



Endless Options, Seamless Solutions: Your Real Estate Partner

Worker Accommodation Solutions | Warehouses
Villas | Apartments | Retail Spaces | Open Yards

+974 3030 0880
+974 6664 3794

Locations: Doha | Al Shamal | Abu Naqla | Umm Birka
Umm Stal | Al Khor | Birkat Al Awamer

HABARI REAL ESTATE

Ready Cafeteria For Rent

A Running Cafeteria For Rent With Full Equipment & Furniture, Attractive Location & Nice View

Call: 33598672, 52038746, 50576993

Shop & win, win is back!

Order groceries worth 85 QAR for a chance to win!

talabat mart

Use code: WINTMART

500 QAR

Sky Vision Real Estate Offer

Lounge & Club For Rent

Inside a 4 Star Hotel With All Equipment & Decoration

Call: 33598672, 52038746, 50576993

Amir, Biden discuss Gaza ceasefire

FM's of Qatar, Saudi, Jordan, UAE and Egypt call for serious consideration of peace plan

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with President of America Joe Biden the developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, in addition to both countries' efforts to reach an immediate and permanent ceasefire agreement in Gaza.

This came during a phone call His Highness the Amir received from the US President yesterday.

The two sides also discussed the strong strategic relations between the two countries and ways to develop and enhance them, as well

as discussing regional and international developments of mutual concern.

The foreign ministers of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the Arab Republic of Egypt held a virtual meeting yesterday, during which they discussed the updates of the mediation efforts made by Qatar, Egypt, and the US to reach an exchange deal that would lead to a permanent ceasefire and the release of the hostages and detainees, in addition to bringing sufficient aid into the Gaza Strip. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the UAE expressed their endorsement of these efforts.

In a joint statement, the five countries said that the ministers

discussed the proposal to achieve that goal presented by US President Joe Biden on June 2.

The ministers of foreign affairs of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE, and Egypt stressed that President Biden's proposal must be dealt with seriously and positively, in order to agree on a deal that ensures reaching a permanent ceasefire and allows the delivery of sufficient aid across the Gaza Strip, ending the suffering of the strip's population.

The ministers emphasised the need to put an end to the aggression on Gaza and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe, as well as the return of displaced persons to their areas, the full withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the strip. **To Page 5**

Amir chairs Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment 2nd meeting of 2024



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment (SCEAI) chaired the council's second meeting in 2024 at the Amiri Diwan, yesterday. Also present were His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairman of the Council HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, along with the council members. The council reviewed the decisions and recommendations made in the council's first meeting in 2024 and the project follow-up report and was also briefed on the progress report of the state's economic priorities, and took appropriate decisions. The meeting discussed presentations on QatarEnergy's experience in creating investment opportunities for the private sector through the Tawteen programme, and on the Ministry of Finance's experience in increasing the percentage of local value in government purchases and supporting the national product. The council discussed other items on the agenda and took appropriate decisions regarding them. **(QNA)**

Warning against spam scholarships

The Embassy of Qatar in the United States of America and its affiliated attachés and offices have warned against contacts and messages related to scholarships and other pending or suspended procedures in the US. The embassy called for not providing any personal information or paying sums to whoever claiming to provide scholarship or certificate attestation services, and verifying the contacts via calling the Embassy in Washington at +12022741600 and the cultural attaché at +17039919499. **(QNA)**

Palestinians seek to join genocide case

Palestinian authorities have filed an application with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to join South Africa as a party in its Gaza genocide case against Israel, the court said. On May 31st, the Palestinian authorities officially recognised the authority of the ICJ to resolve all disputes that may arise or have already arisen under Article IX. **Page 11**

Biggest ever win predicted for Labour

Britain's opposition Labour party could be on the path to the biggest election victory in its history, pollsters YouGov said yesterday, predicting a thumping 194-seat majority. The poll, which looked at voting estimates across all UK constituencies, predicted that Labour could win 422 out of 650 seats in the July 4 election.

Sheinbaum elected Mexico's president



Claudia Sheinbaum was elected Mexico's first woman president by a landslide, making history in a country plagued by rampant criminal and gender-based violence. Flag-waving supporters sang and danced to mariachi music on Sunday in celebration of the ruling party candidate's victory, in a nation where around 10 women or girls are murdered every day. **Page 11**

Sheikha Moza attends QF Schools Commencement



Qatar Foundation (QF) Chairperson Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser attended yesterday the QF Schools Commencement Ceremony, which celebrated the achievements of 290 graduates - including 246 Qataris - from seven schools that form part of the organisation's unique ecosystem of education. QF Vice-Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani and other dignitaries were present. **PICTURE: AR Al-Baker. Page 12**

Amir holds phone call with Kuwait Amir

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a phone call yesterday with Amir of the sisterly State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah. At the outset of the call, His Highness the Amir expressed his congratulation to the Amir of Kuwait on the occasion of appointing Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Mubarak al-Sabah as the Crown Prince, wishing him success and the sisterly State of Kuwait further progress and prosperity. For his part, the Amir of Kuwait extended his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir for congratulating him, wishing the fraternal ties between the two countries further development and growth. During the call, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop and strengthen them, in addition to a range of regional and global issues of shared concern. **(QNA)**

Amir congratulates Kuwait crown prince

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani congratulated Crown Prince of the sisterly State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Mubarak al-Sabah, on the occasion of his swearing-in as Crown Prince, wishing him success and further progress and prosperity for the State of Kuwait. This came during a phone call made by His Highness the Amir yesterday. **(QNA)**

Mowasalat launches state-of-the-art driving school

Karwa Academy to provide enhanced solutions that address the evolving needs of the transport industry

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

With a fresh vision for transport and several features of safety training, Mowasalat (Karwa) yesterday launched its new academy after re-branding the Karwa Driving School. Located at the Karwa headquarters, the Karwa Academy's launch ceremony was attended by several dignitaries and representatives from government entities along with transport and education sectors. The ceremony marked the unveiling of a new logo and branding, symbolising the academy's commitment to innovation and excellence.

Karwa Academy is set to expand its offerings, focusing on



Karwa Academy director Faisal al-Nuaimi

both business-to-business and business-to-consumer segments. This is achieved while providing enhanced training solutions that address the evolving needs of the transport industry.

The academy has introduced new capacities through the IMI certification and custom-made training solutions for businesses, specifically tailored to address the country's requirements in the field of electric vehicles.

Karwa Academy's training programmes include defensive driving, certificate of professional



Officials at the launch of Karwa Academy yesterday. **PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam**



competency and emergency response driver training.

These are designed to meet the ever-evolving demands of the public transport and automotive sectors in collaboration with renowned organisations such as the International Road Transport Un-

ion (IRU) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Off-road training programmes are provided in addition to the ADR training, essential for the safe transport of dangerous goods in accordance with directives and regulations of the Ministry of Transport.

Karwa Academy has introduced licence training for disabled candidates so as to enable them to become responsible and safe drivers.

Karwa Academy director Faisal al-Nuaimi, who addressed the ceremony, said: "We are dedicated to empowering our clients and

staff with the skills needed for today's dynamic transportation and logistics market ensuring safety and professionalism in every service we offer."

The launch event also included a tour of Karwa Academy's state-of-the-art facilities and the IMI certified Training Centre. Guests experienced firsthand the cutting-edge training methodologies and equipment now available to students and professionals looking to advance their capabilities in transportation safety and operations.



CONDOLENCES

In the Name of Allah Most Merciful Most Gracious
The Members of Board, Management and Staff
of The International School of London Group
extend their heartfelt condolences to the

MAKAREM FAMILY

on the sad passing of

Mr. Nadim MAKAREM

Loving Husband, Father & Chairman of The
International School of London Group

May Allah Almighty grant his soul eternal peace.



International
School of London



International
School of London
Qatar

Qatar organises event on global health in Geneva

QNA
Geneva

Qatar organised an event in Geneva entitled 'Aligning for Country Impact: 2024 progress report on the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All', in collaboration with Germany and Ghana.

HE the Minister of Public Health, Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, attended the event, which was held on the sidelines of the 77th session of the World Health Assembly. Also present were Ghana's Health Minister, Dr Bernard Okoe Boye; Deputy Head of Unit Global Health, German Federal Ministry of Health, Bjorn Kummel; along with over 60 high-level participants in the World Health Assembly, including a number of heads of delegations and directors of health, development and humanitarian agencies.

During the event, HE Dr al-Ku-

wari launched the executive summary of the Sport for Health report on promoting health and well-being through sporting events, which includes the main points of work in the Sport for Health programme at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Established in October 2021 between Qatar, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the Sport for Health partnership aimed to make the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 healthy and safe and a model for future major sporting events.

Addressing the event, HE Dr al-Kuwari highlighted the importance of innovation and investing in opportunities arising from government initiatives in various fields to promote health, citing Qatar's Sport for Health programme that used the World Cup to help protect and promote health locally and globally.

She said the programme of-



ferred opportunities with the mega sports event serving as a powerful channel for disseminating health messages to millions of people through media outlets and the social media. Yet, HE the minister highlighted some challenges including healthy food options to World Cup fans and measuring physical activity progress.

Meanwhile, HE Dr al-Kuwari stressed the need for countries and 13 participating agencies to join

ranks and resources to accelerate progress in implementing the SDG3 related to good health and well-being.

This needs to devise new ways of working that focus on achieving tangible results with a real impact on public health, and to develop strategies that ensure that health is a top priority for all governments, HE the minister added, noting that the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the close connection

between health and the economy and society. In this respect, the approach must go beyond healthcare to consider societal determinants responsible for the majority of the populations health and well-being, she added.

Among the speakers was HE Hassan al-Thawadi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, the organisation responsible for co-ordinating amongst public and private entities to ensure that infrastructure and development projects were delivered in readiness for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

HE said this report details how Qatar and its stakeholders delivered a healthy and safe World Cup amid a global pandemic.

The report covers the positive local and global impacts of Qatar's approach and will serve as a guide for countries to stimulate similar approaches to collaboration and innovation when organizing

similar future tournaments, HE al-Thawadi said.

In his opening message to the executive summary of the Sport for Health report, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that health promotion, advocacy and security can be adopted during all mega sporting events, with the WHO committed to ensuring that sporting events continue to be powerful drivers of sustainable health.

During the event, a World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) team made introductory presentations on the global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, scheduled to be held Nov 13-14 in Doha.

The conference brings together leaders, pioneers, innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs and healthcare workers from around the world, with the aim of searching for innovative solutions to the major global health challenges.

Transport minister meets Chinese counterpart



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti met in Beijing with his Chinese counterpart Li Xiaopeng. The two ministers discussed bilateral co-operation in transportation, its activities, ports, and civil aviation, and ways to take it to higher heights particularly by benefiting from the eco-friendly and smart transportation technologies. They also discussed enhancing bilateral co-operation in terms of the joint investments between Qatari and Chinese companies on e-bus production, and logistics services supporting the transportation industry. **(QNA)**

Al-Marri meets Uzbek employment minister

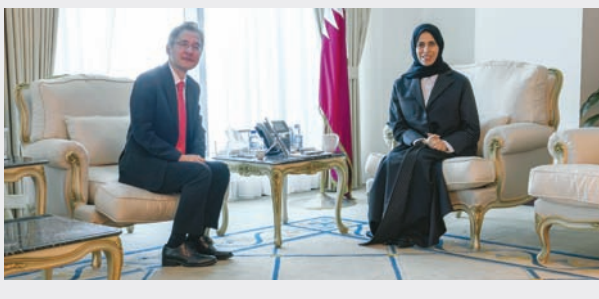


HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met on Sunday with Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan, Musayev Behzod Anvarovich, in Tashkent. The meeting discussed aspects of co-operation and ways to enhance and develop them, as well as explored ways to exchange knowledge between Qatar and Uzbekistan in labour-related sectors. HE Dr al-Marri also participated in Qatar Airways' inaugural ceremony to launch its first direct flight to Tashkent. **(QNA)**

AlKhatier bids farewell to Malaysian, Korean envoys



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs AlKhatier met on Sunday in Doha with Malaysian ambassador Zamshari bin Shaharan and Korean ambassador Lee Joon-Ho, on the occasion of the end of their tenure. HE AlKhatier thanked the two ambassadors for their efforts in enhancing and promoting the bilateral relations, wishing them success in their new duties. **(QNA)**



MoCI closes four shops

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has closed four shops in Al Kheesa and Rawdat Al Hamam areas. The action, according to a statement by the ministry on X, is due to their violation of Article No (6) of Law No 8 of 2008 regarding consumer protection. The violations, according to the statement, included the use and storage of expired food products. The closure period ranges between 15 and 30 days.

Shura Council briefed on efforts to develop tourism

The Shura Council held its weekly session yesterday under the chairmanship of its Speaker HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. At the outset of the session, the Council expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the heinous massacres committed by the Israeli occupation forces in Rafah, which represent a blatant violation of all humanitarian values and international principles.

The Council called on the international community, world's parliaments, and international and regional parliamentary unions to take immediate action and put pressure to stop these brutal attacks and hold those responsible accountable, expressing its full solidarity with the brothers in Rafah, and denouncing the unjustified violence against innocent civilians.

The Council heard a presentation by HE the Chairman of Qatar Tourism Saad bin Ali al-Kharji on the strategic plan for tourism 2024-2030, the most prominent policies pursued to revitalise this sector, plans to attract investments to it, and the most prominent challenges facing such efforts.

HE the Speaker welcomed the efforts to advance tourism and encourage investment in it in order to fulfil the goals of national development and the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030, and implement the directives of the wise leadership in this field. He pointed out that tourism is a stand-alone industry as it has become a com-



The Shura Council in session.

plex economy in which the public and private sectors interact to create an integrated tourism experience.

During the presentation, HE the chairman of Qatar Tourism said that Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy 2030 seeks to cement Qatar's position as a global tourist destination by benefiting from the country's cultural and geographical diversity.

He pointed out that developing tourism infrastructure is one of the pillars of the strategy, along with improving the quality of services provided and adopting the best international practices in this field, with the aim of increasing the contribution of tourism to the national economy and attaining sustainable development that takes into account environmental and social dimensions.

Regarding tourism sector policies, HE al-Kharji stated that they depend on a number of key axes,

including strengthening partnership between the public and private sectors, facilitating investment procedures, and providing a legislative environment that encourages growth and investment.

Regarding the targeted groups for tourism, HE al-Kharji highlighted that they include a variety of categories, foremost of which are the cultural, sporting, familial and recreational, business, conferences, medical and environmental tourism.

He pointed out that incentives and facilitations are being granted to local and international investors, in addition to streamlining the procedures with the objective of drawing investments to the tourism sector.

He underscored the QT's commitment to executing the Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy 2030, through upgrading this critical sector that constitutes a core pillar in diversifying the national

economy, Qatar's standing on the global tourism map and accomplishing the intended objectives to draw 6mn visitors by 2030. He highlighted numerous milestones that have been accomplished in tourism sector as corroborated by indices and figures, such as the number of tourists that reached 2.3mn in Qatar during the past five months.

In his response to the remarks of the Shura Council members, HE al-Kharji stated that QT is committed to ensuring a unique tourism experience that respects Islamic values and promotes the Qatari inveterate traditions and customs, adding that QT boasts of the Qatar culture and identity and introducing the visitors to them.

The members of the Shura Council emphasised the importance of encouraging domestic tourism and organising a range of tourism events during the entire year at affordable prices for all to ensure that all community members receive high-quality tourism services. Also, they underscored the importance of streamlining the government procedures and tourism requirements to attract tourism investments and offer incentives to conduct tourism projects and activities.

Thereafter, the Council reviewed a draft law to issue the law on child rights submitted by the esteemed government and decided to refer it to the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee for further perusal and submission of its report to the Council. **(QNA)**

QC general assembly holds 33rd ordinary meeting

The General Assembly of Qatar Charity (QC) held its 33rd ordinary annual meeting in the presence chairperson HE Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jasim al-Thani and members of the Board of Directors, and the General Assembly.

The annual report of the Board of Directors regarding Qatar Charity's performance and financial statements, as well as its work results for the previous year 2023, was reviewed. The final statement of account for the same fiscal year was approved, and the Board of Directors was discharged from liability for the concluded financial year. Additionally, the participants approved the estimated budget for



the current year 2024.

In his opening speech, the chairperson stated that the year 2023 witnessed an increase in the volume of humanitarian crises, indicating that QC exerted its utmost efforts to fulfil its humanitar-

ian duty and effectively contribute to saving lives and alleviating the suffering of those affected by humanitarian crises around the world.

QC continued to respond to several complex and ongoing humanitarian needs, starting from the crisis in Gaza to the ongoing conflicts in Sudan and Yemen, he noted. QC also responded to various natural disasters, notably the earthquake in Türkiye and northern Syria, floods in Afghanistan and Libya, and the earthquake in Morocco, in addition to addressing the acute food security crisis in Somalia.

He mentioned the total expenditure abroad by QC amounted to more than QR858mn, benefiting

over 9.5mn beneficiaries. He also emphasised that QC focused on providing quality programmes and interventions within Qatar, believing in the importance of providing support and assistance to the local community, with total amount of more than QR385mn.

In conclusion, he extended his highest gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. He also thanked hundreds of thousands of donors, benefactors, volunteers, supporters, and partners, expressing his hope that the journey of giving would continue, achieving a dignified life for all.

Qatar praises IAEA's role across different sectors

QNA
Vienna

Qatar has praised the prominent role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in assisting member states in the fields of food, agriculture, industry, health, water resources management, environmental protection, combating pollution and climate change, and sharing peaceful nuclear knowledge.

This came in a statement by delivered by HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, who is also the Governor of Qatar to the IAEA, during the discussion of the IAEA's Board of Governors in

Vienna of the agency's annual report for 2023. HE Dr al-Hammadi praised the comprehensive presentation contained in the IAEA's annual report related to the agency's activities in various fields, including following up on the implementation of the Rays of Hope initiative aimed at supporting the efforts of member states to increase access to radiotherapy services, as well as the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative.

He pointed out that Qatar contributed to hosting a regional course in November 2023 on using techniques derived from nuclear materials in the early and rapid detection of zoonotic diseases classified as priority with a focus on avian influenza. In the statement, he reviewed

aspects of the existing co-operation between the IAEA and Qatar. In this regard, he referred to the practical arrangements agreement between Qatar's Ministry of Public Health and the IAEA concluded on May 30, 2024, in line with the initiative of Qatar to support the least developed countries, which Qatar announced on the sidelines of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), held in March 2023 in Doha.

HE Dr al-Hammadi emphasised that the signing of the practical arrangements agreement will make the Qatari food safety laboratories a regional centre for training and one of the 'cooperating centres with the IAEA' in the field of human health, including food safety.

Qatar, Uzbekistan discuss ways to boost aviation ties

Qatar and Uzbekistan affirmed the importance of strengthening bilateral relations between both countries' civil aviation authorities, improving economic and trade exchange opportunities, and streamlining the flow of passengers and goods between Doha and Tashkent. This came during a meeting between Acting President of the General Civil Aviation Authority Mohamed Faleh al-Hajri and Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Uzbekistan, Nazarov Taxir. The two parties stressed the need and importance of continuous co-ordination to achieve all common goals. **(QNA)**

Qatar attends World Cities Summit in Singapore



Qatar is participating in the World Cities Summit (WCS) which began in Singapore on Sunday. HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah is leading Qatar's delegation to the summit. The three-day summit brings together a number of ministers in charge of urban planning and mayors of cities. On the sidelines of his participation in the summit, HE the Minister of Municipality met with Singapore's Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations, Grace Fu. The meeting discussed avenues of co-operation and ways to reinforce them for the shared interests of the two friendly countries, particularly in food security and waste treatment fields. The key events of WCS include the Mayors Forum and the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize (LKYWCP). The event also constitutes a platform for government leaders and experts to discuss the challenges facing liveable and sustainable cities and share the integrated urban solutions, along with the opportunities to achieve smart, flexible, and renewable cities in the present and future. **(QNA)**



Qatar joins UN Road Safety Fund

QNA
Geneva

Qatar has signed a Unified Administrative Agreement with the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries in the country and globally. By joining the fund, Qatar becomes part of a global network of bodies that are addressing critical gaps in national road safety systems.

Representing Qatar at the signing ceremony was HE the Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva Dr Hind bint Abdulrahman al-Muftah, on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, and representing the UNRSF was Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commis-

sion for Europe Tatiana Molcean. During the ceremony, Qatar announced a financial contribution of \$450,000 to the UNRSF, reaffirming its commitment to road safety. Molcean said that Qatar's generous donation will support the UNRSF's unique mandate to boost government efforts to achieve global road safety targets.

For his part, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety Jean Todt welcomed Qatar's financial contribution to the fund.

In turn, HE Dr al-Muftah said: "The State of Qatar is proud to invest in achieving global road safety targets through the UN Road Safety Fund. By supporting the UNRSF, we are investing in a safer future for all road users in the State of Qatar and around the world."

Qatar, Turkmenistan hold political consultations



The foreign ministries of Qatar and Turkmenistan held the third round of political consultations in Doha yesterday. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and Turkmenistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmed Kurbanov chaired the consultations round. They reviewed bilateral relations, besides issues of common concern. **(QNA)**

Attention

Retailers, Distributors and Wholesalers!

BULK INVENTORY SALE AT BELOW COST!

Save big on gift items, stationeries, toys and much more.

Stock up your inventory at rock-bottom prices.

Don't wait, shop now and boost your profits!

Contact us on +974 5501 8163
Email: edsdelgadov@gmail.com

QFFD supports community eye health champions in Zambia with 250 bicycles

QNA
Copperbelt


The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), in co-operation with Orbis Foundation, provided 250 bikes to Community Eye Health Champions (CEHCs) in the Copperbelt province of Zambia to overcome these geographical obstacles and support villages in need of assistance.

The provision of these bicycles coincides with marking World Bicycle Day, which falls on June 3 annually. Many CEHCs used to travel long distances on foot. With the bikes, there can now be swift and efficient travel to reach those with eye conditions such as cataract or refractive error. Mpongwe joins the nine other districts in the Copperbelt province benefitting from this initiative.

A recent study published in the International Journal of Ophthalmology showed that for every hour of riding a day, a person's risk of developing cataract could be reduced by 2 percent.

This work, which is part of the Qatar Creating Vision (QCV) initiative, implemented by international eye care charity Orbis, was launched in July 2023. It focuses on expanding sight-saving services for children, with 40% of the 2.5mn people in the region being under the age of 15. What's more, 60% are affected by poverty. With childhood vision loss, its vital that support is provided quickly before permanent damage can occur.

In the first nine months of this project, almost 19,000 children have been screened, more than 580 surgeries conducted, around 670 front-line workers trained and over 35 public film screenings and radio segments delivered, to educate audiences on how to look after their eye health and that of their children, and where to seek help if their sight is failing.



AL-AHLI HOSPITAL
A Division of
MediCare Group P.S.C.

ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Bond (QRS)	Closing Date
AAH/TC/06/2024	Requirement of Warehouse Facility - Rental	20,000	20th June 2024

- Full document for the above-mentioned tender can be obtained by email against the receipt of non-refundable fee of QRs.1,500.00. This is to be paid at the Cashier's Desk at the Finance Department (<https://maps.google.com/?q=25.308470,51.502083>), Al-Ahli Hospital.
- The tender should be accompanied by a Tender Bond of QRs.20,000.00 valid for 120 days from the closing date of the tender.
- The successful Tenderer should submit an irrevocable and unconditional performance bond of 10% of the Contract value, which should be valid for 90 days beyond the contract period.
- The tender should be submitted in Two(2) sealed envelopes: (1) Commercial and Technical Offer (2) Tender Bond. Only One set of document is required (No copy is required).
- Tender must be addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Committee, clearly indicating the Tender Number and Subject.
- The closing time for submission of all Tenders should be no later than 2:00pm of the Closing Date.
- The last date to purchase the tender documents will be 09/06/2024 before 2pm.

For further information please contact: **Purchasing Department**
Phone: **+974 4489 8766** – Fax: **+974 4489 8768**
Email : **henryr@ahlihospital.com**

ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender


Tender No.	Subject	Fees QR.	Tender Bond QR.	Opening Date	Closing Date
ARPM/170/2024/TEN/DOH	Tender for Provision of Annual Facilities Maintenance Services of AL Rayyan Events Management for Two Years	2,000	10,000	04-Jun-24	02-Jul-24
ARPM/171/2024/TEN/DOH	Provision of Housekeeping services to AL Rayyan Events Management (3 Wedding Halls Located at AL Ruffa, AL Dhaayen & AL Wakra) for 2 years	1,000	10,000	04-Jun-24	02-Jul-24
ARPM/172/2024/TEN/DOH	Provision of Annual Maintenance and Housekeeping Services to AL Diyafa Furnished Suites, Madaf Tower and AR Car Parking for 2 Years	1,000	5,000	04-Jun-24	02-Jul-24
ARPM/173/2024/TEN/DOH	Tender for Comprehensive Parking Management System Enhancement and Modernization Project	2,000	25,000	04-Jun-24	16-Jul-24

1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, via email to maseef@arpm.com.qa and L.cabral@arpm.com.qa during working hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Fri & Sat Closed)
2. A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:
 - o **Beneficiary Name:** Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM)
 - o **Account No.** 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank)
 - o **IBAN No.** QA86QNBAA00000000013022375004

And the original deposit receipt should be submitted upon receiving of the terms and conditions.

3. A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. **The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.**
4. All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM – Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.
5. Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY on CD or USB.
6. Copies of valid **Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter** must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents.
7. The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 30 days after contract expiry.
8. Offers should be valid for 90 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).
9. ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms and conditions.
10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons thereof.
11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.
12. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE
TEL: 40341804



QAPCO
شركة قطر البتروكيماويات
QATAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY

Invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

S.N.	Reference and Description	Tender Sale Period & Time	Tender fee (non-refundable)	Tender Bond	Bid submission Date
1	Tender Ref: P09-04-095 Supply of Drinking Water (Bottled & 5 Gallons) for Three or Five Years for QAPCO, QCHEM, QAFCO, QATAR STEEL and QATALUM.	3 rd to 6 th Jun 2024 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM	QAR. 500. 00	QAR. 150,000.00	30 th Jun. 2024, 12:00 Noon

- **Time of issue:** Tender document can be collected on working days only from 09:00 to 13:00 hours during the tender sale period mentioned above.
- **Place of issue:** QAPCO Head Quarters, Onaiza Area , Westbay, The Gate Mall, Tower No.2 – floor 11. Doha - Qatar; Tel.: 4033 8109 / 4033 8424
- Tender documents will be released only to authorized company representative with the Authorization Letter on Company Letterhead with ID copy and presentation of copy of Company's Commercial Registration certificate and with nomination of single focal point with full contact details for the communications related to the tender
- Non-refundable tender fee as indicated above are payable to QAPCO QNB account # 0013-001688-060 during the tender sale period and time mentioned above at any QNB branch.
- Mention the Reference No with company name, Tel., Fax No., mail ID in the receipt and hand over the original and a copy of payment receipt to the tender issuing counter at QAPCO Doha office while collecting the Tender document.
- Where tender documents are collected on behalf of others, the entity who collects the tender documents must submit a letter from the "principal(s)" stating that the tender documents are collected on their behalf.
- Clarifications: Send your queries with tender reference and description to email procurement@qapco.com.qa.
- ICV: Effective from 01st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender closing date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned / notified) will not be accepted. Local companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement.

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

Italian National Day celebrated

Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi with Qatar's Minister of Communications and Information Technology, HE Mohamed bin Ali bin Mohamed al-Mannai, HE the Minister of State and Qatar National Library (QNL) president Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro at a reception in Doha yesterday (Monday) to mark the Italian National Day. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen



Participants in the four-day meeting.

Doha meeting on Afghan, Pak polio eradication ends

The four-day meeting in Doha of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Polio Eradication for Afghanistan and Pakistan recently concluded with steps to stop the transmission of the wild poliovirus in both countries.

This comes despite ongoing challenges such as the rise in detection of wild poliovirus type 1 in sewage in Afghanistan and Pakistan, ongoing issues of insecurity, vaccine hesitancy, community boycotts of polio vaccination campaigns, and low routine immunisation rates among high-risk populations.

TAG experts conducted an in-depth review of polio programmes in both countries, emphasising the urgent and diligent work required to eradicate polio throughout 2024.

Key among these recommendations is the need to reach unvaccinated children and provide them with polio vaccines to close the critical immunity gaps that allow virus transmission.

The TAG also recommended that Afghanistan and Pakistan co-ordinate their efforts in the border areas known as virus corridors.

Joint efforts will also maintain a unified approach, supporting all polio workforce members.

HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, who is also the co-chair of the Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication and Outbreaks at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, reaffirmed Qatar's steadfast commitment to supporting regional efforts to ensure a polio-free world for future generations.

In a speech delivered on the minister's behalf, Dr Hamad Eid al-Romaihi, the director of Health Protection and Communicable Disease Control at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), said: "The eradication of polio is not merely a public health goal; it is a testament to our collective determination to safeguard the

health and well-being of every child, irrespective of their geographical location or socioeconomic status."

Dr Hanan Balkhy, the WHO regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean, addressed the meeting virtually.

She urged all stakeholders to dig deep to address the remaining challenges and identify optimal solutions with the guidance of the TAG members.

"The key to success lies in reaching all children in Afghanistan and Pakistan during polio campaigns," Dr Balkhy stated.

"We know that the virus is tenacious and unsparing," she said. "Recent detections outside the endemic zone in both Afghanistan and Pakistan underscore the urgency needed to respond to this virus."

The TAG will prepare a full report detailing all its findings and recommendations.

The group will meet again in November to review progress in both countries.

GCC chief praises efforts by Qatar for Gaza ceasefire

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has praised the efforts by Qatar and Egypt to achieve a ceasefire and stop Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip that has been ongoing since the events of October 7.

In a statement yesterday, GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi (**pictured**) welcomed the initiative announced by US President Joe Biden to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, which included the withdrawal of Israeli forces, release of detainees and prisoners, return of the displaced to their homes safely, and provision of adequate humanitarian aid to civilians.

Albudaiwi stressed the need to build on this declaration to reach a political framework to resume negotiations to achieve comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and international legitimacy resolutions. - **QNA**



Amir, Biden discuss Gaza plan

From Page 1

They also demanded the launch of a reconstruction process within the framework of a comprehensive plan to implement the two-state solution in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, to be conducted within specified timeframes and binding guarantees.

On the other hand, the ministers emphasised that the implementation of the two-state solution, which embodies an independent, sovereign Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in security and peace alongside Israel, in accordance with relevant international legitimacy resolutions, is the path to achieving security and peace for all in the region.

G7 endorses Biden plan

Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) major democracies "fully endorse

and will stand behind the comprehensive" ceasefire and hostage release deal for the Gaza war outlined by President Biden and call on Hamas to accept it, a statement said yesterday.

The deal "would lead to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, a significant and sustained increase in humanitarian assistance for distribution throughout Gaza, and an enduring end to the crisis, with Israel's security interests and Gazan civilian safety assured."

The G7, of which Italy holds the rotating presidency for 2024, reaffirmed support "for a credible pathway towards peace leading to a two state solution".

An aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that Israel had accepted the framework deal for winding down the Gaza war, though he described it as flawed and in need of much more work.

Winners of 3rd Katara Prize for Arabic Poetry announced

Katara - the Cultural Village Foundation has announced the top three winners in the 3rd Katara Prize for Arabic Poetry (Mothers of the Believers), held under the topic of Hafsa bint Umar (may Allah be pleased with her).

Taimor al-Azany from Yemen won first place, Saddam Bouaziz from Algeria was second, and Ahmed al-Najjar from Yemen won third place.

The competition and prize are aimed at raising the awareness of young and future generations about the family members of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), especially the Mothers of the Believers (may Allah be pleased with them).

The prize also aims to highlight their impact on the unfolding of Islam, and the role of women in society, as well as present the history of the Mothers of the Believers through literature and art.

The 3rd Katara Prize for Arabic Poetry had about 289 entries from 16 Arab and foreign countries. - **QNA**

CONDOLENCES

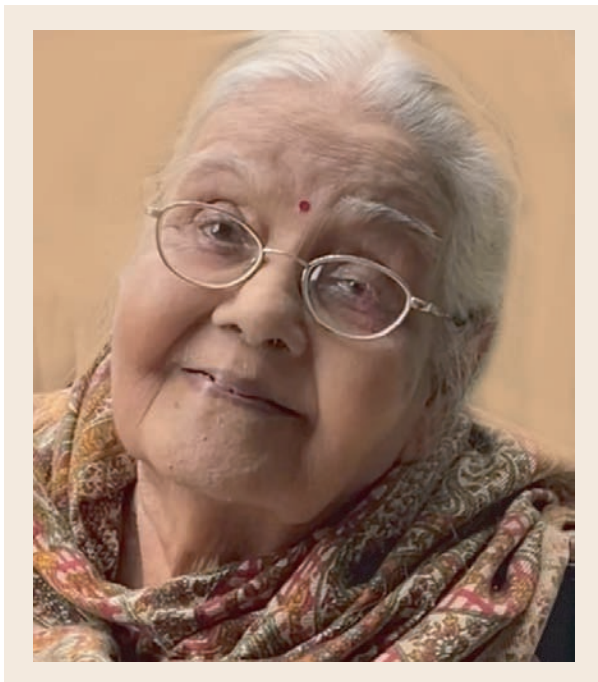
The Management and Staff of



extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of

Valentine Vincent Nerikaat
(Purchase Department)

on the sad demise of his beloved
MOTHER



Manorama George Nerikaat

May God rest the departed soul in peace and give fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this great loss.



Reyada Cardio Care

Special Heart Checkup Packages

Heart Care Plus

QR 999

Package Includes

- Echocardiogram (ECHO)
- Treadmill Stress Test (TMT)
- ECG
- CBC
- Blood Sugar
- HbA1c
- Lipid Profile
- Cardiology Consultation

Heart Prime Care

QR 499

Package Includes

- Echocardiogram (ECHO)
- ECG
- CBC
- Lipid Profile
- Cardiology Consultation



Meet our Cardiology Expert

Dr. Bishnu Kiran
MBBS, MD, DM
Specialist - Cardiology

License No: P14928

*Package Timing: (Sat-Thur) 9am - 1pm, 5pm - 9pm

مركز الريادة الطبي
Reyada Medical Centre
C-Ring Road, Doha
الطريق الدائري الثالث, الدوحة

For Appointments
44 45 77 77
50 44 88 99

reyadamedicalcentre.com | info@reyadamedicalcentre.com



CT Angiography: A Peek Inside Your Blood Vessels for Better Health Outcomes

Modern medicine offers a variety of tools to diagnose and treat health conditions. Despite all advancements in the field of Medicine, healthcare professionals require diagnostic tools which are non-invasive and crucial in managing patients. One such modality is the CT angiography (CTA) which provides detailed images of blood vessels throughout the body.

What is CT Angiography?

CT Angiography is an Imaging test (CT scan) with a contrast dye injection for visualisation of blood vessels and tissues. These detailed images help doctors diagnose a variety of conditions, including blockages, aneurysms, dissections, stenosis (narrowing of vessel) and anomalies of vessels.

Dr. Monica Kher, Cardiologist at Aster Hospital, mentions, "CCTA (Coronary computed tomography angiography) allows us to closely observe the heart and its various components, including the atria, ventricles, pericardium, great cardiac vessels, myocardium, and intracardiac valves. CCTA has a crucial role in the diagnosis of Obstructive CAD as it enables the assessment of degree of narrowing of epicardial coronary arteries and helps in planning treatment strategies. While invasive coronary angiography remains the diagnostic gold standard, CCTA steadily has gained ground as a low-risk alternative for Cardiologists worldwide.

Dr. Joji Mathews, Cardiologist, Aster Medical Centre, C Ring branch says, "It is an invaluable option for patients with suspected Coronary Artery Disease, emphasizing its role as a powerful non-invasive investigation with a relatively high diagnostic yield."

Some important Indications of CTA

- **Heart Disease:** CT Angiography is particularly valuable in diagnosing coronary artery disease (CAD), the leading cause of death worldwide. It can identify blockages in the arteries supplying blood to the heart muscle, allowing for early intervention to prevent heart attacks.
- **Stroke Risk Assessment:** CTA can assess blood vessels in the brain and neck for blockages or narrowing that could increase the risk of stroke.
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD):** CTA can visualize blockages in arteries supplying blood to the legs, helping diagnose PAD and prevent complications like leg pain, ulcers, and even amputation.
- **Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis:** CTA can be used to diagnose blood



Fujifilm Scenaria View 128-Slice CT Scanner

clots lodged in the arteries of the lungs (pulmonary embolism), a potentially life-threatening condition.

Oncology - CTA aids in the evaluation of vascular involvement in tumours, facilitating treatment planning and monitoring of response to therapy.



• **Vascular Trauma:** After an injury, CTA can be used to identify damaged blood vessels for prompt treatment and prevent complications like bleeding or blood loss.

"CT Angiography offers several advantages:

- **Minimally invasive:** Unlike traditional angiography, which involves inserting a catheter into an artery, CTA is a non-invasive procedure. This reduces the risk of bleeding and infection associated with traditional procedures.
- **Detailed images:** CTA provides highly detailed 3-dimensional images of blood vessels, allowing doctors to see even small abnormalities and pinpoint the exact location of blockages or malformations. This level of detail is crucial for accurate diagnosis and treatment planning.
- **Faster results:** CTA scans are completed relatively quickly, often within minutes.
- **Outpatient procedure:** CTA can be done on an outpatient basis, allowing patients to return home after the procedure."

"A coronary CT angiogram can be a valuable tool for assessing your risk of heart disease. This information allows us to create personalized prevention plans," says **Dr. Khaled Youssef, Cardiologist, Aster Hospital**.

Dr. Muhammad Samiullah Niazi, Cardiologist at Aster Medical Centre - Al Khor believes that CCTA is appropriate as an imaging modality in patients with no known CAD, who have a typical stable angina, atypical angina (with multiple risk factors for IHD), and for suspected angina equivalent symptoms. It is also a highly sensitive alternative to stress tests for intermediate probability of CAD when stress tests are difficult to undergo or contraindicated.

We recommend CTA for patients experiencing symptoms like chest pain, leg pain, or numbness, which could indicate problems with blood flow. It can also be used to evaluate patients with a high risk of cardiovascular disease or those needing pre-surgical planning for procedures involving blood vessels.

"Aster Hospital is proud to offer cutting-edge technology for diagnosing vascular health. Our radiology department features the Fujifilm Scenaria View 128-Slice CT Scanner, allowing for high-resolution CT Angiography (CTA) examinations."

Overall, CT angiography is a powerful and versatile imaging tool that is revolutionizing vascular diagnosis and treatment. By providing detailed, non-invasive images of blood vessels, CTA is helping doctors diagnose and treat a wide range of vascular conditions more effectively, leading to improved patient outcomes.

Celebrate Eid Al Adha with an unforgettable escape in Qatar with Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som

From rejuvenating retreats to family-friendly wellness activities, Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som unveils special offers at an oasis that will nourish the body.

With Eid Al Adha expected to fall on June 16, Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som prepares for the long break and invites guests to embark on a transformative journey. Catering to couples, solo travelers, families and groups of friends, seeking a transformative experience this Eid Al Adha, Zual Wellness resort offers a host of health and wellness experiences for guests of all ages across two distinct properties – Zual Serenity and Zual Discovery.

Located in northern Qatar, Zual Wellness Resort is the first and largest wellness destination in the Middle East to feature dedicated wellness retreats that offer health solutions uniquely personalised for guests embarking on a bespoke journey through a series of immersive experiences. Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM), deeply rooted in the rich heritage of Arab and Islamic cultures, brings a holistic approach to wellbeing that aligns seamlessly with Chiva-Som's commitment to providing transformative journeys towards better health. Together, they present a unique fusion of traditional wisdom and contemporary luxury at Zual Wellness Resort.

Check out the incredible offers at Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som to enjoy this Eid Al Adha listed below:

Summer Wellness Escape

Guests who book the Summer Escape offer receive a generous 25% off stays in Zual Discovery when booking the Discovery Reconnect Retreat. With rates starting from **QAR 1140** per night based on single occupancy, guests receive a private and personalised health and wellness consultation upon arrival, one daily treatment per night of stay, three wellness cuisine meals per night of stay, full access to the resort's state-of-the-art facilities and access to a host of scheduled group classes and activities, plus a bonus 20% off additional à la carte treatments and therapies.

Price: From QAR 1,140 per night for single occupancy, and QAR 1,718 per night for two people sharing

Booking information: <https://www.zual.com/gcc-summer-wellness-escape-en/>

Wellness Plus

Ideal for couples, solo travelers, families or groups of friends seeking a longer tranquil experience, Wellness Plus offer is ideal for a week's escape from the city this Eid Al Adha. An all-inclusive stay-pay offer with prices starting from QAR 2,200 per night, Wellness Plus allows guests to enjoy more wellness treatments the longer they stay at



Zual Wellness Resort. The resort offers the chance to stay for five nights at the price of four nights, or alternatively opt for a longer escape with a seven-night stay at the price of a five-night stay. The attractive package is inclusive of accommodation, a private and personalised health and wellness consultation with a health & wellness advisor, 3 wellness cuisine meals per night, tailored wellness treatments customised to the guest within the retreat programme, access to wellness facilities and fitness classes, and more.

Price: From QAR 2,200 per night

Booking information: <https://www.zual.com/wellness-plus/>

Kids On Us

Ideal for families, guests enjoy more wellness for less this Eid Al Adha with Zual Wellness Resort's exclusive family offer – Kids on Us. Kids up to the age of 16 can dine and stay on complimentary basis when two adults book a retreat each at Zual Discovery. Create memorable moments together as a family while enjoying a host of wellness experiences that create deeper bonds between parents and children.

Price: Complimentary for kids up to the age of 16 with two adult retreat packages

Booking information: <https://www.zual.com/kids-on-us/>



Offering a unique haven of tranquility and wellness for guests of all ages, Zual Wellness Resort blends Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM) with holistic health philosophy, offering an immersive experience for those seeking a city escape, and making this Eid Al Adha package attractive for both solo travellers looking to disconnect from day-to-day life or families looking to reconnect with each other.

For more information or reservations, please call/ WhatsApp +974 4477 6500 or visit www.zual.com

1PC
Royal King Basmati Rice 5kg
QAR 20

“عائد الكبير”
THE BIG IS BACK
1000+ PRODUCTS
Promotion Valid from 28.05.2024 to 08.06.2024 or until stock lasts

1PC
Treed Pure Coconut Oil 1Ltr
QAR 10

1SET
Efes Non Alcoholic Malt Drink 500ml x 3Pcs
QAR 10

1SET
Kdd Mango Juice 180ml x 24Pcs
QAR 20

1PC
Kmes Make Up Kit
QAR 10


1PC
Smart Watch Ultra
QAR 30

1PC
Cashew Nut 1kg
QAR 30

1SET
Close Up Toothpaste 120ml x 4Pcs
QAR 20

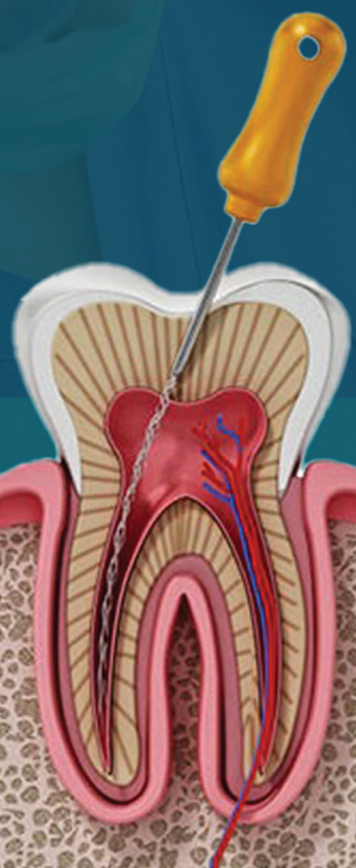

1PC
Shoulder Bag Assorted
QAR 20


1SET
Ajm Fleece Blanket 160 x 220cm x 2Pcs
QAR 30



العبير الطبي
Abeer Medical Center
أبو هامور • Abu Hamour
الصناعية • Industrial Area

We provide
Single sitting
Root canal
treatment

For appointments
 **77715678**

Dr. Meera Mariam Abraham
Specialist - Endodontist
BDS, MDS
Abu Hamour Branch

abeergroup.com/qatar

PUT YOUR
Brand
PRODUCT
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Seize the opportunity to give your brand/product an exclusive boost by featuring an ad on our **TUESDAY** special advertising page.

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




Freshness
that lasts with
Pillsbury atta



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

Ford Territory

Work. Live. Play.



STARTING FROM
85,000 QAR

5 YEARS OR **5 YEARS**
100,000KM WARRANTY 100,000KM ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

SCAN NOW


 شركة المانع للسيارات
Aimana Motors Company

Showroom Timing: Sat. - Thu. 8:30 am - 9:00 pm | Friday 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

 Ford Qatar  ford.qatar  ford_qa  fordqatar  ford.qa  fordqtr

 **HOTLINE 800 7551**

Awqaf minister heads Qatari Haj Mission for 1445 AH

HE the Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem has issued a decision to form the Qatari Haj Mission for the 1445 AH (2024) season, and to name the supporting units to serve the pilgrims of Qatar.

According to the decision, HE the minister will head the mission, and the decision also stipulated the appointment of Ali Sultan al-Musaifri as vice-president and appointment of members representing the State's ministries and its relevant institutions, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs.

In addition to also forming an advisory committee and field administrative units to serve the pilgrims from Qatar, which are: the Shariah and religious guidance unit, the medical services unit, the monitoring and inspection unit, the public relations unit, the secretarial unit, the information systems unit, the co-



HE Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem

ordination, follow-up and airport unit, the financial unit, and the communication and support, the pilgrimage services unit, and the logistics unit.

The mission is also accompanied by a media team representing the state's media institutions, including representatives from Qatar TV, Al Rayyan TV and Qatar Radio.

This co-ordinated formation aims to provide services that support the Qatari campaigns, to provide distinguished service

for the comfort of the pilgrims from Qatar, and to follow up on their daily requirements, in addition to working to ensure their security and safety, in co-operation and co-ordination with the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia.

In this context, and to ensure integrated representation and distinguished performance, the units began their work with successive delegations that left the country for Saudi Arabia, according to the nature of the work assigned to them.

The first delegation left on May 19, 2024, and was concerned with preparing and equipping the pilgrims' camps in the holy sites of Miina, Arafat and Muzdalifah, and completing contracts in the healthcare aspect, living quarters and nutrition, in a way that suits the country's pilgrims.

In addition, they would provide the appropriate atmosphere for a safe Haj in accordance with Saudi requirements, and at the same time reflecting the ideality of the work and the quality of its results. (QNA)



Fardan Fahad Alfardan, general manager of Wahet Al Shafalahiya, and Spale Marcinko, director of Moyses Stevens UK, leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Moyses Stevens opens new branch in Doha

Wahet Al Shafalahiya, a subsidiary of Al-fardan Group, recently opened the second branch of Moyses Stevens, renowned for its exquisite floral artistry and a legacy of excellence since 1876, in Place Vendome Mall.

This expansion marks the esteemed florist's second location in Doha, following the overwhelming success of its debut at the St Regis Doha Hotel.

Known as the 'King's Florist', Moyses Stevens holds Royal Warrants and is acclaimed for its pioneering contributions to floral design. With a rich history rooted in London, the brand has consistently set the standard for innovation and quality in floristry.

Founded in 1876, Moyses Stevens is a prestigious London-based florist known for its exceptional artistry and quality. With numerous Royal Warrants and a reputation as a pioneer in floral design, Moyses Stevens continues to set the standard for excellence in the industry.

The new branch at Place Vendome Mall comes in response to high customer demand and the need for more accessible luxury floral services.

Situated in one of Doha's most luxurious shopping desti-



nations, this location promises to deliver the same unparalleled floral arrangements and services that have earned Moyses Stevens its prestigious reputation. The opening was graced by the presence of Fardan Fahad Alfardan, general manager of Wahet Al Shafalahiya, and Spale Marcinko, director of Moyses Stevens UK.

"We are thrilled to bring Moyses Stevens to Place Vendome Mall after the success of its debut at the St Regis Doha Hotel. Our aim is to provide an exceptional floral experience and this expansion is a

testament to our commitment to meeting the needs of our clients. Moyses Stevens holds a Royal Warrant from HM the King, signifying our dedication to providing royal-quality services to everyone," Alfardan said.

The new Place Vendome Mall branch will offer an extensive range of floral arrangements, bespoke designs, and premium services, ensuring that every customer finds the perfect floral expression for any occasion.

For more information about Moyses Stevens and its offerings, visit www.moyesflowers.qa

PHCC advises dental check-up for Haj pilgrims

Primarily Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has advised Haj pilgrims to undergo dental check-up before travelling.

Dr Najat al-Yafei, manager of Oral Health Promotion and Prevention Department, PHCC, pointed out that it is necessary to maintain oral health to avoid pain and discomfort while on Haj pilgrimage.

A dental check-up is recommended before travelling to detect any dental or gum problems and to ensure the safety of existing dental restorations. It is also essential to pack an oral hygiene kit, comprising toothbrush, miswak, toothpaste, mouthwash, and dental floss based on the individual needs.

Excessive stress, tension and anxiety can trigger the formation of oral ulcers, worsening fungal oral infection. Stress weakens the immune system, which serves as the body's defence shield against infections. Anxiety and tension can also result in teeth grinding/bruxism, ultimately leading to tooth sensitivity.



It is necessary to maintain oral health while on Haj pilgrimage.

She advised pilgrims to maintain oral hydration by drinking plenty of water, as it helps in preventing dry mouth and the buildup of bacteria which cause bad breath. As many as 85% of bad breath cases result from dry mouth or insufficient saliva. It's crucial for pilgrims to avoid detrimental habits such as consuming sticky or hard foods to prevent gum injuries or accidental damage to dental fillings or restorations. If a filling or dental restoration falls out, pilgrims must immediately visit a dental clinic. It is essential to be aware

of the first aid measures in case a tooth falls out or becomes completely dislodged. These measures involve holding the tooth by the upper part and avoiding touching the lower part of the tooth, which contains the vital cells needed for healing.

If the tooth is visibly soiled, the pilgrim ought to rinse it with cold water before putting it back to its socket and avoid rubbing the root. The pilgrim should place the tooth in its socket and bite on a clean napkin to hold it in place until arriving at a dental clinic, Dr al-Yafei added.



Ministry unveils seed localisation projects

The Ministry of Municipality's Agricultural Research Department announced advanced research projects to localise agriculture inputs, including seeds, leveraging peaceful nuclear technologies and biotechnology.

These projects are part of Qatar's efforts to find innovative solutions compatible with the major climate challenges including scarce water resources, rainfall and groundwater, and to

boost food security as one of the goals of the ministry's strategic plan 2024-2030.

Director of the Agricultural Research Department, Hamad Saket al-Shammari, unveiled plans for three leading projects including developing the best practices to increase fodder production under saline conditions, disseminating heat-tolerant and high-quality greenhouse tomatoes, and producing local vegetables to achieve food security.

A l-S h a m m a r i pointed out that the first project is being implemented in partnership between the Agricultural Research Department and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Aisha al-Kuwari, a member of the second project team, said it focuses on developing and producing new tomato varieties that are able to withstand high temperatures, while at the same time enjoying high-quality in terms of taste, texture and nutritional value.

She added that this project is funded by the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council in co-operation with the Ministry of Municipality and the Plant Breeding Institute at the University of Syd-

ney in Australia, and that it leverages techniques to evaluate 239 local and imported tomato varieties.

On the third project Suwaid al-Malki, a member of the project team, said it aims to achieve self-sufficiency in vegetable production in Qatar, by developing new varieties that are compatible with local environmental conditions.

This project is being implemented in co-operation between various research and agricultural bodies in the country, and the Plant Research Department provides all the material and technical capabilities to ensure the success and implementation of this important project. (QNA)



ANNOUNCEMENT
I, PULICHARAM VEETIL KUNHI ABDULSHUKKUR
holder of
Indian Passport No. Z2838248
QID No. 26635600414
hereby change my name
from
PULICHARAM VEETIL KUNHI ABDULSHUKKUR
to
ABDUL SHUKKUR KUNHIMARAKKAR
Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, NOORI SYED YAQUB
holder of
Indian Passport No. S7666806
QID No. 29635602609
hereby change my name
from
NOORI
to
NOORA YAQUB SYED
Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, RONALYN BANAGA ULITA
holder of
Philippines Passport No. P9708058A
QID No. 29060806527
hereby change my name
from
RONALYN BANAGA ULITA
to
RONALYN ULITA BOSQUE
Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

QF gift shop presents new product line by Gaza women

Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Education City Gift Shop has launched a new product line called Ahlam - 'dreams' - a collaboration between Belal Khaled, a Palestinian artist and journalist, and a group of women from Gaza who are currently in Doha for medical treatment.

Khaled initially painted the word Ahlam in Arabic calligraphy on a collapsed building in Gaza, symbolising shattered dreams and representing the children who perished beneath it.

Today, through this product line, his artwork has found new life embroidered in Tatreez - the Palestinian cross-stitch - crafted by the women of Gaza. Each stitch is a testament to the spirit and dreams of a community scarred by tragedy, yet bound together by courage.

Every T-shirt in the product line is embroidered by hand, which takes an artist anywhere between 8-10 hours. A limited number of shirts are currently available for sale in the Education City Gift Shop branches located within the 2015 building and Multaqa. All profits go directly to the women.

The idea of creating this product line was born in Tatreez workshops held by QF volunteers. One of the volunteers said: "Initially the idea was just to have a space where women could come together and do something they enjoy. But it quickly became obvious there was a lot of talent so naturally we started thinking of how we could provide an opportunity for the women to showcase their talent and also use it to earn a livelihood."

Nisreen Alshbani, one of the artists who is part of the Ahlam product line, said: "These Tatreez workshops gave us something to engage ourselves in and come together in an act of quiet 'resistance' through art."

"Separated from our families and loved ones, they helped us form a community, a much-needed sisterhood, that goes beyond these workshops."

Enshirah Alshawaf, another artist working on Ahlam, said: "Tatreez was a childhood hobby, but life's demands - raising children and then grandchildren - kept me away from it. I never imagined I'd revisit it, let alone find a livelihood in it in my 60s."



Some of the participants at the workshop.



MDD has world's 'Largest Underground Car Park'

Msheireb Downtown Doha has clinched the Guinness World Records title

Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD), Qatar's pioneering sustainable and smart city district, has clinched the Guinness World Records title for the 'Largest Underground Car Park' with a capacity of 10,017 spaces across six levels.

Locating car parking and building services underground has allowed the district to keep street traffic-lite, enabling narrow, pedestrian-friendly walkways. This design improves connectivity across the wider city area, with underground basements extending over the entire district.

"We wanted to reclaim outdoor spaces for the community by removing vehicles from the streets around Msheireb," said Msheireb Properties CEO Engineer Ali al-Kuwari.

"The Guinness World Records for the Largest Underground Car Park is a testament to our dedication to creating a sustainable and innovative city district that prioritises the well-being of our community. By locating car park-



Engineer Ali al-Kuwari receiving the Guinness World Records title.

ing and building services underground, we enabled architects to design attractive buildings with active façades on all sides."

The MDD's underground parking system ensures ample space for residents, tenants, and visitors. The facility boasts an intelligent parking system that guides drivers to available spaces, making the parking experience

seamless and hassle-free.

The underground parking system also had a significant impact on building design by removing the need for back service entrances which improved street quality and aesthetic cohesion.

As the flagship project of Msheireb Properties, MDD has been designed to revive the historical downtown area with a

new architectural language that is modern yet inspired by traditional Qatari heritage. The district incorporates the latest smart city technology and sustainability features, making it a model for future urban development's worldwide.

Raafat Tawfik, Guinness World Records Official Adjudicator, said: "We are thrilled to recognise MDD for its outstanding achievement in creating the Largest Underground Car Park. This feat showcases the district's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and enhancing the urban living experience."

MDD's underground parking is just one of the many features that make the district a unique and attractive destination. With its pedestrian-friendly streets, diverse mix of residential, commercial, and retail offerings, and cultural attractions such as the Msheireb Museums, the district has become one of Qatar's go-to destinations for residents and visitors alike, a statement added.

VCUarts Qatar announces summer classes for students

The Community and Continuing Education (CCE) wing at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) has announced a lineup of summer classes for high school students and children.

The summer programme for high school students will run from July 7-25. Those who opt for the fourth week of portfolio development classes will continue until August 1. The classes will take place from 10am to 1pm on the specified dates.

This year, in addition to the university's popular Summer Art and Design High School Programme 2024, the CCE wing will conduct a robotics course for younger children. Both courses will take place at VCUarts Qatar in Education City.

The Summer Art and Design Programme for high school students is an intensive three-week programme with an optional week of portfolio development classes.

During the first three weeks, students will be introduced to all the fine art degree programmes at VCUarts Qatar, including kinetic imaging, graphic design, interior design, and painting and print-making. They will then be given a chance to select their field of interest and study it in depth over the remainder of the course.

Students who opt for the port-



The summer programme for high school students will run from July 7-25.

folio development classes will continue into the fourth week. The aim of the portfolio development classes is to teach high school students the best practices for compiling a portfolio of their creative work, to international standards.

Given that most competitive art and design universities request a portfolio as part of the application process, this course is especially beneficial to those seeking admission into specialised programmes related to art, design, architecture, new media, communications and technology.

Rasha Alkasab, programme manager for Community and Continuing Education at VCUarts Qatar, said: "Each summer, our summer course provides high school students an inspiring glimpse of VCUarts Qatar's diverse academic programmes. Year after year, we see how excited they are as they discover what art and design in the 21st century look like. They express their desire to take their newfound passion for arts and design to the next level, with some of these students eventually joining our University."

MGD's new showroom in Abu Dhabi inaugurated



Malabar Gold & Diamonds (MGD), the sixth-largest jewellery retailer worldwide with more than 350 outlets across 13 countries, has introduced their innovative showroom experience concept at Al Wahda Mall in Abu Dhabi, UAE, a statement said yesterday.

The new showroom was inaugurated by popular Indian actress and MGD brand ambassador Kareena Kapoor Khan in the presence of international operations managing director Shamlal Ahamed, finance and administration director Ameer C M C, manufacturing head Faisal A K and other senior

management team members. Kareena Kapoor Khan's presence drew massive crowds of Abu Dhabi residents to Al Wahda Mall. The new showroom, established by revamping and relocating MGD's existing outlet in Al Wahda mall, marks the brand's 15th showroom in the Abu Dhabi and Al Ain region and 63rd in the UAE.

The showroom houses a host of never-before-seen designs in gold, diamond and precious gems across MGD's numerous exclusive brands such as Mine, Era, Virraaz, Precia, Ethnix & Divine. Comprising traditional jewellery, modern jewellery, daily wear jewellery and much

more, the designs in 18K, 21K and 22K gold jewellery have been curated from over 20 countries. The showroom has also been equipped with a customised jewellery designing facility.

"At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, we strive to adapt to the ever-changing preferences of our customers, right from innovative designs to robust after-sales services while upholding sustainability and transparency. With each showroom launch, we are inching closer to our goal of being the world's number one jewellery retailer," commented M P Ahamed, chairman of Malabar Group.



QM in open call for early-career artists

Qatar Museums (QM) announced an open call for early-career artists to participate in its latest initiative, Temporary Public Art.

The unique programme offers the selected artist the chance to have the proposal commissioned, and the selected artwork will be installed at Liwan Design Studios and Labs.

To be eligible, applicants must be over 18 and hold a valid Qatar residence permit. Submitted proposals must meet the outlined criteria, artists should possess strong

skills to execute their proposed projects, and support from a mentor is permissible to ensure successful completion.

Proposals can include sculptures, installations, or mixed media works, and all artworks must be fabricated locally.

Students may submit proposals either as individuals or in groups. The maximum budget for each project is QR30,000, and the chosen artist will collaborate closely with a curator throughout the project.

Abdulrahman al-Ishaq, director of

Submitted proposals must meet the outlined criteria, artists should possess strong skills to execute their proposed projects, and support from a mentor is permissible to ensure successful completion

Public Art at QM, said: "This initiative marks a significant step in QM's ongoing efforts in providing platforms for emerging talents to express themselves and contribute to the community. We

look forward to seeing the innovative proposals and the inspirational artworks that will develop from this programme."

Liwan Design Studios and Labs, located in a historic building in downtown Msheireb, supports Qatar's creative community by offering state-of-the-art facilities for various design disciplines, including pottery, leatherworking, digital photography, and prototyping, to empower designers in advancing their work. Interested artists are encouraged to submit their proposals by July 15.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

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

GULF TIMES

Biden tip-toes deeper into Ukraine conflict with arms decision

President Joe Biden's decision to relax some restrictions on Ukraine's use of US weaponry inside Russia is a small but significant step deeper into the two-year-old war that experts say could help blunt Russia's cross-border Kharkiv offensive.

Since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Biden's administration had argued it was too risky to allow Ukraine to strike targets on Russia territory with US-supplied weapons. It feared a major Ukrainian attack could trigger direct conflict with nuclear-armed Russia.

It was a rule that fit neatly with other US prohibitions on supplying higher-end weaponry to Kyiv that have also since crumbled, from advanced US fighter jets to long-range ATACM missiles.

Biden administration officials say the latest decision, which went into effect on Thursday, was narrowly tailored to the battle in the Kharkiv region. US officials say it allows Kyiv to use US-supplied weapons to fire back against Russian forces "attacking them or preparing to attack them" from across the border.

That gives Ukrainians on the frontlines a green light to fire over the border at Russian forces using US-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers armed with Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) missiles, and other weaponry, experts say.

"This can stabilise the frontline and possibly create conditions to push back (Russians) from Kharkiv region before they have dug in," said Mykola Bielieskov, research fellow at the Ukrainian National Institute for Strategic Studies, an official think-tank in Kyiv.

Philip Ingram, a former British military intelligence officer, said Biden's decision will reduce Kyiv's need to draw troops away from critical battle fronts in the eastern Donbas region.

"The Russians are now going to find themselves on the back foot and will have to rethink the tactics they have been using in their attack into Kharkiv," he said.

Putin has warned Nato members against allowing Ukraine to fire their weapons into Russia and raised the risk of N-war

Sullivan, Austin and Brown developed a recommendation in favour of relaxing the restrictions, which Sullivan took to Biden on May 15. Biden agreed Ukraine should be able to strike back against Russian forces attacking them from the safety of Russian soil, the official said. Biden's administration had been finalizing the decision since then.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky publicly called for Ukraine's partners to take such a step in a May 20 interview with Reuters, but at the time said: "So far, there is nothing positive."

Rob Lee, a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute's Eurasia Program, said Russia had been exploiting Biden's prohibition on strikes inside Russian territory by using it as a safe haven to launch attacks in Kharkiv region.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, is just 19 miles from the border. "Russia could keep its artillery right across the border. It could keep air defence, electronic warfare, command and control (there)," Lee said. "It had maybe a degree of kind of sanctuary."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned Nato members against allowing Ukraine to fire their weapons into Russia and on Tuesday once again raised the risk of nuclear war.

Still, Ukraine appears ready to seek to expand its ability to use US weaponry elsewhere in Russia in the weeks and months to come, particularly after a difficult year in which Russia seized the momentum on the battlefield.

On Friday, less than a day after Washington announced its policy shift, Zelensky was quoted in an interview with the "Guardian" newspaper calling for US approval to hit targets deep inside Russian territory.

Mark Cancian, a former Pentagon official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think-tank in Washington, said Biden's move was just a first step.

"It's not a radical departure (in policy). But it's a step," Cancian said. "Ukrainians and officials in the administration will argue for the next step: To strike a broader set of targets - maybe targets in Russia that are not directly threatening Kharkiv, but are in other areas."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking on Friday in Prague, declined to say whether the Biden administration could expand its policy to allow strikes elsewhere in Russia. But he did not rule it out.

"Going forward, we'll continue to do what we've been doing, which is as necessary adapt and adjust," Blinken said.



How Chinese EV makers aim to beat their Western rivals

By Nick Carey & Giulio Piovaccari
London

Starting in the 1980s, European automakers steadily conquered China, racking up millions in sales with little local competition. Now they'll have to defend their home turf in Europe from an onslaught of formidable Chinese electric vehicles.

Chinese EV titans BYD, Chery, and Great Wall Motor (GWM) are preparing a fusillade of product launches - about 20 over the next five years - and spending heavily on sales and marketing in their most important export market, according to Reuters interviews with 18 China auto executives, consultants, and industry experts familiar with the Chinese automakers' European strategy.

After several years of swiping market share from foreign rivals in its domestic market, the world's largest, China's increasingly potent EV industry is ready to take the fight to Europe.

Chinese electric-vehicle makers have studied European car buyers for years, hiring industry veterans and selecting distributors with extensive local knowledge as they laid the groundwork to take on Tesla and legacy automakers, the sources said. BYD and Chery have already announced plans to manufacture cars in Europe.

Chinese carmakers are now deploying a range of tactics to break into the market, ranging from sponsoring high-profile sporting events to raise awareness of their brands, to building out their dealership networks, and shoring up service-and-repair operations to protect resale values - a key requirement of fleet buyers who make up a large share of the European market.

Chinese automakers' European sales remain small because their brands are little known to consumers - with the exception of MG, a former British brand owned by SAIC, a state-owned Chinese automaker.

But deliveries are growing rapidly and could surge with the release of additional models

across a broad range of price segments, industry experts said. BYD saw its Europe sales triple to 15,000 vehicles in 2023 after years of exponential EV sales growth in China and other export markets.

BYD has launched six electric models in Europe and a spokesman said the company is rolling them out across 20 countries. It launched its first three models in the United Kingdom last year and plans two more this year, said BYD's UK marketing manager, Mark Blundell.

Great Wall plans to launch a model a year in Europe for the next five years, two distributors told Reuters. Chery will launch a total of eight SUV models under two brands, Omoodo and Jaecoo, over the next two years, said Chery's European managing director, Jochen Tuetting.

By comparison, Tesla has just two volume-sellers - the mid-priced models 3 and Y. Both are overdue for a redesign and declining in global and European sales.

Executives from BYD, GWM, and Chery told Reuters they are looking to plant deep roots in the Europe market. Chery's Tuetting said the company is focusing on all facets of the European automotive ecosystem, from branding to financing tools to repairs and resale values for both private and corporate customers.

"We've been doing our homework," Tuetting said. SAIC's MG did not respond to interview requests.

Christina Bu, of the Norwegian EV Association, which represents 120,000 EV owners, has met with many Chinese automakers and noted some have spent years planning their European strategy. Norway is a global leader in EV adoption.

Chinese brands, Bu said, have so far adapted Chinese EV models for export, but they're already working on models designed from scratch to target European buyers. They also don't face the same pressure as western rivals to turn a profit quickly because they are heavily backed by the Chinese government, she said.

"Some of these players have spent a lot of money on it, despite not having sold much yet," Bu said.

China's auto industry, a mix of state-owned and private firms, has major cost advantages over foreign competitors in part because of government subsidies and the nation's dominance of battery minerals refining.

In China, the explosion of EV brands has ignited a price war, with automakers led by BYD selling a slew of EVs priced between \$10,000 and \$30,000.

Those rock-bottom prices have alarmed automakers and their political allies in the United States and Europe. In May, U.S. President Joe Biden quadrupled tariffs on Chinese EVs to 100%. The European Union is currently investigating China subsidies and may soon raise tariffs on its cars.

But European auto executives said at a Reuters event in May that higher tariffs will do little to protect them from Chinese EVs unless Europe's industry acts quickly to match their price and value.

"The window is closing," said Volkswagen board member Thomas Schmall. "We have two or three years."

So far, China automakers are not deeply undercutting foreign rivals. Instead, they're maximizing profits on exports by charging double or more, compared to the China price, for the same vehicles.

Their Europe prices are just slightly below comparable models from western automakers, but the Chinese vehicles are often stuffed with standard-equipment goodies - such as heated-and-cooled seats, 360-degree cameras, digital dashboards - that often cost extra in competitors' vehicles.

Japanese automakers used similar tactics when expanding into western markets decades ago.

As they expand exports, Chinese automakers are implementing complex strategies to increase their appeal to European customers. They have improved their safety ratings, strengthened repair-and-service operations, and distribution, bolstering resale values, which

are particularly important for people who lease cars.

Leasing companies charge lower monthly payments for cars with high resale value because they're worth more at the end of the lease term, when buyers can choose to either buy them or return them to the leasing firm.

Chinese EV makers' attention to detail reflects what they've learned about European consumers, said Bo Yu, Greater China country manager for JATO Dynamics, a UK-based automotive industry research firm.

"In China, the purchase price is important," she said. "But for European consumers, it's not just price, but total cost of ownership, including maintenance, service, and residual values."

Another critical effort is courting fleet consumers, which control an unusually large share of European auto sales. For instance, Ayvens, Europe's largest leasing company, already has partnerships with BYD and Geely.

Unlike Tesla, which has undercut its resale values by repeatedly reducing retail prices, Chinese automakers are working with companies like Autovista, which conducts extensive "car-to-market" studies to set optimal residual values for leasing customers.

Chinese automakers' main challenge is reaching the majority of European consumers who don't know they exist. That gives legacy carmakers more time to stave off the threat of Chinese exports, said Phil Dunne, a managing director at strategy consultancy Stax.

"But the Chinese are fast learners," he said, "so it won't last much longer."

To boost their brand presence, Chinese automakers are turning to social media, high-profile event sponsorships, and partnerships with established dealer networks.

One of BYD's distributors in Italy is Gruppo Autotorino, with 70 retail locations in 24 provinces. "Our network allows them to reach clients quickly," said chairman Plinio Vanini. "This was key for BYD."

GWM and Chery are partnering with existing dealerships that also sell other established brands. Chery's European managing director Jochen Tuetting said the automaker, for its Omoodo vehicles, chose such shared locations "so people say: 'While I'm here, I'll take a look.'"

BYD, because of its scale as China's leading EV brand, is launching mostly standalone dealerships - and rolling them out fast.

Mark Blundell, BYD's UK marketing manager, says the automaker will have 60 UK dealerships by the summer, rising to 100 next summer, and within 18 months plans enough locations so most Brits can reach one within a 14-minute drive.

Awareness of Chinese cars is rising. According to research in March from online car marketplace Carwow, 50% of respondents in Germany said they would consider a Chinese-made car, up from 27% last October. - Reuters



CUTTING A DASH: A NIO ET5 car model is pictured at the NIO House, the showroom of the Chinese premium smart electric vehicle manufacture NIO Inc, in Berlin, Germany. (Reuters)

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621
☎ 44418811

Classified

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

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

Major win for Khan as court overturns cipher conviction

Govt mulls SC appeal against acquittal

Reuters/AFP
Islamabad

A High Court in Pakistan overturned jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's conviction on charges of leaking state secrets, his lawyer and his party said yesterday, but Khan will remain in prison for now due to a conviction in another case.

Khan, 71, had been sentenced to 10 years in prison by a lower court on charges of making public a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington in 2022. He has been in jail since August last year.

He had challenged the conviction in Islamabad High Court, which said in an order yesterday that, an "instant appeal is allowed", adding Imran Khan was acquitted of the charges.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Khan's foreign minister during his tenure from 2018-2022, was also acquitted of the charges, in what is a major victory for the jailed leader.

"Thank God, the sentence is overturned," a spokesman for legal affairs from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Naem Pan-

jutha, said in a post on the X social media platform shortly after the Islamabad High Court announced its decision.

Khan has said the classified cable was proof of a conspiracy by the Pakistan military and US government to topple his government in 2022 after he visited Moscow. Washington and Pakistan's military deny that accusation.

The cipher case was one of four in which Khan was summarily convicted one after the other in less than a week just ahead of Pakistan's national election in February. In two other of those cases the sentences have since been suspended while he appeals.

But despite yesterday's acquittal, Khan, a former cricket legend, will remain in prison serving a seven-year sentence over another case relating to his marriage to Bushra Khan which the court ruled "contravened Islamic traditions".

A ruling on the couple's appeal against the sentence was postponed last week and the proceedings transferred to another court after a judge recused himself following an accusation of bias made by her former husband, according to Khan's lawyers.

"We will celebrate this victory," another one of his lawyers, Ali Zafar, said in a TV interview, adding that the other cases faced by Khan would result in acquittals too.

"It's a huge political and legal



Supporters of Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan hold his poster in Karachi as they celebrate his acquittal yesterday. (AFP)

victory," journalist and political analyst Mazhar Abbas told Reuters, but cautioned that it would be premature to say that Khan would be released anytime soon.

Khan is also named as an accused in several other cases, including charges of "inciting violence against the state".

The government, which says

Khan broke clauses of the state secrets law by revealing contents of a secret diplomatic cable, said prosecutors were awaiting the detailed decision before deciding if they would appeal against the acquittal in the Supreme Court.

"It is a fact that a national security document was used for political purposes," government

spokesman for legal issues Aqeel Malik said in a press conference after the decision, adding that the government would not compromise on national security.

"This is the first big case which was part of the political victimisation against Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi which has been dashed to the ground," Salman

Safdar, a lawyer for Khan's party, told AFP outside the court.

Analysts regard Pakistan as a "hybrid regime", where the military establishment wields immense power to determine the course of ostensibly democratic politics. Khan's provocative first arrest in May last year sparked nationwide protests by supporters who directed unprecedented anger at the military — which responded with a sweeping crackdown on PTI and its supporters.

Despite being severely hobbled during the election campaign, candidates loyal to PTI secured more seats than any other party in the February elections — which were marred by allegations of vote tampering.

A broad coalition of parties considered more pliable to the influence of the military kept the MPs from power. "In the court of the public he was already very popular and now it seems that in at least one institution, at the senior judiciary level, there is a realisation that they cannot be part of the undemocratic method of removing Imran Khan," political analyst and pollster Bilal Gilani told AFP.

Despite Khan's recent success in the courts, however, his political role hinges on his relationship with the military, Gilani added. "If he continues his pace of current confrontation with the military, the chance of a comeback are limited."

Palestinians seek to join ICJ genocide case against Israel

Palestinian authorities have filed an application with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to join South Africa as a party in its Gaza genocide case against Israel, the court said yesterday.

In a statement the ICJ, also known as the World Court, said the Palestinian authorities "filed... an application for permission to intervene and a declaration of intervention in the (South Africa v Israel) case."

On May 31st, the Palestinian authorities officially recognised the authority of the ICJ to resolve all disputes that may arise or have already arisen under Article IX, which paved the way for them to request to join South Africa's case against Israel as a party.

If granted by the court, the request could allow the Palestinian authorities to also add an ad hoc judge of their choosing to the ICJ panel which currently has 16 judges, 15 of the court's regular judges and one Israeli ad hoc judge. South Africa and Israel have been invited to furnish written observations on the Palestinian application for permission to intervene as a party. The Palestinian authorities became a signatory to the genocide convention in 2014 after they were granted United Nations permanent observer state status.

The 1948 Genocide Convention is the basis for South Africa's ICJ case against Israel for allegedly committing genocide in Gaza as that treaty grants the court jurisdiction to rule on disputes between signatories about the convention. Historically, the kind of intervention the Palestinians are seeking as a full-fledged party to the case has been granted only a handful of times by the ICJ since 1945.

Georgia signs 'foreign influence' bill into law

Georgia signed controversial "foreign influence" legislation into law yesterday, prompting its pro-European opposition to vow far-reaching political reforms if they win October's elections. The law, which critics say is modelled on Russian legislation used to stifle dissent, has triggered weeks of daily protests in the capital Tbilisi and condemnation from Georgia's Western partners. Brussels has warned the move will derail the Black Sea nation from its path to European Union membership, and the United States has also threatened Georgian officials with individual travel bans. Despite those warnings, the speaker of Georgia's parliament Shalva Papuashvili yesterday signed the measures into law — the final approval stage after the chamber voted last week to override a veto lodged by President Salome Zurbishvili. "I signed today the law on transparency of foreign influence, whose main goal is to strengthen the sustainability of Georgia's political, economic, and social systems," Papuashvili said in a statement.

Sheinbaum is elected first woman president of Mexico

AFP
Mexico City

Claudia Sheinbaum was elected Mexico's first woman president by a landslide, making history in a country plagued by rampant criminal and gender-based violence.

Flag-waving supporters sang and danced to mariachi music on Sunday in celebration of the ruling party candidate's victory, in a nation where around 10 women or girls are murdered every day.

"I want to thank millions of Mexican women and men who decided to vote for us on this historic day," Sheinbaum told the cheering crowd. The 61-year-old former Mexico City mayor thanked her main opposition rival Xochitl Galvez, who conceded defeat.

Mexico's outgoing leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador hailed Sheinbaum's victory as a "historic event," while US President Joe Biden said he looked forward to working with her "in the spirit of partnership and friendship."

Sheinbaum, a scientist by training, won around 58-60% of votes, according to preliminary official results from the National Electoral Institute, which estimated turnout at 60%.

That was more than 30 percentage points ahead of Galvez, and some 50 percentage points ahead of the only man running, centrist Jorge Alvarez Maynez.

Maria de los Angeles Gordillo, a 37-year-old member of the Tojolabal Indigenous community, said she was moved to tears as she listened to Sheinbaum speak.

"I'm here to celebrate this historic moment for our country and especially for women who carry these inequalities on their skin," she said. Voters had flocked to polling stations across the Latin American nation, despite sporadic violence in areas terrorized by ultra-violent drug cartels.

Thousands of troops were deployed to protect voters, following a particularly bloody electoral season that saw more than two doz-



Claudia Sheinbaum celebrates following the results of the general election at Zocalo Square in Mexico City yesterday. (AFP)

en aspiring local politicians murdered.

"Our society is violent, sexist, misogynistic and Dr Sheinbaum as president will really be able to help change not only the laws but society," said Lol-Kin Castaneda, 48, who waited late into the night to hear the winner speak.

"Mexico can't stand any more violence," she added.

Women going to the polls had cheered the prospect of their favoured candidate breaking the highest political glass ceiling.

"A female president will be a transformation for this country, and we hope that she does more for women," said Clemencia Hernandez, a 55-year-old cleaner in Mexico City.

"Many women are subjugated by their partners. They're not allowed to leave home to work," she said.

Daniela Perez, 30, said that having a woman president would be "something historic," even though neither of the two main candidates was "totally feminist" in her view.

Nearly 100mn people were registered to vote in the world's most populous Spanish-

speaking country, home to 129mn people.

Sheinbaum owes much of her popularity to outgoing president Lopez Obrador, a fellow leftist and mentor who has an approval rating of more than 60 percent but is only allowed to serve one term.

In another win for the ruling party, its candidate Clara Brugada was elected mayor of Mexico City, one of the country's most important political jobs, preliminary results showed.

In a nation where politics, crime and corruption are closely entangled, drug cartels went to extreme lengths to ensure that their preferred candidates win.

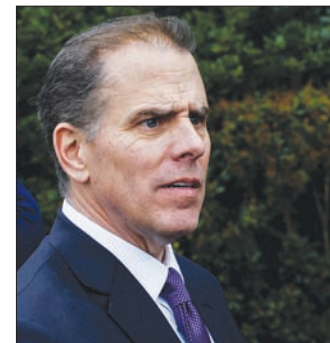
Hours before polls opened, a local candidate was murdered in a violent western state, authorities said, joining at least 25 other political hopefuls killed this election season, according to official figures.

In the central Mexican state of Puebla, two people died after unknown persons attacked polling stations to steal papers, a local government security source told AFP.

Biden's son Hunter stands trial on gun charge

Hunter Biden (pictured), the long-troubled son of Joe Biden, went on trial yesterday on gun charges in a historic first prosecution of a sitting president's child — and potential threat to his father's re-election. The only surviving son of President Biden, Hunter Biden is charged with lying about his illegal drug use when buying a handgun in 2018, a felony. The 54-year-old arrived in court in his hometown of Wilmington, accompanied by family members, including First Lady Jill Biden, although not the president. Jury selection got underway, with the trial expected to last one to two weeks.

President Biden said he and the first lady, who was marking her 73rd birthday yesterday, were "so proud" of Hunter Biden. "As the President, I don't and won't comment on pending federal cases, but as a dad, I have boundless love for my son, confidence in him, and respect for his strength," Biden said in a statement. The trial comes days after a jury in New York made



history by finding Donald Trump guilty of business fraud, the first time a former president has ever been criminally convicted. Trump, who is running as the Republican challenger to Joe Biden in November, faces three other far more serious criminal cases, including his alleged attempt to overthrow the 2020 presidential election. The Delaware trial — along with another in which Hunter Biden faces charges in California on tax evasion — is an embarrassment for Joe Biden, as he seeks a second term and hopes to keep

the country's focus on Trump's behaviour. In addition to being a political distraction, Hunter Biden's legal woes will reopen painful emotional wounds for the family from his lengthy period as a serious drug addict — a period that both he and his father have discussed publicly. Hunter Biden's brother Beau died from cancer in 2015 and his sister Naomi died as an infant in a 1972 car crash.

The Yale-trained lawyer and lobbyist-turned-artist is charged with falsely stating on legal paperwork when buying a .38 calibre Colt Cobra revolver in 2018 that he was not using drugs illegally. He is also charged with illegal possession of the firearm, which he had for just 11 days in October of that year. Hunter Biden has pleaded not guilty. He had earlier reached a plea deal with prosecutors but this collapsed, leading to the trial. Prosecutors are set to introduce voluminous — and often uncomfortable — evidence linked to Hunter Biden's years as an addict. They have called

as witnesses three of his former partners, including Lunden Roberts, the mother of one of his children.

The president's son, who has written unsparingly about his addiction, will contend that at the moment he bought the revolver, he did not consider himself to be an addict. He has stated that he has been sober since 2019.

If found guilty, Hunter Biden could face 25 years in prison, although as a first-time offender he could get a far lighter sentence or escape any jail time. President Biden yesterday said that his son's difficulties would resonate widely.

"Hunter's resilience in the face of adversity and the strength he has brought to his recovery are inspiring to us. A lot of families have loved ones who have overcome addiction and know what we mean," he said. Hunter Biden has long been the target of Trump and hard-right Republicans, amplified by exhaustive coverage on Fox News.

India poll body says 'voter real winner'

AFP
New Delhi

India's election commission said yesterday a staggering 642mn people voted in just-concluded six-week-long polls, a day ahead of the results which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is widely expected to win.

Nearly all observers believe Modi's appeals to Hindu nationalist sentiment will give him a third term in power, a decade after he first took office.

Exit polls show 73-year-old Modi is well on track to triumph, with the premier saying he was confident that "the people of India have voted in record numbers" to re-elect his government.

Modi's opponents have been hamstrung by infighting and what they say are politically motivated criminal cases aimed at hobbling challengers to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

But chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar yesterday praised the complex logistical operation of the election, saying that the "voter is the real winner".

While total numbers of voters were up, turnout appeared to be slightly reduced from the last general elections. Based on the commission's figure of an electorate of 968mn, 66.3% of eligible voters turned out so far, down roughly one percentage point on the 2019 vote, when turnout hit 67.4%.

Final voter turnout data will only be released after re-polling in two stations in West Bengal state on Monday.

"We have created a world record of 642mn Indian voters, it is a historic moment for all of us," Kumar told reporters, adding that nearly half of those — 312 million — were women. Kumar said that "voters chose action over apathy, belief over cynicism and in some cases, the ballot over the bullet", the commission said.

"It shows the incredible power of voters of India," Kumar added, saying that there had been "no major incidents of violence".

Voting in the seventh and final staggered round ended on Saturday, and counting and results are due today.

"People should know about the strength of Indian democracy," he added.

On Sunday, Arvind Kejriwal, chief minister of the capital Delhi and a key leader in an alliance formed to compete against Modi, returned to prison.

Kejriwal, 55, was detained in March over a long-running corruption probe, but was later released and allowed to campaign as long as he returned to jail once voting ended. "When power becomes dictatorship, then jail becomes a responsibility," Kejriwal said before surrendering himself, vowing to continue "fighting" from behind bars.



QF PUE president Abeer al-Khalifa addressing the gathering.



Qatari filmmaker Amal al-Muftah delivering her keynote address.

Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani and other dignitaries at the QF Schools Commencement Ceremony yesterday. **PICTURE:** AR al-Baker

Right: Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser and HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani being ushered by students on their arrival at the QF Schools Commencement Ceremony yesterday. **PICTURE:** Aisha al-Musallam



A section of the graduates.



A section of the graduates.

Sheikha Moza attends event honouring QF school grads

Qatar Foundation (QF) Chairperson Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser attended yesterday the QF Schools Commencement Ceremony, which celebrated the achievements of 290 graduates – including 246 Qataris – from seven schools that form part of the organisation's unique ecosystem of education.

QF Vice-Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani was also at the ceremony held at the Qatar National Convention Centre, together with ministers, diplomats, teachers, faculty members, and the families of graduating students, a statement said.

Speaking at the ceremony, Abeer al-Khalifa, the president of the QF's Pre-University Education (PUE), said: "Today, we gather to honour the graduation of an exceptional group of students from Qatar Foundation schools."

"This momentous occasion represents

a pivotal point in their lives, bridging their past dreams with their future aspirations," she said. "They stand on the threshold of success, proudly having met their responsibilities and eagerly anticipating new beginnings brimming with opportunities."

"For over 25 years, our schools have worked tirelessly and with unwavering commitment to match the progress of a nation that has given us so much," al-Khalifa continued.

"Today, from this revered institution, this class, distinguished by its morals and knowledge, is graduating," she said. "This enlightened generation renews their vow to follow in the footsteps of their forebears, aiming to bring about positive change and make a lasting impact on society."

"Today, we witness the emergence of a new generation whose educational path has been marked by commendable actions and initiatives, driven by their

awareness of global and humanitarian issues, particularly the concerns of the Arab and Islamic nations," the official added. "I especially commend their engagement with the Palestinian cause, their solidarity with the Palestinian people, and their commitment to being the voice of truth in support of every oppressed individual."

Al-Khalifa also thanked the teachers for their dedication to educating and preparing the students, and the academic and non-academic staff at the QF schools, saying: "You have always been our pillar of support in fulfilling our mission, enabling us to achieve admirable results year after year."

Qatari filmmaker Amal al-Muftah was this year's keynote speaker.

A former student of the QF's Qatar Academy Doha (QAD), as well as a graduate of Northwestern University in Qatar – a QF partner university, she reflected on her experience at the school, saying: "I discovered my true passion for storytell-

ing and began to explore this field more deeply."

"It confirmed to me that I have the ability to use films as a means to express my stories and those of others in innovative and inspiring ways," she said.

Al-Muftah urged graduates to be active participants in their own stories, celebrating their small victories and reflecting on their failures.

"As you approach a new chapter in your lives, I want to emphasise the importance of appreciating both moments of joy and challenges alike," she said. "Life is like a film, where happy scenes intertwine with difficult ones, each adding depth and beauty to the story."

"One cannot exist without the other, and this balance is what makes the stories of our lives exciting and captivating," al-Muftah added.

"As children of this nation, we owe it to our heritage to respect and honour our stories," she stressed. "They are the

essence of our identity, the threads that weave our collective narrative, binding us to our past and guiding us into the future."

"Our stories are the legacy we leave behind, the voice of our culture, and the testament to our beautiful differences," the filmmaker concluded.

During the event, each graduate took to the stage to receive their diplomas, with valedictorians from each school also receiving special recognition.

Students from QF schools, including members of the Qatar Music Academy, performed *Our Dream*, a song produced by the PUE in collaboration with Qatari artist and QF employee Fahad al-Hajjaji.

The commencement ceremony celebrated the achievements of students from the QAD, Qatar Academy Al Khor, Qatar Academy Sidra, Qatar Academy for Science and Technology, Qatar Leadership Academy, Qatar Academy Al Wakra, and Awsaj Academy, the statement added.



HE Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa



The graduates of the QFBA's 9th cohort with officials and dignitaries. **PICTURES:** Shemeer Rasheed and supplied

QCB governor patronises QFBA graduation

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA) held a graduation ceremony yesterday for the 9th cohort of the "Kawader Malia" (finance cadres) national programme, under the patronage and presence of Qatar Central Bank (QCB) Governor HE Sheikh Bandar bin Mohamed bin Saoud al-Thani.

A number of officials and chief executives from Qatar's leading banks and financial institutions attended the ceremony.

The 2024 cohort saw the graduation of 75 Qataris, bringing the total number of participants in the programme, since its inception in 2013, to 324.

QFBA chairman HE Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa extended his congratulations to the graduates.

He stated that the graduation ceremony for the 9th edition of "Finance Cadres" coincides with the 15th anniversary of the QFBA's founding.

The academy's achievements since its inception translates its mission of advancing the financial and banking services sector in Qatar.

In addition to developing the skills and capabilities of its cadres by providing them with expertise that supports their career path.

HE al-Khalifa said that "Finance Cadres" is one of the QFBA's pioneering initiatives, aligned with Qatar's 3rd National Development Strategy as well as the 3rd Financial Sector Strategic Plan.

"Nine years after the programme's inception, we can confidently assert that it has been successful in offering distinctive educational opportunities to our national cadres," he said. "These opportunities have significantly enhanced their knowledge, capabilities, and skills, enabling them to compete in the labour market and hold significant positions in the financial and economic sectors of the country, and contribute to the process of growth and development outlined in the Qatar National Vision 2030."

HE al-Khalifa thanked all the partners and sponsors for their support of the programme.

"For the first time since the programme's inception, the 9th edition saw the expansion of the scope of the educational modules

to six modules, represented in 'Introduction to Financial Services & Fintech'; 'Soft Skills and Career Readiness'; 'Leadership and Management' by ILM (level 3) in two parts, qualifications for specialised pathways, and practical training that extended over six weeks," said QFBA chief executive Khalifa al-Yafei.

"The programme included four specialised pathways, three of which were allocated to employee participants, including the Chartered Financial Analyst – Foundation Level Certificate from the CFA Institute, the Internal Audit Practitioner Certificate from the Institute of Internal Auditors, and the Risk Certificate in Financial Services from the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment," al-Yafei told *Gulf Times*.



Khalifa al-Yafei



Hamad Mohamed al-Naama

"One track was for those who are not currently employed, which is the Foundation of Financial Services, especially designed to assist students entering the labour market in gaining a broader and deeper grasp of all financial services and related topics," the official explained.

Hamad Mohamed al-Naama told *Gulf Times*: "My speciality at university was in Logistics and

Supply Chain Management, and in the QFBA, I joined the Financial Cadres Programme in the Foundation Programme."

"This graduation is a new building block for a new professional path. There is a connection between (the field of) Logistics and Finance... I have enhanced my knowledge through the programme to be a competent cadre in finance and logistics," he said.