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PM to address Qatar Economic Forum 2024

By Pratap John
Business Editor

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani will address the fourth annual 'Qatar Economic Forum, Powered by Bloomberg', which will begin tomorrow in Doha.

The three-day power event will convene heads of states alongside influential global business leaders, academics and entrepreneurs for a comprehensive dialogue about the global economy.

The Qatar Economic Forum (QEF), held in collaboration with Media City Qatar, has grown to become one of the most influen-



tial business forums in the region. There will be conversations with Polish President Andrzej Duda and Malaysian Prime Minis-

ter Anwar Ibrahim on the opening day of the forum.

Against a complex global economic backdrop, HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari will share how Qatar is guiding the region towards a "vision of sustainable and inclusive growth".

Al-Kuwari will be among the panellists at a session entitled 'Reshaping Middle East economies' on the first day of Qatar Economic Forum.

HE the Governor of Qatar Central Bank Sheikh Bandar bin Mohamed bin Saoud al-Thani and Turkiye Central Bank Governor Dr Fatih Karahan will be panellists at a session entitled 'Artificial intelligence and reinventing banking'. **To Page 9**

Amir meets US Congressmen



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday morning with US Congressmen during their visit to the country. His Highness met with representatives Salud Carbajal, Dave Joyce, Ami Bera, Derek Kilmer, Juan Vargas and Lance Gooden. They discussed bilateral ties and strategic co-operation in multiple fields, in addition to exchanging viewpoints on regional and global developments. **(QNA) Page 2**

Deadly Israeli actions take Palestinian toll past 35,000

Israel struck Gaza yesterday, where the health ministry said the death toll in the war had exceeded 35,000 people.

More than seven months into the Israeli military offensive, UN chief Antonio Guterres urged "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages and an immediate surge in humanitarian aid" into

the besieged Gaza Strip.

"But a ceasefire will only be the start," Guterres told a donor conference in Kuwait, where countries pledged over \$2bn to aid the devastated Palestinian territory.

"It will be a long road back from the devastation and trauma of this war," he added.

As Egyptian, Qatari and American mediation efforts towards a

truce appeared to stall, US President Joe Biden said on Saturday a ceasefire could be achieved "tomorrow" if Hamas released the hostages held in Gaza since the events of October 7.

Hamas yesterday called Biden's statement a "setback" to the negotiations, and said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had "rushed to overturn" the talks by

launching the Rafah offensive.

AFP correspondents, witnesses and medics said Israeli air strikes pounded parts of northern, central and southern Gaza overnight and into last morning.

Israel's military said its jets had hit "over 150 terror targets throughout the Gaza Strip" over the past day.

In Rafah, Gaza's southernmost

city which sits on the border with Egypt, the Kuwaiti hospital said yesterday it had received the bodies of "18 martyrs" killed over the past 24 hours.

The territory's health ministry said at least 63 people had been killed over the previous 24 hours, bringing the overall death toll from Israel's bombardment and offensive in Gaza to at least 35,034 peo-

ple, mostly women and children.

Fighting has resumed in Jabalia refugee camp and Gaza City's Zeitoun neighbourhood.

AFP correspondents reported intense clashes and heavy gunfire from Israeli helicopters in the Zeitoun area, with medics and witnesses saying troops were fighting in both Zeitoun and Jabalia. **(AFP)**

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Amir meets US Congressmen



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PM meets Malaysia, Maldives foreign ministers

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Mohamed Hasan. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation between the countries and ways to strengthen them, in addition to the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian Territories. **(QNA)**



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday at the Amiri Diwan with the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives Moosa Zameer. During the meeting, the two sides discussed co-operation between the countries and ways to support and develop them in various fields, in addition to several regional and international issues of mutual interest. **(QNA)**



Interior minister meets US official

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met in Doha yesterday with US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration Thea Rozman Kendler. The meeting discussed a host of topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**



Amir receives written message from president of Swiss Confederation

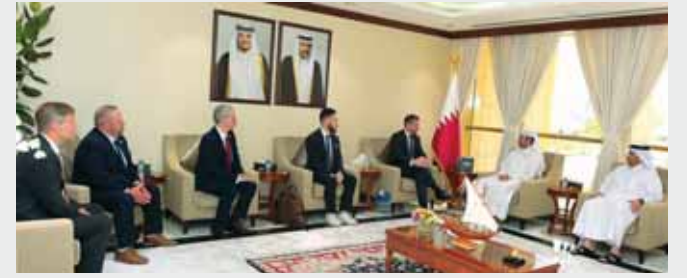


His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a written message from President of the Swiss Confederation Viola Amherd, pertaining to bilateral relations. The message was received by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi during his meeting yesterday with Swiss Confederation ambassador to Qatar Florence Tinguely Mattli. **(QNA)**

Municipality minister meets host of mayors of US cities



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met with several mayors of the United States cities who are going to participate in the Qatar Economic Forum 2024 (QEF) from May 14 to 16. During the meeting, they discussed avenues of co-operation between the Ministry of Municipality and the US cities in areas of shared interest, in addition to means of promoting them between the two sides, particularly smart cities and upgrading infrastructure, municipal services, agriculture, food security and waste management. The meeting brought together Mayor of Sterling Heights in Michigan State Michael C Taylor, Mayor of Buckeye City in Florida State Scott Singer, Mayor of Rochester Hills in Michigan State Bryan Barnett, Mayor of Albuquerque City in New Mexico Tim Keller and Mayor of Dearborn in Michigan State Abdullah Hammoud. **(QNA)**



QM event at Fire Station celebrates family values

Qatar Museums (QM) hosted an event, titled 'We Are QM Family', in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Family at Fire Station: Artist in Residence on the sidelines of the Pipilotti Rist - Electric Idyll exhibition, on view until June 1.

Aligned with the Qatar Family Year 2024 and aimed to propagate the family's Code of Ethics, 'We Are Family' forms part of the exhibition's educational programme, centred around the theme of family values and ethical commitment.

In a press statement, Sheikha Reem al-Thani, acting deputy CEO of Exhibitions at QM, said: "Embarking on this inspiring journey of creativity and collaboration with our esteemed Qatar Museums family is a testament to our collective dedication to nurturing and promoting the arts in Qatar. It reinforces our shared values and exemplifies our deep commitment to enriching the fabric of Qatari society through cultural expression and engagement."

QM employees collaboratively created an artwork symbolising unity and creativity within the QM family. Titled, 1300 Inspirations, the artwork comprises 36 panels hand painted with acrylic



Electric Idyll, the first survey exhibition dedicated to renowned contemporary Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist in the Mena region – at Fire Station: Artist in Residence, is on show until June 1.

colour, which will be unveiled on International Family Day, May 15 at Fire Station. The Qatari National Charter on Family Rights and Duties underscores the importance of family as the foundation of society, highlighting the interdependence between individuals and their families, and emphasising the role of conscious citizens in upholding societal values.

QM reflects these principles by fostering a familial atmosphere among its employees, aligning with the Charter's principles by promoting the development of creativity, innovation, and self-reliance within families, supporting QM's vision and mission by nurturing individual talents and ambitions. The head of the Events Team at the Ministry of Social Development and Family,

Maetha Saif al-Khayarin, said: "Celebrating the Year of Family, the Ministry, in collaboration with Qatar Museums, is participating in this occasion to emphasise on the pivotal role families play in strengthening family cohesion, advocating for the Family Charter, and fostering awareness through various activities and artistic endeavours addressing issues related to families and their cohesion.

This is achieved by art being both a tool for creative expression and self-awareness."

The Fire Station is part of QM's Creative Hub/Creative Cluster, which initiates and supports projects that create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure.

Fire Station director Khalifa Ahmad al-Obaidli added: "Fire Station is more than just a place for creating art, it's also a nurturing ground for a community of creativity. Our commitment to nurturing creativity and providing a supportive platform for artists from diverse backgrounds is at the core of our mission. Through our ongoing initiatives, we aim to create a lively community where art thrives, adding to Qatar's cultural diversity and extending its impact globally."

Nat'l Planning Council organises workshop on land use and cover statistics

In co-operation with the statistical centre for the Gulf Co-operation Council states (GCC-Stat), the National Planning Council organised yesterday a national workshop on land use and land cover statistics. The council's statement said that this workshop aims to present and explain the GCC-Stat's form on land use and land cover statistics, and to present the optimal method for filling it out.

It also aims to provide presentations on Qatar's experience in monitoring land use and land cover statistics, as well as present the experiences of the Gulf and Arab countries in providing statistics in this regard, and discuss the challenges and solutions in monitoring these topics. In the five-day workshop, experts and specialists from the Ministry of

Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Municipality and the National Planning Council are participating. The workshop focuses on land use in terms of agriculture, forestry, coastal waters, and the exclusive economic zone, and on land cover in terms of areas affected by soil erosion, salinisation, desertification, and soil quality. **(QNA)**

AlKhater meets Malaysia FM



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met in Doha yesterday with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Mohamed Hassan. The meeting touched on the bilateral relations between the countries, particularly in the humanitarian and development fields. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly ways to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into all areas of the Strip without obstacles. Additionally, they discussed the issue of migration from conflict zones. **(QNA)**

Foreign ministry spokesperson meets senior US Congress delegation



Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed Mohamed al-Ansari met in Doha yesterday with a delegation of senior members of Congress of the friendly nation of United States of America. The two sides discussed strategic relations between Qatar and the US, and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, especially joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Strip. They also tackled Qatari mediation efforts on the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, Afghanistan and Venezuela. **(QNA)**



HBKU's Class of 2024 with dignitaries and officials.



Winners of the Excellence Award with HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani and other officials.

HBKU commemorates Class of 2024 graduation

HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation (QF), and the Chairperson of HBKU Board of Trustees, witnessed Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) commemorate the Class of 2024 at a graduation ceremony yesterday that reinforced education as an essential instrument at the root of a culture of peace and the protection of humanity.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council, Hassan bin Abdulla al-Ghanem, esteemed government officials, HBKU's senior leadership and deans of its six colleges, members of the university's staff and faculty, and the families and friends of the graduates also attended the graduation ceremony, held at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

HBKU awarded degrees to 247 students including 142 female and 105 male graduates - 61 of which were Qatari citizens. Their chosen multidisciplinary programmes were designed to imbue participants with the knowledge and skills they need to embark on careers and introduce initiatives that help improve the livelihood of vulnerable communities.

Dr Ahmad M Hasnah, HBKU president, said: "The challenges



HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani along with other dignitaries.



Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah



Student speaker Abdulrahman al-Shafi.



A PhD graduate receiving his hood at the ceremony.

ahead of you are great, yet the hope we have in you matches these challenges. Set ambitious goals

and let your aspirations transcend personal achievements, for history only remembers those

with altruistic hands and those whose influence goes beyond individual pursuits".

Keynote speaker, Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah, rector of the University of Glasgow, said: "What we have learned from the war in Gaza is that in order to erase people, you must first start with their universities. And to erase a nation, you must end the education process."

Student speaker, Abdulrahman al-Shafi, a graduate from the Master of Public Policy programme, said: "We stand ready to embark on our new journey with determination and ambition while striving to realise our aspirations and uplift our societies. With the theme of our graduation ceremony being 'Education for Peace, Education for Humanity' we move forward today with the firm belief that education is the most potent catalyst for the change we seek in our world."

The graduates completed programmes from the university's six colleges: the College of Islamic Studies, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Science and Engineering, College of Law, College of Health and Life Sciences, and the College of Public Policy.

"HBKU's multidisciplinary programmes are designed to prepare future leaders in these fields to shape novel solutions that bring a positive impact to the world. The national university's unique learning environment naturally reinforces the country's strategy to invest in human capital and economic diversification and sustain this development by providing students with the knowledge and skills to solve critical challenges at home and beyond," said Ahmed K Elmagar-

mid, acting vice-president of research, HBKU.

This year's graduation ceremony also featured the HBKU Excellence Awards, acknowledging remarkable achievements by HBKU faculty. Sheikhha Hind presented the awards onstage in three categories: the Research Excellence Award, which recognises outstanding research that has received recognition from the wider academic community; the Teaching Excellence Award, which honours exceptional pedagogy; and the Service Excellence Award, which celebrates exceptional service to the university and its community.

Dr Amine Bernak, professor and associate dean, College of Science and Engineering and Dr Ahmet Aysan, professor, College of Islamic Studies, were both named recipients of the Research Excellence Award. Dr Georgios Dimitropoulos, associate professor and associate dean for Academic Affairs, College of Law, was honoured with the Teaching Excellence Award, and Dr Evren Tok, associate dean of Community Engagement and associate professor, CPP, was presented with the Service Excellence Award.

Dr Michael Benedik, provost, HBKU, said: "Our award recipients embody the commitment all of our faculty have towards academic excellence in their scholarly work, dedication to our students and their intellectual development, and the significant impact our faculty have in enhancing the university, our local community and their academic disciplines."

Shura Council Speaker meets UK envoy



HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem met yesterday in Doha with ambassador of the United Kingdom to Qatar Neerav Patel. During the meeting, they discussed ties between Qatar and UK in the parliamentary field, and ways to strengthen them. (QNA)

Transport minister meets German Parliament member



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Saif Ahmed al-Sulaiti met with German Parliament member Julia Klockner. They discussed aspects of co-operation between Qatar and Germany in transportation, and ways to develop and enhance them, particularly in terms of eco-friendly and self-driving mobility. The German ambassador to Qatar Lothar Freischlader attended the meeting.

Malaysia PM arrives in Doha



Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim arrived in Doha yesterday on a state visit to the country. The prime minister and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Doha International Airport by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, Qatar's ambassador to Malaysia Salah bin Mohamed al-Sorour, and Malaysia ambassador to Qatar Zamshari bin Shaharan. (QNA)

Sustainable promenade for visually impaired opens at Al Wakra beach

The Ministry of Municipality yesterday inaugurated the sustainable waterfront promenade for visually impaired individuals at Al Wakra Public Beach in the presence of several dignitaries, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the country, and officials from relevant ministries.

On the occasion, Al Wakra Municipality Director engineer Mohamed Hassan al-Nuaimi said this inauguration comes within the framework of enhancing institutional partnerships with the private sector to meet the aspirations and to serve the needs of all segments of society, including the visually impaired.

He added that it enhances the quality of life and the implementation of joint initiatives and projects adhering to the highest environmental sustainability standards, promoting eco-friendly practices, along with developing beaches and their service facilities to enable visitors, including those with disabilities, to benefit from them.

In turn, project supervisor engineer Soha Mahmoud Tufaily explained that the sustainable sea walkway for the blind represents the second phase of a project to develop a sustainable private beach that serves people with disabilities of all categories. Its implementation began in 2022 through the establishment of a



special sea walkway that connects people with mobility disabilities and the elderly to the closest point to the sea using environmentally friendly materials according to in-

ternational standards. The project supervisor added that the project agrees with one of the basic provisions of the Al Wakra Initiative to reduce carbon emissions in the city of Al Wakra, in addition to its support for the 'Al Wakra is Disabled Friendly' initiative, which serves the goals of sustainable development and the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Engineer Soha added that the new waterfront promenade's information signs were made using recycled materials and display information in the Braille tactile writing system for the visually impaired, the first-of-its-kind in the region and comes in the framework of the Ministry of Municipality's strategy of building sustainable cities and humanising them. (QNA)



Wifaq's 'Al Malath' expo set to promote family bonds



The Family Consulting Center (Wifaq), one of the centres affiliated to Qatar Social Work Foundation of the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF), announced during a press conference yesterday that it is ready to inaugurate the "Al Malath" exhibition tomorrow (Tuesday).

The event will run until June 10 and is organised in collaboration with the Doha Fire Station and the Cultural Village Foundation - Katara to promote awareness initiatives.

The event reflects an integrated vision towards

tight-knit families to provide a space that strengthens understanding among family members through holding cultural events. Also, the foremost objective of this event is to address the issue of divorce and family separation, in addition to protecting family members from consequences of divorce, reinforcing awareness and helping families in need. Katara is a unique venue for attracting artists and innovators and a gateway to all creative initiatives to ensure that culture remains the forum for all community members. (QNA)

QFFD explores ways to support religious, cultural facilities in Uzbekistan



Director-General of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kuwari discussed with Uzbek institutions ways of supporting and developing historical religious and cultural facilities in Uzbekistan. A delegation from QFFD made a field visit to Uzbekistan, and visited a number of important Islamic sites in Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara. During the three-day visit, QFFD Director-General Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kuwari also met with Executive Director of the Art and Culture Development Foundation of Uzbekistan Gayane Umerova, and General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture Luis Monreal. The meeting discussed aspects of joint co-operation. The visit affirms the strong bilateral relations between the friendly countries, and reflects QFFD's interest in supporting the cultural development sector and preserving community heritage. (QNA)



QNA director-general meets Cyprus envoy



HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with Cyprus ambassador to Qatar Nicholas Manolis. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of joint co-operation in the field of media. (QNA)

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Registration opens for initiative to boost sheep production for Eid al-Adha

The registration for a national initiative to encourage local production and to subsidise sheep meat prices for this year's blessed Eid al-Adha will be available from May 9-30, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality, the move is part of the keenness to encourage and support livestock breeders and farm owners with the aim of increasing local sheep production, and preserving Qatar's commercial and economic environment. The statement added that the initiative would create a balance between supply and demand, contributing to price stability in the markets and guarantees the rights of citizens to get meat at reasonable prices. Breeders can register electronically or through government service centres nationwide and send their inquiries via the Ministry of Municipality's customer service contact centre. (QNA)

TC/B/39-1621/2024

Announcement of the public auction for the sale of (143) written-off cars and government equipment and (50) written-off abandoned cars.

The Ministry of Municipality announces the sale of (143) written-off cars and government equipment, and (50) written-off abandoned cars, through public auction, according to the following:

| The auction venue | Al-Rayyan Municipality Theater | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--|
| | Day | Date | Time |
| Auction dates | Sunday | 19/2024/05/ | 03:30 pm Registration time :2:30 pm |
| | Monday | 20/2024/05/ | |
| | Tuesday | 21/2024/05/ | |
| Or until stocks last | | | |

Special conditions for participating in the public auction

- Those wishing to participate in the auction must obtain an auction participation card at the Al-Rayyan Municipality Theater at the time of the auction, by completing the registration procedures on the inspection days specified in the announcement or before the start of the auction session on the dates specified above, by submitting the following documents:
 - The original ID card of the person + a copy.
 - Commercial register with the original establishment registration for local companies + a copy- Authorization letter for persons from the companies they represent + a copy.
 - Official power of attorney in case of attendance on behalf of natural persons + a copy.
 - In the event that the auction is awarded to the participant, he shall pay a percentage of (20 %) of the sale value as an advance using the electronic payment method (credit card), provided that he pays the remainder of the sale value within a period not exceeding two business days (48 hours) from the date of the sale, at the headquarters of the Mechanical Equipment Department in the Abu Hamour area.
 - If the bidder (buyer) withdraws from the purchase or does not complete payment of the full value of the vehicle landed on him, within a period of two working days, the bidding will be cancelled, and the advance payment (20 % collected from the basic price) will be confiscated, and he has no right to recover it or claim it.
 - Each vehicle will be sold at public auction separately, according to its condition in the inspection yard. The inspection shall be considered final.
 - The vehicles offered for sale in the auction arena are inspected as follows:
- | Inspection location | (143) written off government vehicles and equipment at the government car assembly scrap yard belonging to the Mechanical Equipment Department of the Ministry of Municipality, behind the medical commission - Abu Hamour area | (50) written off abandoned cars The Ministry of Municipality scrap yard in Al-Mashaf area. |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Inspection dates | Start from the date of issuance of the announcement until 05/2024/21/ (the last day of the sales sessions) from 08:00 am - to 11:00 am | |
- Proof of identity must be presented, such as (Qatari ID card - passport - company commercial register... etc.), upon concluding the auction, to complete the rest of the collection procedures.
 - The bidder (buyer) does not have the right to change the name included in the receipt for the person offering the price to another name upon completion of the sale procedures.
 - The bidder (buyer) must pay the full value within two working days (48 hours) from the date the bid is awarded.
 - After paying the full value of the vehicle, the buyer must receive it within (3 working days) from the date of full payment. In the event that he is late without an acceptable excuse within the specified period, he must pay storage expenses at the rate of (1 %) of the vehicle's value for each day of delay, and a maximum of fifteen days, after which the paid deposit will be confiscated, the vehicle will be confiscated and sold, and any increase that may have been achieved in the sale price on his account will not be returned to him.
 - The buyer must complete the procedures for transferring ownership of the vehicle awarded to him (if he wishes to do so), and bear the government fees prescribed for this within a maximum period of 30 days from the date of sale, without any responsibility on the Ministry after this period.
 - If the sold vehicle is towed by the competent authorities, it will be resold again by the Ministry, in addition to the fine imposed in accordance with the provisions of Public Cleanliness Law No 18/2017/, and the buyer has no right to demand the return of the neglected vehicle or its selling value.
 - The organizing committee for public auction sales procedures has the right to postpone the sale of the car or the equipment to another auction date, in the event that its estimated basic value is not reached.
 - The announcement is valid from the date of publication, until the end of the auction sessions on the date specified above.
 - In order to ensure good organization, entry of persons under the age of 18 is prohibited.
 - Each applicant has the right to accompany a maximum of 2 people only.
 - It is strictly prohibited to use a mobile phone for the purpose of photographing or disturbing bidders.
 - Each person acknowledges that he has been informed of all the conditions and procedures of the auction followed by the organizing committee, and that he accepts all of its decisions in this regard.

For inquiries, you can contact the following numbers: 44348830 - 55254072

Doha Forum attends UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi

The Doha Forum participated in the UN Civil Society Conference, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, over two days. In this context, Director-General of the Doha Forum, Maha al-Kuwari, participated in a workshop entitled "Impact Coalition on AI & Cyber-Tech Governance". The discussions focused specifically on artificial intelligence (AI) and cyber technology as tools for solving global and local problems. They also

highlighted the AI governance outcomes outlined in the Doha Forum's report titled "Future of International Co-operation Report 2023". The discussions addressed various issues, including improving global governance of AI and cyber technologies to expand opportunities for countries to exploit the potential benefits of these powerful technologies while mitigating their risks and examining potential challenges, threats and opportunities. (QNA)

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

Important Notice:

Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via Mushtaryat Portal can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website (Mushtaryat Portal).

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

| Sl. No | Tender Number | Tender Sale Period | Tender Closing Date | Tender Bond | Bond Curr. | Tender Fee | Fee Curr. |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | LT24102200 | 13.05.2024 - 19.05.2024 | 10.06.2024 | 30,000.00 | QAR | 200.00 | QAR |
| Title of Tender: | | PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING SERVICES | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Location : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |
| 2 | GT24103900 | 13.05.2024 - 19.05.2024 | 30.06.2024 | 500,000.00 | QAR | 500.00 | QAR |
| Title of Tender: | | CALL OFF CONTRACT FOR PROTECTIVE COATING SERVICES AT MESAIEED OPERATIONS | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Location : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |
| 3 | GT24103600 | 13.05.2024 - 19.05.2024 | 30.06.2024 | 1,350,000.00 | QAR | 500.00 | QAR |
| Title of Tender: | | TANK REHABILITATION SERVICES IN DUKHAN FIELD YEAR 2025-2030 | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Location : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |
| 4 | LT24MT0039 | 13.05.2024 - 19.05.2024 | 03.06.2024 | 25,000.00 | QAR | N/A | |
| Title of Tender: | | SUPPLY OF NICAD STORAGE BATTERIES FOR UPS | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Location : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |
| Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : | | To be advised if required | | | | | |

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

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New Qatar National Blood Donation Center opened



QNA
Doha

HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari yesterday inaugurated the new Qatar National Blood Donation Center at Hamad Medical Corporation in the presence of HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohamed al-Thani, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sheikh Eid Charitable Foundation, Dr Mohamed Eid al-Thani.

During the event, it was revealed that two halls within the new facility will be named after HE Sheikh Eid bin Mohamed al-Thani.

HE Dr al-Kuwari said the opening of the Qatar National Blood Donation Center not only enhances the capability of HMCs

Blood Donation Programme, but also ensures a smoother and more comfortable experience for donors.

Her Excellency said, "Safe blood and blood products as well as their transfusion are a critical aspect of care in our healthcare system. They save lives and improve the health and quality of life for many patients every day."

"The availability of an adequate and safe blood supply is crucial for various medical procedures, including surgeries, trauma care, and the treatment of chronic conditions such as cancer and blood disorders. Each blood donation serves as a powerful lifeline to many patients across our healthcare system."

The Qatar National Blood Donation Center will be the sole source for the provision of blood and blood components for all governmental and private hospi-

tals in Qatar. The new centre will house 38 blood collection beds, an increase by more than triple the number of beds from the previous Blood Donor Center.

The new centre offers Therapeutic Plasma Exchange procedures for patients requiring plasma therapy and provides dedicated spaces for therapeutic phlebotomy, stem cell collection, and platelet apheresis. Its advanced facilities will house nine male and three female medical interview/assessment rooms, 18 male and eight female donation beds, and 12 beds for platelet collection.

Meanwhile, the chairperson of HMCs Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Dr Einas al-Kuwari said: "The new Qatar National Blood Donation Center will enable the freezing of rare blood groups and rare phenotypes as well as red cell genotyping in



the near future. "The shelf life of blood is 42 days from the date of collection,

so having a regular source of blood donations is vital. One unit of blood donated may benefit at

least three patients if used as separate blood components." (QNA)

Qatar Airways introduces new leadership programme for national employees

Qatar Airways Group has introduced a "new leadership programme" aimed at cultivating the next generation of national talent to build a pool of high-performing future business leaders.

A key focus of the programme is to enhance the leadership skills and capabilities of nationals, while solving real-life business problems, preparing them to work in executive positions across the business.

The project is tailored to complement the group's existing, highly successful 'Al Darb Qatarisation' programme offering.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the initiative, Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohamed al-Meer said, "Nurturing and developing national employees at all levels of the business is something



which has been at the forefront of our talent development strategy for many years.

"Our Al Darb programme has already provided a solid and enduring platform that has made significant strides in this commitment, but we are constantly evaluating and identifying new

and innovative ways to take these efforts to the next level.

"The leadership programme will not only enable us foster greater support for top-performing national talent across the group, it will also serve as a test case for similar initiatives among other employers throughout Qatar."

Zakat Affairs Dept provides QR19.5mn aid in April

The Zakat Affairs Department at the Ministry of Endowment (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs provided QR19,565,819 in aid for families eligible for assistance in Qatar in April.

According to a statement from Awqaf, a total of 420 families received the aid. Mohamed Ahmed al-Sayed, head of the Zakat Collection and Accounts Department at Awqaf, said it is keen to provide assistance to deserving families in Qatar.

This assistance is divided into two types: one that is provided to families monthly to help them with their needs for food, drink and housing, and the lump sum aid that is provided to families once according to need.

The assistance is paid by the department to the eligible registered families based on regulations, Shariah banks and approved mechanisms.

In May, the periodical assistance provided to eligible families on a monthly basis reached QR6,597,632 while the lump sum aid spent one-time, as per need, amounted to QR12,968,187.

Families wishing to apply for aid can do so through the department website at www.zakat.gov.qa. Individuals and companies can perform the pre-



Mohamed Ahmed al-Sayed, Head of the Zakat Collection and Accounts Department at Awqaf.

scribed Zakat, through the website of the Zakat Affairs Department, offices and collection points spread nationwide, the collection service numbers (55199990/55199996), or the department's accounts numbers in banks.

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Msheireb Properties receives RoSPA Gold Award

Msheireb Properties announced its Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Gold Award win for outstanding health and safety performance in the real estate sector, marking the second time the company has received this recognition following its 2018 win under the "Construction Sector" category.



The RoSPA Health and Safety Awards, the UK's largest occupational health and safety awards programme, recognise organisations that demonstrate a strong commitment to health and safety management. Run by RoSPA, a non-profit organisation that has been in operation for more than 100 years, the awards programme is one of the most robust of its kind globally. Receiving the RoSPA Gold Award is a testament to Msheireb Properties' steadfast focus on prioritising the well-being of its employees, stakeholders, and the community. Msheireb Properties CEO, engineer Ali al-Kuwari, said: "We are honoured to receive the RoSPA Gold Award once again. The well-being of our employees, stakeholders, and the community remains our top priority, and this award signals the indelible importance of upholding the highest safety standards across our assets." Msheireb Properties COO, engineer Faisal AlMalki, detailed strategies the company uses to maintain its safety record, particularly within its flagship project, Msheireb Downtown Doha: "We have made use of the latest technology to ensure the safety of our people and our properties. One example is the newly installed Online Automated Permit Work System, which has been expanded to include events management safety helping reduce human error and streamline logistical operations. This system ensures broad and enhanced visibility and enforcement of safety standards throughout the district."

QIIB honours several long-tenured employees



QIIB honoured several veteran employees who spent 25 years at the bank, "a tradition that the bank is committed to maintain in appreciation and honour of their service all these years."

QIIB honoured several veteran employees who spent 25 years at the bank, a tradition that the bank is committed to maintain in appreciation and honour of their service all these years.

QIIB chief executive officer Dr Abdulbasit Ahmad al-Shaibei presented certificates of appreciation to the honoured employees at a ceremony hosted at the bank's main headquarters, in the presence of Ali Hamad al-Mesaifri, chief - Human Resources & Administration.

The honoured employees are Ibrahim Waheed Aldaoseri, Abdul Nasser Elqaq, Abdul Rasheed Valappil, Arif Kalu, Abdul Salam Muthuvannacheri and Abullaise Athum Munakath.

Dr al-Shaibei said: "Today, we are pleased to be with distin-

guished employees who served a quarter of a century at the bank with all dedication and diligence. These employees witnessed the steady progress achieved by the bank and were partners in it. We must thank them for their efforts during these long years.

"QIIB values dedication and sincerity at work, and we are proud of the loyalty of our employees, which we have experienced over many years. This loyalty results from many factors, including the stable and distinguished work environment that we provide to our employees, opportunity for professional advancement, promotion of various initiatives and recognition of creativity and excellence.

"The accumulated experience of the bank's long-serving employees is a great wealth that we

are working to benefit from to the maximum extent. We constantly seek to blend this experience with the energies of the youth, talent and insights, and their experiences derived from various universities and educational centres. This gives us great flexibility at the work place and enables us to make wise decisions and keep pace with the times at the same time.

"Honouring loyal, long-serving employees and celebrating their efforts, shows QIIB's recognition of the values of work, achievement, dedication, good role models, and the ability to keep pace with the times and carry out the tasks assigned to the employee to the best possible standards."

Dr al-Shaibei stressed: "QIIB will maintain its interest in hu-

man resources and carry out the board of directors' directive in the field of human resources, which is primarily based on government directives and Qatar National Vision 2030, which pays exceptional attention to Qatari competencies in various fields of work at the bank."

In turn, the honoured employees expressed their thanks and appreciation to the bank's CEO and executive management for gesture, which reflects the bank's respect for their long-standing efforts and their contribution to the progress of the bank during their years of service.

The employees committed to continue carrying out their duties and exert their utmost efforts for the benefit of the bank and all employees.

Triumph, Jeep models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Al-fardan Automobiles, has announced the recall of Triumph Bikes Speed Triple RS, and Speed Triple RR, 2021-2024 models, as high temperature level may result in radiator fan motor failure, causing the malfunction indicator light to turn on.

The MoCI, in co-operation with United Cars Alman, has announced the recall of Jeep Cherokee, 2014 - 2015 models, over a possible electrical short in the power lift gate module, which may cause a fire while starting or turning off the car.

The MoCI, in co-operation with United Cars Alman, has announced the recall of Jeep Grand Cherokee, 2021-2023 models, over a possible damage to the bolt fixing the upper suspension arm during the vehicle assembly process, which may lead to the arm separating from

the rest of the suspension system and the tyre becoming dislodged while driving.

The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, X (formerly Twitter) - @MOCIQATAR, Instagram - MOCIQATAR. The MoCI mobile application, MOCI_QATAR, is available on iPhone and Android devices.

21st Doha Jewellery & Watches Exhibition in May 2025

Qatar Tourism (QT) announced a significant change for the upcoming 2025 edition of the highly anticipated Doha Jewellery & Watches Exhibition (DJWE). Traditionally held in February, DJWE 2025 will be rescheduled to take place from May 5-11, 2025. Recognised as one of the most prestigious events in the world of luxury jewellery and

watches, DJWE has been a highlight on the global calendar for industry professionals, collectors, and enthusiasts alike.

The decision to move the event to May is aimed at enhancing the overall experience for participants and ensuring the exhibition continues to set new standards of excellence, a statement said.

According to QT, the rescheduling of DJWE 2025 to May will provide exhibitors with an extended timeframe to prepare their latest collections and innovations while also allowing attendees more time to plan their participation in this premier event.

Kia honored with five wins in 2024 iF Design Awards with EV9 taking prestigious Gold

Kia achieved notable success at the 2024 iF Design Awards, which saw five separate elements of the company's recent programs recognized by the renowned design forum's panel of expert judges.

The new Kia EV9, already an award winner on multiple fronts, added to its honorable results with exclusive Gold award status. Presented only to the top 75 winning designs worldwide, the additional accolade demonstrates the continuing impact of Kia's 'Opposites United' design philosophy.

Harnessing the creative tension generated by the divergent values of nature and modernity to deliver a harmonious whole, Opposites United provides Kia's designers with a framework through which to fuse a unique combination of sleek, sculptural shapes and assured, assertive geometry, delivering a strikingly contemporary yet gracefully serene end product.

"The EV9 represents our relentless push to break new ground in design, connectivity, and usability, as well as our responsibility to the environment," added

Kia wins five iF Design Awards spanning a range of brand products, events, and communications strategies



Karim Habib, Executive Vice President and Head of Kia Global Design. "Receiving this

award is a recognition of the dedication and commitment of countless members of our team of designers and engineers; and highlights our drive to impact the industry and market with compelling, meaningful design."

The EV9's exterior exudes confidence, clarity, and calmness with its upright stance, clear-cut lines and flat surfaces. The signature Digital Tiger Face showcases a visionary and futuristic look, accentuated by the Digital Pattern Lighting Grille and vertical headlamps.

The interior, characterized by a flat floor and long wheelbase, takes advantage of the E-GMP platform to provide excellent spaciousness, while components such as the seats and center console are designed to give a refined feel and further maximize the sense of space.

Furthermore, the EV9's cabin has been designed in line with Kia's 'three-stage sustainable design strategy'. Embodying the brand's commitment to sustainability, the strategy aims to ensure the gradual reduction of animal-sourced leather, the introduction of Kia's 10 must-have sustainability items, and the promotion of research into natural material development.

In awarding the EV9 the iF judges stated: "The Kia EV9 expands the aesthetic possibilities of a large SUV while advancing its functional performance. Its contemporary form language makes other large SUVs look old-fashioned, while swiveling second-row seats and a variety of smaller functional solutions make life on board more social! Who said sustainable design can't be exciting?"

Echoing the EV9's exterior design, the SUV's 'Ki' infotainment system boasts a graphic style

that aligns with the values of Opposites United and complements the vehicle's design, employing eye-friendly, recognizable colors to round out a unique and contemporary brand experience for Kia. A winner in the Product Interfaces category, Ki is based around the key visual of a slanted line, representing rising tendencies and applied across all infotainment elements, from icons, to fonts, to the instrument cluster.

This diagonal edge promotes a distinctive and unified appearance while maintaining clarity and cognition. Designed to make new features such as electric vehicle charging more intuitive and readable, the display-optimized UI configuration makes it easier for users to recognize signal transitions and contextualize charging and discharging information.

In addition to the EV9's successes, Kia was honored to have several other projects recognized by the iF judges including the branding for Kia's '80 years of movement' communications, its 'Windows of Inspiration' trade fair booth design and 'Kia EV Unplugged Ground' interactive media experience. All iF Design Award winners demonstrate the vital role which strong design plays across the Kia brand.

All award-winning entries are presented on www.ifdesign.com and published in the iF Design App.

The iF Design Awards were founded in 1954 by iF International Forum Design GmbH in Hanover, one of the world's leading independent design institutions. Each year around 10,800 designs from 72 nations are considered for the awards, which honor and celebrate winners in 81 categories across nine disciplines: Product, Communication, Packaging, Service Design, Architecture, Interior Architecture, User Experience (UX), User Interface (UI) and Professional Concepts. To be win an iF Design Award requires passing a rigorous two-stage selection process adjudicated by renowned design experts, signifying a design's contemporary relevance and global impact.

iF Design Award winners selected out of 10,800 entries from 72 nations, celebrating a design's global impact



Qatari composer Dana Alfardan set to be a Gulf first to perform at Cannes

Qatari composer Dana Alfardan is set to leave an indelible mark on the global stage as she prepares to grace the prestigious 77th Cannes Film Festival with her groundbreaking performance of *Indigo*, solidifying her status as the first composer from the GCC to achieve this remarkable feat, a statement said.

"Representing Qatar with pride, Dana's appearance at the esteemed Trophée Chopard gala promises to be an unforgettable sensory experience, merging sound, colour, and introspection. *Indigo* is more than a concert; it's an immersive experience. Rooted in neoclassical music and electronic elements, Dana's innovative composition interacts with colour, light, and electronics, guiding audiences on an introspective path towards enlightenment.

"Dana's vision for *Indigo* transcends conventional boundaries, offering a holistic exploration of art and emotion. With an illustrious career already under her



belt, Dana Alfardan continues to captivate audiences worldwide with her mesmerising compositions and groundbreaking collaborations.

"Her recent triumph in Italy marked a pivotal moment, as her music took centre stage at the Politeama Garibaldi di Palermo in the play "Giacando con Orlando."

Collaborating with Stefano Acorsi, stage director Federica Cellini and performed by the Symphonic Orchestra of Sicily under the baton of the conductor Giovanni Pasini, Dana's compositions breathed new life into Ludovico Ariosto's epic poem "Orlando Furioso," captivating audiences with a fusion of contemporary soundscapes and classical storytelling.

"Dana's creative journey continues with the release of *Falling*, her latest single in collaboration with French producer Yaans. Available on all major streaming platforms, *Falling* showcases Dana's versatility as an artist, seamlessly blending

electronic beats with her distinctive style. Embracing electronic music as an alternative dimension of storytelling, Dana's exploration of diverse genres reflects her multifaceted talent and artistic vision.

"Dana Alfardan is also a pioneer, building bridges with her talent and creativity. Representing Qatar and the first GCC composer to perform at the official gala of the Cannes Film Festival, Dana's historic achievement serves as an inspiration to aspiring artists across the region, paving the way for future generations of talent.

"Dana Alfardan is a visionary Qatari musician, celebrated for her innovative compositions that transcend cultural boundaries and resonate with audiences worldwide. With a diverse repertoire spanning classical, electronic, and beyond, Dana continues to push the boundaries of musical expression, leaving an enduring legacy on the global stage," the statement added.

UDST announces seven new programmes

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has announced seven new programmes to address the market needs and contribute to economic growth in Qatar and beyond.

The new programmes are: a Master of Science in Process Safety; a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with three tracks; a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Cybersecurity; a combined Arabic and English track in the Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication and Media Production; a Bachelor of Business Administration in Logistics and Supply Chain Management and a Master of Science in Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship.

All new programmes are available for the Fall 2024 semester and are open for admission.

The university has highlighted the importance of these programmes in various aspects. The Master of Science in Process Safety programme was developed after a field study showed a significant demand for graduates and specialists in process safety, particularly following Qatar's largest expansion in its history for the production of liquefied natural gas.



The University of Doha for Science and Technology.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing was created in response to the substantial global and local demand for nurses, estimated at about 5.9mn worldwide. It contributes to providing more nurses and upgrading the skills of current nurses by enhancing their credentials from Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse and increasing their academic qualifications from diploma-prepared RN to Bachelor-prepared RN.

The Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Cybersecurity programme has been designed within the framework of Qatar Vision 2030. The country is adopting emerging technologies and extensive

digital transformation initiatives through its national programmes.

The Bachelor of Business Administration in Logistics and Supply Chain Management with a concentration in Marine Logistics aims to produce specialists capable of addressing modern challenges in the broad logistics sector, including maritime logistics.

The programme integrates core business administration principles such as HR, Marketing, Accounting, and Finance, with a particular focus on the maritime field.

The Master of Science in Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship focuses on key business skills related to technology, business

research, design thinking, and innovation. It includes courses like Strategic Marketing Management, Digital Media, Entrepreneurial Marketing, Strategic Brand Management, and more.

Finally, the combined Arabic and English track in the Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication and Media Production is designed to respond to the needs of Qatar media market to attract more Qatari students and to equip graduates with the necessary skills to deploy the latest digital technologies in media production.

Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST said: "The university has launched its new programmes after a comprehensive field study that brings together specialists, leaders from the industry and the academic world to develop curricula and courses that prepare students not only for the current job market needs but also for future demand. We are also pleased to witness the awareness that the new generation and their parents have about the importance of applied education. Our students learn in simulated environments and get the chance to experience the professional world through our partners' network as well."

QIB names new millionaire of Misk Account Draw



Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) announced the new Misk Millionaire of the seventh edition of the Misk Account Draw.

Fawzeya Abdulrahman al-Shaikh is the new QR1mn winner, QIB announced in the presence of official representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, along with key bank officials.

The Misk Account Draw, awards four individuals QR1mn each year. Additionally, four customers receive a monthly prize of QR50,000 while 15 customers selected weekly, receive QR10,000 each. With a total of 832 winners sharing a prize pool of QR14.2mn, the Misk Account Draw remains the largest cash prize ever awarded in Qatar. QIB has awarded 396 of weekly and monthly winners since the start of the seventh edition in November 2023.

Commenting on her win, al-Shaikh said: "I would like

to express my gratitude to QIB for granting me the opportunity to become one of the millionaires. The Misk Account offers a chance to both accumulate savings and get the opportunity to win cash rewards. I encourage everyone to consider opening a Misk saving account and participate in the Misk Account draw to seize this opportunity."

D Anand, QIB general manager of the Personal Banking Group, said: "The Misk saving account reflects our commitment to empowering financial wellness and incentivises saving while offering the potential for rewarding cash prizes." Existing and new QIB customers can open a Misk Account through the QIB mobile app. Customers will receive a free debit card, become eligible to request a free, for the first-year, credit card against their Misk Account balance, receive profits on their savings, and have the chance to frequently win cash prizes.

Imported sheep prices rise

Prices of most varieties of imported sheep has seen considerable increase over the past few days at the Central Market with further rise expected in retail prices due to the limited supply ahead of the upcoming Eid al-Adha season, local Arabic daily *Arrayah* reported.

A number of retail salesmen at the market stressed that the high prices was out of their hands as the market is mostly controlled by wholesale traders, who re-export a large number of sheep.

This has caused the quantity of sheep supplied to the local market to be almost 40% less compared to the previous months and years.

The salesmen told the daily that if this situation continued, prices would double by Eid al-Adha.

They pointed out that locally produced sheep would be an excellent option for customers as retail prices of the animal range from QR1,200 to QR1,300 per head.

Abdulrazak Mohamed, a retailer, noted that the prices of sheep has been almost stable for the past 15 years in Qatar. However, this season prices started increasing early ahead of Eid al-Adha with 20%-30% for most varieties.

In addition, Iranian sheep, which used to be abundant in the local market, saw an increase of almost 50% in price over the past few days.

Mohamed al-Rashidi, a retailer, pointed out wholesale traders started to re-export Iranian sheep to neighbouring countries, which eventually dropped local supply by almost 40% than before.

Haytham Ahmed, a retailer, said that locally produced sheep are now available at comparatively lower prices than imported varieties, especially Iranian stock.

He advised customers to opt for locally produced sheep as an excellent choice for its quality and prices.



Another retailer expected more hikes in prices pointing out that Iranian sheep sells for around QR1,300 currently. This could go for

QR1,800 by Eid al-Adha, and the Jordanian sheep, which currently retails at QR1,400 could hit QR2,000, the *Arrayah* report added.

Fifth Build Your House Exhibition opens today

The Build Your House (BYH) 2024 is set to open today at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), featuring a showcase of expertise, innovation, and cutting-edge advancements in homebuilding. The event in its fifth edition, will run until May 16, from 10am to 10pm. Occupying three expansive halls, the 2024 edition boasts a 50% increase in exhibition space,

accompanied by the introduction of an expanded international pavilion featuring over 250 exhibitors from 10 countries - Italy, Canada, Algeria, Lebanon, Turkiye, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman. This year, BYH has partnered with Qatar's Ministry of Social Development and Family to present The Second Gulf Housing Week, as a pivotal platform for knowledge exchange,

collaboration, and networking, featuring insights from over 40 speakers. There will be Q&A sessions, and panel discussions covering topics such as self-build, licensing, and global innovations. A Student Interior Design Competition will be held in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University School of Arts in Qatar.

QRDI Council partners with QEF 2024



The Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council is partnering with Bloomberg Media and Media City Qatar as the innovation sponsor for the Qatar Economic Forum 2024, being held from May 14 to 16.

On May 16, the QRDI Council will deliver the "Innovation Day," featuring various sessions and discussions dedicated to science, technology, and innovation.

In alignment with the Third Qatar National Development Strategy, this year's joint efforts focus on innovation as a key element in equipping the country's new specialised economic clusters with technology-based competitive advantages while addressing national challenges that demand innovative solutions.

QRDI Council has extended invitations to a broad spectrum of

stakeholders within the RDI ecosystem to participate in the sessions and discussions.

On Innovation Day, several speakers from different sectors across the RDI ecosystem will gather to conduct discussions and breakout sessions on utilising innovation, technology development, and RDI talent to reinforce stable economic growth for a better and more sustainable future.

This year, the fourth Qatar Economic Forum, powered by Bloomberg, is focusing on the main topics driving global conversations and spotlighting the region's rising prominence, where ambition converges with capital, key states are strategically deploying wealth to enhance their global influence, diversify economies, and gain international prominence.

Qatari women can handle responsibility and contribute effectively

Qatari women are capable of bearing responsibility and playing an effective and positive role, as evident in the accomplishments achieved through their participation in all areas of life in Qatar.

Qatar has created a conducive environment for Qatari women in society, whether within the family or in their professional life, appointing them to leadership positions and enacting supportive legislation.

Qatar's Constitution and legislation strengthens the status of women and emphasises the values of equality.

For instance, Article 18 of the Constitution stresses the pillars of justice, benevolence, freedom, equality, and high morals, while Article 19 stresses "equal opportunities for citizens".

Article 34 stipulates equality in public rights and duties, and Article 35 stresses that all persons are equal before the law and there is no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex, race, language, or religion.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) recently launched the "Family Charter", which strengthens the status of women and contributes to the protection of childhood and motherhood, and the right to human development, expression, dialogue and parental care.

The charter stipulates the necessity of protecting maternity, as every woman has the right to pregnancy and breastfeeding, and to get the appropriate and suitable conditions to perform that task, and all care and assistance before and during that process.

In the political field, the Qatari woman has assumed many responsibilities, giving her the opportunity to present her vision characterised by reform, transparency, and the pursuit of change.

HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti has applauded the leadership's emphasis on promoting the status of women and highlighting their significant role in the society, by providing them with opportunities in various fields.

In statements to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Dr al-Sulaiti said that Qatari women have a prominent presence in various fields, and have held administrative, executive and leadership positions in various sectors.

She said that Qatar is making great efforts to support women in various fields, through education and training programmes, and providing job opportunities and health and social care.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti pointed to the tools provided by the State to consolidate the status of women in Qatar, which include social and psychological support, and laws and policies that enhance their participation in the social, economic and political life.

She said that the Family Charter is an important initiative aimed at enhancing the role of Qatari women in the areas of motherhood, childhood and family empowerment.

Qatari women also play an important role in the fields of education and academia.

Dr Noora Fetais, associate professor



Perhaps the latest achievement made by a Qatari woman, and reflected her great leadership role, is HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari's earning the 'Best Minister Award' at the World Governments Summit held in Dubai this year.

in Computer Science at Qatar University (QU)'s College of Engineering and founding secretary-general of the Arab Association for Cyber Security, holds several patents registered in the United States.

She said that Qatari women receive high-quality education, starting from the various school levels, all the way to the university and doctorate level.

Dr Fetais said that this level of education had the greatest impact in shaping her personality and determining her educational and professional compass.

In remarks to the QNA, she said that Qatari women have excelled in the technological and academic fields due to factors

that include an environment that encourages education and career development, and motivates women to achieve academic and professional goals.

Dr Fetais noted that government initiatives and investments in education and technology have provided Qatari women with opportunities to develop skills and progress in these fields.

Women are also prominent in the field of media.

Sarah Rasheed, a Qatari journalist and presenter at Al Jazeera, said that the distinction of Qatari women lies in their constant passion for research and learning, as well as the State's support which enabled them to improve their administrative and leadership skills, even on the social and family levels.

She told the QNA that Qatari women have demonstrated over the past years that they are capable of competing with men in many fields, and that they have played a major role in developing the society, while also taking care of their families.

Rasheed noted that State institutions are keen to implement their obligations towards international and regional agreements and charters that enshrine women's rights, in addition to the Human Resources Law which guarantees equal rights for men and women in public jobs, and in obtaining promotions and holding responsibilities and leadership positions.

In conjunction with the launch of the policies, plans and programmes necessary to develop women culturally, economically and politically, as is the case of Qatar Vision 2030, women were urged to partici-

pate in public life and seize the opportunities available to them, she added.

Rasheed pointed to the efforts of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, in highlighting the role of Qatari women and motivating them to participate in public life, through women's conferences that aim to discuss issues and find solutions that enable them to face practical life.

Dr Somaya al-Mutawa, a social worker and consultant in the field of training and development, meanwhile spoke about the efforts made by the State through programmes and projects to confront challenges faced by Qatari women.

She highlighted the factors that contributed greatly to helping Qatari women achieve success in various fields, most importantly the support provided by the government that ensures equal opportunities alongside education and training.

The journey of Qatari women is full of achievements, both on the personal and public levels.

Perhaps the latest achievement made by a Qatari woman, and reflected her great leadership role, is HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari's earning the "Best Minister Award" at the World Governments Summit held in Dubai in February.

The award confirms the exceptional efforts and the implementation of successful, scalable and sustainable initiatives that contribute to the social and economic advancement. - QNA

DIBF panel discusses digital platforms and reading habit

The Qatar Media Centre of the Ministry of Culture organised a panel of discussion on the role of digital media in encouraging youth to read at the cultural salon of the 33rd Doha International Book Fair (DIBF).

Journalist Dr Abdullah Faraj, linguist Dr Ahmed al-Janabi, and Assistant Professor of Broadcast and Digital Journalism at Qatar University Dr Mohsen al-Afranji participated in the discussion panel.

Dr Faraj addressed the importance of reading in preparing new youth.

He also discussed the reasons behind abandoning the paper book in this era and its impact on the current generation.

He said that the media, particularly digital media, can contribute to creating a reading generation, given its capabilities, as well as its widespread use by new generations.

Dr al-Janabi spoke of the need for educators, intellectuals, and content makers to have many skills that can help form the appropriate conditions to create a generation linked to reading.

He pointed to the possibility of benefiting from digital development in directing young people toward reading despite the dominance of different types of content provided through those platforms.

Dr al-Afranji emphasised that the media, through the various means it provides, still has an influence on society and its leadership, indicating that the relationship between the media and reading is a complementary relationship, explaining how the media has contributed to shaping societies.

He also discussed the characteristics of dig-



ital media that qualify it to play a major role in directing young people toward reading, urging publishing houses to take advantage of the characteristics of digital media to disseminate cognitive content.

As part of the activities accompanying the DIBF, a workshop on effective communication skills was presented by trainer Manar al-Kahlol.

The workshop focused on effective communication skills as an important skill at the present time and how essential it is for the individual to possess it, especially since there are some people who may face problems when communicating with others.

Al-Kahlol said that the current generations need to have these skills in light of the continuous developments that life is witnessing around

us, especially at the technological level.

She stressed that they are skills that do not stop at a certain age, but rather that people continue to acquire them for life, explaining that one of the important skills is training and development.

Al-Kahlol added that the workshop focused on the different types of effective communication, including written communication and visual communication in particular, which are used and dealt with on a daily basis in our lives.

The Doha International Book Fair is held this year under the theme *Knowledge Builds Civilisations* at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), with the participation of 515 publishers from 42 Arab and foreign countries. - QNA

PM to address Qatar Economic Forum 2024

From Page 1

On the second day of the forum on Wednesday, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi will take part in a panel session on *The next stage of global energy transition*, which will also be attended by TotalEnergies chairman Patrick Pouyanné and Darren W Woods, the chairman and chief executive of Exxon Mobil Corporation.

Qatar Airways Group chief executive Badr Mohamed al-Meer and RwandAir chief executive Yvonne Manzi Makolo will be panellists at the session that day on *Connecting the Middle East and Africa*.

This year's forum, under the theme *A World Remade: Navigating the Year of Uncertainty*, will gather more than 1,000 corporate and government leaders for a comprehensive dialogue on the issues driving global boardroom conversations and financial markets.

As the world continues to be shaped by major disruptions in technology, trade and politics, the events of 2024 have the potential to produce long-term consequences for the global economy.

Discussions at the QEF will revolve around the following thematic areas: geopolitics, globalisation and trade, energy transition, technology innovation, business and investment outlook, and sports and entertainment.

"Bloomberg is excited to be powering the fourth iteration of the QEF, which has quickly become a highlight of the global investment calendar," said Bloomberg Media chief executive Karen Saltser. "With an exciting agenda developed by Bloomberg's world class editorial team, we look forward to hosting important discussions with global leaders in business and government."

"Through the Qatar Economic Forum, we have established a dynamic centre for global business leaders to convene, connect, and catalyse partnerships," said QEF Higher Organising Committee chairman Sheikh Ali bin Abdulla bin Khalifa al-Thani. "The forum has become the nexus where visionary leaders converge to shape the future."

"We are enthusiastic about the collaborative spirit that defines this platform, where ideas flourish, and alliances are forged, propelling us towards a future of shared success and prosperity," he added.

Produced by Bloomberg Live Experiences and editorially programmed by Bloomberg News, the forum will be available on the Bloomberg Terminal, Bloomberg TV and bloomberg.com

Egypt will support South Africa ICJ case against Israel

AFP
Cairo

Egypt has announced its intention to formally support South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel, alleging genocide in its war against Hamas in Gaza.

Pretoria brought its case to the ICJ in December, calling on the UN court to order Israel to suspend its military operations in Gaza.

In its most recent appeal to the ICJ on

Friday, South Africa again accused Israel of "continuing violations of the Genocide Convention" and of being "contemptuous" of international law.

Egypt said yesterday that its move to back the case comes "in light of the worsening severity and scope of Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip", according to a foreign ministry statement.

It further pointed to Israel's systematic "targeting of civilians and destruction of infrastructure" and "pushing Palestinians into displacement and expulsion".

Hamas expressed its "appreciation" to

Egypt in a statement yesterday, calling on "all countries around the world to take similar steps in support of the Palestinian cause by joining the lawsuit".

South Africa has called on the world's top court to order Israel to "immediately withdraw and cease its military offensive" in Rafah, the southernmost Gaza city where about 1.5mn Palestinians had been pushed against the Egyptian border.

Last Monday Israel sent ground troops and tanks into eastern Rafah, later seizing and shutting the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing with Egypt.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Friday that Gaza risked an "epic humanitarian disaster" if Israel launched a full-scale ground operation in Rafah.

Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, and has acted as a key mediator between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, including in the current war.

It also shares the only border with the Gaza Strip not controlled by Israel, but has refused to co-ordinate aid access through the Rafah crossing since Israeli forces seized it.

Nigeria security forces rescue kidnapped students

Nigerian security forces have rescued students kidnapped from a university in northern Kogi state, along with other victims held by the abductors, the army and state government said yesterday. Kogi information commissioner Kingsley Femi Fanwo said security forces were involved in a shootout with the armed gang that carried out Thursday's abduction at Confluence University of Science and Technology.

The state had enlisted the help of local hunters who know the Kogi terrain, and a security agent and hunter were wounded.

The Nigerian army said in a separate statement that troops, other security agencies and local vigilantes were involved in "a fierce firefight" with the kidnappers.

"The superior firepower of the troops led to the kidnappers abandoning nine of the kidnapped students, who were subsequently rescued," the army said. - Reuters

Kuwait forms new government

Kuwait has formed a new cabinet headed by Ahmad Abdullah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti state news agency said yesterday.

Emad al-Atiqi, Anwar Ali al-Mudhaf and Abdullah Ali al-Yahya retained their posts as oil, finance and foreign ministers respectively. - Reuters

US, Europe 'not doing enough to pressure Israel into Gaza truce'

Reuters
Ankara

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (pictured) said yesterday that the United States and European countries were not doing enough to pressure Israel to agree a ceasefire in Gaza, after Palestinian militant group Hamas' move to accept a truce proposal.

Turkiye has denounced Israel's attacks on Gaza, called for an immediate ceasefire, and criticised what it calls unconditional support for Israel by the West.

Ankara has halted all trade with Israel and said it had decided to join South Africa's initiative to have Israel tried for genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Speaking to Muslim scholars in Istanbul, Erdogan said Hamas had accepted a ceasefire proposal by Qatar and Egypt in a "step in the path toward a lasting ceasefire", but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government did not want the war to end.

"The response of the Netanyahu government was to attack the innocent people in Rafah," he said, referring to the Gazan city that Is-

rael is targeting. "It has become clear who sides with peace and dialogue, and who wants clashes continuing and more bloodshed."

"And did Netanyahu see any serious reaction for his spoiled behaviour?" he asked. "No. Neither Europe nor America showed a reaction that would force Israel into a ceasefire."

Israel's military conduct in Gaza has come under increasing scrutiny in recent weeks, as the civilian death toll and devastation in the enclave mount.

Its planned assault on Rafah, hosting some 1.4mn Palestinians, mostly displaced in the war, has

helped fuel the deepest tensions in relations between Israel and its main ally Washington in generations.

Ankara on Friday welcomed the United Nations General Assembly's backing for a Palestinian bid to become a full UN member.

Yesterday Erdogan called on countries not recognising a Palestinian sovereign state to do so after the vote, but slammed Washington and others who voted against.

"We saw that countries who lecture us on human rights and freedoms at every opportunity openly support those who mas-



sacred 35,000 Gazans," he said, citing figures from Gaza's health ministry. "We saw that those who said the right to protest was sacred until yesterday can't tolerate demonstrations that support Palestine."

Hundreds protest in Tunisia to demand a date for fair presidential elections

Hundreds of protesters gathered in the Tunisian capital yesterday to demand the release of imprisoned journalists, activists and opposition figures, and the setting of a date for fair presidential elections. The protest comes amid an economic and

political crisis and arrests targeting journalists, lawyers, activists and opponents.

Tunisian police stormed the building of the Deanship of Lawyers on Saturday and arrested Sonia Dahmani, a lawyer known for her fierce criticism of President Kais Saied.

Two journalists were also arrested on the same day.

The Election Commission said earlier that the elections would be held on time, but with the president's first term, which lasts for five years, drawing to a close, it has not

so far announced a date.

Saied took office following free elections in 2019, but two years later seized additional powers when he shut down the elected parliament and moved to rule by decree. - Reuters



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Ancient lava tubes offer glimpse into Neolithic Arabia

Recent archaeological research, deep within ancient lava tube caves in northern Saudi Arabia, has thrown up the interesting information that people who lived in the Arabian Peninsula thousands of years ago went underground when they wanted to beat the heat. Possibly stopping there as they travelled between oases and pastures, they ducked into vast subterranean tunnels where molten lava had once flowed millions of years earlier. The study, led by researchers with Griffith University's Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution (ARCHE) and an international team of collaborators, was reported April 17 in the journal *PLOS One*.

Umm Jirsan (the longest tunnel system in the region, located in the Harrat Khaybar lava field, about 125km to the north of Medina), is an underground archaeological site that dates from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic/Bronze Age periods, roughly between around 10,000 to 3,500 years ago. The site has revealed numerous periods during which humans occupied the area, revealing pastoralist activities that once provided sustenance to the ancient dwellers within vast, cavernous lava tubes or tunnels in the region.

Scientists haven't yet confirmed the age of the lava that formed this system, but a 2007 study suggested it was around 3m years old. Umm Jirsan spans nearly 1.5km, with passages that are up to 39ft tall and as much as 148ft wide. Beginning in the Stone Age, Neolithic herders descended into and occupied these tunnels, archaeologists have discovered. Cooler air underground would have provided a welcome respite from the sun and wind, and for thousands of years, humans sheltered with their livestock in the tunnels. The herders left behind objects and even carved pictures on the rocky walls, researchers reported.

"These findings underscore the immense potential for interdisciplinary investigations in caves and lava tubes"

Lava tubes are caves created when lava passes through natural channels and eventually cools into dark-coloured stone. Over long periods, as the rock above the hardened lava gradually widens, it forms a roof over the molten rock beneath it, which eventually exits and leaves behind a cave tunnel. These caves formed from ancient lava flows would naturally have been attractive to ancient residents of the region for the shelter they provided. Fortunately for archaeologists, these caves also preserve the rich heritage of the ancient people who inhabited Arabia far better than the arid landscape above.

"Our findings at Umm Jirsan provide a rare glimpse into the lives of ancient peoples in Arabia," said Dr Mathew Stewart, lead researcher and a Research Fellow at ARCHE, in a statement. Among the evidence of ancient human activity at the site are rock art depictions of animals, as well as the actual remains of fauna hunted in the region, which reveal the presence of sheep, goats, and cattle, all pointing to the likely herding of livestock by the ancient residents of the area. Over time, the region's protein-rich diets began to be increasingly complemented by vegetation consumption, coinciding with the prehistoric emergence of oasis agriculture.

The researchers found at Umm Jirsan animal bones dating from 400 years to more than 4,000 years ago, and human remains ranging from 150 years to about 6,000 years ago. They also found cloth fragments, pieces of carved wood and dozens of stone tools – the first evidence that humans were using the tunnels, starting at least 7,000 years ago.

Although similar information has long existed for other surrounding regions, Stewart and his colleagues say the recent studies at Umm Jirsan and nearby areas represent a new milestone in the archaeology of Arabia and present the first comprehensive investigation focusing on underground archaeology in Saudi Arabia. "These findings underscore the immense potential for interdisciplinary investigations in caves and lava tubes, offering a unique window into Arabia's ancient past," said Professor Michael Petraglia, director of ARCHE. These sites have tremendous potential to fill in some of the gaps in the natural and cultural archives that persist in the Arabian archaeological record.

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Weather blues swamp Brazil



People get a boat to cross a flooded street in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil yesterday. New rains in waterlogged southern Brazil were expected to be heaviest between yesterday and today, authorities have warned, bringing fresh misery to victims of flooding that has killed 136 people and left 806 injured and 125 missing so far. (AFP)

Psychologist who convinced economists to err is human

Daniel Kahneman received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2002, despite having never taken a single economics course

By Antara Haldar
Cambridge

The recent passing of psychologist and Nobel laureate Daniel Kahneman is an apt moment to reflect on his invaluable contribution to the field of behavioural economics.

While Alexander Pope's famous assertion that "to err is human" dates back to 1711, it was the pioneering work of Kahneman and his late co-author and friend Amos Tversky in the 1970s and early 1980s that finally persuaded economists to recognise that people often make mistakes.

When I received a fellowship at Stanford University's Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioural Sciences (CASBS) four years ago, it was this fundamental breakthrough that motivated me to choose the office – or "study" (to use CASBS terminology) – that Kahneman occupied during his year at the Center in 1977-78. It seemed like the ideal setting to explore Kahneman's three major economic contributions, which challenged economic theory's apocryphal "rational actor" by introducing an element of psychological realism into the discipline.

Kahneman's first major contribution was his and Tversky's groundbreaking 1974 study on judgment and uncertainty, which introduced the idea that "biases" and "heuristics," or rules of thumb, influence our decision-making. Instead of thoroughly analysing each decision, they found, people tend to rely on mental shortcuts. For example, we may rely on stereotypes (known as the "representativeness heuristic"), be overly influenced by recent experiences (the "availability heuristic"), or use the first piece of information we receive as a reference point (the "anchor effect").

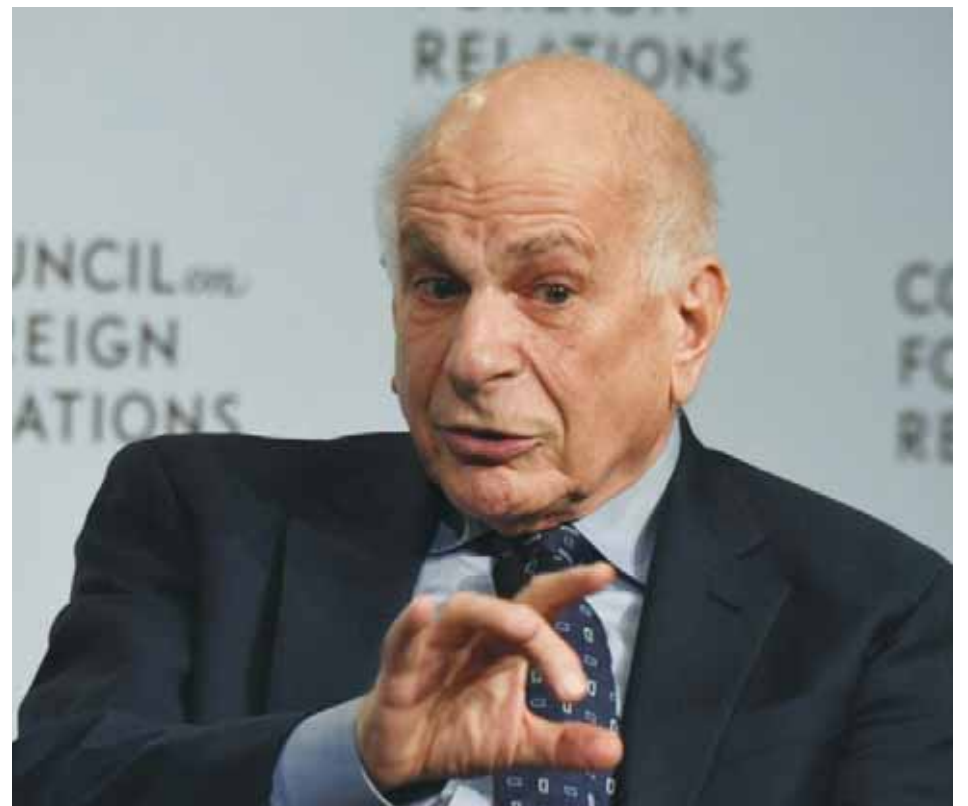
Second, Kahneman and Tversky's work on "prospect theory," which they published in 1979, critiqued expected utility theory as a model of decision-making under risk. Drawing on the "certainty effect," Kahneman and Tversky argued that humans are psychologically more affected by losses than gains. The perceived loss from misplacing a \$20 note, for example, would outweigh the perceived gain from finding a \$20 note on the sidewalk, leading to "loss aversion."

This insight is also at the core of the "framing effect." The theory, developed while Kahneman was a fellow at CASBS and Tversky was a visiting professor at Stanford, posits that the way information is presented – whether as a loss or a gain – significantly influences the decision-making process, even when what is framed as a loss or gain has the same value.

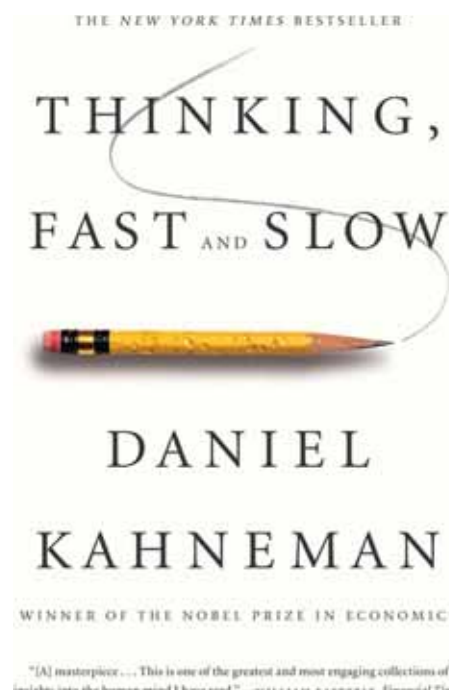
Lastly, there is Kahneman's popular masterpiece, the bestselling *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. Published in 2011 and offering a lifetime's worth of insights, the book introduced the general public to two stylised modes of human decision-making: the "quick," instinctive, emotional mode that Kahneman called System 1, and the "slower," deliberative, or logical mode, which he called System 2. Humans, he showed, are prone to abandoning logic in favour of emotional impulses.

Kahneman received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2002, despite, as he jokingly remarked, having never taken a single economics course. Nevertheless, his scholarship laid the groundwork for an entirely new field of economic research – and it had all begun in Study 6.

In particular, Kahneman's work had a profound impact on University of Chicago economist Richard Thaler, who went on



Daniel Kahneman's first major contribution was his and Tversky's groundbreaking 1974 study on judgment and uncertainty, which introduced the idea that "biases" and "heuristics," or rules of thumb, influence our decision-making.



One of Daniel Kahneman's famous works.

to become a Nobel laureate himself. As an assistant professor, Thaler managed to "finagle" a visiting appointment at the National Bureau of Economic Research, whose offices were located down the hill from CASBS, enabling him to connect with Kahneman and Tversky.

In 1998, Thaler co-authored a seminal paper with Cass Sunstein and Christine Jolls, introducing the concept of "bounds" on reason, willpower, and self-interest, and highlighting human limitations that rational-actor models had overlooked.

By the time he received the Nobel Prize in 2017, Thaler had systematically documented

"anomalies" in human behaviour that conventional economics struggled to explain and conducted highly influential research (with Sunstein) on "choice architectures," popularising the idea that subtle design changes ("nudges") can influence human behaviour.

But as I gazed at the sweeping views of Palo Alto and the San Francisco Peninsula from the office window at CASBS, the birthplace of behavioural economics, I could not help but wonder whether Kahneman, despite his famously gentle nature, had perhaps been too critical of human decision-making.

Are all deviations from "pure" economic logic necessarily "irrational"? Is our inability to align with the idealised model of economic analysis, coupled with our inevitable – albeit predictable – irrationality, really an inherent weakness? And is our tendency to rely on emotions rather than reason a fatal flaw, and if so, could our susceptibility to instinct ultimately lead to our downfall?

I wish I could ask Kahneman these questions. During my time there in 2020-21, Kahneman, affectionately known as "Danny" to all, was not just what CASBS called a "ghost" of the "study" – a former occupant who had been a major influence on my work – but also, happily, a vibrant, living legend who had enthusiastically invited me to discuss these very issues in person. Looking back, I regret my "planning fallacy" in not taking him up on his offer to deepen our conversation sooner – a sentiment shared by both my System 1 and System 2 modes. If "to err is human," Danny taught me a poignant final lesson in human error. – Project Syndicate

• Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law and cognition.

Canada arrests fourth Indian national in killing of Sikh activist

A fourth Indian national has been charged by Canadian authorities in the 2023 killing of a separatist Sikh leader in Vancouver.

Amandeep Singh, 22, was already being held for unrelated gun charges before being charged with "first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder" in the slaying of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Three other Indian nationals were arrested this month.

The killing sparked a diplomatic row between Ottawa and New Delhi when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau linked Indian intelligence to the killing.

Nijjar – who immigrated to Canada in 1997 and became a citizen in 2015 – had advocated for a separate Sikh state, known as Khalistan, to be carved out of India.

He had been wanted by Indian authorities for alleged "terrorism" and conspiracy to commit murder – allegations he denied.

He was shot dead on June 18, 2023, by masked assailants in the parking lot of the Sikh temple he led in suburban Vancouver.

Trudeau announced several months later that Canada had "credible allegations" connect-

ing Indian intelligence to the slaying.

India dismissed the allegations as "absurd" and responded furiously, briefly curbing visas for Canadians and forcing Ottawa to withdraw diplomats.

In November, the US Justice Department charged an Indian citizen living in the Czech Republic with allegedly plotting a similar assassination attempt on American soil.

Prosecutors said in unsealed court documents that an Indian government official was also involved in the planning.

The shock allegations came after US President Joe Biden hosted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a rare state visit, as Washington seeks closer ties with India against China's growing influence.

US intelligence agencies have assessed that the plot on American soil was approved by India's top spy official at the time, Samant Goel, the *Washington Post* reported in April.

Canada is home to some 770,000 Sikhs, who make up about 2% of the country's population, with a vocal minority calling for an independent state of Khalistan. – **AFP**

In major shake-up, Putin replaces defence minister

AFP/Reuters
Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin has moved to replace Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu in a major shake-up to Russia's military leadership.

Putin proposed economist Andrey Belousov as Shoigu's replacement, according to a list of the ministerial nominations published by the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament.

Putin simultaneously published decrees naming Shoigu as the new secretary of the Security Council, replacing long-standing Putin ally Nikolai Patrushev.

"Shoigu will continue to work in this sector (defence), which he knows well," state media quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying. "He knows it very well from the inside, together with his colleagues and partners at his previous place of work."

The shake-up gives Shoigu a job that is technically senior to his defence ministry role, ensuring continuity and saving Shoigu's face.

Peskov added that the change made sense because Russia was approaching a situation like the Soviet Union in the mid-1980s, when the military and law enforcement authorities accounted for 7.4% of state spending.

That, said Peskov, meant it was vital to ensure such spending aligned with the country's overall interests, which was why Putin now wanted a civilian with an economic background in the defence ministry job.

"The one who is more open to innovations is the one who will be victorious on the battlefield," Peskov said.

The change is also likely to be seen by an attempt by Putin to subject defence spending to greater scrutiny to ensure funds are effectively spent after a Shoigu ally and deputy defence minister was accused by state prosecutors of taking a bribe.

Putin is constitutionally required to name a

new set of government ministers – or reappoint existing ones – following his victory in a March election devoid of opposition.

Lawmakers in Russia's rubber-stamp parliament need to approve the president's nominations, which they are set to do tomorrow.

The major reshuffle comes with Russian forces advancing on the battlefield for the first time in months.

Shoigu was appointed defence minister in 2012.

Despite a string of military setbacks for Russia – including the failure to capture the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and retreats from the northeastern Kharkiv and southern Kherson regions – Putin had stood by Shoigu until now.

That included when Wagner paramilitary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin launched a bloody insurrection last year calling for Shoigu's removal.

Belousov, Shoigu's nominated replacement, has no military background. He has been one of Putin's most influential economic advisers over the last decade.

Earthquake strikes near Mexico border

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck near the coast of Chiapas in Mexico yesterday morning, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. The quake was at a depth of 75km (46.6 miles), the USGS said. Mexico's national civil protection agency was monitoring the situation. In Guatemala, where the quake could be felt in the capital of Guatemala City, the country's disaster agency CONRED reported structural damage in the departments of Quetzaltenango and San Marcos, near the country's border with Mexico, including a landslide that blocked part of a road. – **Reuters**

Third time could prove lucky for aurora viewers around the world

AFP
Washington

Anyone who missed the dazzling auroras dancing across night skies earlier this weekend will get another chance, as the powerful geomagnetic storm hitting the Earth is expected to intensify yet again.

"Several intense Coronal Mass Ejections are still anticipated to reach the Earth's outer atmosphere by later today," the US National Weather Service said yesterday.

Those ejections – expulsions of plasma and magnetic fields from the Sun, known as CMEs – have since Friday produced spectacular celestial shows across swaths of the Earth, far from the extreme latitudes where the auroras are normally seen.

However, while many viewers have been disappointed – at times because of overcast skies – the latest prediction suggests their third time might just prove lucky.

The latest CMEs are expected to reach Earth late yesterday or early today, "causing severe or extreme geomagnetic storms once again and (offering) a very good chance to see magnificent aurorae much further south than normal," said Keith Ryden, who heads the Surrey Space Centre in England.

Or, as one self-described "lighthunter" suggested on social media platform X, "keep ... coffee thermoses filled to the brim and fingers crossed!"

However, scientists said the intensity of anything still to be seen might not reach the level of Friday's show.

"This is likely the last of the Earth-directed CMEs from this particular monster sunspot" Mathew Owens, a professor of space physics at the University of Reading, in England, told AFP.

Still, overall, he added, "the intensity of it has taken all of us by surprise."

The first of several CMEs came just after 1600 GMT on Friday, according to the US-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Space Weather Prediction Centre (SWPC).

It was later upgraded to an "extreme" geomagnetic storm – the first since the "Halloween Storms" of October 2003 that caused blackouts in Sweden and damaged power infrastructure in South Africa.

Late on Saturday evening, pictures again



The *Aurora Borealis*, also known as the 'Northern Lights', caused by a coronal mass ejection on the Sun, illuminates the sky over Jericho Beach in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

trickled onto social media as people in the United States reported sightings, though not as strong as Friday night's.

Friday's storm was listed as hitting level five geomagnetic (G5) conditions – the highest on the scale.

Saturday saw G3 to G5 conditions, with G4 or higher conditions predicted yesterday and G3 conditions possible into today.

No major disruptions to power or communications networks appear to have been reported this time around.

However, China's National Centre for Space Weather issued a "red alert" on Saturday, warning that communications and navigation could be affected in much of the country, state news agency Xinhua reported.

Excitement over the phenomenon – and otherworldly photos of pink, green and purple night skies – popped up across the world, from Mont Saint-Michel on the French coast to Australia's island state of Tasmania.

Unlike solar flares, which travel at the speed of light and reach Earth in around eight minutes, CMEs travel at a more sedate pace, with officials putting the current average at about 800km (500 miles) per second.

People with eclipse glasses can look for the sunspot cluster during the day.

The NOAA's Brent Gordon encouraged the public to try to capture the night sky with phone cameras even if they couldn't see auroras with their naked eyes.

"You'd be amazed at what you see in that picture," he said.

Fluctuating magnetic fields associated with geomagnetic storms induce currents in long wires, including power lines, which can lead to blackouts. Long pipelines can also become electrified.

Spacecraft are at risk from high doses of radiation, although the atmosphere prevents this from reaching Earth.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) can ask astronauts on the International Space Station to move to better-shielded places within the outpost.

Even pigeons and other species that have internal biological compasses can be affected.

Nepali, British climbers summit Everest to extend records

AFP/Reuters
Kathmandu

Mount Everest saw a record-breaking day yesterday as Nepali Kami Rita Sherpa and Briton Kenton Cool reached the top of the world's highest mountain, extending their records for the most summits by a Nepali and a foreigner.

Sherpa, 54, reached the peak for the 29th time and Cool, 50, made his 18th summit.

"Kami Rita and Kenton Cool both reached the summit today, making records," Rakesh Gurung of Nepal's tourism department told AFP.

A guide for more than two decades, Sherpa, also known as "Everest Man", first summited the 8,849m (29,032') peak in 1994 when working for a commercial expedition.

He has since climbed Everest almost every year, guiding clients. Sherpa and Cool were on separate expeditions guiding their clients.

"Back again for the 29th summit to the top of the world. One man's job, another man/woman's dream," Sherpa posted on his Instagram account from base camp last week.

Sherpa climbed Everest twice last year to reclaim his record after another guide, Pasang Dawa

Sherpa, equalled his number of ascents.

Kami Rita Sherpa has previously said that he has been "just working" and did not plan on setting records.

He has also conquered other challenging 8,000m peaks, including the world's second-highest mountain, K2 in Pakistan.

Cool, also a guide, was once told he would not walk unaided again after a rock-climbing accident in 1996 that broke both his heel bones, but his mountaineering career has confounded predictions.

He told AFP in a 2022 interview after his 16th ascent that his Everest record was "not that amazing"

in the context of Nepali climbers' achievements.

"I'm really surprised by the interest ... considering that so many of the Sherpas have so many more ascents," he said then.

"He just keeps going and going ... amazing guy!" Garrett Madison of the US-based Madison Mountaineering said of the Nepali.

Madison had teamed up with Kami Rita to climb the summits of Everest, Lhotse, and K2 in 2014.

Lhotse in Nepal is the fourth-tallest in the world.

Lukas Furtenbach of the Austrian expedition operator Furtenbach Adventures called Cool's feat remarkable.

"He is a fundamental part of the

Everest guiding industry. Kenton Cool is an institution," Furtenbach, who is leading an expedition from the Chinese side of Everest, told Reuters.

Both climbers used the South-east Ridge route to the summit.

Nepal has issued 414 Everest permits to mountaineers for this year's spring climbing season, which runs from April to early June.

Most Everest hopefuls are escorted by a Nepali guide, meaning more than 800 climbers will tread the path to the top of the world's highest peak in the coming weeks after a group of Nepali climbers opened the route to the summit on Friday.

Spreading blaze forces evacuations in west Canada

The season's first major wildfire continued to burn across Western Canada as firefighters tamed the fast spreading blaze while authorities evacuated thousands of residents and warned of poor air quality from British Columbia to Ontario.

Residents in a town in British Columbia were evacuated while many in Fort McMurray, an oil hub in Alberta that faced extensive damage from wildfires in 2016, were asked to prepare to leave. Authorities said yesterday that the fire had subdued but was expected to increase as the temperatures soar.

Alberta said the wildfire was extreme and out of control, located 16km (9.94 miles) southwest of Fort McMurray.

It grew significantly over the weekend and was 5,500 hectares (13,590.8 acres) in size, growing several folds than what was reported earlier.

In British Columbia, thousands of residents in Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and Fort Nelson First Nations were asked to evacuate as the blaze spread in size to 2,483 hectares.

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Mayor Rob Fraser in a television interview said that most of the 3,500 residents in and around Fort Nelson had been evacuated.

Environment Canada has meanwhile issued a special air quality statement that extends from British Columbia to Ontario. The federal government has warned Canada faces another "catastrophic" wildfire season as it forecast higher-than-normal spring and summer temperatures across much of the country, boosted by El Nino weather conditions. – **Reuters**

Vatican staff start unprecedented legal action

Forty-nine Vatican Museums employees have started an unprecedented labour dispute over what they say are unfair and poor conditions at their workplace, which could lead to an embarrassing lawsuit against Pope Francis's administration.

The workers, mostly museum attendants, have sent a petition to the Vatican's "Governatorato", the body that administers the Vatican City State, lamenting rules that cause "labour conditions undermining each worker's dignity and health", said lawyer Laura Sgro, who is representing them.

They include extra work hours paid at lower rates and insufficient health and safety provisions, Sgro said. Unions are not allowed in Vatican City. – **Reuters**

At least 34 killed in Indonesia floods

At least 34 people have been killed and 16 more were missing in western Indonesia after flash floods and cold lava flow from one of the archipelago's most active volcanoes damaged homes, roads and mosques, officials said yesterday.

Hours of heavy rain caused flooding in Agam and Tanah Datar districts in West Sumatra province on Saturday evening, threatening thousands of people after the downpours swept ash and large rocks down Mount Marapi.

West Sumatra disaster agency said 16 people died in Agam district and 18 in Tanah Datar, with 18 people injured overall. – **AFP**



Awqaf minister visits pavilion

HE the Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem has visited Awqaf's pavilion at the ongoing Doha International Book Fair (QIBF), held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). According to a statement from Awqaf, the minister was briefed about the exhibits of the ministry's departments participating in the exhibition. HE al-Ghanem inspected counters of the departments of Islamic Affairs, Islamic Research and Studies, and the Department of Da'wa and Religious Guidance. Awqaf's pavilion also features counters by Islam Web, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (Fanar), the General Administration of Endowments, and Zakat Affairs Department. Books by Qatari authors are also on display at the pavilion. The minister was accompanied by Khalid bin Shaheen al-Ghanem, assistant undersecretary for Islamic Affairs.



The Fnac Qatar pavilion at the DIBF. **(supplied picture)**

Right: Lycée Franco-Qatarien Voltaire director-general Dr Serge Tillman and Fifty One East chairman and managing director Bader al-Darwish at the book signing ceremony. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen



A view of the gathering at the book signing ceremony at Fnac's pavilion.

Fnac Qatar celebrates French culture at DIBF

Fnac Qatar and its partners have hosted a discussion of Editions Faton at the 33rd Doha International Book Fair (DIBF).

Known for its contributions to art history, archaeology, general culture and children's books, Editions Faton epitomises the essence of French intellectual heritage.

According to a statement from Fnac Qatar, the event hosted the director-general of Lycée Franco-Qatarien Voltaire, Dr Serge Tillman, for a special signing ceremony of his books, *Etres Embrassés* and *Lettres Enlacées*, further enriching the cultural experience at the event.

Bader al-Darwish, chairman and managing director of Fifty One East, expressed his pride in Fnac Qatar's participation.

"Fnac Qatar's presence at the Doha International Book Fair reflects our ongoing commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of Qatar," he said. "We are proud to collaborate with the French Embassy and the French Institute to promote literacy and foster cultural exchange within the community. (We have) been part of this exceptional fair for the past 10 years."

French ambassador Jean-Baptiste Faivre extended his gratitude to Fnac Qatar for its partnership, emphasising the importance of the exhibition in promoting cultural dialogue and strengthening bilateral ties between Qatar and France.

"Fnac Qatar's dedication to promoting French culture enriches the cultural tapestry of Qatar and enhances our longstanding partnership," he said.

Since 2014, Fnac Qatar has been integral to the DIBF, embodying its "Culture for All" mission.

This year, Fnac Qatar continued its tradition of engagement by hosting cultural and artistic workshops for students from leading French-speaking schools in Qatar, led by the famous French author of children's literature, Sophie Adriansen.

The activations included daily storytelling sessions for children aged 3-6 who immersed themselves in enchanting tales with the captivating storytellers, Annie Benoit and Marion Bellion.

Following the interactive storytelling experience, children engaged in hands-on creative workshops inspired by the narrative, nurturing their imagination and fostering language development.

This year, the pavilion's design paid homage to the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games with a masterful fusion of architectural grandeur and cultural symbolism, meticulously crafted to transport visitors to the heart of France.

In honour of the 2024 Olympics in France, the pavilion also hosted a small collection of objects from the Winter Games held in France in 1968 and lent by the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

Furthermore, a digital exhibition lent by the National Sports Museum in France, "Les Elles des Jeux - Women of the Games" also invited visitors to discover the spectacular path travelled for over 130 years, from the virtual exclusion of women to the fight for parity in sports.

Official publications at Omani pavilion witness great turnout

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Oman's ministry of culture, sports and youth (MCSY) is participating at the 33rd session of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF). Oman is the guest of honour at the 33rd DIBF, which opened at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) on May 9 and will continue until May 18 with the slogan *Knowledge Builds Civilisations*.

"The MCSY is exhibiting six Omani manuscripts, and a series of official publications, the Youth Encyclopedia, recently published," Salwa bint Seif al-Rashidi, director of the Child Museum at the General Directorate of Knowledge and Cultural Development, told *Gulf Times*. "We are exhibiting virtual reality technology and its integration into the Omani identity."

"(We are doing this) together with the publications of the ministry of heritage and tourism (MHT), which is showing a number of projects to preserve and document Oman's craft heritage as part of the national treasures," she said.

"There is a large screen display on the handicraft heritage, which is considered as a part of the national treasure and one of the most important pillars of preserving the Omani identity," the official added.

"Oman has registered 13 intangible handicrafts heritage on the Unesco list, such as the Omani dagger, bud art and folk music," al-Rashidia said. "They represent the heritage of nations not only of Oman, which sheds light on the history of our ancestors who lived on our land thousands of years ago."

"We are exhibiting an Omani information platform that includes more than 50 releases, films, and audio programmes, which vary from programmes addressed to children and cultural, economic, or religious aspects," Harith al-Rashidi from Oman's ministry of information told *Gulf Times*. "All audiovisual materials are added to this platform directly and are made available to the audience following this platform."

"It serves all segments of society with what is



Salwa bint Seif al-Rashidi



Harith al-Rashidi

produced by Omani Radio and Television, as well as audio books for people with special needs," he continued.

"You can also follow the Omani TV and the Cultural TV Channels through this platform. The number of its followers has reached around 80,000," al-Rashidi added. "It was founded in 2020 and continues to include media, film, and audio programmes."

"We are pleased that the Omani pavilion is witnessing a large turnout of visitors to the exhibition and admirers of Omani heritage and culture," he said.

National Archives of Qatar organises seminar

As part of its participation in the 33rd Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), which continues until May 18, the National Archives of Qatar organised a seminar on *National Archives of Qatar: A Landmark in Preserving Documentary Heritage and National Identity* on the main stage of the exhibition.

In statements to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), National Archives of Qatar Secretary-General Ahmed Abdullah Ali al-Jibran al-Buainain said that the National Archives of Qatar's participation in the DIBF with a special pavilion and the organisation of a seminar are aimed at introducing its role and educate individuals about the document, in addition to answering the public's inquiries and its prominent role in preserving heritage.

Al-Buainain added that the doors of the National Archives of Qatar will be opened to the public in the coming period.

He said that the seminar dealt with the National Archives of Qatar's



tasks and competencies, its importance, and its role with the relevant authorities in the State.

The official said that the National Archives' role today is not limited to historical matters.

He said it also has tasks in institutional documentation, as well as

documenting private documents held by individuals.

Acting Director of the Public Relations and Communication Department at the National Archives, Noura al-Qubaisi, said that this is the first participation of the National Archives of Qatar in the DIBF. - QNA