


vodafone

Get the best fibre plan

QR 280

1
Gbps Speed



GULF

TIMES



0 668039 136499

TUESDAY Vol. XXXXV No. 13010

May 14, 2024
Dhul-Qa'da 6, 1445 AH

www.gulf-times.com
2 Riyals

Published in QATAR since 1978

For Rent
Brand New Shops



Prime Location



Ready To Occupy

www.habarirealstate.com

Call Now For Visit
+974 3030 0880 / +974 3341 9475

Shop & win
win is back!



Order groceries worth B5 QAR for a chance to win!

Follow us on

www.gulf-times.com

gulf-times

GulfTimes_QATAR

gulf-times

GulfTimesVideos

Sky Vision Real Estate Offer

Labour Room 1,250/- per room @ Industrial Area, Street-38,43,44,47

Warehouse 300sqm - Qr.12,500/-

Lounge & Club / Hotel Studio Room / Restaurant Space / SPA Massage Center for Rent Inside a 4 Star Hotel

Call: 33598672, 52038746, 50576993



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





40 YEARS TOGETHER
Laos Laos

Amir, UK PM discuss Gaza developments

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak a range of regional and international developments of common concern, especially those related to the situation in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. This came during a phone call received by the Amir yesterday from the UK prime minister. During the call, they discussed bilateral relations. **(QNA)**

Amir, Sudan leader in talks on bilateral ties

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan bilateral relations and ways to enhance and promote them. This came during a phone call the Amir held with Lt Gen al-Burhan yesterday. The phone call also touched on issues of common concern. **(QNA)**

Qatar team to help fight Afghan floods aftermath

Under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, a team from Internal Security Force - Lekhwiya's Qatari International Search and Rescue Group headed to Afghanistan to assess the situation there and provide urgent assistance to battle the repercussions of the floods caused by last Friday's heavy rains. **(QNA) Page 8**

Amir to patronise Qatar Economic Forum 2024

By Pratap John
Business Editor

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the fourth edition of ‘Qatar Economic Forum, Powered by Bloomberg’ (QEF) will kick off today.

Convened under the theme ‘A World Remade: Navigating the Year of Uncertainty’, the event brings together more than 1,000 business leaders and many more participants from around the globe.

The QEF will be held at Katara Towers: Fairmont Doha and Rafles Doha hotels. Its discussions will revolve around a myriad of key fields, primarily the political geography, globalisation and trade, energy transition, technological innovation, business and investment projections, sports, and entertainment.

The three-day forum will feature the participation of many CEOs and decision makers in the areas of finance, economics, investment, technology, energy, education, sports, and climate to discuss foremost regional and global issues dominating the talks of the global boards of directors and financial markets.

QEF will feature panel discus-



sions with the engagement of more than 70 speakers in 12 two-phase sub-sessions, along with a variety of events at the main halls.

The signing of 20 memorandums of understanding, including 18 international MoUs, during the upcoming Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) 2024 is expected to enhance foreign direct investment (FDI) and attract additional FDI to the country.

“The nature of the MoUs and the partnerships [to be signed at the forum] indicate the direction in which entities are moving towards enhancing foreign direct investment and attracting additional investment to Qatar,” stated Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, chairperson, Permanent Supreme Committee organising QEF 2024.

Sheikh Ali noted that the

fourth edition of the forum, which will run from May 14 to 16 in Doha, is expected to gather 2,300 participants, including 1,300 active leaders in international firms and organisations, in addition to 200 local and international media outlets.

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

He described the forum as “the fastest growing in terms of participation at the regional and international levels,” noting that the discussions over the three-day conference will focus on topics related to geopolitics, globalisation, trade, energy transformation, technological innovation, business foresight, investment, sports, and entertainment, “considering the continuing effects of major changes in the fields of technology, energy, trade, and politics that the world is witnessing, especially since the developments witnessed in 2024 will have far-reaching repercussions on the global economy.”

Page 3, Business Page 1

Amir, Malaysian PM hold talks on boosting trade ties



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a session of official talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Anwar Ibrahim at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

At the beginning of the session, His Highness the Amir welcomed the Malaysian prime minister and his accompanying delegation, wishing them a pleasant stay. His Highness also expressed his hopes that the talks would contribute to bolstering economic and trade relations between the two countries in a way that achieves the interests of the two friendly countries.

For his part, the Malaysia prime minister expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Amir for the warm welcome and hospitality he and his accompanying delegation were accorded, stressing the importance of the talks with the Amir in opening promising horizons for bilateral partnership

between the two countries across various fields and levels. He also commended the historical bilateral relations spanning over 50 years of friendship and constructive and fruitful co-operation.

The talks session covered bilateral relations and ways to boost and develop them across various areas of co-operation, regional and international issues of common concern, especially the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories.

In attendance were HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani, HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, and HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, along with several senior officials. **To Page 12**

Finland Healthcare Seminar: Catalyzing Collaborative Innovations in Qatar’s Healthcare Landscape

Finish healthcare companies supported by The Embassy of the Republic of Finland in Doha, and in strategic collaboration with Biotech Medical Qatar, is proud to unveil the much-anticipated Finland Healthcare Seminar, slated to transpire on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024, 4PM till 9 PM. Nestled within the esteemed Sheraton Grand Doha Resorts & Convention Hotel, this seminal event heralds a transformative chapter in fortifying healthcare alliances between Finland and Qatar.

Aligned with Qatar Vision 2030, the seminar serves as a conduit for global connectivity, echoing the nation's commitment to excellence in healthcare standards and practices. With a focus on recent advancements and pioneering solutions, the seminar aims to convene leading experts from diverse healthcare sectors for a comprehensive dialogue.

The distinguished presence of HE Mr. Pekka Voutilainen, the esteemed Ambassador of Finland to the State of Qatar, imparts a profound significance to the occasion. His warm welcome will set the stage for an intellectually invigorating exchange of ideas, accentuating the diplomatic synergy between Finland and Qatar in the realm of healthcare.

The ceremonial opening of the seminar will be gracefully officiated by HE Mr. Ville Tavio, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland, further underscoring the profound significance of this collaborative endeavor. This symbolic gesture epitomizes the unwavering commitment of both nations towards fostering enduring partnerships and driving collective progress.

A highlight of the seminar will be the captivating keynote address by Prof. Hanan Khalil, a revered figure in the field, who will delve into the Evolution of Rehabilitation in Qatar. Prof. Khalil's elucidation



on groundbreaking neurological rehabilitation research from Qatar University promises to unveil novel insights and transformative paradigms.

Complementing the discourse, Prof. Arto Hautala from the University of Jyväskylä will share invaluable expertise in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation, shedding light on best practices and emergent trends that are poised to redefine the healthcare landscape.

At the heart of the seminar's agenda lies a dynamic showcasing an array of Medical devices proudly ‘Made in Finland.’ This curated showcase serves as a testament to Finland's ingenuity and innovation in pioneering healthcare technology, offering attendees a firsthand glimpse into cutting-edge solutions poised to revolutionize healthcare delivery.

The seminar is poised to attract a distinguished array of delegates from government sectors, both Qatar and International, underscoring the event's significance as a nexus for diplomatic and professional engagement. Their collective presence underscores a shared commitment towards advancing healthcare excellence and fostering enduring global partnerships.

As Qatar embarks on its transformative journey towards healthcare excellence, the Finland Healthcare Seminar stands as a beacon of partnership and progress, charting a course towards a healthier, brighter future for all.



I came on business



It became home

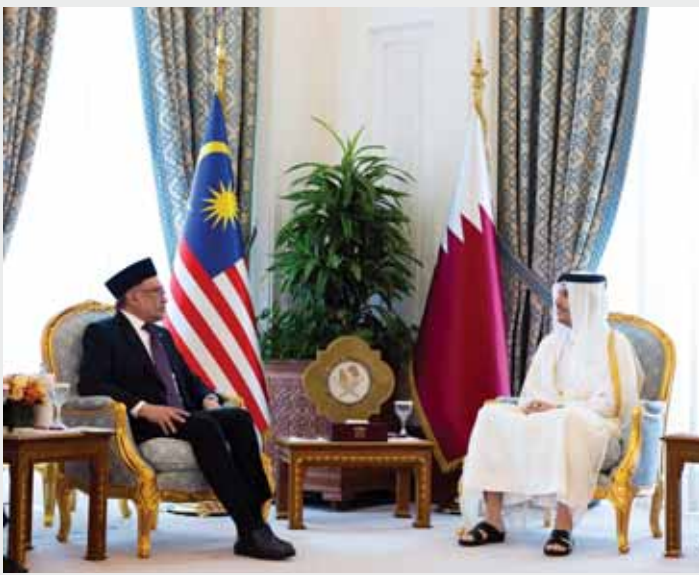
Opportunity is rarely a straight line. Our international network connects you to what's next. Visit hsbc.com.qa


HSBC
Opening up a world of opportunity



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Lebanese Army Commander General Joseph Aoun on the occasion of his visit to the country. The two sides discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed Qatar's support for the army and state institutions in Lebanon, as well as Qatar's continuous support for the brotherly Lebanese people.

PM in Doha meetings



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met Malaysian PM, Anwar Ibrahim, on the occasion of his visit to the country yesterday. They discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them across all fields, in addition to the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, stressing the importance of an immediate ceasefire and the unobstructed entry of humanitarian aid into all areas of the enclave. HE the Prime Minister hosted a luncheon banquet in the honour of the visiting Malaysian PM and his accompanying delegation. Several of the ministers attended the banquet. **(QNA)**

Al-Khulaifi meets Dutch FM



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Hanke Bruins on the sidelines of the activities of the Amsterdam Dialogue Forum 2024. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, especially strengthening regional and international efforts for an immediate ceasefire and facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid into all areas of the Strip without obstacles. The Netherlands FM expressed her country's appreciation for the efforts of Qatar in mediation and the release of detainees, stressing the importance of the flow of humanitarian aid and the unhindered operations of media institutions in Gaza. **(QNA)**

Deputy PM meets Lebanese commander

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah met with the visiting Lebanese Commander of Army General Joseph Aoun. The meeting discussed issues of common concern, as well as aspects of co-operation between the two sides and ways of enhancing and developing them. The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel al-Nabit, and senior officials and officers from both sides. **(QNA)**



Qatar's strategy in global mediation highlighted at Amsterdam Dialogue

QNA
Amsterdam

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi participated yesterday in the opening session of the Amsterdam Dialogue 2024, held in the Netherlands.

In his speech during the session entitled 'the State of Qatar's strategy in international mediation', HE Dr al-Khulaifi noted the significant role that Qatar plays in mediation and conflict resolution. He pointed out that in light of the complexities of the global scene, it has become increasingly clear that small countries can have a significant influence in promoting peace and stability.

In this regard, he emphasised that Qatar represents a model for such a country, as it tirelessly calls for dialogue and reconciliation in some of the deep-rooted conflicts in the world. He indicated that the basic principle that guides Qatar's mediation is its firm commitment to dialogue as the most effective means of resolving disputes, recalling that international law obligates states to resolve their disputes and differences by peaceful means. However, it does not stipulate a specific mechanism, allowing states to choose diplomatic or judicial means.



HE Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi speaking at the forum.

He said that statistics indicate that mediation comes second as the most widely used peaceful method for resolving disputes, after direct negotiations. He explained that Qatar has developed the practice of mediation, allowing it to navigate diverse geopolitical environments with skill and impartiality, whether in the Gulf region, the greater Middle East, or beyond. He added that Qatar constantly demonstrates a remarkable ability to bridge divisions and facilitate constructive dialogue between conflicting parties.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi pointed out that the war in the Gaza Strip currently dominates the global agenda, noting that Qatar is committed to providing and facilitating humanitarian aid, mediation efforts, and diplomatic initiatives. He added that Qatar's

strength lies in its ability to adapt and engage diplomatically in a bilateral/multilateral approach with its partners and the international community.

Concluding his speech, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that the role played by Qatar in mediation and conflict resolution serves as a strong reminder of the potential of small countries to make a difference on the global stage. He added that by prioritizing dialogue, inclusivity, and commitment to international law and sustainable development, Qatar has emerged as a neutral mediator and a trusted global partner in promoting peace and stability worldwide. As a young country, it is crucial for Qatar to ensure building a lasting legacy that future generations can enjoy.

Shura Council decries Israeli assault on Rafah

QNA
Doha

THE Shura Council held its weekly session at Tamim bin Hamad Hall yesterday, under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem.

At the outset of the session, the Council expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli occupation forces' bombing of Rafah Governorate and invasion of the land crossing, warning of Israel's commission of another war crime to be further added to its criminal records through displacing the Palestinians and forcing them to flee Rafah.

The dangerous escalation practised by the occupation forces unequivocally disrupts the efforts aimed at forging a ceasefire, thus presaging an exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis facing the Gaza Strip, posing a grave violation of international laws, the Council pointed out. The Council urged the parliaments of the world and all parliamentary unions to act to prevent a new crime of genocide against the civilians in Gaza, calling on them to pressure their governments to provide protection for civilians under the international humanitarian law and take a resolute position that compels Israel



The Shura Council in session.

to comply with the international resolutions.

Thereafter, Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohamed al-Mahmoud read out the session's agenda and the minutes of the previous session were endorsed.

The Council reviewed a draft law on dealing in strategic goods of either military, or dual-use, submitted by the esteemed government. Subsequently, the Council decided to refer the draft law to the Internal and External Affairs Committee for further perusal and submission of its report to the Council accordingly.

In a related context, the Council approved a draft law on dealing in

regulated products and reviewed the report of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee accordingly. Also, members of the Council discussed items of the draft law.

On the other hand, the session reviewed a report on the participation of the Council delegation in the meeting of the Executive Council of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Antalya, Türkiye, in November 2023.

Additionally, the Council reviewed a report on the participation of its delegation in the 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), hosted by Algeria last February.

Shura partakes in Asia Women's Forum in Uzbekistan

QNA
Samarkand

THE Shura Council is participating in the Asia Women's Forum, which kicked off yesterday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, organised jointly by the Uzbek Parliament and the UN Women. HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti is representing the Council in the two-day forum.

In her opening speech, HE Dr Hamda al-Sulaiti expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Asian women in enhancing the status of women in various fields, emphasising the importance of empowering Asian women economically, socially, and politically. She also addressed the challenges facing women in times of wars and con-



HE Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti with Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbaeva.

flicts, emphasising women's role in achieving security and peace in Asia.

HE the deputy Speaker called for enhancing co-operation and stability in Asia to ensure progress and empowerment of women, high-

lighting the important role women play in developing societies and economies on the continent. At the beginning of her speech, she praised Uzbekistan's hosting of this forum and its good preparation, aiming to shed light on women's issues.



The forum, held under the theme 'Regional Approach in Issues of Women's Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment', discusses issues related to women's economic, social, and political rights and empowerment efforts. Participants engage in discussion sessions covering various topics such as

combating violence against women and children, fair access to financial opportunities, as well as the role of non-governmental organisations in promoting the green economy and addressing the impacts of climate change. The forum aims to highlight the role of women in achieving Sustainable Development Goals

and enhancing their participation in science, education, and innovation, utilising digital technology, alleviating poverty through economic empowerment, and supporting their role in entrepreneurship and innovation. The forum includes participants from various parts of Asia, including parliamentarians, government officials, representatives of governmental bodies and civil society organisations, businesswomen, social activists, and representatives from various economic sectors.

On the sidelines of the forum, HE Dr al-Sulaiti met with Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbaeva. The two sides discussed several issues related to enhancing efforts to protect and empower women, as well as parliamentary co-operation relations and ways to strengthen them.

Qatar Economic Forum: An important annual event to discuss the state of global economy

QNA
Doha

Qatar Economic Forum, Powered by Bloomberg, is an important annual event to discuss the state of the global economy, its growth prospects and challenges, and how to address them. Under the generous patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the first edition of the forum was held virtually in Doha in June 2021 under the theme ‘Reimagining the World!’

It saw the participation of many heads of state and government and an elite group of CEOs of major international companies, inspiring figures, and decision-makers in the fields of finance, economics, investment, technology, energy, education, sports, and climate, in addition to more than 100 speakers from all over the world.

Opening the first edition of the forum, His Highness the Amir pointed to the challenge presented by Covid-19, and said: “Our meeting today comes while we are in the midst of a confrontation with the Covid-19 pandemic, which has posed a serious and unprecedented challenge to

all humanity in all spheres, including the economic field, where endless discussions took place about the fallacious trade-off between people's health and economic health; and where a blurriness overshadowed the expectations of international institutions regarding the future prospects of the global economy, especially that the world has not yet moved to a post-pandemic phase in the shadow of the waves of renewed variants and mutations of the virus that underlined a state of uncertainty.”

Over the course of three days, the forums participants discussed the agenda which included six main sessions: “Technology Advanced” which highlighted permanent changes to the human-technology nexus; “A Sustainable World” which explored the intersection of capitalism and climate; and “Markets and Investing” which discussed the ability of investors in their hunt for growth to help shape a more resilient global economy.

As for the second edition of the forum, it was held on June 21, 2022, while the world was going through a critical juncture as a result of the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and fears of recession and food shortages. This edi-



tion was held under the slogan: “Achieving Equality in Global Economic Recovery”, with the participation of many heads of state and government, senior policymakers, parliamentarians, thinkers, economists, businessmen, media, and representatives of regional and international organisations.

Throughout the days and sessions of

the forum, participants exchanged views and highlighted the future of the global economy and the responsibility towards achieving a comprehensive and sustainable recovery.

Qatar's preparations to host the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 were also at the core of the forums work, within the framework of highlighting Qatar as a leading investment destination in the region and the world as well as the incentives and investment opportunities provided by the state to investors, entrepreneurs, and major international companies in the non-oil and value-added sectors, especially the areas that serve the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Second National Development Strategy 2018-2022 that aims to establish a diversified and competitive economy based on knowledge.

In May 2023, Doha hosted the third edition of the Qatar Economic Forum, Powered by Bloomberg, under the slogan “A New Global Growth Story”. The wider, prestigious international participation in the third edition of the forum, which reached 130 countries, reflected the importance of this global platform for dia-

logue on the challenges facing the global economy, especially as the forum tries to cover all aspects of the economy, whether in terms of trade and linking it to energy, investment, modern technology, or general mood of consumers, as well as geopolitical turmoil and its complex impacts.

The three-day forum was full of in-depth and serious discussions and aimed to put the global economy back on the track to growth and anticipate its future in a rapidly changing world. Through 7 main sessions that included more than 50 sub-sessions, the forum discussed strengthening international economic partnerships, consolidating bridges of communication and dialogue between different peoples, and how to maximize the global competitiveness of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in a changing and dynamic economic system.

Through its fourth edition, the forum is expected to continue its role in diagnosing the reality of the global economy, anticipating its future, and attempting to chart the course of the future stages of global economic growth by focusing on global challenges that affect societies and economies around the world.

QEF opens up new horizons for national economy and international co-operation

QNA
Doha

Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) 2024 represents an opportunity to promote the Qatar economy globally through highlighting the inducements and facilitations it generates in attracting more investments and businesses to the country, as well as increasing confidence in the Qatari economy to ultimately spur the economic growth and accelerate its pace.

In remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), economic and financial experts affirmed that the forum has become a platform to confer on global issues and variables the forum witnesses in multiple fields, given the rapid pace of challenges facing the world economy.

The forums theme: “A World Remade: Navigating the Year of Uncertainty” underscores the awareness on challenges and critical steps that should be taken by decision makers globally, particularly those related to energy sector, and ensuring secure and sustainable transition that observes interests of all parties, in addition to the technological innovation, since the forum is set to explore the latest AI

developments in this area, along with the Blockchain technology.

Speaking to QNA, the Chairman of Qatar Chamber (QC) Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani affirmed that the Qatar Economic Forum 2024 – which begins today – confirms Qatar's standing as a pioneering global hub for business and investment and capable of hosting major events, pointing out that the forums has become a unique platform to discuss global issues and explore new horizons for economic cooperation among countries of the world.

The theme of this year's forum indicates that the global economy today is in a state of flux and is beset by numerous fluctuations that require reinforced co-operation and solidarity among all states and relevant bodies to surmount future challenges that must be proactively navigated through enhancing innovation, technological advancement and promoting sustainability principles, he highlighted.

The forum draws over 1,000 world figures and leaders to discuss issues facing today's economic scene and shed the light on the long-term vision adopted by Media City Qatar and Bloomberg to spur the global economic discourse. The Chairman of QC un-



Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani



Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei



with pivotal economic, political, and humanitarian roles in the international community.

Opting for this year's theme by the organising committee clearly translates the reality of the current world and the ambition that promotes the forums conversations into achieving breakthroughs, unearthing myriad problems facing the world and exploring solutions accordingly, Dr al-Shaibei highlighted.

He added that the forum's theme signifies the fact that the world is in a state of flux, whether in the geopolitical situation, or the rise of emerging powers in the pyramid of global wealth distribution, along with the steadfast global competitiveness for resources and energy and occasional propensity for intense polarisation that engenders multiple crises.

The Qatar Economic Forum gives foremost attention to an overwhelming challenge, primarily navigating the year of uncertainty as the theme implies, Dr al-Shaibei outlined, emphasising that navigating the uncertainty entirely requires collaboration, dialogue, positive spirit, and the intention to offer openness, flexibility and accepting the compromise that serves various parties.

QEF: One of most prominent business forums in the region

QNA
Doha

Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) has established itself over recent years as one of the most prominent and influential business forums in the region, and the most serious in enriching dialogue on strategic issues that top the priorities of the global economy, as a way to diagnose its current situation and anticipate its future trends.

Through its focus on global challenges that affect societies and economies around the world, and covering the pillars of the international economy, whether in terms of trade and its connection to energy, investment, modern technology, or the general mood of consumers, as well as geopolitical turmoil and its complicated effects, the forum has emerged as one of the most important events in terms of strengthening international partnerships.

Last year, the forum witnessed the signing of eight memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to build new alliances, which confirms the position of Qatar as a central hub for talks and investment, and its great role in the international business sector. Qatar Economic Forum 2024, which brings together more than 1,000 world leaders, intellectual figures and decision-makers from about 50 countries, will be held during a situation in which the Middle East region is facing the economic consequences of the war in the Gaza Strip and the disruption of navigation in the Red Sea, along with other fears in the world regarding the expansion of a conflict that has entered its third year between Russia and Ukraine and the subsequent cut off of Russian gas from Europe.

These geopolitical developments do not seem to be the only

thing preoccupying the world, as the post-pandemic challenges also strike it to the core. Indeed, inflation has reached high levels, climate change threatens catastrophes, rapid transformations in economic relations, in addition to changes in the fields of technology, energy, and trade; these together are transformations that would have far-reaching repercussions on the global economy, which makes the theme of the current edition of the forum, “A World Remade: Navigating the Year of Uncertainty”, accurately reflect the current global conditions.

In this international circumstance full of challenges, and where there is a growing need for constructive dialogues that shed light on the pressing issues sweeping the economic field in particular, and where decision-makers from all over the world aspire to shape a more sustainable and dynamic economic future, the importance of the 4th edition of QEF which is organised by Media City Qatar and powered by Bloomberg, is not only for Qatar and the countries of the region, but for the entire world.

Based on this, the topics of this session of the QEF were carefully designed to examine and investigate pressing issues such as “geopolitics, globalization, and trade”, where the extent of the impact of the development of politics on investment flows, supply chains, and the international economy will be examined. It will also address “business and investment outlook”, which will provide insights into market growth and economic trends. During these discussions, and under the topic of “energy transitions”, energy sector experts will examine the future of liquefied natural gas and ways to stimulate the transition towards sustainable energy in in-depth analyses.

As for “sports and entertainment”, those in charge of this sec-

tor will unveil a package of changes that will sweep an industry whose investments are estimated at billions of dollars. In the field of “technology innovation”, the latest developments in artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain technology and others will be explored. In other side sessions, the forum discusses topics including new opportunities for economic diversification, stimulating growth in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, opportunities for responsible investment, activating environmental, social and corporate governance practices, ways to transition to a green environment through creating environmentally friendly businesses that combine sustainability and profitability, as well as reshaping global trade in a fragmented world and how to diversify the supply chain.

Commenting on the importance of the agenda discussed at the current edition of the forum regarding the environmental aspect, Chairman of Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) and Chairman of Global Carbon Council, Dr Yousef Mohamed al-Horr, told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the economic growth of any country should not come at the expense of a liveable environment for future generations, calling for this requirement to be part of a comprehensive approach that takes into account the long-term consequences of climate change.

Environmental development, as an integral part of the Qatar National Vision 2030, and one of its four basic pillars, was given priority by the state of Qatar to ensure the promotion of economic growth in harmony with nature. Through the implementation of the Qatar National Strategy for Environment and Climate Change, the country has set a definitive roadmap to achieve a 25% emissions reduction by 2030. **(QNA)**

MoEHE inaugurates vocational tracks exhibition for students with disabilities

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) opened the second technical and vocational tracks exhibition for students with disabilities for the academic year 2023-2024. Inaugurated by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, the two-day event aims to highlight the achievements of this category of students in vocational and technical tracks to the public.

A total of 24 schools and centres for people with disabilities are participating. The exhibition also contributes to qualifying, training and empowering students with disabilities and providing them with the necessary skills to join the labour market in the future in a way that suits their capacities.

Director of the MoEHE's Department of Special Education and Inclusive Education, Fatima



Saeed Salem al-Saadi, said in a statement that the event comes out of the MoEHE's interest in students with disabilities, and its keenness to provide vocational and educational tracks that suit the abilities and needs of each of them, and to highlight their achievements and the outcomes of their creative and distinguished abilities, and enhancing their training, vocational and technical skills.

She explained that all inclusive secondary and specialised schools, such as the Al Hidaya Special Needs Schools, par-

ticipate in the exhibition, whose technical track includes computer-related aspects, electronic activities, printing and packaging, while the vocational track includes activities concerned with glass painting, artwork, handicrafts, sculpture works, among others.

Al-Saadi pointed out that the students' tracks are determined in terms of his abilities, needs and professional inclinations, stressing the importance of the exhibition in introducing and educating society about the capabilities of this group of students.

MoEHE announces co-operation initiative with Cisco academy

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), represented by the Information Technology Section of the Educational Guidance Department announced a co-operation initiative with Cisco Global Academy, with the implementation of its pilot phase in 10 secondary schools for boys and girls until July 2024.

According to a statement by the MoEHE, the initiative aims to provide the necessary technical training for students of the technological track in grades 11 and 12, in addition to training computer teachers and information technology coordinators in cybersecurity, computer networks, programming and data science, operating

systems, and information technology.

The MoEHE said that the content of these fields has been harmonised with the curricula and study units of the technological track. The initiative also aims to prepare the technological and scientific track students and prepare them to enrol in colleges that offer various technical and technological tracks. It also aims to provide them with a set of modern training programmes and accompaniments approved by international institutions by employing the content of the Cisco Academy platform to enhance their digital competencies, enabling them to access this content to follow up on their

achievement and to pass the electronic tests prepared for this by the procedures followed. The platform includes various training courses in cybersecurity, computer networks, programming, data science, and artificial intelligence. In this context, Senior IT Guidance Expert at the Educational Guidance Department Aisha al-Mansoori said: “The implementation of the co-operation initiative with Cisco Academy comes as part of the ministry's efforts to provide the educational field with a package of innovative initiatives that support teaching and learning processes in the technological field, especially in programming, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.” **(QNA)**



Environment minister meets US think tank leaders, mayors




HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met yesterday with representatives of several think tanks in the US who assumed critical positions in the consecutive US governments, on the sidelines of their participation in Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) set to kick off today. During the meeting, the US delegation was briefed on Qatar-backed efforts and vision pertaining to climate change issues at the regional and global levels, as part of Qatar's international obligations. Additionally, the meeting discussed a number of national milestones to achieve sustainable development, which included adoption of clean energy, optimal utilisation of war, air quality improvement, as well as increasing green spaces and hosting the 2022 Qatar World Cup as a first carbon neutral tournament in the history of the football World Cup championships.

● HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met with the mayors of several US cities who are in Doha to participate in the three-day Qatar Economic Forum 2024 which gets under way today. They discussed a number of topics of mutual interest, most notably supporting collective action regarding climate change and adapting to its effects, as well as working to achieve environmental sustainability and preserve biodiversity. **(QNA)**

AlKhatер holds phone call with UN official

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatер held yesterday a phone call with UN Undersecretary-General, Executive Director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Jorge Moreira da Silva. The conversation discussed co-operation between Qatar and the UN and ways to enhance and develop them, as well as the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as ways to bring humanitarian aid into all areas of the Strip without obstacles. Moreover, the call discussed the developments in Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. **(QNA)**




The Transport Company
MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following Auction:


Sr. No.	Auction Ref. No.	Auction Title	Auction Fee	Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission dates	Bid Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	AUC-02-MTS-2024	Disposal of Used Buses	N/A	14 to 21 May 2024	10% of the Bid Value	09 June 2024

CONDITIONS:


- Those wishing to participate in the auction must send the following required documents as per the below auction dates to ohussain@mowasalat.com and Cc.abharti@mowasalat.com
 - Copy I. D. Card for Individuals (Original to be presented during the site visit).
 - Copy of Commercial Registration & Computer Card.
 - Authorization letter for individuals and companies.
 - Categories allowed to enter the auction: All applicable categories to traffic law No. (19) for the year 2007.
- Auction documents will be released via email on the next working day after the Expression of Interests (EOI) submission due dates to all bidders who have submitted their EOI.
- Auction Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the Auction documents. **Bids without Bid Bond shall not be considered.**
- Bids validity:** Bid validity period shall be 120 days from the bid closing date.
- For Auction documents submission:** Envelope #1 must contain hard & electronic copy of the Proposal (BOQ), Commercial Registration, Computer Card (copy) and other Legal documents with the Collection Plan of the Proposed vehicles from Mowasalat's yard. The envelope should be labeled: **NO. AUC-02-MTS2024- Disposal of Used Buses**".
- Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is **12.00 noon Doha Local Time** as on the Bid closing date shown above. The envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary-Tenders Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any bid submitted after the deadline will not be considered.




Supplier Registration




Mowasalat Location




karwa




dohalimousine



karwa services



Karwa Academy



Karwa Technologies

Minister praises students' environmental awareness

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, praised the environmental awareness among students of public schools, which contributed to their winning distinguished awards.

During yesterday's honouring ceremony of the students who achieved top places in the 2024 environmental drawing and essay competition organised by the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) in Kuwait, the minister highlighted that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change spares no effort in promoting environmental culture and sustainable awareness among students.

He emphasised the importance of all sectors of society coming together to support the country's efforts in environmental protection and biodiversity enrichment in Qatar.

His Excellency affirmed the ministry's continued educational campaign, organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, to enhance environmental awareness among all state school students, aiming to instil a culture of protecting and conserving the local environment as a national heritage. He noted that this initiative is part of achieving Qatar's Vision 2030 and



fulfilling the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy. A total of seven students from Qatar secured first places in the 2024 environmental drawing and essay competition for schools from ROPME member countries.

The competition held in Kuwait celebrated regional environment student Aisha Zaid Abdullah al-Saadi from Al Wakra Secondary Girls' School. On the national level, winners in the environmental drawing category included student Nouf Ali al-Jamouria from Al Wakra Secondary Girls' School, student Hamad Saad al-Misnad from Al Khor Academy, and student Aisha Mohamed Ahmed Jasim from Al Wakra Secondary Girls' School. In the environmental essay cat-

egory at the national level, the top three places were secured by students Joudy Wael Abdulrahim Saad from Zubeidah Secondary Girls' School, Abdulrahman Sayed Abu Shahia from Tariq Bin Ziyad Secondary Boys' School and Duaa Saleh Muthanna al-Awlaqi from Al Iman Secondary Girls' School.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs co-ordinated with state schools keen to participate in the competition, selecting 25 students in the categories of the prize, which focused on the theme of the impact of coral reef degradation on marine life and beaches.

The contest saw a large number of students from schools across the region participating. **(QNA)**

Qatar, US co-operation for digital technology investments discussed

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) discussed investment co-operation prospects and explored new partnership opportunities in the digital technology sector in a roundtable meeting with a high-level US Chamber of Commerce delegation. The meeting, chaired by Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs at MCIT, Reem al-Mansoori, and Director of Digital Innovation Department at MCIT, Eman Ahmad al-Kuwari, included representatives from leading American technology and communications companies and officials from the US Chamber of Commerce. Also present were American business leaders from multinational companies, SMEs and startups across various sectors, including finance, oil and gas, renewables, agriculture, food, water, infrastructure and construction, technology, healthcare,



and transportation and logistics. The discussions focused on strengthening economic relations between the countries, exploring investment collaboration opportunities for businesses already operating in Qatar, and discussing strategies for attracting investors interested in entering the Qatari market. Al-Mansoori emphasised the importance of this meeting and its role in enhancing communications and information technology co-operation between the



countries, encouraging investment in these areas, and presenting available opportunities. "We are committed to enhancing co-operation in the field of communications and information technology with local and international partners to achieve sustainable development and to stimulate the digital economy in line with the Digital Agenda 2030," she said. **(QNA)**

NHRC chief appeals for pressuring Israel to end brutal war on Gaza

Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah called for pressure on the Israeli occupation to halt its brutal war and aggression on the Gaza Strip, stopping the genocide against the Palestinian people, addressing its consequences, and restoring confidence in international law, human rights, and their instruments, thereby contributing to international security and peace.

She made these remarks during her speech at the seminar organised by the National Human Rights Committee in collaboration with the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine and the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, held at the UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on the implementation of the International Court of Justice's orders on the responsibility of third states to prevent genocide in Gaza.

She emphasised that the seminar provided an opportunity to explore ways to stop the genocide being carried out by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in Gaza for more than two hundred days, noting that the war has caused destruction, tragedies and violations exceeding those committed during World War II.

She stressed that the world's ongoing witness to these events requires an international community stance in fulfilling its responsibilities to protect civilians. She affirmed that the Israeli occupation's crimes have reached unbearable levels, rendering life in Gaza impossible amid the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people in the region.

She called for necessity in urging governments to respect the International Court of Justice's decisions and UN Security Council resolutions, which call for ending killings and destruction, ensuring the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and discussing and clarifying the roles of stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, in compelling states to fulfil their obligations as third parties under international law.

She urged more efforts to push




governments to fulfil their responsibilities as third parties under international law to pressure the Israeli oc-

cupation to stop its brutal war and aggression on Gaza, halt the genocide against our Palestinian people, and address its consequences.

Director General of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights Dr Ammar Dwaik, said that the International Court of Justice's decision obligates states to act on the basis that Israel is vio-

lating its obligations under the Genocide Convention, including preventing and committing crime.

Chairperson of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt ambassador Moshira Khatib emphasised that what is happening in Palestine contradicts the obligations and requirements stipulated by the Genocide Convention. **(QNA)**



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
QF-RFQ-501	Oracle Identity and Access Management Architecture and Security Assessment	500.00	N/a	12 th June 2024, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-502	QPHI Research Platform	1,000.00	100,000.00	13 th June 2024, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-503	Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Gym Equipment with 5 years Warranty	1,000.00	N/a	5 th June 2024, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-505	Supply of GUT Stool Collection Kits for Research Analysis	500.00	N/a	5 th June 2024, 2:00 PM
C0-RFQ-161	WCMC HVAC System Study and Consultancy (ASHRAE Standard)	200.00	N/a	5 th June 2024, 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement & Program Management Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:


- Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender[s]. Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.

Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **14th until 21st May 2024**.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
 - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
 - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
 - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
 - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>



QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED
QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fee	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/040/24	Sale of various metals (Nickel, Copper and Zinc) to be recovered from Spent Catalyst	NIL	Qrs. 50,000/-	2 nd June 2024
2	QTC/043/24	Sale of Scrap (consisting of Reactor screens, Waste Heat boilers, Exchangers, Vessels, and Heaters)	NIL	Qrs. 20,000/-	2 nd June 2024

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date** : From **Tuesday, 14th May 2024** (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time** : 08:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Location** : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Validity** : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond** : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- Authorization** : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 - Proper Identification
 - Copy of Company's Commercial Registration
 - Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)



Kevin Li addressing an interactive session at QSTP. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Davinci Motor to set up research centre at QSTP

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Davinci Motor, an innovative technology company from China, has signed a letter of intent (LoI) to set up a Research and Development centre at Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP).

Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Kevin Li, chief technology officer, Davinci Motor, said: “We plan to start our co-operation with QSTP on different levels.”

“We need to have a comprehensive test of our vehicle in line with the weather conditions. We have a talent co-operation with QSTP and the colleges here. We have already launched one of our products in Qatar,” explained Li.

The official said that several models will be launched in the coming years. “Two to three prototypes will be tested in QSTP. Our collaboration with QSTP is aligned with the vision of Qatar and QSTP in AI robotics and green energy. AI is already integrated with our products,” said Li. According to Li, Davinci Motor products are two wheeled robots. “It will help people enjoy better driving experience on

a motorcycle. It will be a brand new experience for the riders as they can try fast acceleration with great smoothness and far more control,” he added. Li also gave a presentation about Davinci Motor products at an interactive session at QSTP.

The LoI, signed by Jingwei Wang, CEO of Davinci Motor reflects the dedication of Davinci Motor to expand its research and development focus on robotic vehicles.

Founded in 2013, with a team of expert engineers from China’s prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing, Davinci Motor aims to create revolutionary experiences in the field of electric mobility. Its DC100, a high-performance and self-balancing electric motorcycle, is a representation of the manufacturer’s advanced engineering and R&D capabilities.

By signing the LoI, Davinci Motor has showcased interest in collaborating with QSTP to further its mission in developing futuristic technologies in smart mobility. At the same time, the manufacturer is keen to help support Qatar in its sustainability efforts, leveraging QSTP’s robust ecosystem to achieve optimal outcomes for its research and de-

velopment efforts. Dr Jack Lau, president of QSTP, said: “We are grateful for the interest that Davinci Motor has shown in collaborating with QSTP. As a pioneering and high-tech innovation company, Davinci Motor’s resolve to use advanced technology to create exceptional and energy-efficient mobility experiences is highly impressive and will be particularly beneficial to Qatar’s national goals around sustainable transport and energy.”

According to the LoI, Davinci Motor, aims to promote sustainable solutions as Davinci Motor will seek and utilise opportunities to achieve Qatar’s ambitious sustainability targets.

It will expand research and development as one of the main priorities for Davinci Motor is to set up its R&D facility in Qatar and use it to develop solutions beneficial for Qatar and the region.

The collaboration also aims to nurture top tech talent. Davinci Motor intends to bring high technology talent to Qatar as part of its potential operations. It also aims to offer internship and employment opportunities to local graduates in Qatar, under the guidance of QSTP.

Korea Tourism Organisation reveals plan to woo Middle East visitors

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) outlined its strategic initiatives aimed at attracting visitors from the Middle East, tapping into the lucrative tourism market in the region.

In a statement shared with *Gulf Times*, KTO executive vice-president Hakju Lee shed light on the organisation’s plans to engage with Middle Eastern tourists, particularly targeting their high-spending demographics.

“Although tourists from the Middle East constitute less than 1% of all international visitors to Korea, they spend significantly more, with an average expenditure of \$1,700 – 27% above the overall tourist average of \$1,240. Moreover, they tend to stay longer, with an average visit lasting 10.5 days, compared to the general average of 6.7 days,” he said.

Lee was speaking at the recently held ‘2024 Korea Tourism, Medical, and Culture Festival’, which served as a platform to



Hakju Lee

commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Qatar and South Korea.

The KTO official noted that medical tourists from the Middle East spend an average of KRW15 million each, six times higher than the general average.

He underlined the importance of recognising the Middle East’s growing market potential, especially among the MZ generation (individuals under 54 years old), who are active travellers and enthusiasts of the Korean Wave (Hallyu).

Lee noted that with Qatar boasting a youthful population, ripe for exploration of Korean culture, the market holds promise for future tourism endeavours. To capitalise on this op-

portunity, he said KTO devised a three-pronged approach: First, the organisation plans to target Middle Eastern women with luxury Korean tourism offerings, tailored to their high spending habits and preference for extended stays. This involves developing luxury-themed tourism products and ramping up local promotional efforts.

Second, KTO aims to expand its marketing initiatives to attract Middle Eastern medical tourists, whose spending habits far exceed the general medical tourist average. By shifting focus towards cosmetic and dental treatments, the organisation seeks to appeal to this lucrative segment of the market.

“Lastly, our goal is to grow the Free Independent Traveler market by targeting the MZ generation with enhanced online engagement and marketing strategies.

“We plan to deliver trendy and appealing content specifically designed for young women of the Middle Eastern MZ generation, utilising their preferred social media channels as the primary means of communication,” Lee said.

UDST honours Ashghal staff for training completion

Continuing and Professional Education at UDST held a certificate distribution ceremony for the Public Works Authority (Ashghal)’s staff following the completion of a 14-week training programme on administrative development.

Present at the ceremony were Dr Rachid Benlamri, vice-president, academics at UDST, Hamad Abdulla AlKuwari, director of CPE (Continuing and Professional Education), Dr Abdulla Ali S A Albehaih, assistant HR manager at Ashghal, as well as, members of the university’s faculty and staff.

The Continuing and Professional Education Directorate has tailored the training programme and courses based on the administrative needs of Ashghal. The programme consisted of four modules: workplace professionalism, computer applications, Microsoft Excel and General Eng-



Ashghal staff completed a 14-week training programme at UDST.

lish. The training provided the staff with theoretical knowledge and applied skills related to communication, business etiquette, time management, customer service, business meetings, office management, relationship building and more.

Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST, said: “As an applied university, our commitment does not end at graduation; we endeavour to provide organisations and individuals with continu-

ing educational and professional growth opportunities. Our tailored training solutions cater to the diverse developmental needs of professionals in both the public and private sectors, ensuring flexibility and tangible benefits.”

AlKuwari, said: “Today marks a celebration of our fruitful partnership with Ashghal. CPE has equipped Ashghal’s administrative staff with essential skills, knowledge within their workplace.”

‘Mango Mania’ unveiled at LuLu Hypermarket

LuLu Hypermarket has unveiled its highly anticipated ‘Mango Mania’ festival, featuring an array of over 75 varieties sourced from 11 countries across the globe.

The festival, concluding tomorrow (Wednesday) has popular mangoes from India, Yemen, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia, Colombia, Brazil and Mexico, a statement said yesterday.

The favourites such as Alphonso, Badami, Mango Yemen, Tottapuri, Mango Colombia, Rajapuri, Dilpasanth, Philip-pines Mango, Neelam, and many more are available.

A LuLu spokesperson, said: “We have spared no effort in procuring the finest-quality mangoes from 11 countries exclusively for our valued patrons. At LuLu Hypermarkets, our commitment has always been to our shoppers, and we endeavour to provide them with nothing but the best.”



LuLu’s culinary experts have meticulously crafted a menu for this promotion, featuring a wide spectrum of dishes across the hot food, salad, bakery and beverage sections. From Mango Fish Curry and Mango Chicken Salad to Mango Chia Pudding and Mango Lassi, there’s something to delight every mango aficionado.

The promotion also offers special mango delicacies, pickled mangoes, as well as mango preserves, smoothies, pulps, juices, jellies and jams. LuLu Hypermarkets also has the following ongoing offers: Shop to win 1 million Cash Prize/Gift Voucher & 1 million Happiness Loyalty Points, valid until August 3 (spend QR50 or more at any LuLu Hypermarket store and receive an e-rafale coupon); Spend and Save, valid until



May 22 (spend QR100 or more on supermarket products and instantly receive a QR25 LuLu voucher), the statement added.

Chapati & Karak set to expand to Malaysia



Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, chairman of Aspire Katara Investment Company and general manager of Katara - the Cultural Village, signed a partnership agreement with Mahran Mohamed Saleh, CEO of the Malaysian company “Lemana Ventures Sdn Bhd”, and Hazima Zainuddin, chairperson of Bernas Company.

The agreement aims to establish a new branch of Chapati & Karak restaurant in Malaysia, marking the first Qatari brand specialising in food and beverages to

open in Malaysia and the East Asia region, a statement from Katara said yesterday. At a press conference, Dr al-Sulaiti pointed out that the establishment of a new branch of Chapati & Karak restaurant in Malaysia crowns the partnership and co-operation between Aspire Katara Investment and Lemana Ventures Sdn Bhd, aiming to provide distinguished Qatari hospitality services. Chapati & Karak has become one of the most popular Qatari brands in the food and beverage sector, offering meals and drinks

enjoyed by Qataris, GCC citizens, and tourists worldwide, he said.

Prof al-Sulaiti expressed hope that this partnership would see further development to provide investment opportunities in Asia, serving mutual co-operation in culture, tourism, and hospitality, enhancing bilateral relations and achieving added economic value for the benefit of people.

“This project signifies the close relationship between Qatari and Malaysian cultures on various levels,” Prof al-Sulaiti added.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ANNA MARIE OLANO SOSA
holder of
Philippines Passport No. P6081852C
QID No. 29560803069
hereby change my name
from
ANNA MARIE OLANO SOSA
to
ANNA MARIE SOSA ALMAZAR

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, FARIQ AVARANKUTTY JAMALUDHEEN
holder of
INDIAN Passport No. T4993952
QID No. 28435602080
hereby change my name
from
FARIQ AVARANKUTTY JAMALUDHEEN
to
FARIQ AVARANKUTTY MUSALIARAKAM

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



LuLu Hypermarket supports QC efforts to save infant with rare illness

LuLu Hypermarket Qatar has donated QR100,000 to support Qatar Charity (QC) in the treatment of Malkha Rouhi, an infant with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type-1. The contribution reflects LuLu Hypermarket's unwavering commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and its steadfast dedication to fostering positive change within the community, a statement said. Ali al-Ghareeb, director of the Resource Development Department at QC, accepted the donation from Shajian M Q, regional director of LuLu Hypermarket Qatar. Al-Ghareeb extended his appreciation to LuLu Group for supporting Rouhi's



OC's Ali al-Ghareeb receiving the cheque from LuLu's Shaijan M O

treatment. He noted that collective efforts are needed to combat the infant's rare disease.

According to al-Ghareeb, the estimated cost of Rouhi's treatment is QR12mn. He urged individuals and companies to continue

supporting QC's drive to swiftly secure the required funds for the treatment. Shajian expressed his honour in supporting Rouhi's treatment through QC. He said: "We firmly believe in the strength of collective action and take pride in standing alongside Qatar Charity in this noble cause. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with baby Malkha Rouhi and her family as they navigate through these challenging times, and we fervently hope for her speedy recovery." "It is our firm belief that every child deserves a chance for a healthy life, and we consider it a privilege to make that a reality. At LuLu Group International, extending a

helping hand to those in need, especially concerning the health and well-being of children in our communities, is not just a responsibility but a core value.

"Together with Qatar Charity, we are dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most." Rouhi, a four-month-old infant residing in Qatar, was diagnosed with SMA Type-1 and requires expensive medicines and gene therapy. Patients diagnosed with SMA Type-1 face progressive muscle weakness, respiratory failure, and swallowing difficulties. Without treatment, many of these patients do not survive beyond their first year of life.

Qatar Charity campaign gathers business, community support

Qatar Charity (QC) has received donations from both the Care n Cure group and the Qatar Indian Pravasi Association (Qipa) towards covering the treatment cost of Milkha Rouhi, a four-month baby battling Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type-1. The estimated cost of her treatment is QR12mn.

Both contributions, according to a statement from QC, come within the framework of their social responsibility.

Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, CEO's assistant for the Resources Development and Media Sector at QC, received the donation cheque for QR50,000 from Shana Abdurahiman, director of Care n Cure Group.

Ali al-Greeb, director of the Resource Development Department, QC, received the donation cheque worth QR107,000 from Nishad Hassankutty, general secretary of Qipa.

Al-Greeb expressed his gratitude and appreciation to both the Care n Cure group and Qipa for their generous contribution to the treatment of the baby Malkha Rouhi. He also urged people, both citizens and residents to support



QC's campaign to complete the fundraising for the baby treatment.

"The collection was completed through a salary challenge where our employees came forward to gladly donate an amount from their monthly earnings," said Shana Abdurahaman.

“Recognising that there is still a long road ahead, we are determined to continue our efforts. We will be turning to our beloved customers and our valued external stakeholders, for their support in this cause. They can donate through our pharmacies in cash and via their bank card as well as through our POS integration to provide hope and assistance to

Baby Malkha and her family during this challenging time," she added.

Nishad Hassankutty stated that Qipa's donation represents collective voluntary efforts by many individuals through a 'Biryani Challenge', which sold 6000 biryani meals in various areas of Qatar in collaboration with Hasaath Sports (Limousine Drivers Association).

QC has launched a fundraising campaign for the treatment of this rare case, urging individuals and companies to contribute to providing the necessary treatment to save her life. Donations can be made to the campaign through the following link: qch.qa/malkha

Organisations join hands for Indian baby's treatment

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

In a gesture of goodwill and kindness, community organisations, expatriate groups and business institutions have come together to support the treatment for the ailing Indian baby Malkha Rouhi.

Under the aegis of Qatar Charity (QC), the entities are working to amass the lofty amount of QR11,654,028.75 by reaching out to the public.

Daughter of Risal Abdul Rasheed and Nihala Nizam, Malkha is undergoing treatment at Sidra Medicine with Type 1 Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). She has been suggested gene replacement therapy and certain expensive drugs which are beyond Malkha's family's reach.

The Qatar Indian Pravasi Association (Qipa) and Qatar Malayalees recently organised 'Biriyani Challenge' campaigns where biriyani was distributed on pre-order to the benefactors who made donations.

"We could reach 6,000 donors even though the initial plan was to distribute 5,000 biriyani kits," Qipa general secretary Nishad Hassankut-



Ojpa officials hand over the amount raised to OC.



'Qatar Malayalees' volunteers prepare food kits during the 'Birivani Challenge' campaign.

ty told *Gulf Times*. Qipa had around 100 volunteers, including 60 from Hasaath Limousine Drivers Association in Oatar.

“With a high morale, our volunteers reached out to even remote places to distribute the food packets on time,” said Qipa secretary Anna Sajin. One of the key practices by Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan is organising iftar parties and distributing food among those who fast. The organisation handed over QR107,000 to QC officials and a special drive is going on through social media platforms.

Qatar Malayalees' raised a sum of QR75,306 while distributing 5,000 biriyani kits. The target, according to key functionary Bilal K T, was achieved after 150 volunteers along with 30 co-ordinators worked tirelessly.

The second 'Biriyani Challenge' campaign by the collective will be held on May 24.

QC has urged all to donate for the treatment of Malkha. "Our campaign has started to evoke a response from benefactors. Active support from organisations and individuals can help us achieve the goal. We are calling for all to participate in the campaign to help the ailing kid," Khalid Abdulla al-Yafie, director of the Customer Service Department at QC earlier told Gulf Times.

The drive for Malkha, according to the QC website, has so far collected QR 2,416,000 with case number 206863 under licence: LC2023QTCH07-000032. Contributions can be made through the official website www.qch.qa/Malkha.

Among the business groups

and organisations that announced support for the drive are: Naseem Health Care, Ali International Trading Establishment, Well Care Group, Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre, Indian Community Charity Fund, Qatar Sparsham, Engineers Forum Qatar, Nadumuttam Qatar and Indian Doctors Club-Qatar.

Various Indian community organisations have decided to strengthen the campaign and urged individuals, institutions and business groups to support the drive. "Far to go to achieve the goal. Efforts are on to ensure the participation of individuals and corporate groups. We urge all to come and support the initiative," said Indian Community Benevolent Forum president Shanavas Bava.



59.50 Qr.
كيس حليب نيدو مسحوق ٢٢٥٠ جم
Nido Milk Powder Pouch 2250gm



10.00 Qr.
ساديا برجر لحم جامبو ١٠ قطع ١٠٠٠ جرام
Sadia Jumbo Beef Burger 10Pcs 1000gm



15.00 Qr.
مشروب سن توب ١٢٥ مل × ١٨ قطع متنوعة
Sun Top Drink 125ml x 18Pcs Asstd



14.00 Qr.
كاجو ٥٠٠ جم
Cashew Nut 500gm



15.00 Qr.
كادبوري اوريو ديري ميلك كيس صغير ١٥٩.٥٩ جم × ٢ قطعة
Cadbury Oreo Milk Mini Bag 159.59gm x 2Pcs



20.00 Qr.
كولجيت معجون ابيض حماية ضد التسوس ١٥٠×٤ مل
Colgate Toothpaste Mcp 4x150ml



25.00 Qr.
دالفا قارورة فراغ ١.٠ لتر
Always Vacuum Flask 1.0Ltr Asstd



25.00 Qr.
إيكوسوفت حذاء نسائي (تشكيلة متنوعة)
Ecosoft Ladies Shoe Assorted



19.00 Qr.
تي شيرت أساسي للرجال من كووبربرج
Cooperberg Mens Basic T-Shirt



35.00 Qr.
سجاد تركي ١٦٠×٢٥٠ سم
Carpet Turkey 160 x 250cm

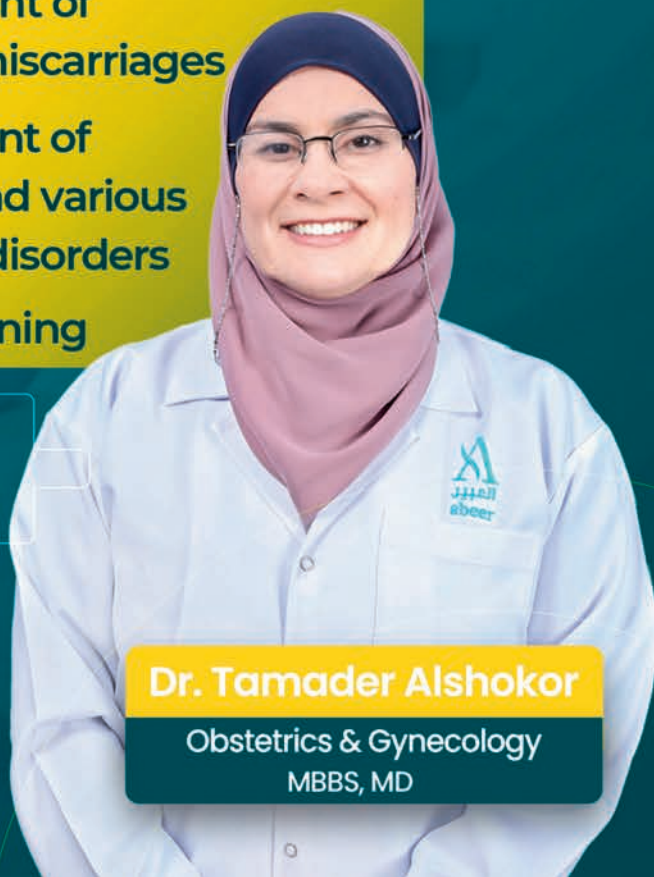


www.ravahypermarket.com



OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

- Management of High-risk pregnancies
- Management of various gynecological diseases & infections
- Management of recurrent miscarriages
- Management of infertility and various menstrual disorders
- Family planning



abeergroup.com/qatar

More Info:
7771 5678

Dr. Tamader Alshokor
Obstetrics & Gynecology
MBBS, MD

If your business falls within these Industries,
you're in for a stroke of good fortune.



CLEANING
SERVICES



FOOD
DELIVERY



HEALTH
SERVICES



REAL
ESTATE



TYRE AND
BATTERY

Seize the opportunity to give your business an exclusive boost
by featuring an ad on our TUESDAY special advertising page.

Contact: gtadv@gulf-times.com or 444 666 21

GULF TIMES

Now available at all leading stores



Exclusive Distributor: Al Maya International WLL, Doha-Qatar
T: 4441 6441 / 4441 0890 - E-mail: almaya@almayaqatar.com.qa

BESTUNE T99 THE DEFINITION OF ELEGANCE

2 YEAR OR 40,000 KM
FREE SERVICE
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

1 YEAR
COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE

1 YEAR
FREE REGISTRATION



6 YEARS/200,000 KM
WARRANTY/WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

10 %
DOWN PAYMENT

HOTLINE **800 7553**



الريادة للسيارات
PIONEER MOTORS

ALMANA GROUP
مجموعة المنى

SCAN HERE



Shop with
Confidence
For Complaints
and Inquiries: 16001
License number: 3575/2024

* Terms & conditions apply
This offer is valid from 8th May to 30th June 2024

[f Bestune Qatar](#) [@ bestune.qatar](#) [bestune_qatar](#) [bestuneqa](#)

QC a key partner at meeting on Gaza humanitarian crisis

A delegation from Qatar Charity (QC), headed by chief executive Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, participated in the 9th Conference on Effective Partnership for Better Humanitarian Aid, held in Kuwait under the patronage of the Kuwaiti prime minister and organised by the International Islamic Charitable Organisation.

The event was held in co-ordination and partnership with the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and several other humanitarian organisations, with support and co-operation of many strategic partners, including the QC, a statement said.

The conference focused on assessing the reality of humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip, mobilising efforts of humanitarian organisations to manage sustainable humanitarian intervention, offering initiatives and solutions to meet these needs, and sharing common expertise in the early recovery.

Al-Kuwari said that the QC is a strategic partner for the conference, given its humanitarian work amidst the ongoing crisis in the Gaza Strip.

He emphasised the importance of mobilising support from humanitarian organisations world-



wide to meet the needs of the people in Gaza.

He affirmed that the QC places the humanitarian and developmental needs of the Palestinian people at the top of its priorities for assistance.

During his opening speech at the conference, he elaborated that the QC, with the support of philanthropists in Qatar, has extended a helping hand to the people of the Gaza Strip for more than 200 days amidst the escalating humanitarian crisis gripping the region.

Al-Kuwari highlighted that the QC, in collaboration with the Qatar Fund for Development and various Qatar-based organisations, participated in sending 95 aircraft transporting over 2,800 tonnes of aid, comprising 845 tonnes of food supplies, 1,600 tents, and 44,000 packages of medical supplies, shelter kits, and clothing.

At the end of his speech, he emphasised that the QC will continue to support the people of Palestine as a humanitarian duty and stand by them in the face of their difficult

circumstances.

The one-day conference, which is made up of five sessions, discussed the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, means of delivering aid, civilians' protection, and the need of expanding response as well as the repercussions of forced displacement and ways of getting basic needs.

The closing session witnessed the launch of a humanitarian initiative, Sanad, to enhance humanitarian intervention and early recovery in Gaza.

Polish president arrives



Polish President Andrzej Duda arrived in Doha yesterday on a working visit to the country. He and the accompanying delegation were welcomed by HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi on arrival at Hamad International Airport. **(QNA)**

Qatar plane with aid for flood survivors reaches Afghanistan



A Qatar Armed Forces aircraft touched down yesterday in Afghanistan's Mazar-e-Sharif Airport with 22 tonnes of aid onboard. The aid, including shelter supplies from the Qatar Fund for Development, is part of Qatar's support for Afghanistan and its people, and for those affected by the floods that struck the northern Afghan province of Baghlan. **- QNA**

QU, African universities sign collaboration agreement

Qatar University (QU) has signed an agreement bringing together the QU's College of Business and Economics and a number of prominent business schools across the African continent, including the Business School at Tanzania's University of Dar es Salaam, the University of the Gambia, the University of Ghana's Business School, the University of Nairobi in Kenya, and Addis Ababa University's College of Business and Economics in Ethiopia.

This agreement is aimed at catalysing a qualitative leap in business education in Africa through enhancing curriculum development, scientific research, and strategic management.

QU president Dr Omar al-Ansari stated that this agreement, supported by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), marks the beginning of a journey in cross-border and cross-cultural academic solidarity, serving as a platform to strengthen ties of communication and mutual benefit among our educational institutions.

This initiative embodies the spirit of solidarity and underscores the importance of academic co-operation in building a dynamic framework for education, improving curricula, and enhancing research capacity.

"With this support, we empower faculty members and students to become active contributors to their communities, opening new avenues for continuous collaboration and innovation to address global challenges," he said. "The partnership with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for this initiative reinforces alignment towards academic excellence and the development of high-quality education that aligns with global standards."

"The Qatar Fund for Development has aimed to enhance the quality of business education



in our partner countries through intellectual exchanges, capacity-building initiatives, and strategic collaboration," said HE the Director-General of the QFFD Khalifa al-Kuwari.

"Our goal is to stimulate economic growth, foster innovation, and empower individuals to realise their full potential by strengthening partnerships with organisations such as the Association of Africa Business Schools (AABS) and international accreditation bodies," he said.

"This ensures that our efforts are based on excellence and aligned with the best global edu-

cational practices," HE al-Kuwari added.

"By bringing together top business schools from across Africa, we are building a foundation for continuous improvement and shared success," said Dean of the QU College of Business and Economics, Prof Rana Sobh. "This ceremony is not just a formality but a celebration of shared vision and future accomplishments."

"Today's signing is a testament to the power of international co-operation in advancing the quality of business education worldwide," said Ihsan Zakri from the AACSB. **- QNA**

Registration for 'Police Officers of Tomorrow' opens on Sunday

The Police Academy, represented by the Police College, has announced that the registration for the fifth edition of the "Police Officers of Tomorrow" programme (Summer 2024), will open on Sunday via Metrash2 application. The programme will start on June 22 and run until early August.

Addressing a press conference, "Police Officers of Tomorrow" programme committee chairman

Captain Hamad Khaled al-Mannai said that the programme's key objective is to deepen the national identity and patriotism and ingrain them in the hearts of young people. The programme specifically targets students born in 2012-2015. Registration kicks off on Sunday via the Metrash2 application, starting from 7am until 12pm. Inquiries can be sent via WhatsApp number 60004952.

Al-Mannai said that students who had participated in the previous sessions may also subscribe in this edition.

At the same press conference, assistant committee chairman Captain Mohamed Nasser al-Sayed spoke about the mechanisms of registration via Metrash2, along with the steps that should be followed during the registration process. **- QNA**



Symposium on 'Dialogue Among Civilisations' held

A symposium on *Dialogue of Civilisations and Religions in Promoting Family Cohesion* was held as part of activities of the 33rd Doha International Book Fair (DIBF)'s Cultural Salon.

Moderated by Dr Nawzad Abdulrahman al-Hiti, the symposium saw the participation of Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue board vice-chairperson Dr Aisha Youssef al-Mannai and Community College lecturer Dr Hind Mohamed al-Hammadi.

Dr al-Mannai said that the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue had addressed, during its annual and quarterly conferences, round tables and various activities, numerous topics that concern religion and what is considered a common denominator between them.

She added that the Centre, during the sessions of the recent interfaith dialogue conference in Doha, discussed the importance of the family in religions and the importance of religious and educational values that societies must adhere to in order to achieve family integration and solidarity among family members, as well as discussing

the role of religious institutions and civil society organisations in supporting the family.

Dr al-Hammadi discussed the role of religious and cultural dialogue in enhancing family cohesion from the social aspect.

She explained that humans are social beings by nature, living among groups and interacting with others, and cannot live in isolation from them.

Therefore, she said, laws have been enacted that determine how humans should deal with each other, and interact with others to live in peace and achieve peaceful coexistence, which ultimately benefits society.

Dr al-Hammadi said that religious and civilisational dialogue are important for communication, understanding, bringing viewpoints closer, avoiding clashes and violence, confronting the problems and challenges facing societies, and developing sound and healthy relationships.

Meanwhile, at the DIBF's Knowledge Hall a workshop on *Reading Is Another Life* was held, presented by Munira Ali Hamad, a certified trainer in life and management skills, on the importance of reading in building human beings. **- QNA**

Place identity, city aesthetics discussed at DIBF

As part of the cultural activities accompanying the 33rd Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), a symposium on *Identity and Memory of Place* was held on the main stage of the fair.

The symposium was attended by HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani and a group of intellectuals and the book fair audiences.

Engineer and architectural designer Ibrahim al-Jaidah and the artist and writer Mohamed Ali Abdullah participated in the symposium, moderated by urban planning expert Dr Ali Abdullaouf.

Al-Jaidah shed light on the urban development in Qatar since the discovery of oil, as he reviewed a rare collection of photographs, drawings and architectural plans, and discussed the architectural changes that occurred in Doha in the past three decades.

Each decade witnessed events that contributed to the development of the city, he said, pointing to the urban movement during the 1960s, which he called "Arab Deco", a special architectural style that appears in many buildings in Qatar.

Artist Abdullah gave a presentation containing a group of pictures that

show the different styles of architecture, including the architecture of castles, forts, and residential architecture, as well as the architecture of mosques and other buildings, including palaces and houses, and the most important historical memories that are associated with these places.

A symposium on *Aesthetics of Cities*, moderated by writer Jamal Fayeze, saw the participation of Al Wakrah Municipality director Eng Mohamed Hassan al-Nuaimi, Public Works Authority (Ashghal) project manager of the City Beautification Team Eng Jassim al-Fakhro, and visual artist Salman al-Malik.

Al-Nuaimi said that the city of Al Wakrah possesses all the elements that qualified it to obtain the title of a healthy city, having earned it after proper planning and implementation of the requirements within the Qatar 2030 strategy to provide healthcare for all.

He said that the concept of Al Wakrah as a healthy city is not limited to the health sector.

It encompasses, al-Nuaimi said, an integrated system of standards, services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for all in society.

He said that these include increasing green areas, providing walking paths,

preserving heritage buildings, and re-viving markets, adding that the permanent development of services that preserve the health of a city is necessary.

Al-Fakhro spoke about the measures that enhance the beauty of cities.

He noted that Ashghal, through the beautification team, seeks to enhance the cultural scene in Qatar and add artistic touches in different regions of the country by integrating artistic works in the streets and public places, in addition to creating environmentally friendly cities with sustainability and urban development.

He reviewed the most important projects undertaken by the authority, the most prominent of which were downtown Doha and the parks, especially the air-conditioned gardens that have been implemented, as well as the works of art that decorated the city of Doha.

Artist al-Malik addressed the beautification of the city of Doha with artistic works that enhance the aesthetic vision. The 33rd DIBF, which concludes on May 18, boasts of the participation of 515 publishers from 42 countries.

Oman is the guest of honour at this edition of the DIBF, which is taking place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). **- QNA**

Ooredoo, Seashore Group in e-waste recycling pact

Ooredoo has announced an expansion of its partnership with Seashore Group, an e-waste disposal and recycling service provider, a statement said.

The enhanced partnership was formalised through the signing of an agreement for the recycling and CSR activities of common interests.

A successful pilot of this newly expanded e-waste initiative was first launched in 2023 and enabled customers to bring their unwanted devices to select Ooredoo shops, where they were collected by partner Seashore, with the customer receiving Nojoom points as a reward.

The programme was recognised for 'Outstanding Commitment to CSR' at the Qatar CSR Award Ceremony last year.



As part of the new agreement, Ooredoo Qatar will enhance its e-waste collection, disposal, and recycling processes, while Seashore Group will continue to lend its expertise in responsibly managing Waste Electrical and Electronic

Equipment (WEEE), ensuring that the e-waste generated from Ooredoo's operations is processed in an environmentally sound manner.

The collaboration will also include a series of e-waste collection drives, employee engagement programmes, and public awareness

campaigns aimed at promoting the importance of responsible e-waste recycling.

Ooredoo Qatar CEO Sheikh Ali bin Jaber al-Thani, said: "Our partnership with Seashore Group is a pivotal element of our sustainability strategy. Together, we are setting a benchmark for sustainable business practices in the region and helping to cultivate a culture of sustainability that benefits both our community and the planet."

Salem Saeed al-Mohannadi, CEO of Seashore Group, said: "At Seashore Group, we share Ooredoo Qatar's unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and recognise the collective impact we can achieve through collaboration."

NU-Q honours students with Media and Research Awards



Some of the winners of the awards.

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) recognised more than 150 student works, nine of which won research, journalism, and media accolades at the 11th Media and Research Awards.

Every year, students submit academic and creative projects produced both in and outside the classroom across nine categories. Submissions are presented to the wider community and reviewed by a panel of industry professionals.

"For the past 11 years, the Media and Research Awards have recognised immense distinction, and this year is no exception," said Marwan M Kraidy, dean and CEO, NU-Q.

"The student submissions exemplify NU-Q's collective pursuit of academic and creative excellence in the media arts, sciences, and crafts."

The 2024 edition received a record 150 submissions with two brand new categories: sound and interactive media and animation. These included creative writing, documentary, moving images, journalistic writing, narrative fiction, research, and more, addressing emerging social, cultural, and political issues.

Shortlisted projects were judged by industry experts from the Doha Film Institute, Euronews, Qatar Science and Technology Park, Qatar Music Academy, Georgetown University in Qatar, VCUarts Qatar, and several local and international media and communication organisations.

The judges joined the students and the wider community for an open networking session to discuss their projects and ways to support their work both academically and professionally.

Faras Ghani, Al Jazeera news editor and member of the jury, remarked: "What stood out for me was their thorough research and innovative storytelling. Each captured nuance and depth, applying sound journalistic principles and creative flair. It's inspiring to see the next generation of storytellers push the boundaries of traditional journalism and embrace new media platforms to engage audiences."

"The awards brings faculty, staff, and students together to celebrate the pinnacle of student achievement. This has become our hallmark to foster a culture of excellence and innovation in

media and scholarship," said João P Queiroga, 2024 Media and Research Awards Committee chair.

The 2024 Media and Research Awards is one of numerous platforms showcasing NU-Q students' creativity and scholarship.

The 2024 Media and Research Awards winners are: Creative Writing – *Memory in Tibet* by Randolph Liu; Documentary – *House of Memories* by al-Jazi al-Mazroei and Khalid al-Thani; Interactive Media & Animation – *Jumbo: Jewels of Realm* by Khalifa al-Kuwari; Journalistic Writing – *Acid Attacks: A Story of Survival* by Mohamed Wasay Mir and Laiba Mubashar; Journalistic Visual Storytelling – *Mel Aquino: A McDonald's Toy Collector* by Anudit Basnet, Khalid Aldisi, and Tasnim Bouziane; Narrative Fiction – *Umm Al Duwais* by Maryam al-Mohamed, Noora Marafih, Deema al-Ali, and Aisha al-Khanji; Research & Analysis – *Brokers in Migration from Ghana to Qatar* by Ishmael Bonsu Nyame; Sound – *Pour Connection Art* by Samip Khulal and Strategic Communication – *Remember, Refill, Reap-It!* by Sudesh Baniya, Samip Khulal, Anna Kurian, Sadick Mumin, Abenezzer Bekele, and Tasnim Bouziane.

Finnish healthcare seminar today

Finnish healthcare companies supported by the embassy of Finland in Doha, and in strategic collaboration with Biotech Medical Qatar, will organise a Finland Healthcare Seminar today at Sheraton Grand Doha, from 4pm to 9pm, a statement said.

"This seminal event heralds a transformative chapter in fortifying healthcare alliances between Finland and Qatar," stated Biotech Medical Qatar's chairman Mohamed Nasser A al-Misnad.

Aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030 and with a focus on recent advancements and pioneering solutions, the seminar

aims to convene leading experts from diverse healthcare sectors for a comprehensive dialogue, he explained.

The seminar will be opened by the Finnish Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Ville Tavio.

Finnish ambassador to Qatar Pekka Voutilainen is to welcome the gathering.

In his keynote address, Prof Hanan Khalil, a renowned figure in the field, will delve into the evolution of rehabilitation in Qatar. His elucidation on groundbreaking neurological rehabilitation research from Qatar University promises to unveil novel insights and transformative paradigms.

Complementing the discourse, Prof Arto Hautala from the University of Jyväskylä will share expertise in physiotherapy and rehabilitation, shedding light on best practices and emergent trends that are poised to redefine the healthcare landscape.

At the heart of the seminar's agenda is a showcase of an array of 'Made in Finland' medical devices. "This curated showcase serves as a testament to Finland's ingenuity and innovation in pioneering healthcare technology, offering attendees a firsthand glimpse into cutting-edge solutions poised to revolutionise healthcare delivery," the statement added.

Katara receives 171 entries for novel, paintings competition

Katara – Cultural Village has received 171 entries for the Katara Novel and Paintings Competition across the three prize categories.

There are 65 entries in the published novel category, 51 in the unpublished novel category, and 55 in the boys' novel category.

The highest number of entries, 92, came from Egypt and Sudan combined, followed by 38 from the Arab Maghreb, 31 from the Levant and Iraq, and 10 from the GCC countries.

The new edition of the Katara Novel and Paintings Competition will select the best nine cover

The highest number of entries, 92, came from Egypt and Sudan combined, followed by 38 from the Arab Maghreb, 31 from the Levant and Iraq, and 10 from the GCC countries

during October 13-20 each year.

The Katara Novel and Paintings Competition was launched for the first time during the Katara Arabic Novel Festival in its third edition in 2017.

Though, participation in the initial editions of the competition was limited to Qatari artists, in 2020 it was opened to all Arab artists.

The winner of the best cover painting for each novel wins a cash prize of \$500. Besides, the winning painting will be printed on the cover of the novel alongside the name of the artists, while the copyrights will be owned by Katara.

MoCI announces recall of BMW model

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Alfardan Automobiles, has announced the recall of BMW R 1300 GS, 2024 model, as the top-case may not be securely locked and may fall off 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 Ministry of Commerce and Industry 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

WCM-Q researchers publish landmark study into proteins

Researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) have published a study that marks the introduction to Qatar of some of the world's most advanced analytical tools for discovering the links between genetic variations, proteins and a wide range of diseases.

Using a new tool to measure proteins, WCM-Q researchers Dr Karsten Suhre and Dr Frank Schmidt analysed the blood samples of more than 320 individuals from a multi-ethnic cohort in Qatar.

The Proteograph Product Suite, allowed the researchers to quantify more than 18,000 different peptides from more than 3,000 proteins.

Bringing this new tool, provided by the US-based biotechnology company Seer, to WCM-Q further enhances Qatar's emerging status as a leader in the field of proteomics, which is the large-scale study of proteins, their structures, interactions, functions, and their impact on health, a statement said.

Lead author Dr Suhre, professor of physiology and biophysics at WCM-Q, explained: "To understand how genetic diseases function, it is not enough to simply identify the genetic variation that causes the disease. We need to know

more, how genes direct which proteins are synthesised by the body, in what quantities, and how they function.

"So, by analysing the relationships between the natural genetic variations in the human population and their effects on specific proteins we can obtain a deeper understanding of how organisms function as a whole, and also eventually a greater understanding of how genetic diseases come about and how to treat them."

Diseases which are linked to genetic variants in proteins that have been addressed by the study include coronary artery disease, type 2 diabetes, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and atrial fibrillation.

Discovering the complex associations between genetic variants and proteins by merging proteomics and genomics research approaches is considered to be an extremely promising avenue for unearthing new therapies for a wide range of diseases, including cardio and metabolic disorders.

The study, published in *Nature Communications*, a leading scientific journal, provides evidence that the new analytical tool from Seer has enhanced capabilities to perform a



WCM-Q researchers Dr Karsten Suhre and Dr Frank Schmidt.

process called 'protein quantitative trait loci mapping'. This is the identification of links between particular positions on a gene and the presence of a certain amount of a particular protein, which is important because

many serious genetic diseases are caused by protein dysregulation.

Using the tool, the researchers were able to report in the study that they identified 184 protein-altering variants in 137 genes, which they were also able

to associate with corresponding variant peptides, providing extra confirmation of the accuracy of their observations.

Dr Schmidt, associate professor of biochemistry and director of the proteomics core at WCM-Q, said: "To investigate proteins, you need a way to identify and quantify them in samples of human tissue, such as blood. Our study shows that the Seer Proteograph platform enables us to do this with an enhanced level of accuracy and in high quantities—we can identify and quantify more proteins and match them more accurately with the genes that code each protein, so we can build up far more comprehensive and accurate pictures of how genetic variations code for particular formations of proteins, including formations that subsequently cause disease."

Dr Khaled Machacha, professor of research in physiology and senior associate dean for research, innovations, and commercialisation at WCM-Q, said: "Proteomics is an extraordinarily exciting and important area for research, holding huge potential for discoveries with applications in precision medicine, such as the possible development of new therapies for treating inherited genetic diseases, among many other promising avenues."

CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

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

German politicians are facing growing violence

The black-clad attackers beat up Matthias Ecke so badly as he put up posters in Dresden that he needed surgery. In Nordhorn, a man threw eggs at a lawmaker then punched him in the face. In Berlin, a pensioner hit a senator on the head with a bag.

Just three of the assaults that German politicians have suffered over the past week as campaigns get underway for European Parliament and district council elections.

Tensions have always risen ahead of votes. But something has shifted, say parties and analysts. Assaults causing physical injury have surged - 22 on politicians so far in 2024, compared with 27 for all of 2023, the Federal Criminal Police Office said this week.

The atmosphere has also changed, coarsened by the all-out shouting matches stoked by social media and the divisions and rhetoric of populist politics.

"We are observing an affective polarisation. When dissenters become 'enemies'," said Stefan Marschall, a political scientist at the University of Duesseldorf. Reuters spoke to a dozen politicians who described physical and verbal attacks.

Politicians on the campaign trail in the east are taking their own precautions and holding more security workshops

Overall, verbal and physical attacks on politicians in Germany have more than doubled since 2019, according to government data.

The party that has come off the worst is the Greens, the junior partner in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition. Its members reported 1,219 incidents last year, up sevenfold from 2019.

Second on that count is the resurgent far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party with 478 incidents, then Scholz's SPD on 420.

Members of the SPD, the Greens and other parties closer to the centre of the political spectrum blamed the overall souring of the mood and rise in confrontations on AfD rhetoric.

"If you have politicians that officially (say) 'let's hunt them down' ... words shape actions," said Niklas Nienass, a member of the European Parliament for the Greens. In a 2017 speech, former AfD leader Alexander Gauland said the party would hunt down then Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"Nowadays, three men shouting at me that I'm a paedophile or a criminal or 'we will see where the future leads us' or we all belong in front of a wall, is almost I would say business as usual," Nienass added.

The AfD has rejected such accusations outright. Co-leader Alice Weidel said last week that attempts to use the news of attacks for political gains were "vile and irresponsible", and that AfD politicians and members were themselves frequently attacked.

Politicians for the Greens said many of the insults directed at them increasingly had Nazi inflections.

"People will say: go to Buchenwald, for example, or when we get into power we will deal with you," said Max Reschke, head of the Greens in Thuringia. One of four people investigated after the assault on the SPD's European Parliament member Matthias Ecke in Dresden last Friday had right-wing material in his home, police said. The gang that assaulted him, damaging his cheekbone and eye socket, had earlier attacked another Greens campaigner who was also putting up posters.

"It reminded me of the stormtroopers of the 1930s," said Anne-Katrin Haubold, a second Greens campaigner who witnessed the attack, referring to the original paramilitary wing of the Nazis.

Some said they were avoiding publicising campaign events ahead of time and had stopped branding their vehicles to avoid being targeted.

"It's not good because our party members feel insecure if we tell them we now need a police protection in order to do political rallies," said German Green MEP Michael Bloss.

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said this week she wanted to increase legal penalties for attacks on politicians and activists and have more police protection for campaigners.

But the police are already struggling with their current workload, said the head of Germany's largest police union Jochen Kopelke.

Politicians on the campaign trail in eastern Germany said they were taking their own precautions and holding more security workshops. — Reuters

To Advertise
gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display
44466621
44418811

Classified
44466609 44418811
gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription
circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2024 Gulf Times. All rights reserved

The French connection



French President Emmanuel Macron (centre) shakes hands with CEO of Arcelor Mittal, Lakshmi Mittal (third right) as he attends a meeting with French and Indian investors during the seventh "Choose France Summit", aiming to attract foreign investors to the country, at the Chateau de Versailles, outside Paris, yesterday. (Reuters)

Russia can't match Western asset seizure, can inflict pain

By Alexander Marrow
London

Russia's ability to mete out like-for-like retaliation if Western leaders seize its frozen assets has been eroded by dwindling foreign investment, but officials and economists say there are still ways it can strike back.

The United States wants to seize immobilised Russian reserves — around \$300bn globally — and hand them to Ukraine, while EU leaders favour ring-fencing profits from the assets, estimating they will total €15-20bn by 2027.

Much of that money is centrally held, meaning it is accessible if the West decides to go after it.

Reuters spoke to six economists, lawyers and experts who have been tracking the status of assets frozen by both sides since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The consensus among them was that one of the most likely countermeasures would be to confiscate foreign investors' financial assets and securities currently held in special "type-C" accounts, access to which has been blocked since the war started unless Moscow grants a waiver.

Russia does not disclose how much is in the accounts, held by the country's National Settlement Depository, a sanctioned entity. Russian officials have said the amount is comparable to the \$300bn of Russian reserves frozen.

"Payouts on blocked assets in type-C accounts could start to be seized in favour of the state," said Vladimir Yazev, investment

portfolio manager at investment firm Aigenis.

"Additionally, the government may consider measures on blocking non-exchange assets still held by unfriendly countries." These assets include taxes, grants and private donations.

A Russian lawyer familiar with C accounts, who asked not to be named, said that if non-residents decline to take part in an asset swap scheme run by a state-appointed Russian broker, the only remaining option would be confiscation or foreclosure.

Under the scheme, Westerners would get Russians' blocked holdings of foreign securities and Russians get Westerners' blocked holdings of Russian ones. Retail investors wishing to participate have until May 8 to submit offers.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said at the weekend that there was still a lot of Western money in Russia that could be targeted by Moscow's counter-measures. He said the government would also pursue legal challenges against the confiscation of assets.

"Russia...will tirelessly defend its interests," he said.

Medvedev proposed the confiscation of private individuals' Russian assets as one response to any US seizure of its reserves, adding such a move was justified by the "hybrid war" being waged against Moscow.

The former president, who espouses hardline views towards the West, is a close ally of President Vladimir Putin and maintains influence as deputy chairman of the Security Council of Russia.

However, since Western nations imposed sweeping sanctions in response to the invasion of Ukraine, foreign holdings in Russia have dropped by around 40% to \$696bn, central bank data shows, reducing some of the potency of such a threat.

In addition to stakes in companies and physical assets, Russia could target foreign investment held in securities, according to one of the economists, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the subject.

But experts said the latest published figures from Russia's central bank on foreign direct investment showed that a sizeable proportion

of foreign money was likely coming from Russian companies registered abroad.

Russia stopped releasing a country-by-country breakdown after the invasion, but the last such data published for January 1, 2022 showed that Cyprus, where many Russian firms are incorporated, accounted for almost 30% of all Russia's FDI.

Many Russian companies are also incorporated in The Netherlands.

"A chunk of total FDI in Russia is really Russian money already," said Gian Maria Milesi-Ferretti, senior fellow in economic studies at The Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy at the Brookings Institution, a US think-tank.

Russia's state-run RIA news agency reported in January that Western firms' assets worth \$288bn were ripe for seizure in Russia, citing January 2022 data.

Reuters could not determine where RIA took its figures from, but central bank figures showed \$289bn in derivative and other foreign investments at that time.

That figure had fallen to \$215bn by end-2023. RIA also said Cyprus and The Netherlands, respectively, accounted for \$98.3bn and \$50.1bn of those assets, implying a high degree of Russian company ownership.

The central bank and finance ministry did not respond to a request for comment on the figures.

Moscow has already forced foreign companies selling assets in Russia to do so at discounts of at least 50%. It has placed other Western assets under temporary management and installed Kremlin-friendly executives.

Western companies have acknowledged losses totalling \$107bn, a significant sum that goes beyond the value of physical assets.

"Russia has already snatched up affiliates of Western firms, often for a song," said Milesi-Ferretti. But the value of seized assets is not just in buildings and machinery, it is also in the technology, know-how and connections attached, he added.

Energy group Shell, fast food giant McDonald's and carmakers Volkswagen and Renault have sold their Russian businesses. Others including Austrian bank Raiffeisen, food group Nestle and US food and beverage giant PepsiCo continue to do business.

Another area of leverage Moscow has is in Europe, where the Brussels-based depository Euroclear holds the majority of Russia's reserves.

Some politicians in the bloc are nervous that the euro could be adversely affected if other countries such as China — a Russian ally — start repatriating reserves as a precaution against them being swooped on down the line.

There is also the risk that Russia could, through court action, try to seize Euroclear cash in securities depositories in Hong Kong, Dubai and elsewhere. The worry is that this could drain Euroclear capital and require a huge bailout.

A Euroclear spokesperson declined to comment on what Russia might do.

"Euroclear of course takes into account all possible risk scenarios and strengthens its capital by retaining Russian sanction-related profits as a buffer against current and future risks," the spokesperson added.

While its ties with the West have frayed, Russia has used a current account surplus of almost \$300bn in 2022-23 to build up overseas assets - likely in so-called friendly jurisdictions that do not openly oppose the war in Ukraine, according to Milesi-Ferretti.

Russia's efforts to reduce its integration into Western financial systems since its illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 have cut dependence on foreign money, but also limited possible retaliation in any frozen asset fight, he added.

"If the aim is to retaliate, having a smaller amount of assets to seize makes your threat less salient." — Reuters



While its ties with the West have frayed, Russia has used a current account surplus of almost \$300bn in 2022-23 to build up overseas assets - likely in so-called friendly jurisdictions that do not openly oppose the war in Ukraine, according to Milesi-Ferretti.

Voting resumes as Kashmir poised to oppose Modi

AFP
Srinagar

India's six-week election resumed yesterday including in Kashmir, where voters appeared eager to express discontent with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cancellation of their disputed territory's semi-autonomy and the security crackdown that followed.

Modi remains popular across much of India and his Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is widely expected to win the poll when it concludes early next month.

But his government's decision in 2019 to bring Kashmir under its direct rule — and the subsequent clampdown — have been deeply resented among the region's residents, who voted yesterday for the first time since the move.

"I voted for changing the current government. It must happen for our children to have a good future," civil servant Habibullah Parray told AFP.

"Everywhere you go in Kashmir today you find people from outside in charge. Everyone wants that to change."

Boycotts called by rebel groups left few Kashmiris willing to participate in past elections, with just over 14 percent of eligible voters in Srinagar casting a ballot during the last national poll in 2019.

By the time polls closed yesterday, nearly

36% of eligible voters in the constituency had cast a ballot, well below India's average turnout but the highest figure in the constituency in nearly three decades.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947. Both claim it in full and have fought two wars over control of the Himalayan region.

Rebel groups opposed to Indian rule have waged an insurgency since 1989 on the side of the frontier controlled by New Delhi, demanding either independence or a merger with Pakistan.

India accuses Pakistan of backing the insurgents, a charge that Islamabad denies.

The conflict has killed tens of thousands of soldiers, rebels and civilians in the decades since, including a spate of firefights between suspected rebels and security forces in the past month.

Violence has dwindled since the Indian portion of the territory was brought under direct rule five years ago, a move that saw the mass arrest of local political leaders and a months-long telecommunications blackout to forestall expected protests.

Modi's government says its cancelling of Kashmir's special status has brought "peace and development", and it has consistently claimed the move was supported by Kashmiris.

But his party has not fielded any candidates in the Kashmir valley for the first time since 1996, and experts say the BJP



Voters queue up to cast their ballots at a polling station during the fourth phase of voting in India's general election in Srinagar yesterday. (AFP)

would have been roundly defeated if it had.

"They would lose, simple as that," political analyst and historian Sidiq Wahid told AFP last week.

For voters, the election was "a referendum in order to voice their disagreement" with the Modi government's actions in Kashmir, he added.

The BJP has appealed to voters to instead support smaller and newly created par-

ties that have publicly aligned with Modi's policies.

But voters looked set to back one of two established Kashmiri political parties calling for the Modi government's changes to be reversed.

Former chief minister Omar Abdullah, whose National Conference party is campaigning for the restoration of Kashmir's special status, said his allies had urged vot-

ers to make their feelings known.

"The point of view that we want people to send out is that what happened... is not acceptable to them," he told AFP.

Before the changes in 2019, permanent residents in the Muslim-majority territory had enjoyed land and jobs protections.

In rural districts outside Srinagar, the region's biggest city, army soldiers patrolled roads in convoys of bulletproof vehicles.

Several polling booths around the constituency had more than two dozen paramilitary troops guarding voter queues.

India's election is conducted in seven phases over six weeks to ease the immense logistical burden of staging the democratic exercise in the world's most populous country.

More than 968mn people are eligible to vote in India's election, with the final round of polling on June 1 and results expected three days later.

Voter turnout elsewhere in India has so far declined significantly from 2019 to around 66%, according to election commission figures.

Analysts have blamed widespread expectations that Modi will easily win a third term and hotter-than-average temperatures heading into the summer.

India's weather bureau has forecast more hot spells in May and the election commission formed a taskforce last month to review the impact of heat and humidity before each round of voting.

Belousov: The economist in charge of Russia's army

An economist and technocrat with no military background, Russia's new defence minister Andrei Belousov has been tasked with deploying his number-crunching skills and bureaucratic oversight to secure Russian victory against Ukraine.

Belousov has been one of President Vladimir Putin's most trusted and influential advisers and is widely seen as his point man on all things related to the domestic economy. His move to the defence ministry signals a shift in the Kremlin's understanding of the current state of the conflict and of how it can beat Ukraine: by outspending Kyiv and outlasting the West.

"For the West, Belousov's appointment as defence minister is bad news. It is the development of the theme of a war of attrition," independent Russian political analyst Konstantin Kalachev said.

"The main aim is to exhaust and bleed out the enemy, and cause fatigue and discord among its allies," he added.

Belousov, 65, is unlikely to have a big sway over military decisions. Instead, he will oversee the billions of dollars Moscow spends on everything from missiles, tanks and bullets to soldiers' salaries and welfare payments. Yesterday, Belousov said he would tackle "excessive bureaucracy" at the ministry. The Rybar Telegram channel, which is close to the Russian military, said Belousov would oversee a "major audit and restructuring" of the army's finances and approach to procurement.

The defence ministry was rocked by a corruption scandal in April when Deputy Defence Minister Timur Ivanov — a key ally of Belousov's predecessor Sergei Shoigu — was arrested on suspicion of taking bribes. As First Deputy Prime Minister Belousov has



SPOTLIGHT: Andrey Belousov.

pushed for aggressive state spending to boost arms production and overcome Western sanctions.

Russia's military spending has swelled to around seven percent of GDP this year. "He's somebody Putin trusts, especially when it comes to economic issues," Rybar noted.

The Kremlin said Belousov's background made him the right fit to take over the defence ministry at this juncture.

"Today the winner on the battlefield is the one who is more open to innovation," state news agencies quoted Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying. "It is very important to fit the economy of the security sector into the economy of the country," he added.

Valery Gerasimov, the Chief of the General Staff who oversees military operations and reports directly to Putin is set to stay in place — a sign that Belousov will have little influence over decisions on the ground.

But his appointment signifies a growing belief in Moscow that victory could be determined by developments far away from

the front lines. "There is an iron logic to this. Today, the strongest person is the one who can combine the war and the economy in the most comfortable way for the country," said Alexander Sladkov, a pro-Kremlin military blogger.

The son of a renowned Soviet economist, Belousov has steadily risen through the government's ranks under Putin's quarter-century rule.

Born in 1959 in Moscow, he graduated from Moscow State University and started his career at the Institute of Economic Forecasting at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

During Putin's first two terms as president he was an outside adviser to various prime ministers and became deputy economy minister in 2006.

When Putin stepped aside to become prime minister in 2008, Belousov headed his economic and financial affairs team.

With Putin's 2012 return to the Kremlin, he became economic development minister and a year later an adviser to the president.

Belousov gained a reputation as one of Putin's most trusted domestic advisers. He was appointed deputy prime minister in 2020, overseeing support for Russian businesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

After Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, he was tasked with protecting the Russian economy from the fallout of Western sanctions and reorientating it to support the offensive.

During the conflict Belousov has been a key player in developing Russia's domestic drone-manufacturing sector, and one of his last official big projects was boosting Russia's "technological sovereignty."

India, Iran sign 10-year pact to develop port

AFP
Tehran

India and Iran yesterday signed a 10-year contract to develop and equip the strategic Chabahar port in Iran as India seeks to grow trade in west and central Asia.

The agreement will give India 10-year access to use the port, located close to Iran's southeastern border with Pakistan, according to Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development.

The contract will in turn see India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) invest \$370mn into "providing strategic equipment" and "developing the transport infrastructure of the port".

Iran's urban development minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and India's ports and shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal signed contract in the town of Chabahar, in a ceremony broadcast live on state media.

India in 2016 agreed to finance the development of the Iranian port as a trading hub for central Asia as Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to revive economic ties with Tehran after the lifting of sanctions.

Modi and former Iranian presi-

dent Hassan Rouhani oversaw the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the provision of a line of credit from India's EXIM Bank to develop the port.

The development of the port however stalled, despite waivers to sanctions that the US began reimposing in 2018 after withdrawing from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

"Chabahar... can act as a focal point in the transit development of the region," Bazrpash said at the signing ceremony.

"We are pleased with this agreement, and we have full trust in India," he added.

"Iran and India are seeking to develop Chabahar port as much as possible, taking into account the interests of the two countries for joint access to regional markets," the Indian minister said.

This "long-term contract symbolises the enduring trust and effective partnership between India and Iran," he added.

In 2019, before the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, both countries agreed to speed up the project after a visit by India's external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaisankar to Tehran.

Chabahar port is on the Indian Ocean about 62 miles west of the Pakistan border.

Russia pummels Kharkiv region in tactical success

Russia yesterday pummelled towns and villages in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region days after launching a surprise ground offensive over the border, forcing thousands to evacuate. The Ukrainian army acknowledged Russia was "achieving tactical success" after launching a ground assault on Friday that has sparked the evacuation of almost 6,000 people.

Russia's defence ministry said its troops had "improved the tactical position and dealt a blow to (Ukrainian) manpower" around border villages, including Lyptsi, and the town of Vovchansk. Kateryna Stepanova, 74, who fled Lyptsi with her son, said several bombs had hit her street. "We weren't going to leave... but now this. Thankfully, we're alive," she said, sitting in a minibus at a gathering point for evacuees.

AfD pursues goals 'against democracy': Court

A German high court yesterday ruled that domestic security services could continue to treat the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) as a potentially extremist party, meaning they retain the right to keep it under surveillance.

The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), charged with protecting Germany's democratic order from extremist threats, has classified the AfD as potentially extreme since 2021.

Judges at the higher administrative court in Muenster upheld a lower court's 2022 finding that the designation was proportionate and did not violate the constitution, or European or domestic civil law.

"The court finds there is sufficient evidence that the AfD pursues goals that run against the human dignity of certain groups and

against democracy," the judges wrote.

"There are grounds to suspect at least part of the party wants to accord second-rank status to German citizens with a migration background."

The party, which tops polls in several eastern states that hold elections later this year, has recently faced harsher scrutiny over racist remarks by members and allegations that it harbours spies and agents for Russia and China.

"The establishment of this state — and that includes the BfV and the media — is being used to exclude us from democratic competition," said the AfD's co-leader, Alice Weidel, adding that the AfD would appeal.

Yesterday's ruling settles the facts of the case: an appeal could only involve questioning the way lower courts applied the law.

Dazzling auroras fade from skies as sunspot turns away

The spectacular auroras that danced across the sky in many parts of the world over the weekend are fading, scientists said yesterday, as the massive sunspot that caused them turns its ferocious gaze away from Earth.

Since Friday, the most powerful solar storm to strike our planet in more than two decades has lit up night skies with dazzling auroras in the United States, Tasmania, the Bahamas and other places far from the extreme latitudes where they are normally seen.

But Eric Lagadec, an astrophysicist at France's Observatoire de la Cote d'Azur, told AFP that the "most spectacular" period of this rare event has come to an end.

The first of several coronal mass ejections (CMEs) — expulsions of plasma and magnetic fields from the Sun — came just after 1600 GMT Friday, according to the US-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The event 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.

Excitement over the phenomenon — and otherworldly photos of pink, green and purple night skies — broke out across the world, from southern Europe to Australia's island state of Tasmania.



The Milky Way shines over a Joshua Tree as thousands of people turned up in the hope to see the northern lights or aurora borealis illuminate the night sky over the Joshua Tree National Park, California, on Sunday. (AFP)

The storm had been forecast to intensify again until 0600 GMT yesterday, the NOAA said, adding that auroras could be viewable as far south as New York.

But thousands of people who came out on Sunday night in the hope of seeing the aurora borealis over the Joshua Tree National Park in California instead

only saw the glittering stars of the Milky Way.

Lagadec said that while there were further solar outbursts on Sunday, it is unlikely that more auroras will be visible to the naked eye in lower latitudes such as in France.

"Only the most experienced photographers will be able to capture them" in such areas, he said.

The geomagnetic storm was caused when multiple CMEs emanated from a massive sunspot cluster 17 times wider than Earth arrived at our planet at around the same time.

However the sunspot has now moved to "the edge of the Sun, (so) we do not expect the next coronal mass ejections to head in Earth's direction," Lagadec said.

This means the solar storm is expected to "progressively decrease in the coming days," said Quentin Verspieren, the European Space Agency's space safety programme co-ordinator.

Pointing out that hopeful aurora spotters were "mostly disappointed" on Sunday night, Verspieren told AFP it was unlikely that the celestial spectacle would be repeated.

"There was one fabulous night, but it has passed," he said. "However, the behaviour of the Sun is really hard to predict."

And we are only just entering a period of increased solar activity that occurs every 11 years when the Sun's magnetic pole flips, which means there could

be further extreme events in the next year or two, he added.

When charged particles from solar winds are captured by Earth's magnetic field, they accelerate towards the planet's magnetic poles, which is why auroras are normally seen there.

But during periods of heightened solar activity, the effects extend farther toward the equator.

Unlike during 2003's solar storms, no major disruptions to power or communications networks appear to have been reported this time around.

Elon Musk's satellite Internet operator Starlink said on X that its thousands of satellites in low Earth orbit had "weathered the geomagnetic storm and remain healthy".

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 500 miles per second.

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.

Nasa can ask astronauts on the International Space Station to move to better-shielded places within the outpost.



Amir, Malaysian PM hold talks on boosting trade ties

From Page 1

Also present from the Malaysian side were Foreign Minister Mohamed Haji Hasan, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Higher Education Zambray Abdul Kadir, along with a number of senior officials members of the accompanying delegation.

His Highness the Amir and the Malaysian prime minister held a bilateral meeting during which they discussed a number of topics of common interest. – QNA



Minister opens 'Build Your House' 2024 exhibition

The fifth edition of Build Your House (BYH) 2024 exhibition was inaugurated by HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Abdullah al-Thani yesterday. The four-day event is being held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC). The exhibition, the minister said, reflects the crucial role of the construction sector in supporting the enormous construction leap the country witnesses within its ongoing pursuit to accomplish development projects as one of the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, a statement from the Minister of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) said. HE Sheikh Mohamed stressed that the exhibition is an opportunity to look at the latest technologies and the best global practices in engineering, construction, and design, in addition to being a distinct platform to make successful partnerships with various experienced companies and advisers in a way that supports national economy.



Cavusoglu with journalist Iman Ayad at the event.

PICTURES: Shajii Kayamkulam

Right: A section of audience.

QPC seminar on future of Middle East after Gaza war

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Former Turkish minister of foreign affairs Mevlut Cavusoglu gave a talk yesterday evening at the Qatar Press Center (QPC) on *The future of the Middle East after the Gaza War*.

The event, which was attended by centre's officials and journalists from Qatar and Turkiye, saw Al Jazeera journalist Iman Ayad and Cavusoglu address the events of October 7 in Israel, the arduous negotiation paths, and eight

months of questions and narratives and the role of the Qatar's efforts at mediation.

They also addressed the characteristics of the geopolitical transformation and its repercussions on the region and the world.

Tapping into his years of experience at the helm of Turkish diplomacy, Cavusoglu spoke about the dimensions of the regional and international scene and the role of mediation in order to achieve peace in the region, and shared his experiences talking to youth at universities in some countries.

"As war evolved in Gaza and

in Ukraine, there has been an increase in the number of irregular migrants," he said. "(Then there are issues like) climate change, cybersecurity attacks...other uncertainties...the international system has been in decline."

"So how can we resolve the crises through diplomacy?" the former minister posed. "Turkiye has exerted many efforts with our best partner Qatar to reach a solution."

"The war on Gaza is unprecedented with the 35,000-plus death toll, most of them women and children," Cavusoglu continued. "In addition, 2.5mn civilians have been displaced and deprived of their basic needs."

"The aggression perpetrated by Israel against Gaza is a war crime," he stated. "It took the UN Security Council 171 days to call for a ceasefire during the month of Ramadan, but Israel did not implement it."

"Turkiye and Qatar are exerting tremendous efforts to support Hamas, which has accepted the recent Egyptian, Qatari and American solution (for a ceasefire), but (that) has been stalled by Israel," Cavusoglu said.



"We believe that the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) and the Arab League are a good start to resolve this question, but it is very difficult to decide," he noted. "My only hope at this moment is the reaction of the youth in the US, Western countries and elsewhere."

"Unfortunately, you can see how students, professors and academics are (being) treated in the US and in Western countries, who have been lecturing us about the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press," Cavusoglu remarked.

"Everyone with a conscience should stand up for the Palestinian cause," the former top diplomat said. "We should act all together to stop this war. Israel has been trying to shift the tension to Lebanon, Syria and Iran by violating international law with its aggression on Iran's diplomatic mission, to shift focus and gain the support it has lost."

"Turkiye has made tremendous efforts to prevent this shift," he stated. "(Turkiye is doing this) through diplomatic efforts and by strong messages to Israel and by

supporting Qatar and Egypt to facilitate humanitarian aid."

"We have been talking to and reaching out to foreign ministers, but no outcome has been achieved," Cavusoglu lamented.

"However, we should continue our efforts and impose strong economic measures on Israel," he stressed. "The Muslim communities must also be united in order to take effective measures."

"As the GCC countries are united, they can, together with Turkiye, work to encourage East-West corridors and North-South relations," Cavusoglu added. "We should try different mechanisms through bi-lateral, tri-lateral and regional ties."

He said that the Turkish vision strongly supports Qatar and Egypt's efforts for an unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and the exchange of hostages and prisoners.

"The protection of civilians has to be guaranteed," Cavusoglu emphasised.

"Turkiye proposes to make any peace agreement permanent and not to go back to conflict," he said, adding: "As the saying goes 'it

takes two to tango!...the two-state solution is the answer, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine."

"If there is no fair peace, there is no peaceful solution," Cavusoglu pointed out. "Both sides have to agree. We need to increase our efforts and get the support of the US, we have to be realistic."

"(Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) is trying to sustain his extremist government, Israel should be stopped and held accountable for war crimes," he said.

Concerning a question on the future of Hamas, the former Turkish foreign minister said: "Hamas was elected in 2006, it is not a terrorist organisation."

"Hamas has a presence in Qatar as they are taking part in the dialogue," he pointed out. "Also, the Western leadership want Hamas to stay in Qatar."

"Palestinian political parties should reconcile," Cavusoglu said. "In any political settlement, Hamas will be an important actor... even Israel accepts that."

"Hamas is defending the rights of Palestinians," he concluded.