is an apparent separation from the real



VCUarts Qatar dean Amir Berbic addressing the gathering.

world - a space to experiment, explore, develop and imagine. Graduating out of that space can be daunting because it implies that you will be leaving creativity and exploration behind. Yes, it can feel like the stakes may be higher; but let us be reminded that some of the most brave and courageous movements start in this very space.”

VCUarts Qatar dean, Amir Berbic, associate dean for Academic Affairs Dr Cherif Amor, the deans, directors, associate deans and chairs of the university's many departments and programmes, and faculty and staff, were present to mark the occasion.

Beric said: “Despite the exceptional circumstances of a worldwide pandemic, you rose to the occasion with courage and determination. You adapted to remote learning, embraced new technologies, and found creative ways to connect with each other and your professors. Now, here you are, standing at the precipice of a new chapter in your lives, having navigated through exceptional times. Your journey

has been marked by strength, adaptability, and a steadfast commitment to your craft.”

VCU president Dr Michael Rao, VCU School of the Arts in Richmond dean Dr Carmenita Higginbotham, and VCU Honors College dean Dr Scott Breuninger also attended the meeting.

Dr Rao said: “Today is the culmination of our year-long celebration of the 25th anniversary of VCU's partnership with the Qatar Foundation. For a quarter century, VCU Qatar has been a worldwide leader in creativity and design, cultivating an impressive generation of creators, designers, artists and scholars. Our Qatar campus, thanks to a culture of innovation inspired by our faculty, has become a place where we are able to experiment with the very best in learning and design.”

This year, VCUarts Qatar recognised Kaltham Essa al-Fakhroo and Selma Fejzullaj, both BFA in Graphic Design, as co-valedictorians. They jointly addressed the gathering, taking turns to share their experiences and emotions.

NU-Q holds Class of 2024 graduation



NU-Q Class of 2024.

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) celebrated the Class of 2024 graduation ceremony, featuring 126 graduates from 31 countries.

NU-Q dean and CEO, Marwan M Kraidy underscored the important role a communicator plays in an increasingly disrupted world. The ceremony began with Kraidy reflecting on the state of the world and how it has impacted their academic journey.

As the graduates step into the media and communication industries, Kraidy urged them to apply their strength as evidence-based storytellers to “look beyond differences, ge-

ography, and existing ways of knowing.” He added that, as communicators across borders and boundaries, there is an opportunity to make an impact. “We are people of the word; We are people of the image,” he emphasised. “Use the arts, science and crafts of media you have acquired here at Northwestern to bring change and improve the world we live in.”

Graduation speaker award-winning counsellor and author Hala Kazim told the audience that humility is key as they prepare to step into the future. “If you are humble, you open the doors to life,” said Kazim. As they move from classroom

to industry and embark on the next chapter of their lives, she encouraged them to “be open to learning” and to lead with curiosity and open-mindedness.

Class speaker Haya al-Kuwari commended her peers for their perseverance and prompted them to embrace the future. “As we celebrate the end of this journey, a new beginning awaits us,” said al-Kuwari. “A beginning filled with opportunity, challenges and uncertainty. A beginning I encourage you to embrace and welcome with an open heart because, despite our circumstances, our fears, or our doubts, our stories are written within us.”



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'Glucksmania' breathes new life into French left

France's traditional left is waging a dynamic campaign for European elections next month under commentator turned politician Raphael Glucksman, threatening to relegate the alliance of President Emmanuel Macron into a humiliating third place but also causing friction with the radical left.

Polls have shown that the joint list of Place Publique, a progressive left movement co-founded by Glucksman, and the Socialist Party (PS) is seriously challenging the centrist list of Macron's coalition for second place in the June poll behind the far right who remain way ahead.

The trend represents a reversal of fortune for the traditional left in France, which hit a low in 2022 presidential elections when the candidate of the PS, Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, won less than two percent of the vote in the first round.

That result saw the hard left of the France Unbowed (LFI) party, under firebrand radical Jean-Luc Melenchon, cemented as France's main left-wing force ahead of the PS, the political home of former presidents Francois Hollande and the late Francois Mitterrand.

Latest polls have given Glucksman's list around 14%, well behind the far right on over 30% but getting close to the list of Macron's party led by the little-known Valerie Hayer on just 16 to 17%.

"There is a clear dynamic" being established in favour of Glucksman, said Gilles Finchelstein, secretary general of the Jean-Jaures Foundation think tank, adding "socialist sympathisers have become socialist voters again".

It remains unclear if the strong poll showings will be carried into voting day

Glucksman, 44, known in France as an essayist and commentator before moving into politics and now an MEP, is credited with running a dynamic campaign that has sought to energise supporters with a positive message that is unabashedly pro-European and champions Ukraine.

The ratings for the list are soaring over what Glucksman achieved in a similar position in

2019 when he could only muster just over 6% of the vote.

He describes Europe as the "fight of my life", denounces "foreign interference in Europe" and says he is pained by the success of the far right in leading the polls which leaves a "lump in my stomach every morning".

Seeking to create distance from Macron's centrist politics, he denounces free trade treaties, and calls for an overhaul of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and a tax on "superprofits".

He launched the campaign in the south of France in March, entering to the track "Lose Yourself" by the rapper Eminem and asking the audience "are we witnessing the disintegration of European democracies or, on the contrary, their awakening?"

He attacked Macron and his government as "leaders without a backbone" and "sleepwalkers", saying: "We are not made of the same brittle matter as the president and his cronies, we do not change our speech depending on the audience".

"We do not flatter the extreme right - we fight it," he added.

But his stance and success, even dubbed by some on social media as "Glucksmania" has angered the hard left and Melenchon.

Glucksman withdrew from a May 1 march in Saint-Etienne after slogans were shouted against him and paint thrown after he arrived. The LFI insisted it was not to blame.

The son of philosopher Andre Glucksman, Raphael Glucksman has already had a chequered political career.

He served as advisor from 2008-2012 to the strongly pro-Western former president of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, a staunch foe of Russia after the 2008 war between the two nations.

Glucksman was in a relationship with Saakashvili's deputy interior minister Eka Zgouladze with whom he has a son.

Like Saakashvili himself and several of his supporters, Zgouladze left for Ukraine and took Ukrainian nationality after a change of government in Georgia, also becoming Ukrainian deputy interior minister for a time. Glucksman's partner is now the prominent French TV and radio journalist Lea Salame, with whom he also has a son.

But it remains unclear if the strong poll showings will be carried into voting day, let alone translate into success at a national level with the next presidential elections in 2027.

"Glucksman is profiting from the weakness of his opponents," said pollster Brice Teinturier of Ipsos, in an analysis of the latest poll in the *Le Monde daily, adding he was "quite simply waging a good campaign" as the "right person in the right place".

But he added while it was "on paper" possible that Glucksman could overtake Hayer, there was also a risk for him that Macron voters could mobilise at the end of the campaign and left-wing voters move to the Greens and LFI.

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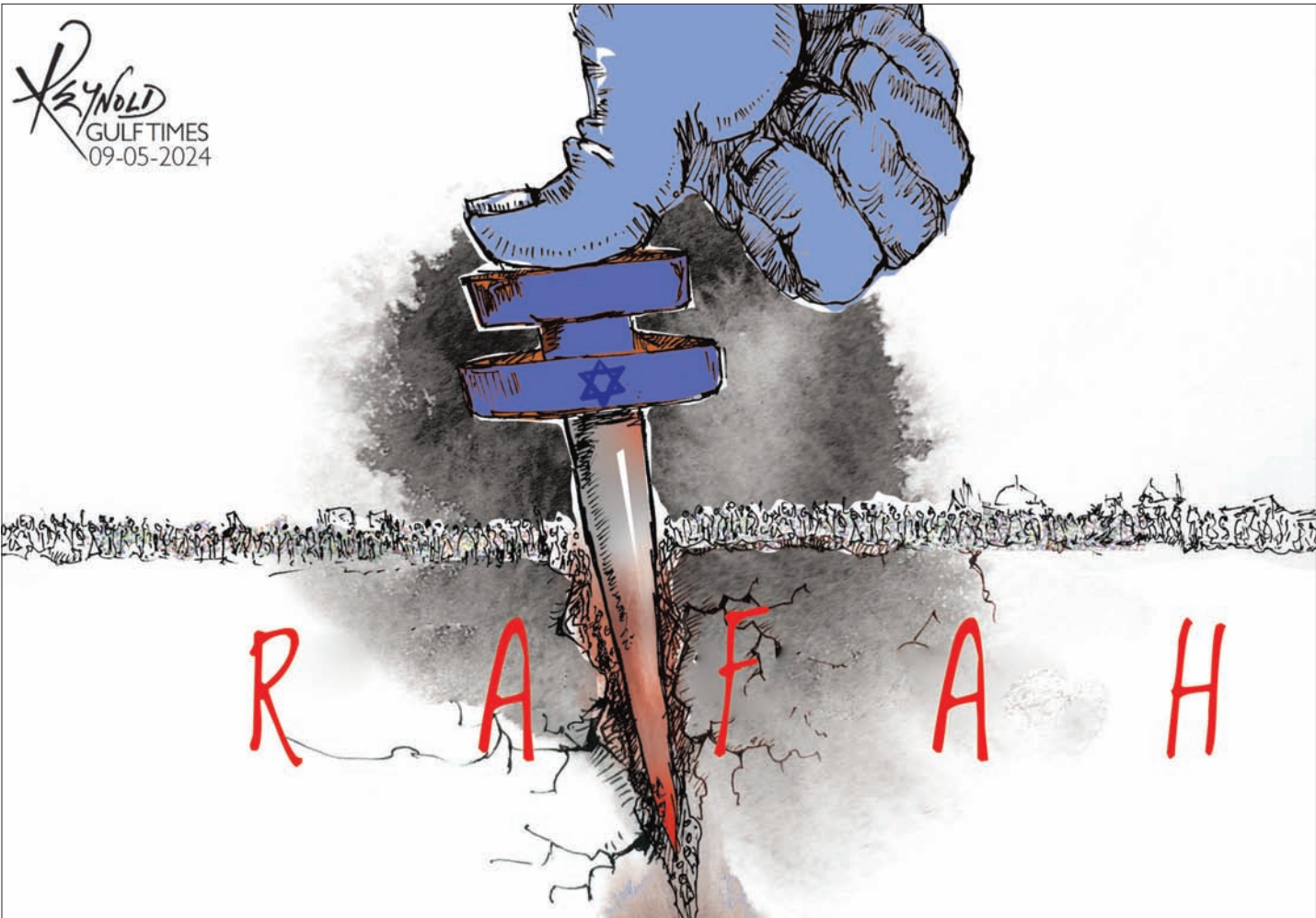
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Vote or work? Tough call for 'invisible' migrant workers

By Annie Banerji
Noida

To go back home in eastern India, cast his vote and spend time with his wife and three children would be ideal, said Shafiq Ansari, but he cannot afford to lose wages and so has to keep toiling under the sweltering summer sun near New Delhi. Ansari is far from alone. Many millions of migrant workers across India face a similar dilemma as voting takes place in the world's biggest election, with nearly 1bn people eligible to vote until June 1. Results are due by June 4, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi predicted to win a rare third term.

For those like Ansari, a road building labourer from Jharkhand state earning Rs600 (\$7) a day in the satellite city of Noida, the costs of voting are high - from leave without pay, threats of wage theft and job loss to lofty travel expenses, including the expected gifts for family members.

"If I could get free (train) tickets and paid leave, I would go. But since that is not happening, I will stay and hope for the best," said Ansari, 37.

"We are here out of compulsion. It is just for work ... because we could not find anything back home," he said, gesturing to about 30 of his fellow migrant labourers, who mostly hail from the impoverished eastern states of Jharkhand and neighbouring Bihar.

All the men echoed Ansari, saying they would not go back to cast their votes this month as it would mean losing at least Rs4,000 (\$48) in two days' lost wages and travel costs. In Noida, they can earn as much as Rs24,000 in a month.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation spoke to another two dozen migrant workers in and around New Delhi, with only four saying they would go back to

their home town to vote. Of those four, three said their towns were relatively close so it would only cost them a day's wage and a few hours' of travel time.

While the number of internal migrants in India has not been updated in official figures for more than 10 years, experts say they could make up as much as 40% of the electorate.

According to the latest available figures, albeit from 2011, India's then population of 1.21bn people included 456mn internal migrants.

Their number has likely increased by another 150mn, said S Irudaya Rajan, chairman of the International Institute of Migration and Development think tank.

"Migrants are still invisible in our country's policies and programmes," Rajan said.

He observed that neither the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nor its rivals had debated or discussed the Covid-19 migrants' crisis in their campaigns or rallies.

An estimated 100mn migrants were among the worst hit by a strict lockdown in early 2020, which led to an exodus from cities. Many workers walked home, their adversity unfolding live on television and making global headlines.

"It can't be a memory lapse. This happened only four years ago," said Rajan.

"This just indicates that nobody is bothered about them."

Rajan described most migrant workers as short-term, seasonal, distressed, illiterate and informal, making it difficult for them to organise and fight for their rights.

He warned that without their say in elections, it could exacerbate their exploitation, and limit their bargaining power as they are left out of key decision making.

"The problem is that migrants are not treated as a vote bank despite their great contributions to the economy... This needs to be fixed," he said, urging the

creation of a ministry for migrant affairs.

Internal migration is bound to intensify in the world's most populous nation as economic slowdown hits rural India, home to 60% of its 1.4bn people, according to migration and economic experts.

Many, especially those under 35, flock to the cities to take whatever jobs they can - becoming labourers, drivers or helpers in shops and homes - to tap into the country's spectacular economic growth and the prosperity of its urban areas.

Benoy Peter, the executive director of the Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development in the coastal state of Kerala, warned that people engaged in farm-based jobs could face rising pressure from climate change, which hurts harvests and fuels debt, forcing them to migrate.

He said that if there were enough well-paying jobs at home, most would not opt "to be treated as second-class citizens in the urban centres of India".

"People can live with dignity, exercise their agency if they have decent-paying jobs at their native places. But that is going to be a remote dream," he said.

In the last general election in 2019, more than 300mn people did not vote - migrant workers likely made up a huge proportion of those, according to government data.

In the first and largest phase of this year's general election, voter turnout dipped by nearly four percentage points compared to 2019, according to data.

M Venkaiah Naidu from the BJP cautioned in an op-ed days after that voter apathy could "automatically allow others to dictate the course of their lives".

All the migrant workers said it was neither feasible to drop everything and go home to vote, nor possible to change their voting constituency to their place of work since most of them

hop from place to place doing temporary jobs.

India's election panel has been working on alternative voting mechanisms, including proxy voting, early voting at special centres and online voting.

It has also considered remote polling stations that would mean migrant workers would not have to travel back to their home district to vote.

But these methods have not been implemented due to administrative, legal and technological challenges, including ensuring secrecy of voting.

The Election Commission of India did not respond to repeated requests for comment on voting solutions for migrant workers.

Most, barring two migrant workers, said they would not vote online or via smartphone apps even if given the choice, citing chances of manipulation.

"I cannot trust (technology). My thumb needs to push that button," said Binita Ahirwar, a labourer at a Delhi-based cardboard box factory, referring to buttons on electronic voting machines (EVMs) used in India.

Ahirwar, 32, said she was not going to go to her home state of Madhya Pradesh to vote over job loss fears.

But not everyone is choosing to sit it out.

For Kajju Nath, a building labourer in Noida, voting is a responsibility, and to fulfil it he said he had informed his boss in advance about taking a week off to travel some 684 miles to Bihar.

"I will lose about Rs10,000... but at least I will vote for a better future. There are no industries, no factories, no jobs in my state, and I need to vote to change that," he said as he clapped cement dust off his hands.

"I have to do this for my children, so that by the time they grow up they can have jobs there. They should not have to do what I am doing." - Thomson Reuters Foundation



Election officials carry Electronic Voting Machines to a polling station on a boat ahead of the third phase of voting of India's general election, at the banks of river Brahmaputra in Kamrup, Assam, on Monday. (AFP)

'Europe Day' celebration in Doha



The European Union ambassador to Qatar Dr Cristian Tudor and envoys from European nations are seen with Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani and Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro at the Europe Day celebration hosted in Doha yesterday. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Qatar Charity delivers food aid in Djibouti

Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed 1,000 food packages to families displaced due to hurricanes and heavy rains in Djibouti, benefiting 7,000 individuals.

The distribution of the aid, which contains essential food items, took place in co-ordination with concerned ministries and authorities (Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women and Family, Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments and a women's union). The aid was distributed in the capital, Djibouti, as well as in several areas in its suburbs.

Hassan Ali, technical adviser to the Minister of Women and Family, commended the ongoing role of QC's office in Djibouti in contributing to enhancing food security and supporting the affected and needy Djiboutian communities.

Ali Mohamed, director of the



Planning and International Co-operation Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity, thanked the people of Qatar for their continuous support to the Djiboutian community in all times of need. He commended the efforts of QC and its swift intervention during emergency situations.

QC's office in Djibouti has previously implemented several food security projects and emergency interventions, including the distribution of food and non-food aid during Cyclone Sagar, which hit Djibouti in 2019, as well as distributing food items to internally displaced persons and refugees.

DI master's students defend theses

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

As part of the requirements for graduation, the eighth cohort master students of the two schools under the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) completed the discussions of their master's theses and dissertation projects with topics on issues related to the reality of the Arab Region.

Dr Amal Ghazal, dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SOSH), stated that 145 theses and graduation projects were defended. They highlighted the originality and quality of the presented work that showcased the students' abilities to tackle research problems creatively and seriously.

Students from the eighth cohort in the School of Economics, Administration, and Public Policy (SEAPP) at the DI completed



Dr Amal Ghazal



Dr Ayhab Saad

the defence of their graduation projects between April 16 and May 5, 2024.

Dr Ayhab Saad, dean, SEAPP, mentioned that 65 graduation projects and theses were defended this year, covering vital local, regional and international issues, focusing on economics, policy-making and research in the fields of institution and scientific organisation management.

They covered master's programmes in Public Adminis-

tration, Public Policy and Development Economics, and the executive programmes such as Executive Master in Public Administration and Dual Degree Executive Master in Business Administration and Public Administration.

The DI will hold the graduation ceremony for the eighth cohort of master's students on May 18. The total number of graduates this year is 206, with 139 from the SOSH and 67 from the SEAPP.



HBKU Press showcases catalogue at Doha International Book Fair

Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press) will offer its entire catalogue for sale at this year's Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), which begins today and runs until May 18 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The publishing house will also offer readers opportunities to engage with their favourite authors during book signing sessions and scheduled meet-and-greets.

"The Doha International Book Fair stands as one of the largest and most significant events that HBKU Press participates in, and it is one that we eagerly anticipate year after year," said Bachar Chebaro, executive director, HBKU Press. The HBKU Press catalogue features literature across children's, young adult and adult reading levels.

Japan embassy to participate in DIBF

The Embassy of Japan will be participating in the 33rd edition of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), which begins today and runs until May 18 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. The Japanese booth will showcase a diverse selection of books across various fields, catering to readers of all ages. Visitors can also expect a range of cultural activities at the booth, including Japanese calligraphy and origami demonstrations between 11am

and 12noon and from 3pm to 4pm daily. Embassy staff will be present at the booth (booth number H1-17A) to answer any questions about Japanese culture, tourism, language as well as educational and scholarship opportunities in Japan. The embassy has been a dedicated participant in this annual event for many years, recognising it as a valuable platform to foster cultural understanding between Japan and Qatar, a statement added.



FROMM. celebrates Qatari Talent at Milan Design Week 2024



FROMM., a Qatari furniture and accessories brand, has participated once again in Milan Design Week, marking its third consecutive year with the unveiling of this year's theme the Oasiblu, a collaborative effort with Italian designer Antonio Arico.

This event underscores FROMM.'s commitment to showcasing Qatari creativity on an international platform, a statement said yesterday.

Taking place at Via Savona, 35, in Milan, the FROMM. showroom offered an immersive experience that blended art with design. Drawing inspiration from the peacefulness of an oasis, the space invited visitors into a calming environment characterised by blue and gold hues, reminiscent of a serene blue oasis. Key highlights included the introduction of the Shuroq Collection's Sofra Dining Table and Sanad Chairs co-designed with Qatari talents Kaltham al-Kuwari and Aisha al-Mohannadi. This collection reflects an integration of Qatari heritage with contemporary design principles.

The newly introduced Haima' Armchair by Maryam al-Suwaidi, with its contemporary leatherette shell, and the Ottoman Dream Collection, featuring the Pavo armchair and sofa, were also showcased, highlighting FROMM.'s dedication to blending cultural heritage with modern aesthetics. For the second year, FROMM.'s designs were featured at the prestigious Rossana Orlandi Gallery. This year, the gallery showcased the Pavo



Sofa, in collaboration with Italian designer Antonio Arico.

This year's Milan Design Week was a vibrant celebration of Qatari creativity, presenting works in collaboration with designers Shua'a Ali, Noora al-Melhim, and Hammam al-Abdulla, alongside Kaltham al-Kuwari, Aisha al-Mohannadi and Maryam al-Suwaidi. This event further established FROMM. as a prominent name in the global design scene, advocating for the

unique perspectives of Qatari designers. "We were honoured by the visit of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani to our showroom at Milan Design Week 2024 which not only illuminates her support for the arts and design but also serves as a powerful inspiration to us and to all Qatari designers. This support inspires our continued efforts to elevate Qatari talent on the international stage," the statement added.

MoPH, WHO in Country Co-operation Strategy

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The minister's speech was delivered by Dr Salih Ali al-Marri, Assistant Minister for Health Affairs, who stated: "The intense and diligent work between specialists and experts in Qatar and the WHO to develop the Country Co-operation Strategy is of great importance, especially in light of the wonderful results achieved when determining the priorities for joint action over the next six years.

The strategy contributes to expanding co-operation between Qatar and the WHO, broadening our horizons, and supporting the achievement of our national priorities and international commitments. This is especially significant as we share the WHO's goal of ensuring that everyone enjoys the highest attainable standard of health."

The preparation for the CCS began in 2023 following the establishment of the WHO office in Qatar and involves the participation of officials and experts from

MoPH and WHO at the global, regional and national levels. Dr Hanan Hassan Balkhy, regional director, WHO for the Eastern Mediterranean, noted: "We highly value what Qatar has accomplished for its citizens and its regional and international community, as investment in health and development in Qatar has led to continuous improvements in health patterns and a reduction in mortality rates. We renew our commitment to continuing fruitful and constructive co-operation and strengthening our strategic partnership with Qatar." During the workshop, participants reviewed various aspects of the strategy through work sessions and extensive discussions. The workshop aimed to achieve several key objectives: a consensus on the strategic priorities for co-operation between MoPH and WHO for the six years of the strategy, a review of the components of the strategy, a finalisation of its structure, and the establishment of a framework for monitoring and reviewing the co-operation during the years 2024 to 2030.

33rd — and biggest — DIBF begins today

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The fair will also boast a distinguished regional, Arab, and international presence.

Participating entities include the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature of the State of Kuwait; the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism of Oman; the Sharjah Book Authority; the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Center; the Institute of Public Administration in Saudi Arabia; and Taibah University of Saudi Arabia. Ministries of Culture from Morocco, Algeria, and Yemen, along with the General Egyptian Book Organisation, will also be represented.

Additionally, publishers from China, Azerbaijan, Mauritania, Jordan, and Turkiye, alongside American and British publishing houses, are participating in the event.

Eight libraries from the historic Souq El Azbakaya in Egypt, known for its collection of rare books, will participate in the fair. This initiative reflects the organisers' commitment to showcasing cultural diversity and attracting historical book markets, similar to featuring Baghdad's Mutanabbi Street in the previous edition. Director of the Doha International Book Fair, Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain, stated that the 2024 fair features new designs with a "Central Zone" at its heart, showcasing historical figures and scholars who have made significant contributions to science, culture and knowledge.

He added that the Ministry of Culture pavilion boasts a wide range of books and new releases, point-

ing out that the pavilion features a digital printing press allowing visitors to create on-demand copies of Ministry of Culture publications.

Spanning 2,400 square metres, the "Doha Children" tent features workshops, activities, a theatre, and booths from children's book publishers.

The fair director further explained that the Central Zone includes two exhibitions by the Qatar Photography Center. The first exhibition highlights the importance of reading artistically for the public, focusing on Qatar, while the second exhibition, featuring the Sultanate of Oman as the guest of honour, showcases the beauty of nature in Oman and its regions.

The fair also hosts a variety of cultural programmes on the main stage, encompassing seminars, lectures, poetry evenings, and theatrical performances. Daily theatrical performances, organised by the Theater Affairs Center, will be held on the Al Mayassa Theatre stage at the Qatar National Convention Center.

The accompanying programme also includes a variety of workshops in cultural, social, and professional fields, along with a photographic exhibition titled "Read" in the Qatar Photography Center pavilion. Moreover, the exhibition offers a reading guide service for beginner readers or those who lack experience with reading, regardless of their age groups. Specialists assist them in selecting appropriate books based on their knowledge.

The Doha International Book Fair is open to the public from 9am-10pm daily, except Fridays when it opens from 3pm to 10pm. (QNA)



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