



HABARI REAL ESTATE
STAFF & LABOUR ACCOMMODATION
Umm Birka & Al Khor Industrial Area
Ready To OCCUPY
For More Information: +974 3030 0880 / +974 3341 9475 www.habariestate.com

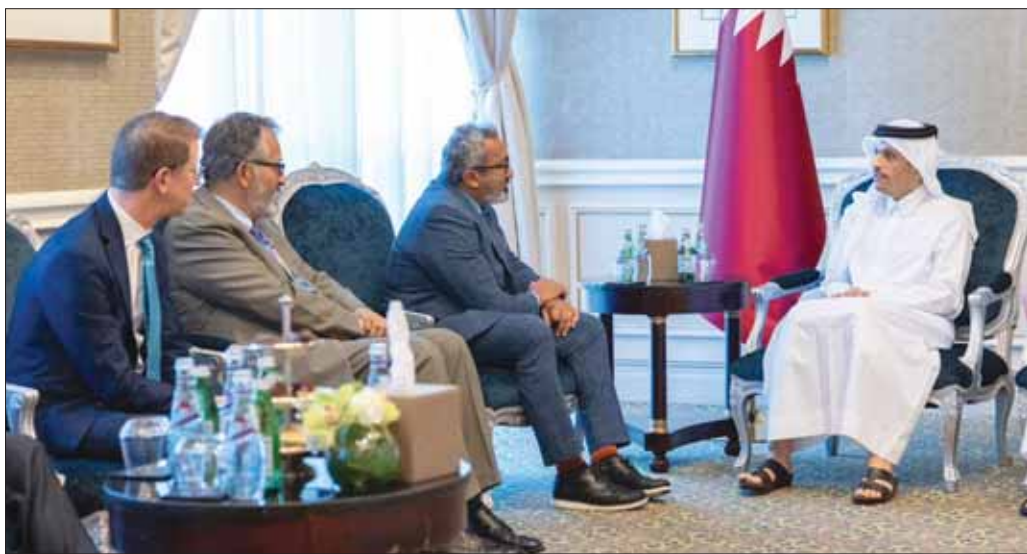
Shop win win is back!
Order groceries worth 85 QAR for a chance to win!
talabat mart

Follow us on
www.gulf-times.com
gulftimes
GulfTimes_QATAR
gulftimes
GulftimesVideos

Sky Vision Real Estate Offer
Labour Room 1,250/- per room @ Industrial Area, Street-38,43,44,47
Warehouse 300sqm - Qr.12,500/-
Lounge & Club / Hotel Studio Room / Restaurant Space / SPA Massage Center for Rent Inside a 4 Star Hotel
Call: 33598672, 52038746, 50576993

40 Years of Pure Excellence
Proud to be the only natural water in Qatar.
Rayyan 40 YEARS TOGETHER

PM meets US Congress delegation



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met, at the Ritz-Carlton Doha hotel yesterday, a delegation from the US members of the Congress. The delegation comprised member of House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific, Representative Ami Bera, member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Representative Salud Carbajal, Democratic Representative Derek Kilmer, member of the Financial Services Committee Juan Vargas, Republican Representative and Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security Dave Joyce, and the Republican Representative member of the House Committee on Financial Services Lance Gooden during their visit to the country. The meeting discussed Qatar-US close strategic ties and ways to strengthen them, in addition to the developments in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly the joint mediation efforts aimed at ending the war on the Gaza Strip, and latest developments in the region. (QNA)

Sheikha Moza attends Qatar Foundation's Annual Alumni Forum



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), attended yesterday QF's Annual Alumni Forum, as a new award celebrating graduates was announced. HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of QF, ministers, other dignitaries, and leaders of industry and business, were present. PICTURE: Aisha al-Musallem. Page 12

EU chief condemns Israel's evacuation orders

Israel's evacuation orders to Palestinian civilians trapped in the southern Gaza city of Rafah are "unacceptable", EU chief Charles Michel wrote yesterday on X. Earlier yesterday, Israel's military ordered Palestinians to leave more areas of eastern Rafah and the northern Gaza Strip as it pressed

ahead with its fight against Hamas militants. "Evacuation orders for civilians trapped in Rafah to unsafe zones are unacceptable," wrote Michel, the head of the European Council representing the EU's 27 member countries. "We call on the Israeli government to respect

international humanitarian law and urge not to undertake a ground operation in #Rafah," he added. "Crossing points must be fully functioning and allow essential humanitarian assistance to get through amidst raging famine." Michel also called for efforts to get a lasting ceasefire to continue.

PM receives phone call from UN secretary-general

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. They discussed developments in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially the joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Gaza Strip, releasing prisoners and hostages, getting humanitarian aid sustainably into all areas throughout the Strip, in addition to the latest developments in the region. (QNA)

Signing of 20 MoUs at QEF 2024 'to boost Qatar's FDI inflow'

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

The signing of 20 memorandums of understanding (MoUs), including 18 international MoUs, during the upcoming Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) 2024 is expected to enhance foreign direct investment (FDI) and attract additional FDI to the country, an official told *Gulf Times*. "The nature of the MoUs and the partnerships [to be signed at the forum] indicate the direction in which entities are moving towards enhancing foreign direct investment and attracting additional investment to Qatar," stated Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, the chairperson of the Permanent Supreme Committee organising QEF 2024. "There are other factors that could also enhance this, but generally, it is through the participation of high-level delegations and



Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani (centre) explaining about QEF 2024 yesterday, flanked by Mubarak bin Ajlan al-Kuwari and Jassim Mohamed al-Khori. PICTURE: Thajudheen

by the MoUs that are going to be signed during the forum." During a press conference yesterday, Sheikh Ali noted that the fourth edition of the forum, which will run from May 14-16 in Doha, is expected to gather 2,300 participants, including 1,300 active leaders in international firms and organisations, in addition to 200 local and international media outlets.

Sheikh Ali said 10 MoUs were signed in the previous edition. However, he noted that the forum has been seeing "a qualitative shift from one session to another," as translated by the number of international agreements unveiled during the event, in addition to the great interest from international political and economic actors. To Page 3

Israel strikes Gaza as UN warns of 'epic' disaster

AFP
Rafah

Israeli strikes yesterday hit parts of Gaza including Rafah where Israel expanded an evacuation order and the UN warned of an "epic" disaster if an outright invasion of the crowded city goes ahead. AFP journalists, medics and witnesses reported strikes across the coastal territory, where the UN says humanitarian relief is blocked after Israeli troops defied international opposition and entered eastern Rafah this week, effectively shutting a key aid crossing and suspending traffic through another. At least 21 people were killed during strikes in central Gaza and taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah city, a hospital statement said. Bodies covered in white lay on the ground in a courtyard of the facility. A man in a baseball cap leaned over one body bag, clasping a dust-covered hand that protruded. The feet of another corpse poked from under a blanket bearing the picture of a large teddy bear. In Rafah, witnesses reported intense air strikes near the crossing with Egypt, and AFP images showed smoke rising over the city. Other strikes occurred in north Gaza, witnesses said. Hamas yesterday accused Israel of "expanding the incursion into Rafah to include new areas in the centre and the west of the city"



A Palestinian girl carries a toddler as people flee Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip to a safer location yesterday. (AFP)

Israeli troops on Tuesday seized and closed the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing — through which all fuel passes into Gaza — after ordering residents of eastern Rafah to evacuate. While mediation efforts towards a truce and hostage release appeared to stall, Hamas's armed wing released a video of a captive seen alive in Gaza — the third such footage released in less than a month. The new evacuation order for eastern Rafah, posted on X by military spokesman Avichay Adraee, said the designated areas had "witnessed Hamas activities in recent days and weeks".

HMC, PHCC open new ambulatory dialysis unit



Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) opened a new eight-bed ambulatory dialysis unit at Muaither Health Center, as part of a joint initiative between the two institutions to bring life-changing services closer to patients. Head of Nephrology at HMC Dr Hassan al-Malki said the new ambulatory dialysis unit is a unique collaboration between HMC and PHCC to offer patients more convenient access to dialysis services at Primary Healthcare Centres. He added the dialysis unit can accommodate eight outpatients at a time with morning and evening shifts, three days a week. The Muaither unit is one of four dialy-

sis units established for kidney patients. The PHCC Al Wakra collaboration began in 2001 with 10 stations; with gradual extensions the facility offers 23 stations. A second location at PHCC Al Shehamiya was initiated in 2009 and today houses 12 stations. Meanwhile, a dialysis unit at the Al Shamal PHCC has 10 stations for patients. Executive Director of Operations at PHCC, Dr Samya Ahmad al-Abdulla, said the unit will play a crucial role in improving access to dialysis services, enabling patients to receive this regular treatment closer to their homes, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of care for our patients. (QNA)

Official

Amir condolences with Bahrain king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the death of Sheikh Abdullah bin Salman bin Khalid al-Khalifah. **(QNA)**

Qatar expresses full solidarity with Afghanistan in facing floods calamity

Qatar has expressed its full solidarity with Afghanistan in face of the destruction caused by massive floods hitting the Baghlan province, in the north of the country, which resulted in deaths and injuries. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed Qatar's firm support to Afghanistan and its brotherly people, and voiced its complete readiness to cooperate with the relevant authorities in Afghanistan to provide all means to help overcome crises. The ministry expressed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery. **(QNA)**

In brief

Cavusoglu to speak at QPC

Qatar Press Center (QPC) is hosting Mevlut Cavusoglu, former minister of foreign affairs of Turkiye, for a seminar titled 'The future of the Middle East after Gaza war', on Monday at 6.45pm. The discussion will focus on how Turkiye is playing an effective role across the region in shaping its future after Gaza war. The event at QPC headquarters will be moderated by presenter Iman Ayyad. QPC announced on X.



Qatar, Oman sign cultural co-operation agreement

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Culture, and the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, signed the executive programme for the memorandum of understanding in the culture field. The agreement was signed by Assistant Undersecretary for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture Dr Ghanem Mubarak al-Ali and Undersecretary of Culture at the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth in the Sultanate of Oman Saeed bin Sultan al-Busaidi on the sidelines of the 33rd edition of the Doha International Book Fair. The memorandum of understanding provides for the exchange of support in the fields of books, publishing, authorship, translation, digitisation, book fairs, music, theatre, libraries, archiving, protection and promotion of intangible cultural



heritage, strengthening co-operation between cultural institutions, exchanging the organization of cultural events and activities, exchanging expertise, and conducting joint courses, in addition to co-operation in the field of intangible cultural heritage. The agreement will be in effect for the years 2024 and 2025, and the two parties will support the existing cooperation between them in the cultural and artistic fields. **(QNA)**

Education ministry concludes activities of scientific training camp

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education concluded the activities of the Scientific Training Camp (STEMFD), which was organised, in co-operation with the management of Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls, and continued for 12 days. The Science Training Camp aimed at providing a distinctive educational experience in the fields of science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics through the implementation of a set of academic projects that enhance the skills of the 21st century, achieve Qatar National Vision 2030, and contribute to providing comprehensive experiences to enable students to search for solutions to real-life problems, thus contributing to achieving the sustainable development goals. Executive Director of the project

Lamia al-Hayki pointed out that 44 students from 12 preparatory and secondary schools, of which 5 for boys and 7 for girls, participated in the camp. They were selected according to the geographical scope of the camp's headquarters. Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Maha Zayed al-Ruwaili and Director of the Curriculum and Learning Resources Department (National Project

Leader) at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Sarah al-Shraim paid a visit to the camp, during which they praised students' projects to find appropriate solutions to the challenges facing farmers in Qatar using various tools and means that encompass the six areas of the camp, namely science, technology, engineering, mathematics and financial and digital knowledge (STEMFD). **(QNA)**

Minister highlights Qatar's experience in reviving ecosystems at UN Forum on Forests in New York

QNA
New York

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie showcased Qatar's efforts and national experience in reviving ecosystems and the qualitative initiatives launched to preserve nature, during a high-level roundtable discussion on "Forest-based solutions to the triple planetary crises: A focus on people, science, technology, and finance". During the meeting held as part of the 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests at the UN headquarters in New York, HE al-Subaie affirmed that Qatar has launched numerous scientific initiatives based on nature-based solutions (NbS) to enhance biodiversity, recycle water, protect coasts, and preserve the environment in collaboration with specialized research centres. He pointed out that one of these initiatives has contributed to the preparation of maps for all areas suitable for agriculture. These maps have also identified the types of trees and crops suitable for each region, especially coastal areas. HE



al-Subaie explained that this NbS initiative has contributed to enriching and sustaining the country's coastal areas through the expansion of tree forests in natural reserves, adding that these forests have shown great potential in enhancing biodiversity, improving food security, and their ability to sequester carbon and produce oxy-

gen. He stressed the state's success in overcoming all the challenges it faced in developing coastal areas, including rising temperatures, high salinity, and limited arable land. HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change drew attention to Qatar's green efforts within the framework of relying

on NbS, which included expanding the establishment of green belts throughout the country. In 2022, Qatar announced a project to plant 10mn trees by 2030. In the same year, the One Million Trees initiative was launched. He affirmed that the state's official efforts have resulted in the preparation of a national programme for the rehabili-



tation and conservation of marine ecosystems on all the country's coasts and beaches, explaining that this programme has contributed to enriching and supporting marine biodiversity by protecting and conserving seagrass beds and coral reefs. Concluding his speech before the delegations of countries participating in the roundtable, HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie said that based on Qatar's belief in the need for international co-operation to combat climate change, Qatar is ready to share its successful experience in establishing green belts and planting coastal trees with all friendly and sisterly countries that have similar conditions, which will contribute to international co-operation to preserve and protect the green planet.

Palestinian women and children icon of steadfastness, strength in world: AlKhatir

QNA
Doha

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir participated in the "Women for Palestine" conference, which was held in Doha, under the theme 'Safety is my right'. In a speech before the conference, HE AlKhatir affirmed that safety is a legitimate right for every human being, a right that religions have established and guaranteed by laws and regulations, adding that the message of the conference to the women and children of Palestine is that, with their patience, they have become an icon of steadfastness and strength in the entire world. Their patience and steadfastness led to a global awakening that extended from east to west, an awakening that goes beyond the boundaries of the Palestine question to a real accountability and a radical review of the prevailing Western civilizational model with all its concepts about freedom, equality, women's liberation and progress, she said. "Therefore, women, men and children of Palestine, we say that all of us and humanity owe you a lot." HE AlKhatir said that there is



much talk about the Palestinian woman, the Arab woman and the Muslim woman, but most of it is a talk in the name of women... a talk about women... and a talk commenting on the topic of women. So everyone tries to be women's messenger and voice, but no one has appointed them as guardians of their issues and saviours of them from the darkness. Addressing the participants of the conference, HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation highlighted the importance of such efforts, meetings and activities in which Arab and Muslim women speak for themselves, starting from a solid civilizational foundation that establishes an authentic intellectual approach. Finding such authentic, active and advocating voice that defends the nation's issues in every field requires encouragement, knowledge acquisition, and daring to seek the

right, she said. HE the minister noted that Palestinian women inherited their courage, faith, strength and patience from the ancient history of their nation. They are female leaders and role models who were famous for their loyalty, strength of character, and solidity of stance, and who contributed, along with their brothers, to spreading the message and building the Arab and Islamic civilization. HE the minister renewed Qatar's firm commitment to supporting the Palestinian people until they achieve all their legitimate rights, especially the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, noting that Qatar is continuing its diplomatic and mediation efforts in order to stop the aggression and its disastrous effects. **(QNA)**

Qatar attends Global Roundtable on ICT Security Capacity-Building

Qatar participated in the first High-Level Global Roundtable on ICT Security Capacity-Building, held at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York. The Qatari delegation was headed by Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki, president of the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA). In his speech during the main panel discussion titled 'Building Cyber Resilience for Sustainable Development by Bridging the Global Capacity Gap', he emphasised Qatar's readiness to share its expertise in building capabilities at the national level. Al-Malki also participated in the first sub-session titled 'Enhancing Governance Policies and Processes' as an official speaker during which he highlighted Qatar's experience in developing national strategies. The high-level meeting was attended by senior officials from the UN Member States concerned with the field of ICT security, and a number of representatives from countries. The meeting focused on unifying efforts and visions to enhance international capabilities in information security and cybersecurity. On the sidelines of the meeting, the NCSA president met with HE Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN. He also conducted bilateral meetings with heads of cybersecurity entities in both Jordan and Singapore with the aim of enhancing bilateral cooperation in relevant fields.



Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki meeting with HE Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani. NCSA president Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki at the event.

Qatar University celebrates female graduation from College of Arts and Sciences



Qatar University yesterday celebrated the graduation of the 47 batch of female students from the College of Arts and Sciences in the presence of HE the Minister of State and President of the Qatar National Library Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari. The university said in a statement that the graduating batch comprised 1,072 graduates from various college specialisations. Addressing the graduation ceremony, HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari said that the graduation is the beginning of a new journey in life, since the university is not only a place for education, but rather it is a very important stage in a person's development. He added that Qatar University was able to achieve a prominent position in the field of education, and continues to advance in the universities ranking. HE Dr al-Kuwari urged the female graduates to commit to being loyal to the university's faculty members, and to the memories they gathered at the university during their studies. (QNA)

'Doha, Budapest expanding co-operation in diverse areas'

QNA
Doha

President of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA), Gladden Pappin, affirmed that the co-operation between his country and Qatar has recently witnessed great development and various forms, thanks to the common desire to strengthen bilateral relations. Talking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Pappin said that the relationship between Hungary and Qatar is strong and getting stronger. Last year saw visits of Prime Minister Viktor Orban to Doha, as well as a visit of the Amir of Qatar to Budapest; the Hungarian president and foreign minister also visited Doha.

This co-operation has taken several forms, principally with the signing of agreements on energy as well as in agriculture, water management and diplomatic training, he said, adding that at a more strategic level, both Hungary and Qatar are trying to navigate complicated international environments, and both play a positive role in advocating for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In this respect, Pappin lauded Qatar's role as a mediator to resolve regional and international disputes. "Hungary has been consistently grateful for this mediating role played by Qatar, which Hungary recognises as important to avoiding the growth of additional conflicts in the region. Hungary has been a consistent voice in favour of de-escalation



and promoting dialogue among all parties, and this has been substantiated in several elements of Hungary's relationship with Qatar over the last months," he said.

He went on saying: "The strong bilateral relationship between Hungary and Qatar has continued, particularly with regard to the release of three hostages with Hungarian citizenship. While the developments in Gaza have complicated the international environment considerably, Hungary has been able to increase its humanitarian assistance to the region, particularly through our 'Hungary Helps' program. To be sure, some European and Middle Eastern countries have different views on the situation in Gaza as well as the eventual direction of the peace process, in this respect Hungary and Qatar have continued their cooperation, emphasising the ongoing development of bilateral relations as well as their interest in peace and stability."

Pappin affirmed that both Hungary and Qatar are advocating for peace in their respective regions while exhibiting a foreign

policy increasingly followed by smaller yet significant countries making productive agreements with many foreign partners, even when those partners may disagree or diverge on other matters. The "connectivity" strategy that Hungary has been pursuing has strengthened our economic position within Europe, making Hungary an attractive destination for foreign investment.

"The numerous political agreements between Hungary and Qatar will be substantiated further in the coming years, as LNG will be available for delivery to Hungary beginning in 2027; and, during Hungary's presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of this year, it will also be an opportunity for strengthening relations between the EU and Qatar," he stressed.

About his visit to Qatar, Pappin said that the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, which he leads, seeks to be a bridge for exchange of Hungarian and Qatari perspectives on geopolitics and international relations.

"As a research institute at-

tached to the Prime Minister's Office and now in its 51st year, HIIA seeks to advise the prime minister of Hungary on matters of strategic importance from questions of how stability and peace in the Middle East impact Hungarian interests, to larger questions of the global political order is shifting. We seek to make partnerships and exchanges with like-minded institutes in order to foster better mutual understanding and contribute to shared goals of connectivity and peace," he said.

Pappin said that during his stay in Doha, he would be visiting the Diplomatic Institute, which recently concluded an agreement with the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy. "As a strategic research institute with some training initiatives as well, the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs is developing networks for the exchange of research materials principally on questions of geostrategy, as well as bilateral and regional issues," he said.

President of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, said that the HIIA has built a number of international forums that provide a platform for exchange on regional and global events.

These are principally our annual Budapest Balkans Forum (held every March), which draws high-level participants from throughout the Western Balkans; and our soon-to-be-announced East-West Summit, whose goal is to emphasize the importance of connectivity as opposed to bloc formation.

Signing of 20 MoUs at QEF 2024 'to boost Qatar's FDI inflow'

From Page 1

He described the forum as "the fastest growing in terms of participation at the regional and international levels," noting that the discussions over the three-day conference will focus on topics related to geopolitics, globalisation, trade, energy transformation, technological innovation, business foresight, investment, sports, and entertainment, "considering the continuing effects of major changes in the fields of technology, energy, trade, and politics that the world is witnessing, especially since the

developments witnessed in 2024 will have far-reaching repercussions on the global economy." Sheikh Ali explained that attendance at QEF-related activities will be through personal invitations, "given the large attendance requests that exceeded all expectations." He added that the organising committee has taken a number of measures to ensure the attendance of the largest number of those who wish to join through digital platforms. For his part, the CEO of Media City Qatar and head of the media

team in the Permanent Supreme Committee organising the QEF Jassim Mohamed al-Khori lauded the strategic partnership with Bloomberg Media Group, which extends for several years. On the sidelines of the press conference, al-Khori also told *Gulf Times* that the organising committee has diversified the portfolio of topics that would be discussed during QEF 2024 to include innovation and technology, sustainability, and how to support startups, aside from energy, the economy, and politics.

The executive director of the Permanent Committee for Organising Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of the Logistics Team in the Supreme Permanent Committee Organising the QEF, Mubarak bin Ajlan al-Kuwari, said the registration process has been facilitated through a unified system and issuing entry cards to all participants to ensure smooth and quick entry to the forum, in addition to providing tourism programmes, in co-operation with Qatar Tourism and Qatar Museums.

Revamped Barwa Plaza Mall unveils offers



Barwa Plaza Mall has been relaunched after a complete revamp, 'to offer a seamless shopping experience with a grand anniversary celebration offers with more brands'.

The relaunch ceremony was attended by Landmark Group Qatar territory head Shumalan Naicker, deputy general manager (finance) Nitin Grover, public relations head Farhan al-Suwaidi, Waseef's leasing director Mohamed Ali al-Hamadi and support services director Khalifa Salman al-

Mohannadi. Naicker, said: "It's an absolute delight seeing this mall transform from its previous structure to its beautiful contemporary look."

"The offerings in Barwa Plaza Mall are wider than before with the new Home Box Store and a few other new brands including F & B units coming up," he explained. "The existing stores like Centrepoint, Max, Emax, Fun Ville, Shoexpress also have a new contemporary look. Digital technology has been used across the

mall to modernise the feel. The exterior screen on the mall facade gained a lot of prominence and attention," said Naicker.

Located at Barwa Village Wakra, Barwa Plaza Mall is well connected through major highways and Metro station. The ceiling pattern with organic lit curves and the floor with subtle mosaic pattern tiles, is complemented by the perforated panel design, derived from the local Mashrabiya pattern, seen on the columns.

The selection of earthy colour

palettes makes the exterior and the interior of the mall look integrated. On the occasion of the relaunch and anniversary celebrations, Barwa Plaza Mall is running a campaign, 'Shop and Win Electronics' with prizes worth QR75,000.

Customers shopping for QR200 and above at Centrepoint, Home Box, Max, Shoexpress or Emax until June 30, can win prizes such as 20 units of 55 inch TVs, 10 boom box speakers, 12 soundbars and 20 Bluetooth speakers.

Doha Bank unveils new mobile banking app

Doha Bank has announced the release of its state-of-the-art mobile banking app, redefining how customers handle their finances on the go, a statement said. Through the seamless integration of effective security measures with intuitive interfaces, customers now have secure banking experience at their fingertips with the all-new mobile banking app. Customers have control over their funds via its numerous wide ranges of functions personalised to satisfy various banking needs, including monitoring account activity, moving money, paying bills, and

accessing a suite of financial services anytime, anywhere. "We are excited to present our customers with our cutting-edge mobile banking application. This state-of-the-art platform reflects our continuous commitment to leveraging technology to enhance our customers' banking experiences. Given the application's robust security features, user-friendly design, and wealth of functionality, we are confident that users will be able to manage their money like never before," stated Doha Bank Group CEO Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahd al-Thani.



MoPH, partners celebrate vital role played by nurses, and midwives

QNA
Doha

In honour of International Day of the Midwife (May 5) and International Nurses Day (May 12), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has joined together with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) to recognise the invaluable contributions of Qatar's skilled and diverse nursing and midwifery workforce.

Assistant Minister for Health Affairs of the Ministry of Public Health Dr Salih al-Marri highlighted the significance of these days, stating: "These international days provide a special opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the noble professions of nursing and midwifery, and appreciate the incredible dedication of the thousands of nurses and midwives in Qatar who play such an important role in providing high-quality care to patients across our healthcare sector."

Acting Chief Nursing Officer at HMC Mariam al-Mutawa expressed her pride, noting: "For the first time, we are celebrating together the International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day to provide an opportunity to honour the remarkable contributions made by nurses here in Qatar and globally. Nursing offers one of the most fulfilling and dynamic career paths for both men and women."

"Beyond providing essential direct patient care, nurses are leaders, innovators, educators, and catalysts for change who can facilitate improved access to healthcare and achieve performance improvements. I am honoured to

"Our nurses are the cornerstone of our system, providing compassionate, holistic care to our community. They are not just caregivers; they are advocates, educators, and health partners, ensuring the well-being of every individual they serve"

be a nurse leader and proud of the exceptional nurses and midwives I work with in Qatar."

Director of Nursing at PHCC Ebtessam Abdulla highlighted the critical role nurses play in primary health care, adding: "International Nurses and Midwives Day is a great occasion to acknowledge the vital role nurses play in primary health care. "Here at PHCC, our nurses are the cornerstone of our system, providing compassionate, holistic care to our community. They are not just caregivers; they are advocates, educators, and health partners, ensuring the well-being of every individual they serve. They are with our community at every step of their healthcare journey. Today, we honour and celebrate their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and the extraordinary impact they make in the lives of our patients and their families."

Through the Qatar Nurses Association, Qatar actively participates in the International Council of Nurses (ICN), a global federation representing approximately 28mn nurses worldwide across more than 130 national nursing associations.

The Qatar Nurses Association encourages all nurses and midwives living and working in Qatar to participate and help promote the profile of nursing in Qatar.

Dukhan Bank names Thara'a account QR1mn prize winner

Dukhan Bank has announced that Ahmad Mansi is the winner of the QR1mn Thara'a grand prize. The draw was conducted under the supervision of a representative of the Qualitative License and Market Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Thara'a, Dukhan Bank's Shariah-compliant savings account and the first in Qatar's Islamic banking sector, offers account holders the chance to benefit from cash rewards up to QR1mn.

Based on several criteria, Thara'a account holders are eligible for a number of periodic draws for cash prizes. Dukhan Bank continues its customer-centric approach with the unveiling of a new campaign for its Thara'a savings account, reinforcing its commitment to rewarding clients.

Departing from the previous annual grand prize structure of QR1mn for a solitary winner, the enhanced campaign now boasts a collective grand prize of QR3mn, distributed among three fortunate individuals.

Additionally, the initiative introduces 30 monthly winners, each contending for a QR5,000 prize, resulting in a noteworthy



Thara'a, Shariah-compliant savings account, offers account holders the chance to benefit from cash rewards up to QR1mn

increase in the total prizes awarded to customers—a grand total of 273 with a cumulative value of QR4.35mn. Customers may learn about the many benefits of Thara'a savings account by visiting www.dukhanbank.com or by calling 800 8555 or ask the virtual assistant 'Rashid' on the website, mobile app, or via WhatsApp on 44100888.



GCC ministers vow to enhance joint Gulf youth work

QNA
Doha

The 37th meeting of Ministers of Youth and Sports in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries concluded yesterday.

HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani presided over the meeting which brought together Ministers of Youth and Sport in the GCC countries and Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Development Affairs at the GCC General Secretariat Khaled bin Ali bin Salem al-Senaidi, attending on behalf of the secretary-general.

The ministers affirmed the keenness of leaders of the GCC countries, to advance and develop the process of joint Gulf youth work, to achieve the lofty goals of the council, which are to deepen co-operation, interconnection, and integration among the GCC countries.

They discussed the General Secretariat's proposal on the creation of unified Gulf projects in the field of youth, out of their keenness to continue developing the system of joint work in that sphere. The meeting approved the recommendations developed by the joint

work teams in the youth field between the GCC, Jordan, and Morocco, in the meetings held last year. The recommendations and outcomes of the technical committees in the youth field, as well as the joint programmes, activities and events that will be organized by the ministries of youth were also approved.

The ministers welcomed the Qatari Ministry of Sports and Youth's readiness to organize a joint Gulf programme in the field of humanitarian volunteer work, as well as Bahrain's readiness to organize the third Gulf Youth Forum this year. The Planning, Coordination and Follow-up Committee of the strategic plan of the Committee of Ministers of Youth and Sports in the GCC countries was also assigned to prepare the 'Gulf Youth Development Index' and develop appropriate implementation plans for it in line with the developments of the current and future stage, in line with the visions of the GCC countries in the youth field.

The ministers of Youth and Sports in the GCC countries discussed a host of topics of common interest in the field of youth, most notably the structuring of the technical committees affiliated with the Committee of Ministers of Youth and Sports in the GCC countries to com-

ply with decisions of the 150th session of the Ministerial Council. The meeting also reviewed the future work plan of the GCC Ministers of Youth and Sports Committee for the years (2024-2030).

Furthermore, the meeting approved the general framework of the Gulf Youth Day for the year 2024, which is scheduled to be organized on June 6 each year. The meeting also stressed the importance of strengthening international strategic partnerships and dialogues with countries and regional and international organisations in the youth field.

In addition, emphasis was placed on benefiting from the remarkable experiences and capabilities available to these countries in the field of youth, in a way that serves the youth of the GCC countries, to provide them with the necessary experience and skills to achieve their hopes and aspirations.

The participants in the meeting underlined the necessity of strengthening the GCC gains and paying attention to further empowering youth in economic development, benefiting from their creativity, creating appropriate opportunities for them, qualifying them and developing their capabilities and skills, to carry their pivotal role in achieving sustainable development.



Qatar Chemical Company Limited

Al Dafna - Anwal Tower - First Floor
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar - Tel. 44847111 - Fax 44847695
Website: www.qchem.com.qa

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/IT/55/24	MANPOWER SUPPORT SERVICES FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT AT Q-CHEM	QR 500,500/-	12:00 hrs on 9th June 2024

Brief Scope:
Contractor shall provide highly skilled, experienced IT professional manpower to support Q-Chem for project activities.

Tender Documents for the above description can be obtained as follows:

A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email

For each tender pay a **non-refundable document fee of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) - Account Number 001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank) and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative via email to tadvertising@qchem.com.qa In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address**, office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents. **The Bank receipt must indicate the tender number and the tenderer name (company name).**

B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email

Tender documents issuance from **12th May 2024 to 16th May 2024, 8am-12noon**

C. Proposal details

Proposals should be valid for **240 days** from the tender closing date.

D. Submission of Proposals

Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

QC concludes evaluation of 'Kashta Watan' entries

Qatar Charity (QC) has concluded the evaluation of the entries submitted by the female student teams from preparatory and secondary schools participating in the 'Kashta Watan' programme, implemented in collaboration with Qatar Museums.

The selection of the winners has been finalised, and their announcement and honouring will take place soon, a statement said yesterday.

The teams' works were judged according to criteria that included stamping their 'Kashta' passports from at least four museums, submitting a report detailing the team's efforts in promoting the concept of domestic tourism and introducing museums, and designing a distinctive pin that reflects the spirit of the museums and could be printed and sold in the museums' gift shops.

The programme aims to enhance the values of patriotism and loyalty to the nation, highlighting QC's role in promoting such values and fostering community partnerships with local entities. As part of the programme, the students visit both public and private museums where their experiences are documented, and their programme passports are stamped. Subsequently, they submit creative reports along with their stamped passports, which are then evaluated to select the winners.

QC launched the 'Kashta Watan' programme in January. The passports, which stamped the 'Kashta' passports and exerted exceptional efforts in implementing the programme and receiving the students, are the National Museum of Qatar, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Islamic Art, and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.



MoJ, SJC finalise electronic connection measures

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC), represented by the Investment and Trade Court, commenced the electronic connection procedures to streamline the process of sharing services and information between MoJ and the court, in addition to providing shared benefits of this electronic connection, in pursuit of ensuring smooth progress of transactions, time efficiency and reducing hard slog in serving the public.

While chairing the 2nd meeting to discuss the connection procedures with the team of the Investment and Trade Court, Assistant Under-Secretary for Common Services Affairs at the MoJ, Khamis Mohamed al-Kuwari, affirmed that the procedures serve the general orientation of Qatar towards the e-justice system and help facilitate the litigation procedures, prompt justice, and reduce the strenuous activities of litigants. He added that, as per directives of HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, a technical work team has been formed to accomplish the electronic connection requirements and set the legal frameworks evidence to comprehensively share services, in which the functions of each entity are determined, in addition to establishing focal points in the MoJ and the court, culminating in fully optimising the service quality level afforded to all visitors. (QNA)



The Transport Company MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-010-EGS-2024	Maintenance of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems in all MOWASALAT Facilities	QAR 2,000	12 May to 19 May 2024	QAR 100,000	30 June 2024

CONDITIONS:

► Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:

► Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: tenders@mowasalat.com

► Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested (i.e., 20 May 2024)

► **Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents. *Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.*

► **Tender validity:** Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.

► **Tender documents submission:** Bids must be submitted in 3 separate sealed (IN RED WAX) envelopes addressed to **Secretary - Tender Committee** clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:

- **Envelope 1#** must include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB)
- **Envelope 2#** must include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied in a USB)
- **Envelope 3#** must include the Tender Bond (1 Original)

► **Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is **12.00 noon Doha Local Time** as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.



Tel.: 4458 8724 Fax: 4458 8850

Supplier Registration

Mowasalat Location



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/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>



Minister of State for Interior Affairs visits Police Academy's pavilion

HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohamed al-Thani visited the Police Academy's pavilion at the 33rd Doha International Book Fair at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center.

His Excellency reviewed the pavilion's content which showcases scientific and research publications and periodical journals of the Security Research and Studies Center, along with the most important awards received by the academy in the Arab region.

The Ministry of Interior reported yesterday that the academic participation in the fair, represented by the Security Research and Studies Center, comes as part of its strategy to



spread security awareness and to serve the community, affirming that the Police Academy participates in scientific

symposiums within the cultural programme on the margins of the event during the evening. (QNA)

Justice ministry displays legal awareness publications at DIBF

The Ministry of Justice is taking part in the 33rd session of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), which is being held from May 9-18 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, under the theme "Knowledge Builds Civilizations".

Through its pavilion at the DIBF, a range of legal publications and means of legal awareness for various categories of the public, including children, are displayed along with legal awareness booklets for young people, the ministry stated in a statement today.

It explained that its DIBF's pavilion presents issues of the official gazette, the legal and judicial journal, a series of publications on legal guidelines and the latest legal legislation.

The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers is participating within the ministry's pavilion with its latest publications related to the book of internal achievements of the state, the Ministry of Justice added in the statement.

The Ministry of Justice pavilion showcases, for the first time, a visual presentation on the development of the ministry, which includes a tribute to the former ministers and highlights their services and the efforts provided to the country, by developing the performance of the Ministry of Justice and organising its administrative structure in a way that achieves the aspirations of the wise leadership towards developing and modernising the legal sector and consolidating timely justice.

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi thanked those organising the DIBF and praised the development and organisation of the exhibition that reflects the cultural leadership role of Qatar.



His Excellency appreciated the large participation of libraries and publishing houses in the DIBF and the cultural incubator that the fair provides for Qatari writers and intellectuals to display their latest publications, as well as to introduce the public in Qatar and beyond to the Qatari cultural production, and to exchange experiences with the qualitative attendance of the DIBF from various participating countries. He noting that the Ministry of Justice pavilion welcomes visitors to the DIBF to learn about the Qatari legal experience through the publications displayed in the pavilion as well as to support legal awareness efforts through the presentations and explanations that will be provided by those in charge of the ministry's pavilion. (QNA)

Police Academy showcases latest publications at DIBF

The Police Academy is participating in the 33rd edition of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) through a booth showcasing its latest scientific publications, reflecting its unwavering commitment to promoting knowledge and exchanging expertise in the fields of security sciences and law.

In remarks to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Captain Mohamed Rashid al-Dosari, Head of the Scientific Publications Department at the Security Research and Studies Center at the Police Academy, said that the academy's latest scientific publications serve as an important platform for transferring knowledge and practical experiences in the fields of security, law, and professional development. He added that participation in the book fair aims to raise awareness of the latest research and publications that contribute to the de-

velopment of the security sector and to improve the performance of police officers.

Capt al-Dosari explained that this participation enhances the opportunities for communication and interaction between the academy's faculty, trainers, and researchers and the public interested in topics related to police, security, and law. He pointed out that this helps to exchange expertise and knowledge and develop the capabilities and skills of security personnel.

He emphasised that the Police Academy's participation in this cultural event reflects its continuous commitment to developing and strengthening security work and achieving leadership in related scientific research fields.

He pointed out that the academy's booth includes new publications, books, and scientific materials studied by academy students, as well as

peer-reviewed scientific books that are studied during the training period for academy cadets, in addition to publications from other Police Academy institutes, for officers or affiliates.

He stated that the academy will translate some publications of the Public Safety newspaper during its participation in the book fair. He added that the academy will also hold specialised interactive seminars on legal topics within its booth.

Capt al-Dosari highlighted that among the most important publications in the Police Academy's booth is the "Journal of Legal and Security Studies", a bi-annual peer-reviewed scientific journal. He invited all visitors to the fair to visit the booth, explore its diverse collection of scientific publications, and benefit from the knowledge and seminars offered by the Police Academy. (QNA)

QU Press unveils new titles

Qatar University (QU) Press is participating in the 33rd edition of the Doha International Book Fair, being held until May 18 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre, under the theme, 'Knowledge Builds Civilizations'. QU Press has showcased its diverse publications spanning various academic, cultural, and scientific domains, and has arranged a series of seminars in collaboration with the Qatar Forum, and has held a number of launch and signing sessions for its latest publications.

QU Press unveiled over 20 new titles, further enriching its extensive library that now boasts over 75 publications. Prof Fatma Mohamed al-Sowaidi, director of QU Press, thanked the Ministry of Culture and the Qatar Publishers and Distributors Forum for the facilities provided to the participants. Noteworthy among the QU Press publications at DIBF is *Hydrogeological Atlas of Qatar: Geology, Water Resources, and Paleoclimate* by Dr Husam Musa Baalousha. *Museum Treasures*

for All: *The Role of Museum Curators in Public Communication* by Ahmed Sheikh El-Arab, reviews the efforts of museum curators in developing different approaches to interpreting the cultural heritage. *Introduction to Law and the Social Sciences* by Moroccan academic Dr Hassane Hijj highlights the important approaches derived from social theory and their applications in the interpretation of law and the social sciences. *"Museums between Classification Criteria and Application Methodology"* by Dr Mohamed Jamal Rashed, a professor of museology, provides a reading of the types of museums and the criteria for categorising them according to a standard methodology. *History Taking in Medicine and Understanding Organs Talk*, by Dr Adel Ali Attia, is a guidebook that addresses one of the issues that medical professionals and students face when they begin their clinical training, focusing on the difficulty of talking to the patient to find out their medical history.

Culture ministry celebrates Dr Rabia al-Kuwari's legacy



The Ministry of Culture on Friday organised a symposium on the journey and career of the late Dr Rabia Sabah al-Kuwari at the main theatre of the 33rd session of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF).

The symposium was attended by HE the Minister of Culture, Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani and a lineup of officials, academics and researchers spoke.

It was moderated by writer Abdullah Hayy al-Sulaiti, who began by mentioning the biography of the deceased and his

great contributions in the fields of journalism, media and culture, indicating that this symposium represents appreciation and gratitude for his prominent and influential personality.

HE the Minister of State and President of the Qatar National Library, Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, said that Dr Rabia was a prominent figure in education, culture and media, pointing out that his works represent references and sources of knowledge across generations.

The Chairperson of the Qatar Press Center Saad bin Mohamed al-Rumaihi,

pointed out that Dr Rabia al-Kuwari instilled his love in the souls of people through distinguished giving, and left an influential mark on the journalistic and cultural scene.

Al-Rumaihi, who previously founded and was editor-in-chief of the Qatari newspaper *Al-Sharq*, and who worked as director of Qatar TV and editor-in-chief of the Qatari newspaper *Arrayah*, reviewed the role of the deceased in supporting and assisting him in these important stations, and his distinguished contribution to the institutions. (QNA)

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

- ✔ Warehouse for rent in Industrial area
- ✔ Warehouse 600 Sqm/1200 Sqm
- ✔ Municipality Approved
- ✔ Civil Defence Approved
- ✔ Secure Boundary Wall
- ✔ 24/7 Security

 6672 2989

New curricula aim to promote fitness among students in Qatar

A set of programmes, academic and extracurricular activities, in addition to smart applications have been launched in various public schools across Qatar to reduce obesity rates while promoting students' health and fitness, a number of specialists and physical education co-ordinators have indicated.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, they stressed that the newly developed educational curricula focus on equipping students with the necessary skills to improve their physical fitness and enhance their health, besides encouraging them to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.

The new approaches will help students acquire healthy habits and practices to maintain the desired body weight, as such programmes go beyond the physical education classes and give them full support through the optimal use of the sports halls at schools. In addition, there is an application specialised in fighting obesity and helping students with the healthy food options to suite their body requirements.

Hassa al-Mohannadi, a physical education co-ordinator, noted a smart application, 'The

Biggest Winner', aimed at reducing obesity rates among school students and enhancing physical fitness has been launched. She said the app has seen great success for its significant benefits, whether for students suffering from obesity or for those who want to adopt a healthy lifestyle adhering to a healthy diet. She stressed that the app determines the best sports, physical practices, and dietary system based on vital measurements, including age, weight, and height of the student, besides providing advice on the best sports, nutrition by nutrition specialists.

"It was named 'The Biggest Winner' to motivate students to participate rather than using e-gaming for long periods. The student can use the app to change their unhealthy lifestyle and be aware of practising sports, including athletic exercises at three levels from moderate to intense," she added.

Ali Nadi, also a physical education co-ordinator, said physical education teachers work on spreading sports awareness in schools and provide students with proper sports programmes to help them develop their skills and to maintain physical fit-

ness. He pointed out that there is plenty of space at the school playgrounds and public parks besides at other sports facilities across the country.

WAREHOUSE/WORKSHOP FACILITY AT RAS LAFFAN

A leading Oil field Trading & Engineering Services Company is looking for a Partner/ JV to develop Workshop/Warehouse facility at Ras Laffan

10,000 sq m land located at Support Services Area (West) in RLIC with necessary approvals for construction.

Interested parties may please contact us at Mob: +974 30078867 Email: facility00974@gmail.com

GU-Q celebrates graduating Class of 2024

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner, honoured the academic success of 119 undergraduate and 21 graduate students at a commencement ceremony for the Class of 2024.

The ceremony at the Qatar National Convention Centre saw family, friends, university faculty and staff, and dignitaries from Qatar and Georgetown University in Washington, DC, coming together to celebrate.

In her keynote address, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, minister in the presidency for women, youth, and people with disabilities of South Africa, urged the graduates: "As you rise, you must lift someone with you."

She emphasised paying success forward. "The world needs stars. And you are going to be stars, but you must create many more of yourselves. We hope that by the time you are my age, your children and your grandchildren will be living in a better world, one that you would have contributed to create... with other young people across the world."



Dr Safwan Masri, the dean of GU-Q, lauded the graduates, saying: "I hope you are as proud of yourselves as we are of you. Thank you for enriching our lives, for expanding our minds, and for opening our hearts...we are immensely

grateful and honoured to see Georgetown's legacy of providing education that positively impacts the world, in each of you."

The ceremony featured the traditional conferral of degrees by Georgetown University president

Dr John J DeGioia. School of Foreign Service dean Joel Hellman presented the candidates from the four-year Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service programme, with majors in Culture and Politics, International Economics, International History and

International Politics. Dean Masri presented the executive master's in diplomacy and International Affairs candidates, praising their negotiation and problem-solving skills as vital for leadership roles in Qatar and beyond.

Preceding the commencement, the Tropia awards ceremony, a Georgetown tradition, recognised the exceptional academic and service achievements of seniors, faculty, and staff. Addressing her classmates, senior speaker Ayet Bouhajib reflected on lessons from a student journey that began during a pandemic and ended amid significant regional conflicts, encouraging peers to apply their Georgetown skills and knowledge for humanity's benefit. "Let us use our voices, our skills, and our knowledge to make a positive impact on the world, to stand in solidarity with those who suffer, and to work towards a future where peace, justice, and equality reign supreme," she said.

Since its inception in 2005, GU-Q has been a vibrant extension of Georgetown's global community, celebrating nearly two decades of academic excellence in Qatar and the region. GU-Q offers the renowned SFS curriculum, giving students from across the globe an opportunity for a world-class, holistic education in international affairs.

Omani publishers praise DIBF turnout and Qataris' passion for reading

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Sultanate of Oman is participating as the guest of honour in the 33rd session of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), which opened at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) from May 9 and will continue until May 18, 2024, under the slogan, "Knowledge Builds Civilizations".

A number of Omani officials and publishers spoke to *Gulf Times*, Dr Sulaiman Dawood al-Sabei, assistant dean of research at Sultan Qaboos University said: "We are participating with our scientific publications on heritage, as well as doctorate and master theses, and books in most fields of knowledge. In addition we publish seven refereed and specialised periodicals in education, literature, agriculture, culture, and public health. Contributing researchers are from Oman and abroad who are interested in the Omani cultural development. We participate as a guest of honour, and this, if anything, indicates the depth of bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Qatar, as well as the in-depth cultural exchange between the two countries."

Professor Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Rabani, director of the Center for Omani Studies at Sultan Qaboos University said: "The centre specialises in publishing research in the fields of politics, economics, education, social and cultural studies. It is a national hub for consultancies to the public and private sectors. For researchers interested in publishing his or her research on Omani or Gulf studies from anywhere in the world, the centre will cover all the publishing costs and all our publications are refereed. We are pleased to participate in the DIBF as the guest of honour. This exhibition is exceptional with great turnout from local, Arab and foreign visitors in the activities of the 33rd session, which confirms its prestigious cultural and intellectual status on the regional and international arenas. In addition to the Qataris' excellent good organisation and hospitality."



From right: Nasra al-Mamari and Moza al-Badi.



From left: Dr Sulaiman Dawood al-Sabei, Professor Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Rabani, and Harith al-Rashidi from Ministry of Culture.

Moza al-Badi and Nasra al-Mamari, the co-founders of Al-Fikr Publishing Company said: "The turnout is great in the Doha of love and beauty. The Qatari citizen is a passionate and educated reader. We embarked on this pioneering project for a sustainable education in Al Brimi Governorate as a book club, then launched their publications to cover most subjects. They are officials at the Ministry of Education but they wanted to stand out of the ordinary and leave their footprint by promoting the book and reading. "We have a children's book club to promote reading among youth, as well as special programmes for women focused on Omani ladies' success stories. We love the book and we want to build bridges with publishers and promote the Omani heritage, civilisation and women to the rest of the world."

QRCS partners with Jordan's JHCO, JNRCS for Gaza food aid

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) launched the second phase of the food basket project, which delivers aid to the affected people in the Gaza Strip from Jordan by land.

The project is a collaboration between the QRCS and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO), in co-ordination with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS). Qatar's ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Saud bin Nasser bin Jassim al-Thani participated in the inauguration of this phase, during which 24 trucks will transport about 12,000 food parcels from Jordan to the QRCS' office in Gaza, which will then receive and distribute

the food parcels to the affected families in displacement camps in several locations in the Strip.

Each parcel consists of food items sufficient for a family for one month, weighing approximately 30 kilograms each, including essential items such as rice, lentils, flour, oil, canned goods, among others.

Qatar's ambassador Sheikh Saud bin Nasser bin Jassim al-Thani highlighted the significance of this project and the role of the entities involved, thanking Qatari humanitarian organisations operating in Jordan for their continuous relief projects to reach out to those affected. (QNA)

Six DFI-supported films to be featured at Cannes Festival

Six films supported by the Doha Film Institute (DFI) have been selected to the 77th Cannes Film Festival being held from May 14-25, it was announced yesterday.

DFI's latest co-financed project *Rendez-vous avec Pol Pot* (Meeting with Pol Pot) by renowned Cambodian director and screenwriter Rithy Panh, is selected to the Cannes Premiere section in the Official Selection.

Diverse projects supported by the DFI Grants programme will screen for global audiences, including three projects in the parallel section of Critics' Week (Semaine de la Critique) and two in Director's Fortnight (Quinzaine des cinéastes).

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, CEO, DFI, said: "We are honoured to partner with internationally renowned creative visionaries and emerging talent from the Arab world and beyond to offer a captivating window into different cultures and perspectives to foster a sense of global unity."

"I am especially proud that celebrated auteur and DFI's long-term mentor and collaborator Rithy Panh's new film will premiere at the prestigious festival."

Cannes Premiere, Official Selection: *Rendez-vous avec Pol Pot* (France, Cambodia, Taiwan, Qatar, Turkiye) draws from Panh's his moving personal experiences to revive unrecorded memories of his native Cambodia. Based on a true story, the film recounts the adventurous journey of three French journalists invited to Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge in 1978 to meet with Pol Pot.

Panh directed numerous internationally acclaimed films, including *The Rice People*, selected for the Official Competition of the Festival de Cannes in 1994 and *The Missing Picture*, nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2013 and winner of the Grand Prix in the Un Certain Regard section at the Festival de Cannes. His most recent directorial effort, *Exile*, once again considers the grave crimes and abuse of the Khmer Rouge regime and won wide critical and public acclaim at Cannes in 2016.

Critics' Week: *The Brink of Dreams* (Egypt, France, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Qatar), by Nada Riyadh and



Rendez-vous avec Pol Pot



Locust

Ayman El Amir; *Locust* (Taiwan, France, US, Qatar) by KEFF; *Across The Sea* (Morocco, France, Belgium, Qatar) by Said Hamich Benlarbi.

Director's Fortnight: *East of Noon* (Egypt, Netherlands, Qatar) by Hala Elkoussy; *To a Land Unknown* (Palestine, UK, Greece, Netherlands, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Qatar) by Mahdi Fleifel.

Three other DFI supported projects will participate in industry platforms during the Festival including *The Myth of Mahmoud* (Palestine, US, Lebanon, Kenya, Yemen, Jordan, Qatar) by Mayar Hamdan & Shaima al-Tamimi and *My Father's House* by Mahdi Fleifel in the Cannes Docs programme; and *L'Mina* (Morocco, France, Qatar, Italy) by Randa Maroufi in the Focus Work in Progress section organised by the Short Film Corner.

Awqaf ministry seeks Qataris for imams, preachers

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, represented by the mosques administration, has announced its continued efforts to attract Qatari citizens to work as imams and preachers under the multi-category reward system, alongside retaining their primary positions in state institutions, governmental bodies, and private sectors.

This announcement came during a press conference held by the ministry to announce the categories for the Qatari imam and preacher positions within the qudwa project, which was announced several months ago. In this context, assistant undersecretary for Daawah and Mosques Affairs Mohamed Hamad al-Kuwari said that the Ministry of Awqaf places great importance on the project to attract and qualify Qatari imams and preachers, in compliance with the directives of the wise leadership and as part of the ministry's strategy to provide mosques across the country with Qatari imams and preachers who are better equipped to understand societal issues, needs, and aspirations, and address them with knowledge, awareness, and wisdom.

Al-Kuwari mentioned that the ministry has facilitated several categories for the position, aiming to achieve flexibility and to facilitate the enrolment of those interested, while attracting the maximum number of Qatari imams and preachers. The reward amount is determined based on performance and efficiency at work, encouraging them to develop and strive for higher categories. The ministry also ensures flexibility for the imams by granting them leave from leading prayers and mosque duties on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as official holidays and annual leave.

On the other hand, Director of Human Resources Management at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohamed Hassan al-Malki emphasised the ministry's keenness to attract a larger number of Qatari imams and preachers and to conduct comprehensive studies to reach an optimal proposal to attract a wide range of individuals to work as prayer leaders and deliver sermons in mosques. This is done after obtaining approvals from relevant authorities in the state, particularly the Prime Minister's Office, regarding the deserved reward for each category, ranging from five thousand to ten thousand Qatari riyals. The ministry also co-ordinates with the Mosques Administration to ensure that the imams fulfil their assigned tasks and responsibilities.



Director of the Mosques Administration Sulaiman Jumaan al-Qahtani said that the ministry has defined three categories for Qatari imams, with varying rewards based on the job tasks for each category, and two categories for Qatari preachers, with different reward values based on the evaluation of the preacher's level and sermon performance in the country's mosques across various regions, including significant mosques. The age requirement for all temporary Qatari imam and preacher positions ranges from 18 to 60 years old.

Regarding the categories of the Qatari Imam position, the conditions of employment, required tasks, and rewards, the Director of Mosque Affairs mentioned that the reward for Category A Imam is QR10,000 per month. The appointee must be proficient in reciting the Qur'an with a good voice and memorise five parts. He added that the educational level should not be less than secondary school, along with passing a personal interview and qualification course in Sharia sciences, obtaining an excellent evaluation in the periodic assessment for Category B.

The required tasks include leading prayers (Salah) for four obligatory prayers daily, in addition to delivering four educational and admonitory lessons in the mosque weekly, and supervising mosque operations. For Category B Imam, the reward is QR7,000 monthly. The appointee must be proficient in Qur'an recitation with a good voice and memorise four parts. The reward for Category C Imam is QR5,000 per month. He emphasised that the Imam will be evaluated periodically. As for the position involving giving sermons (Khatib), its conditions of employment, required tasks, and rewards, the Director of Mosque Affairs stated that the reward for Category A khatib is QR1,000, totalling QR4,000-5,000 monthly. For Category B khatib, the reward is QR500 per sermon, totalling QR2,000-2,500 monthly. The appointee must be proficient in Qur'an recitation with memorisation of one part. (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ALEXANDRIA JEAN CHRISTINE BUSCH

holder of

SOUTH AFRICA Passport No. A02989428
QID No. 28771000317

hereby change my name

from

ALEXANDRIA JEAN CHRISTINE BUSCH

to

ALEXANDRIA JEAN CHRISTINE
WOOD WARD

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MOHAMMAD KHADIJAH

holder of

Jordan Passport No. R348266
QID No. 29940000916

hereby change my name

from

MOHAMMAD KHADIJAH

to

MOHAMMAD JEHAD
ABDELHALIM ABU KHADIJAH

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Lantern parade



Participants march during a lantern parade as part of a 'Lotus Lantern Festival' to celebrate the upcoming Buddha's birthday, in Seoul, yesterday.

More than 300 dead in Afghanistan flash floods

AFP
Laqayli

More than 300 people were killed in flash floods that ripped through multiple Afghan provinces, the UN's World Food Programme said yesterday, as authorities declared a state of emergency and rushed to rescue the injured.

Heavy rains on Friday sent roaring rivers of water and mud crashing through villages and across agricultural land in several provinces.

Survivors yesterday picked through muddy, debris-littered streets and damaged buildings, an AFP journalist saw, as authorities and non-governmental groups deployed rescue workers and aid, warning that some areas had been cut off by the flooding. Northern Baghlan province was one of the hardest hit, with more than 300 people killed there alone, and thousands of houses destroyed or damaged, according to WFP.

"On current information: in Baghlan province there are 311 fatalities, 2,011 houses destroyed and 2,800 houses damaged," said Rana Deraz, a communications officer for the UN agency in Afghanistan.

There were disparities between the death tolls provided by the government and humanitarian agencies.



Afghan men clear mud from a house following flash floods after heavy rainfall at a village in Baghlan-e-Markazi district of Baghlan province, yesterday.

The UN's International Organisation for Migration said there were 218 deaths in Baghlan.

Abdul Mateen Qami, spokesman for the interior ministry, said that 131 people had been killed in Baghlan, but that the government toll could rise.

"Many people are still missing," he said.

Another 20 people were reported dead in northern Takhar province and two in neighbouring Badakhshan, he added.

Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said: "Hundreds of our fellow citizens have succumbed to these calamitous floods" in a statement posted to social media site X earlier yesterday.

"Moreover, the deluge has wrought extensive devastation

upon residential properties, resulting in significant financial losses," he added.

Rains on Friday caused heavy damage in Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan, as well as western Ghor and Herat provinces, officials said, in a country wracked by poverty and heavily dependent on agriculture.

"My house and my whole life was swept away by the flood," said Jan Mohamed Din Mohamed, a resident of Baghlan provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri.

His family had managed to flee to higher ground but when the weather cleared and they returned home, "there was nothing left, all my belongings and my house had been destroyed," he said.

"I don't know where to take

my family...I don't know what to do." Emergency personnel were rushing to rescue injured and stranded people, according to the defence ministry.

The ministry ordered multiple branches of the military "to provide any kind of assistance to the victims of this incident with all available resources".

The air force said it had started evacuation operations as the weather cleared yesterday, adding that more than 100 injured people had been transferred to hospital, without specifying from which provinces.

"By announcing the state of emergency in (affected) areas, the Ministry of National Defense has started distributing food, medicine and first aid to the impacted people," it said.

An AFP journalist saw a vehicle laden with food and water in Baghlan's Baghlan-e-Markazi district, as well as others carrying the dead to be buried.

Since mid-April, flash flooding and other floods had left about 100 people dead in 10 of Afghanistan's provinces, with no region entirely spared, according to authorities.

Farmland has been swamped in a country where 80% of the more than 40m people depend on agriculture to survive.

Afghanistan — which had a relatively dry winter, making it more difficult for the soil to absorb rainfall — is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Pyongyang hackers stole data from South Korea court computers: police

AFP
Seoul

North Korean hackers stole sensitive data, including individuals' financial records, from a South Korean court computer network over two years, Seoul police said yesterday.

The nuclear-armed North is known to operate an army of thousands of hackers operating both inside the largely isolated country and apparently overseas, and has been blamed for several major cyberattacks in the past.

South Korean national police said the hackers pilfered 1,014 gigabytes of data from a court's computer system from January 2021 to February 2023, citing a joint investigation with the country's spy agency and prosecutors.

The hackers' malware transmitted stolen data, including South Koreans' marriage and personal debt records, to "four domestic and four overseas servers" before it was finally "detected by antivirus software", the national police said in a statement sent to AFP.

The data breach was found to be the work of a North Korean hacking outfit after authorities compared the detected malicious programmes, server payment details and IP addresses with those identified in earlier hacking cases

attributed to Pyongyang. Seoul authorities have retrieved and identified just 4.7 gigabytes of the stolen data, which stored 5,171 documents related to personal debt rehabilitation cases, including marriage certificates and statements about debt and reasons for insolvency, police said. Analysts say the North has stepped up cyberattacks in recent years in a bid to earn hard foreign currency in the face of United Nations sanctions imposed over its nuclear and missile programmes.

According to Seoul, Tokyo and Washington, Pyongyang stole as much as \$1.7bn in cryptocurrency in 2022 alone and supported its weapons programmes in part by gathering information through "malicious cyber activities".

In February, Seoul's spy agency said North Korean spies were using LinkedIn to pose as recruiters and entice South Koreans working at defence companies so the spies could access information on the firms' technology. North Korea's cyber-programme dates back to at least the mid-1990s, but has since grown to a 6,000-strong cyberwarfare unit, known as Bureau 121, that operates from several countries, including Belarus, China, India, Malaysia and Russia, according to a 2020 US military report.

Eight more Chinese cities join Hong Kong solo travel scheme

Reuters
Hong Kong

Eight more Chinese cities have joined a scheme allowing their residents to travel to Hong Kong on their own, rather than as part of a tour group, as part of efforts to boost Hong Kong's economy.

Hong Kong is battling to revive its economy following a national security crackdown and Covid-related controls, which led to many local and expats leaving the city and caused tourist numbers to dwindle to a fraction of pre-pandemic levels.

The "Individual Visit Scheme" (IVS) began in 2003 as part of a co-operation agreement between mainland China and Hong Kong to boost the city's economy by allowing Chinese residents to apply for individual travel, rather than in a tour group.

Fifty-one cities have already joined the programme and will be joined by Taiyuan in Shanxi Province, Hohhot in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Harbin in Heilongjiang Province, Lhasa in Tibet Autonomous Region, Lanzhou in Gansu Province, Xin-

ing in Qinghai Province, Yinchuan in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Urumqi in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Hong Kong city leader John Lee said: "These eight cities are all provincial capital cities with large populations, significant economic growth and high spending power".

Although recent official figures showed the territory growing 2.7% in the first quarter compared with the year before, local businesses have described shopping malls as "dead", with low foot traffic and shops covered with "for lease" or "coming up soon" signs.

One lawmaker recently told the city's legislature that more than 20,000 companies had deregistered in the first quarter of 2024, up more than 70% from the same period last year.

China imposed a sweeping national security law in 2020 after months of pro-democracy protests in 2019. In March, authorities enacted another set of security laws that some foreign governments say further undermine rights and freedoms.

The Hong Kong and Chinese governments have repeatedly said the security laws have brought stability.

Philippines sends ships to disputed atoll

Reuters
Manila

The Philippines said yesterday it has deployed ships to a disputed area in the South China Sea, where it accused China of building "an artificial island" in an escalating maritime row.

The coast guard sent a ship "to monitor the supposed illegal activities of China, creating 'an artificial island'", the office of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said in a statement, adding two other vessels were in rotational deployment in the area. Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Commodore Jay Tarriela told a forum there had been "small-scale reclamation" of the Sabina Shoal, which Manila calls Escoda, and that China was "the most probable actor".

The Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Philippine assertions, which could deepen the bilateral rift.

The Philippine national security adviser called on Friday for expelling Chinese diplomats over an alleged leak of a phone conversation with a Filipino admiral about the maritime dispute.

Beijing and Manila have been em-

broiled for a year in heated stand-offs over their competing claims in the South China Sea, where \$3tn worth of trade passes annually.

China claims almost all of the vital waterway, including parts claimed by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in 2016 that Beijing's claims had no basis under international law.

China has carried out extensive land reclamation on some islands in the South China Sea, building air force and other military facilities, causing concern in Washington and around the region.

A Philippine vessel has been anchored at the Sabina Shoal to "catch and document the dumping of crushed corals over the sandbars", Tarriela said, citing the "alarming" presence of dozens of Chinese ships, including research and navy vessels. Tarriela said the presence of Chinese vessels at the atoll 200km from the Philippine province of Palawan coincided with the coast guard's discovery of piles of dead and crushed coral.

The coast guard will take marine scientists to the areas to determine whether the coral piles were a natural occurrence or caused by human intervention, he said.

Volcanic spectacle



This handout photo taken yesterday and released by the Geological Agency of Indonesia shows a volcanic eruption from Mount Ibu in Indonesia's North Maluku province.

Man dies in suspected Indonesia tiger attack

AFP
Pekanbaru

A man has been found dead in western Indonesia after a suspected attack by a Sumatran tiger authorities were still hunting, a local official said yesterday, the latest case of conflict between humans and the critically endangered species.

There are only several hundred tigers on the western island of Sumatra left in the wild and they are often targeted by poachers for their body parts. A team of conservationists was deployed to search for the big cat yesterday after the 26-year-old male victim was found dead at a plantation in Riau province on Sumatra island on Thursday afternoon with wounds indicating a tiger attack. "Our team has left this morning (to search for the tiger). Based on the report, the area is within the tiger habitat," local conservation agency head Genman Suhefti Hasi-buan said yesterday.

Local police chief Budi Setiawan said late Friday they had received a report that two workers heard their friend screaming while they were spraying weeds in a plantation.

Eurovision in Gaza's shadow as Israel competes in final

AFP/Reuters
Malmö

The Eurovision Song Contest final got underway in Sweden's Malmö yesterday, as tensions mount around Israel's participation during the Gaza war. Israel is one of 25 nations competing in a contest watched around the world by millions of lovers of the pop sounds – and kitschy shows. However, Israel's presence has sparked fierce debate. A large crowd of protesters gathered on the central square of the Swedish host city before marching towards the contest venue, waving Palestinian flags and shouting "Eurovision united by genocide" – a twist on the contest's official slogan *United by Music*. "It's important to show, like, we are going to stand on the right side for everyone. This could be any other country and we would still be standing here because this is about children, men and women who have been occupied for so many years," said protester Maryam, who gave only her first name. Police estimated that between 6,000 and 8,000 people joined the demonstration. "We're not against Eurovision,

we're against that Israel is taking part. We don't want its representative in Malmö...because of what's happening in Gaza," Ingemar Gustavsson, a Swedish pensioner, told AFP. Diverse Malmö is home to the country's largest community of Palestinian origin. The city is also expecting up to 100,000 fans from 90 countries, on the 50th anniversary of iconic pop group ABBA's Eurovision win with *Waterloo*. Although police have said no direct threats have been made at the competition, they have bolstered their numbers with reinforcements from Norway and Denmark. To gain access to the Malmö Arena, the some 9,000 spectators have to pass through a reinforced security system designed in particular to discourage protesters from approaching. Meanwhile, the contest was rattled earlier yesterday by the disqualification of Dutch contestant Joost Klein. "Swedish police have investigated a complaint made by a female member of the production crew after an incident following his performance in Thursday night's Semi Final," the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which oversees the event, said in a statement. "While

the legal process takes its course, it would not be appropriate for him to continue in the Contest." Dutch broadcaster AVROTROS said the incident had involved Klein being filmed directly after coming off stage "against clearly made agreements". According to an AVROTROS statement, Klein then repeatedly indicated that he did not want to be filmed after which he made a "threatening movement" toward the camera, but did not touch the camera woman. "We stand for good manners – let there be no misunderstanding about that – but in our view, an exclusion order is not proportional to this incident," AVROTROS said. Klein had already courted controversy at Thursday's press conference when he repeatedly covered his face with a Dutch flag, seemingly signifying he didn't agree with being placed next to Israel's contestant, Eden Golan. The EBU confirmed in March that Golan would take part, despite calls for her exclusion from thousands of musicians around the world. The Gaza war started with the events of October 7 in Israel. Israel's offensive has killed at least 34,971 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to

the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. Israel ranks with Croatia and Switzerland as one of the bookmakers' favourites in the singing extravaganza, which 162mm television viewers watched last year. Golan's song is an adaptation of an earlier version named *October Rain*, which she modified after organisers deemed it too political because of its apparent allusions to the Hamas attack. Israel has been taking part in Eurovision since 1973, most recently winning it for the fourth time in 2018. However, the country's participation this year has caused bitter divisions. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wished Golan good luck and said she had "already won" by enduring the protests that he called a "horrible wave of anti-Semitism". In Spain, the far-left Sumar party on Friday launched a petition calling for Israel to be excluded from the competition while "its army is exterminating the Palestinian people and razing its land". Meanwhile German Culture Minister Claudia Roth denounced as "absolutely unacceptable" calls to boycott Israeli artists. The EBU has insisted that it does



A man wearing a keffiyeh looks out of the window of a fast-food restaurant as pro-Palestinian protesters opposing Israel's participation in the 68th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) demonstrate in Malmö, Sweden.

not play politics. This neutrality was challenged on Tuesday by Swedish singer Eric Saade, who took part in the opening number of the competition wearing a keffiyeh around his arm. Two days later, unions at Belgian broadcaster VRT briefly interrupted transmission of the second semi-final to broadcast a message condemning "the violations of human rights by the state of Israel". During rehearsals yesterday, Slimane, France's candidate, briefly interrupted his performance for a short speech on peace, his team confirmed to AFP. "We need to be united by music, yes, but with love for peace," he said, referring to the Eurovision

slogan *United by Music*. More than 10,000 pro-Palestinian campaigners, including climate activist Greta Thunberg, staged a non-violent protest ahead of the semi-final on Thursday. A smaller group of pro-Israeli supporters, including members of Malmö's Jewish community, also staged a peaceful demonstration on Thursday, defending Israeli solo artist Golan and her right to take part in the contest. Pro-Palestinian protesters have complained of double standards as the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) that organises the contest banned Russia from Eurovision in 2022 following its invasion of Ukraine.

In Nigeria, Harry speaks of 'brave souls' losing lives in conflict

Reuters/AFP
Abuja

Prince Harry spoke in Nigeria yesterday of the tragic loss of the "brave souls" in the country's military who had lost their lives in conflicts, and said he felt "goosebumps" after seeing plans for a new centre to rehabilitate injured troops. Nigerian forces are fighting religious militants in the northeast of the country and armed kidnapping gangs in the northwest. Harry, the 39-year-old Duke of Sussex, and his wife Meghan arrived in Africa's most populous nation on Friday in a trip linked to the Invictus Games, an international sporting event that the Duke of Sussex started a decade ago for troops injured in action. Nigeria first participated in the Games in 2023. At a reception for military families in Abuja, Harry said he had on Friday met 50 wounded soldiers during a trip to northern Kaduna and could see that the injuries were defining their lives, but there were some who had smiles on their faces. "What this proved to me, what this reminds me of, is the power of seeing what is possible post injury," said Harry, adding that "seeing the plans for the new Invictus Centre gives me goosebumps". Harry, the youngest son of King Charles,



Harry and Meghan at a volleyball match with wounded army veterans at the Nigerian army officers' mess in Abuja.

lives in the United States with Meghan and their two children after he gave up working as a member of the royal family in 2020. He served as a military helicopter pilot in Afghanistan. Abike Dabiri Erewa, chairperson of the Nigerian Diaspora Commission, brought wide smiles and claps from Meghan when she exclaimed: "Princess Meghan is a Nigerian." She was referring to a podcast in which Meghan said she had Nigerian heritage. Harry earlier played in a volleyball match as an animated Meghan clapped every

point for both teams and broadly smiled and cheered when Harry's first point was notched up. The match at an officer's mess complex in Abuja saw Harry's team dressed in yellow playing off in an exhibition against a team led by Nigeria's chief of defence staff, the country's top commander. With chants of "Team Harry, Team Harry" when they scored, the prince's team took an early lead with players seated on foam mats, some missing legs. However, they lost the match to the commander's squad Team CDS.



Prince Harry in a black polo shirt talking to a young boy in a yellow jersey.

Before Nigeria, Prince Harry was in London on Wednesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the games. As with all his trips to the UK since he moved to the United States in 2020, his visit prompted renewed speculation over a reconciliation with his family. However, he did not meet with his father Charles. Harry was invited to visit by Nigeria's military command. Chief of Defence Staff General Christopher Musa has praised the experience of Nigerian troops at the Invictus Games.

Gunmen kidnap more than 100 in Nigeria

Reuters
Maiduguri

More than 100 people were kidnapped by gunmen during Friday night raids on three villages in northwest Nigeria, a district head and residents said yesterday, the latest abduction of villagers in a region blighted by widespread insecurity. Kidnapping has become endemic in Nigeria's northwest as roving gangs of armed men abduct people from villages, highways and schools, and demand ransom money from their relatives. Alhaji Bala, head of a district in the Birnin-Magaji local government area of Zamfara, said gunmen attacked the villages of Gora, Madomawa and Jambuzu and that 38 men and 67 women and children were missing. "But the number of people abducted could be more than that," he said. Zamfara is a hotspot for kidnapping gangs who carry out attacks and retreat into forests where they have set up camps. The Nigerian military has bombed some of the camps but attacks continue. Yezid Abubakar, Zamfara police spokesperson, could not immediately be reached for comment. Aminu Aliyu Asha, the Madomawa village head, said gunmen arrived in his village on motorbikes and shot sporadically before kidnapping several people. "The abduction breaches the peace agreement between us and bandits. In February this year, we made several ransom payments in order to stop them from attacking our territory," said Asha. Nusa Sani said that his two brothers were among those abducted, while another resident, Garba Kira, added that among the abducted were 15 passengers in a lorry that was passing through the villages.



A man raises his hand as rescue workers carry him to an ambulance after being rescued, having survived 118 hours after a deadly building collapse in George, South Africa.

'Miracle' survivor found 5 days after S Africa building collapse

AFP
Johannesburg

Rescuers and onlookers cheered and applauded yesterday as a survivor emerged after 116 hours from underneath the rubble of a collapsed building in South Africa, with the tragedy having killed at least 13. "It is a miracle that we have all been hoping for," Western Cape provincial premier Alan Winde said on X. An apartment block under construction in the southern city of George crumbled Monday afternoon while a crew of 81 were on site. In a video shared by the municipality, Gabriel Guambe said: "I'm okay now, I'm okay now, everything is okay. Thank you, God bless you guys." "Mr Guambe is recovering well...having remarkably sustained only minor injuries," authorities said in a statement, adding that he was in "good spirits". The 32-year-old construction worker was lo-

ated by rescuers who heard a moan from under the rubble. He was only pulled out hours after being initially found. "When we went down to the side of the slab we had uncovered, we heard somebody inside and we stopped all the heavy operations," Colin Deiner, head of rescue operations, told reporters. Rescuers then called out to the survivor and he spoke back, Deiner said. "He indicated to us that he's got weight on his legs, and we're very concerned about that after such a long period of time." Rescue teams have been working against time ever since the structure came crashing down. Twenty-nine people have been rescued alive while thirty-nine remained unaccounted for. Winde said a "difficult" identification process was underway and that police were using fingerprints, DNA testing and photographs. Construction plans for a 42-unit apartment block had been approved by the city in July. The reasons for the building collapse remain unknown.

Two UK octogenarian climate activists charged over Magna Carta stunt

AFP
London

Two environmental activists in their eighties have been charged with criminal damage after glueing themselves to a glass case containing the historic Magna Carta document at the British Library in central London, police said yesterday. Anglican priest Sue Parfitt, 82, and retired teacher Judy Bruce, 85, held up a sign saying "The government is breaking the law" after attaching themselves to the display case on Friday, according to Just Stop Oil. London's Metropolitan police said two women had been charged with criminal damage and released on bail. The library said the damage to the glass case was "minimal".

"Magna Carta itself remains undamaged," it said, adding that the gallery that houses the display would remain closed until further notice. Magna Carta is seen as a precursor of democracy and the basis of legal systems across the world as well as human rights conventions. Dating from June 1215, the Great Charter – considered one of the world's most important documents – first put into writing the principle that the king and his government were not above the law. The two women will appear before magistrates in London on June 20. Just Stop Oil wants the UK government to end all new oil and gas exploration and has promised not to let up in its protests until it does so.



This picture taken on Friday shows Parfitt and Bruce breaking parts of the reinforced case holding an original text of the Magna Carta in the British Library in London.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
- ☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)
- ☎ 44350474
- 📘 facebook.com/gulftimes
- 🐦 twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar
- 📷 instagram.com/gulftimes
- 📺 youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

GULF TIMES

Harnessing AI tech for global advancement of education

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionise global education systems and improve the experiences of educators and students alike.

AI, experts say, could transform education by enhancing personalisation, boosting digital skills and empowering teachers with advanced capacity-improving tools.

They maintain that AI can tailor educational content to individual students' needs, interests, and learning styles. By analysing students' performance data, AI systems have the ability to provide personalised recommendations, adaptive learning paths, and targeted interventions to help each student reach their full potential.

A new World Economic Forum report explores how artificial intelligence could revolutionise education systems and improve the experiences of educators and students alike.

The new research outlines AI's wide-ranging potential – from personalising learning experiences, to streamlining administrative tasks, integrating AI into educational curricula and more – and finds that a responsible application of emerging technologies could herald a new era in education worldwide.

It is essential to address ethical, privacy, and equity considerations to ensure that AI technologies benefit all students and contribute to the advancement of education globally

scalable personalised learning experience that is vital for both student engagement and the effectiveness of educators."

The report analyses the varied opportunities AI introduces to the education sector, emphasising the refinement of assessment processes for more timely and holistic evaluations and insights into student progress. It also details how AI can optimise educator roles by automating and augmenting up to 20% of educator clerical tasks, reducing administrative burdens and enabling more time for teachers to focus on personalisation, improving pedagogy and supporting students' social-emotional needs.

AI's integration into educational curricula also equips students with essential future skills and knowledge, while personalised learning content and experiences provide tailored educational pathways to meet diverse student needs. AI's potential to dramatically improve educational outcomes necessitates a proactive approach to harness these technologies while carefully addressing the challenges they pose.

These include ensuring equitable access to technology, addressing concerns of data privacy and bias, and navigating the potential displacement of traditional teaching roles.

The report calls on policy-makers and educational leaders to integrate AI responsibly into their education systems by ensuring the protection of sensitive information through the implementation of robust data privacy and security protocols.

The paper also provides a call to action for stronger collaboration between AI developers and educators to ensure that new AI tools promote better student outcomes.

There is every reason to believe that AI has the potential to democratise education, making high-quality learning experiences more accessible, affordable, and effective for learners around the world.

However, it is essential to address ethical, privacy, and equity considerations to ensure that AI technologies benefit all students and contribute to the advancement of education globally.

The new report, 'Shaping the Future of Learning: The Role of AI in Education 4.0', indicates how emerging technology can help educational systems meet the increased demands for digital literacy and personalised learning environments.

Through a series of case studies, it shows how innovative AI applications are already transforming education by improving learning outcomes, empowering educators and equipping students with the skills of the future.

"AI is rapidly reshaping the global education landscape," said Saadia Zahidi, managing director, World Economic Forum.

"If deployed safely and strategically, AI can help adapt learning to the needs of each student, enabling an innovative,

First Lady's day out



US First Lady Jill Biden delivers the commencement address for Mesa Community College at Desert Financial Arena in Tempe, Arizona, yesterday. (Reuters)

Trump's plans for Fed would revive 1970s-style inflation

By Maurice Obstfeld
Berkeley

If the past three years have taught us anything, it is that low inflation cannot be taken for granted. Even though US inflation remains above the Federal Reserve's 2% target for price stability, former president Donald Trump's advisers are discussing a new and dangerous approach to monetary policy. If implemented during a second Trump presidency, it would undo the decades of hard work that allowed the Fed to reduce annualised inflation by nearly four percentage points since 2022, to roughly 3%, at little or no cost to the real economy.

Trump's advisers are reportedly considering two complementary policy changes. One proposal reportedly involves increasing direct presidential control over the Fed's interest-rate decisions and rulemaking. Simultaneously, Trump's trade team, led by former US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, apparently wants to weaken the dollar's exchange rate.

While some Trump advisers have denied any plans to devalue the dollar, Trump's preference for lower interest rates and a weaker currency was evident during his first term. The proposed policies would make it easier for him to override the Fed's independence and achieve both objectives. The result would be a potent inflationary cocktail.

Trump's desire for a weaker dollar is driven by his belief, shared by Lighthizer, that the dollar is "too strong." This, in turn, makes US exports expensive in foreign markets and imports cheaper for American consumers, resulting in a large trade deficit.

Both Trump and Lighthizer see this as problematic because, in the absence of balanced trade where imports equal exports in value, the United States is funding its trade deficit by borrowing from or effectively ceding domestic assets to foreign entities.

But this interpretation reflects a myopic, 17th century understanding of trade and the economy. In reality, the inflows of money that sustain trade deficits can be used to build new factories, promote better use of existing US assets, or finance new domestic investments and enterprises, with positive spillovers to American workers and firms.

To be sure, one could argue that a lower trade deficit boosts demand for US products, thereby creating jobs. But with the US already at full employment, the Fed is maintaining higher interest rates precisely to curb demand and bring inflation down. While the Fed was aided in that task by a stronger dollar, a weaker currency would have the opposite effect. Moreover, like the import tariffs favoured by Trump and Lighthizer, a weaker dollar would hurt consumers by driving up prices for goods containing imported components.

Even if a weaker dollar and balanced trade were worthwhile goals, the policy options for achieving them range from infeasible to harmful. For example, the US Treasury and the Fed could purchase foreign-currency securities and sell dollar-denominated bonds. But given that the foreign-exchange market's daily turnover is close to \$8tn, these purchases would need to be implemented on a massive scale, which would expose the US government's balance sheet to huge losses if the dollar were to strengthen.

Currency-market intervention could be more effective if America's allies supported it, as they supported the 1985 Plaza Accord. But while countries like Japan and Korea are becoming increasingly nervous about the weakness of their currencies, most others are not and would require convincing. And good luck organising a cooperative international effort while Trump is threatening to withdraw from Nato.

US threats to impose tariffs on countries perceived to have weak currencies would introduce further uncertainty into global trade, potentially damaging investment and growth. Moreover, it is doubtful that any of this would significantly improve the US trade balance.

Adjusting interest rates is a more reliable way to influence the dollar's value. But given that foreign central banks are unlikely to raise interest rates and risk pushing their economies into recession just to accommodate Trump, the Fed would be under pressure to lower rates prematurely. This strategy would be inflationary and self-defeating, as higher domestic prices would offset any potential cost savings for foreign buyers that a weaker dollar might otherwise provide. Nevertheless, this might be the path of least resistance if Trump manages to establish greater presidential control over Fed policy, although it could just as easily worsen the US trade balance as improve it.

A surefire way to weaken the dollar and reduce the US trade deficit is to shrink the federal government's yawning fiscal deficit, enabling the Fed to lower interest rates sooner while controlling inflation. Although this policy would yield long-

term benefits for the US and the global economy, it has virtually no political support from either Democrats or Republicans, including Trump.

As global inflation spiked following the Covid-19 pandemic, some observers feared a return to the 1970s, when high and persistent inflation made economic life more unpredictable and stressful for households and businesses. Back then, it took a deep international recession to restore price stability. This time, however, inflation fell rapidly without the need for deep recessions, as supply-chain pressures eased and the Fed, along with other central banks, acted decisively to restrain demand by hiking interest rates.

Central to this success was the fact that markets' longer-term inflation expectations remained anchored. The actions of central banks, together with their consistent track records over several decades and institutional independence, fostered confidence that their efforts to tame inflation would be effective.

These positive developments would have been impossible in a world where monetary policy was politicised, under presidential control, and focused on the dollar's external value rather than its far more crucial internal value. Trump's plans for the Fed and the dollar are a one-way ticket back to the inflationary chaos of the 1970s. — Project Syndicate

• Maurice Obstfeld, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and Professor of Economics Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley.



Republican presidential candidate and former US president Donald Trump gestures during a campaign rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin, last month. (Reuters)

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621
☎ 44418811

Classified

☎ 44466609 ☎ 44418811
✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser attending QF's Annual Alumni Forum yesterday.



HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani at the event. **PICTURES:** AR al-Baker

Sheikha Moza attends QF's Annual Alumni Forum

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, attended yesterday (Saturday) Qatar Foundation's Annual Alumni Forum, as a new award celebrating graduates of the organisation's unique education ecosystem who drive positive change in their communities was announced. Hundreds of alumni of Qatar Foundation (QF)'s schools, international partner universities, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University came together at the Forum to reconnect, build networks of knowledge and support, share their stories and journeys, and air their views on topics related to their careers with key national stakeholders.

Attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, ministers, other dignitaries, and leaders of industry and business, the 2024 edition of the Forum - which is part of the QF Alumni Programme - was held around the theme of social responsibility and moral commitment, reflecting how civic duty and Islamic values are intertwined.

The criteria for the QF Alumni Award, will be linked to each year's Annual Alumni Forum theme, and in 2024-25 it will honour and celebrate alumni who have contributed to society through their dedication to social responsibility and civic engagement across four categories. Her Highness Sheikha Moza said:



HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi addressing the event.

"I am pleased to have attended the 2024 Qatar Foundation Annual Alumni Forum and was delighted to meet our graduates. Through their values, dedication, and social responsibility, they lead the way in changing the world for the better, making positive contributions to their communities. "I am proud of them, their achievements, and all that they do to strengthen their ties with the Foundation. Our future is brighter with them."

Speaking at the forum, HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi said: "This is an opportunity to learn about the potential of young people and the impact they leave on society. "The Ministry of Education and Higher Education is keen to instill the values of responsibility in society, and believes in the value of voluntary work, the impact of partnerships, and the importance of sharing inspiring experiences in

schools to contribute to a positive impact being made on future generations of students."

HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari told the audience: "The world is facing many global challenges, such as conflicts, epidemics, climate change, and non-communicable diseases, and confronting these challenges can only be achieved by instilling the spirit of social responsibility and community cohesion. "Qatar has proven it is capable of facing these challenges, and has already made great progress in doing so through effective plans and programmes within a health system that is among the best in the world."

The Forum also heard from Dr Saif Ali al-Hajari, CEO of Qatar CSR National Programme and president of Mubadara for Social Impact. In a panel discussion featuring three QF alumni: Fatema al-Malki, an alumna of



HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari addressing QF's Annual Alumni Forum yesterday. **PICTURE:** Aisha al-Musallam

QF school Qatar Academy Doha (QAD) and QF partner university Georgetown University in Qatar, and programme manager for nationwide reading programme Qatar Reads, said: "The key to academic and professional excellence lies in investing in areas that you are skilled in and that bring tangible social impact."

She was joined by Haitham al-Haidari - a serial entrepreneur and alumnus of QF partner university Texas A&M University at Qatar - and QAD alumnus Fahad al-Kaabi, an entrepreneur fostering inclusivity and empowerment through sports initiatives, who said: "Entering entrepreneurship should come with a strong desire to serve society - the goal should not be profit at the expense of social responsibility."

Three workshops took place during the Forum, with one seeing QF alumni guide their peers on how to advocate for social change through making persuasive

arguments. A session led by QF partner university Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar explored the role of emotional intelligence in social advocacy, while the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation hosted a workshop focusing on leadership and civic engagement during - and beyond - times of crisis. Through its participation in the Forum, EAA also managed the collection of donations for recipients of its scholarships in areas of conflict in the Middle East and North Africa region.

QF alumni whose innovative projects, social initiative, and leadership qualities have contributed to positive social change showcased their work, and inspired others, in the Forum's Impact Zone.

"In these very unique times, think about the fact that we can make a big difference - making sure that we keep alive the vision of Qatar Foundation not only being a place that unlocks human

potential, but being a place that really makes a transformation in our communities," Francisco Marmolejo, president of Higher Education and Education Adviser, QF, told the forum.

"One of the best legacies we can create is to nurture not only the best professionals in their fields, but also the most committed citizens of our community." Over 18,000 students have graduated from QF's schools and universities, with their educational experience nurturing their sense of moral commitment and social responsibility and equipping them to be drivers of positive change, and the QF Alumni Programme is open to all of them to join.

With the aim of cultivating a global network of alumni connected by their shared journey at QF, it is intended to provide them with the opportunity to help fellow alumni achieve their goals and retain their links to each other and Qatar, including encouraging new alumni to remain in Qatar and support the nation's development after they graduate.

The QF Alumni Office also advocates for policies that help graduates of QF's education ecosystem contribute to Qatar's journey, and builds relationships with public and private sector organisations. In 2023, the QF Alumni Office facilitated 168 job opportunities for alumni, and engaged with 150 employers, a 50% increase on 2022.



Congratulations, Class of 2024!












READ MORE

Northwestern | QATAR