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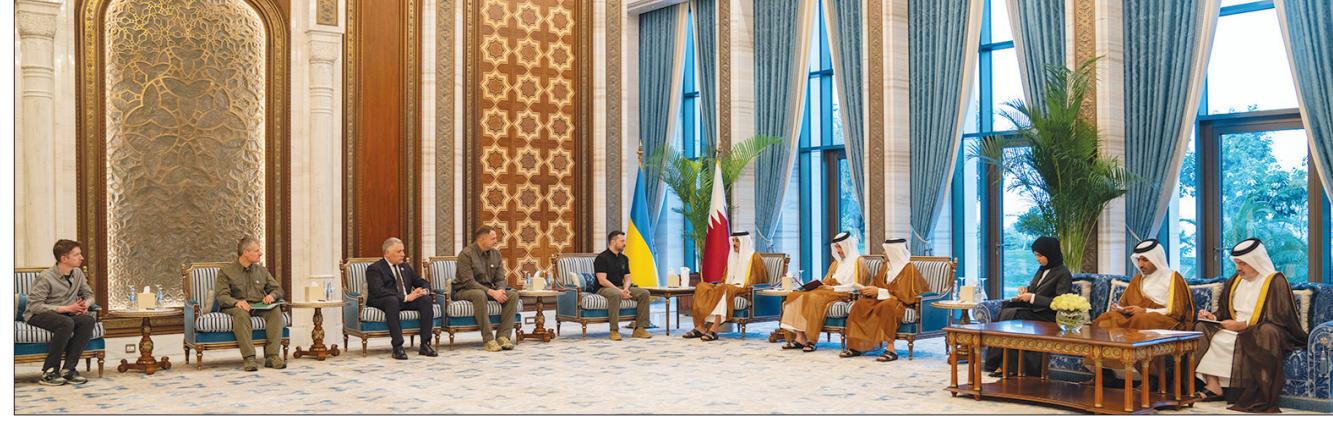
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Amir, Ukraine president discuss efforts to end crisis, enhance bilateral relations



QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at his office in Lusail Palace yesterday with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and his

accompanying delegation.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments in Ukraine, especially the efforts of the international community to stop the fighting and protect civilians, and keep all channels of communication open to resolve the crisis through dialogue and diplomatic means, in addition to discussing

relations between the two countries and prospects for strengthening them.

The Ukrainian president also thanked His Highness the Amir for Qatar's efforts in reuniting Ukrainian children with their families in Ukraine, as part of its ongoing mediation aimed at reuniting families separated by the

Russian-Ukrainian crisis.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani; and HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah

bint Rashid AlKhater attended the meeting along with a lineup of senior officials.

On the Ukrainian side, the meeting was attended by ambassador of Ukraine Andrii Kuzmenko and senior members of the official delegation accompanying the president.

His Highness the Amir and the

Ukrainian president held a bilateral meeting during which they

discussed the overall co-operation relations between the two countries, in addition to discussing a host of issues of common concern.

His Highness the Amir hosted a dinner banquet in honour of the president of Ukraine, and his accompanying delegation. **Pages 5, 9**

MoEHE unveils new strategies for 2024-25

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) unveiled fresh curricula strategies for the academic year 2024-25, in line with the Third National Development Strategy. MoEHE's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs, Maha al-Ruwaili, said the new strategies seek to achieve an ideal balance between the academic, skill-based, social and psychological aspects of students. **Page 6**

'Covid shots should target JN.1 variants'

Advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration yesterday unanimously voted in favour of recommending that Covid-19 vaccines for 2024-25 should target a strain within the lineage of the JN.1 variant that have been dominant this year. All 16 voting members of the panel recommended that FDA ask companies target the JN.1 variant.

Shooting near US embassy in Beirut

A Syrian man was arrested after a shooting near the US embassy in Beirut yesterday and a judicial official said the assailant carried out the attack "in support of Gaza". The embassy "was subjected to gunfire by a person holding Syrian nationality", the army said.

'Most Prominent Arab Woman' honour for Sheikha Al Mayassa



Chairperson of Qatar Museums HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani has been named the most prominent Arab woman and awarded the Arab leader's medal for 2023 by the Arab Development Council for Women and Business. This recognition honours her diplomatic and humanitarian efforts and her social work across various developmental fields. The award was received by Qatar's ambassador to Lebanon Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani during a reception at the embassy in Beirut. He welcomed President of the Arab Development Council for Women and Business Dr Iman Ghosseini, and her accompanying delegation.

In a post on his official X account, Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said that he was pleased to receive the award on behalf of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa from President Ghosseini. He added that the honour reflects the contributions of Qatar's women leaders in the fields of development and creativity.

For her part, Dr Ghosseini expressed her deepest

appreciation and gratitude to HE Sheikha Al Mayassa, who she said is considered a unique model for

Arab women, contributing to the

advancement of women in the Arab world and globally, leaving an indelible mark on history. Dr Ghosseini remarked that HE Sheikha Al Mayassa is an exemplary Arab woman with pioneering influence in the fields of culture and education, noting that she has taken a leading role in supporting various local and international organisations. Ghosseini highlighted Sheikha Al Mayassa's relentless efforts and initiatives to preserve culture and heritage in Qatar and reinforce the historical legacy of Arabs.

She explained that the region's

circumstances, particularly the

war on Gaza, caused a delay in

the celebration, which was initially

planned for late 2023. **(QNA)**

QatarEnergy, Taiwan's CPC sign NFE partnership, LNG sale deals

QatarEnergy, the country's hydrocarbon bellwether, yesterday signed definitive agreements with CPC Corporation, Taiwan (CPC) covering the long-term supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to CPC and partnership in the North Field East LNG expansion project (NFE).

The two parties signed an LNG sales and purchase agreement (SPA) for the delivery of 4mn tonnes per annum (MTPa) of LNG from the NFE project to CPC over a period of 27 years.

The two sides also signed a share sale and purchase agreement pursuant to which QatarEnergy will transfer to CPC a 5% interest in the equivalent of one NFE train with a capacity of 8Mtpa.

This transfer will see CPC become a partner in the NFE project without affecting the participating interests of any of the other shareholders in the project.

The agreements were signed by HE Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the President and Chief Executive Officer of QatarEnergy, and Shun-Chin Lee, the chairman of CPC Corporation, Taiwan during a special ceremony held at QatarEnergy's headquarters in



HE Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi and Shun-Chin Lee exchange the documents after signing the agreement. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Doha and attended by senior executives from both companies.

"We look forward to further enhancing our relationship with CPC, which extends for over three decades, and to further demonstrate our unwavering commitment to our customers and partners around the world," said al-Kaabi.

The NFE project is part of the overall North Field LNG expansion programme that also includes the North Field South and North Field

West projects, which together will raise Qatar's LNG production capacity from the current 77Mtpa to 142Mtpa in 2030.

"QatarEnergy, the world's leading LNG player, has been playing an important role in ensuring Taiwan's domestic gas market over the past decades. CPC's acquired equity in the NFE project and this new LNG SPA will further strengthen the cooperative relationship between our two companies," Lee said.

Qatar a major MICE destination: al-Kharji

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Qatar is home to state-of-the-art Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) facilities and venues," HE the Qatar Tourism (QT) chairman Saad bin Ali al-Kharji has said. While delivering the remarks during the Global Exhibitions Day (GED) by QT, al-Kharji noted that Qatar has a tremendous number of 128 venues offering a combined exhibition capacity of 70,000.

The maiden GED celebration in the Middle East was in partnership with UFI, the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry.

The event was attended by the chairman of the Arab Union for International Exhibitions and

Conferences (AUIEC) Sheikh Jabor bin Yousef bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani and UFI regional director Naji El Haddad.

Al-Kharji said that MICE is a priority pillar driving growth in Qatar's tourism sector. GED serves as a platform for networking and fruitful exchanges between industry leaders, stakeholders and potential clients, making it an important event in the exhibitions sector for Qatar. "We aim to increase the number of exhibitions in the country to further contribute to Qatar's success as a leading regional hub of the MICE industry. Supported by well-advanced infrastructure, a business-friendly ecosystem, and state-of-the-art venues, Qatar has solidified its position as a favourable MICE destination for its capability for hosting mega



Qatar Tourism (QT) HE chairman Saad bin Ali al-Kharji and other officials attending the event yesterday.

events. Qatar has built a strong track record of successfully hosting major events and conferences, attracting over 100,000 visitors. These include the Ge-

neva International Motor Show (GIMS) 2023, Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) and Web Summit 2024," the QT chairman noted. **To Page 5**

Israel bombs Gaza as mediators talk truce

Israel's military pounded central Gaza with heavy air strikes yesterday as international talks to secure a truce and hostage release deal resumed.

Tensions were high in annexed east Jerusalem as thousands of police guarded Israel's annual "flag march" that has sparked clashes between Jews and Arabs in previous years.

The bloodiest ever Gaza war raged on with jets bombing targets overnight and Palestinian officials reporting yet more deaths.

Urban combat and shelling intensified in Gaza's southern city of Rafah, while fighting resumed in central areas. The army announced targeted operational activity in the areas of Bureij and eastern Deir al-Balah.

Bombardment of central Gaza

killed 11 people near the Al-Maghazi camp and two near Deir al-Balah, said witnesses and Palestinian civil defence and hospital officials.

The charity Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) said at least 70 dead and more than 300 wounded had been brought to Al-Aqsa hospital since Tuesday, after "heavy Israeli strikes" in central Gaza.

A source with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed to AFP that a meeting had taken place yesterday between Qatar and Egyptian mediators with Hamas in Doha to discuss a deal for a truce in Gaza and the exchange of hostages and prisoners.

US President Joe Biden has deployed CIA chief Bill Burns to Qatar for a renewed push after months of back-and-forth negotiations. **(AFP)**

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Qatar attends ITU Council meeting

Qatar, represented by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), is participating in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council meeting, in Geneva, Switzerland, until June 14. The Qatari delegation is led by President of CRA Engineer Ahmad Abdulla Al-Muslemani.

CRA participates in the meeting as an observer member of the ITU Council, composed of 48 ITU member states, acts as the Union's governing body in the interval between ITU plenipotentiary conferences, which is held every four years.

The council meeting ensures that the union's activities, policies, and strategies fully respond to the rapidly evolving telecommunications environment. Also, it ensures

the smooth day-to-day running of the union, co-ordinating work programmes, approving budgets, and controlling finances and expenditure.

Key agenda items include discussions about the achievements of the strategic plan of the union for 2023-2024 and discussing the operational plans of the union 2025-2028.

During the meeting, CRA will deliver a comprehensive presentation on Qatar's preparations to host the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2026 (PP-26). Additionally, CRA has a booth featuring interactive content highlighting Qatar's readiness to welcome the participating delegations. The booth also offers visitors an opportunity to learn about Qatar's evolving Information and Communication Tech-

nology (ICT) sector. The Plenipotentiary Conference is the highest policy-making body of the ITU. This is the key event for the ITU Member States to determine the future role of the organisation and thereby the organisation's ability to influence the development of ICTs worldwide. Hosting this conference in Qatar will enhance opportunities for collaboration with stakeholders, contributing to attracting future investments and partnerships.

This, in turn, will enhance the growth of the ICT sector towards supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third Qatar National Development Strategy, which include providing world-class telecom services and improving the quality of life for citizens and residents. (QNA)

Transport minister meets chief of Yutong



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Saif Ahmed al-Sulaiti met with Tang Yuxiang,

Chairman of Yutong Bus Co Ltd, which has one of the world's largest e-bus manufacturing and assembly factories. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations and ways to enhance them to broader horizons, particularly in terms of using eco-friendly and autonomous public transportation technologies.

The meeting also discussed the latest developments in strategic partnership for establishing a factory for manufacturing e-buses at the free zones in Qatar, in addition to the co-operation on mutual

investments between Yutong and Mowasalat (Karwa).

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Transport visited some of Yutong e-bus factories and was briefed on the manufacturing processes and units, production lines, and some of the newest manufacturing technologies. HE al-Sulaiti also met with Tony Bao, Vice-President of Huawei, the leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, smart devices, as well as technology and smart solutions for infrastructure projects.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation between the two sides and

ways to enhance them, particularly in the areas of smart technologies on electric and self-driving public transit systems.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Transport, accompanied by Huawei officials, visited the Shenzhen Supercharging Station and was briefed on the ultrafast electric vehicle (EV) chargers that run on solar power.

He also toured the station's facilities and viewed the integrated technologies in use. Additionally, the minister was given a detailed presentation on intelligent automotive solutions and attended a test drive of Huawei's latest M9 vehicle module. (QNA)

CRA president nominated as chair-designate for ITU's next plenipotentiary conference

Qatar, the host country of the next International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26), has nominated Engineer Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani, president of the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), as the chair-designate.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference is the highest decision-making body of ITU, the UN Agency for Digital Technologies. PP-26 will take place in Doha, from November 9-27, 2026. "ITU's next Plenipotentiary Conference

in Qatar will set the stage for a digital future where human-centred technology drives progress and inclusion for everyone," said ITU secretary-general, Doreen Bogdan-Martin. "Under Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani's leadership, I'm confident that PP-26 will make great strides in advancing ITU's mission to connect the world meaningfully and sustainably."

Delegates representing ITU's 193 member states meet every four years at the Plenipotentiary Conference to set out the organisation's strategic and financial

plans. They also elect ITU's senior management team, the Member States of the ITU Council, and the members of the Radio Regulations Board.

HE Mohamed bin Ali al-Manai, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, said: "This appointment underscores Qatar's commitment to shaping the future of global communications and ensuring equitable access to information and communication technologies for all. We are confident that AlMuslemani's extensive experience will be instru-

mental in guiding the conference towards impactful resolutions and fostering a collaborative environment for the ITU member states."

As Chair-designate, AlMuslemani will work with ITU and its member states to prepare for PP-26, which will guide the organisation's work through 2030 in overseeing global radio spectrum allocation, creating global technical standards, and advancing sustainable development through connectivity to digital technologies.

"Qatar has a proven track

record of successfully organising and hosting major international events. We are confident that Qatar will be an exemplary host for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. It will be our honour to welcome the global ICT community to Doha, where we will share our rich culture, heritage, and hospitality. This conference presents an invaluable opportunity for us to collectively advance the global ICT agenda, fostering innovation and cooperation that will shape the future of digital technologies worldwide," added AlMuslemani.



Engineer Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani



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PM meets political aide to Lebanese speaker



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Parliament Member Ali Hassan Khalil, who is the political aide to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Lebanon. The meeting discussed the developments in Lebanon and the region. (QNA)

Minister meets WHO officials

He the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari met separately in Geneva with Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Hassan Balkhy and WHO Director-General's Senior Adviser for Organisation-al Change Soren Brostrom.

Talks during the meetings focused on aspects of co-operation between Qatar and the WHO and ways to enhance them in the field of health, in addition to means to support the global action plan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at the international level.

The meetings also addressed the key outcomes of the meetings of the 77th World Health Assembly and the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board, both of which recently concluded. (QNA)



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QatarEnergy invites submissions from Companies able to demonstrate experience and expertise to pre-qualify for the following proposed tender.

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

Effective from 1st July 2023, bids submitted by a Local company (companies incorporated in Qatar) acting as Tenderer in accordance with this Invitation to Tender, will not be accepted by QatarEnergy without any further notification, if such companies are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by the specified Original Tender Closing Date or Original due date for submission of COMMERCIAL Package in case of two stage Tendering as per ITT. However, any Local company that has been established within last two (2) years is exempt from this mandatory ICV certification requirement.

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Cabinet praises outcome of Amir's visit to Greece, Cyprus

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's weekly meeting at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. After the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi issued the following statement: At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet praised the outcomes of the official visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Cyprus and the state visit to Greece.

The Cabinet emphasised that the expanded and fruitful discussions that His Highness held with the leaders of the two friendly countries, focused on developing and strengthening bilateral cooperation with them in various fields, in addition to issues of common interest, most notably the developments in the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian territories.

These discussions reflected the extent of Qatar's well-established relations and advanced investment partnerships with both Cyprus and Greece. The discussions also embodied the common

aspiration to advance the relations to expanded and broader horizons, as well as the common interest in everything that would serve the interests of peoples and enhance regional security and global peace.

The Cabinet congratulated Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Mubarak al-Sabah on the occasion of his appointment as Kuwait's Crown Prince, wishing him success, and the fraternal Kuwaiti people further progress and prosperity. After that, the Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda as follows:

First – the Cabinet was informed of the Shura Council's approval of a draft law amending some provisions of the Qatar Financial Centre Law promulgated by Law No 7 of 2005.

Second – the Cabinet approved a draft decision of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology to extend the deadline for regularising the status of postal service providers subject to the provisions of Law No 15 of 2023 promulgating the Postal Services Regulation Law.

Third – the Cabinet approved the following:

1- Signing and ratifying the statute of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) Police Co-operation and Co-ordination Center.

2- A draft memorandum of under-

standing (MoU) between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Qatar University, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

3- A draft MoU regarding establishing a mechanism for political consultations on issues of common interest between the ministries of foreign affairs of Qatar and Moldova.

4- A draft MoU between the Foreign Ministry of Qatar and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada regarding a mechanism for bilateral political consultations.

5- A draft MoU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada, regarding development co-operation.

Fourth – the Cabinet reviewed the following matters and made appropriate decisions:

1- A report on incentives for the use of electric and hybrid cars in Qatar.

2- The annual report of the Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology.

3- The semi-annual report of the Committee for the Regulation of Ownership and Use of Non-Qatari Property.

4- A report on the outcomes of participating in the Extraordinary General Assembly for the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS).

Qatar hails Slovenian decision to recognise State of Palestine

Qatar welcomed the Slovenian Parliament's ratification of the government's decision to recognise the State of Palestine, and considered it an important step that reflects the growing support of the international community for the two-state solution towards achieving peace and stability in the region. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed, in a statement yesterday, Qatar's hope that more countries would recognise the State of Palestine and enhance efforts aimed at implementing the two-state solution. The ministry stressed that achieving comprehensive and just peace in the region is fully depending on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. (QNA)

Shura participates in IPU session on role of youth in preventing conflicts

The Shura Council yesterday participated in the 10th briefing session of the Empowering Young Parliamentarians series, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) via video communication. The briefing session was dedicated to the role of young parliamentarians in preventing conflicts and in building peace.

The Shura Council was represented at the session by its member Mohamed bin Omar al-Mannai. The session discussed the role of young parliamentarians in preventing conflicts and in building peace, through strategies for activating youth participation in peace processes and using legislative and parliamentary oversight tools.

The session also touched on the importance of the UN Security Council Resolution No 2250 (2015) and its impact on enhancing the role of youth in peace and security, in addition to reviewing the challenges and opportunities for its implementation. During the session, al-Mannai reviewed



the role of Qatar and its mediation efforts to support international peace and security, starting with its efforts in Afghanistan, through to its humanitarian initiatives to reunite Ukrainian children. He stressed the need for the Youth Forum of the IPU to have an effective role in supporting peace and security, including stopping the aggression on Gaza. (QNA)

Qatar partakes in NAFSA International Conference

Qatar participated, with a delegation from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and a number of other concerned parties, in the 76th National Association of Foreign Student Advisors (NAFSA) Conference in Louisiana, US. Qatar was represented in this conference by 12 institutions, including nine universities. This participation is a testament to the MoEHE's continuous support to all institutions of the higher education system in the country as they strive to attract global talent through international university exhibitions. The participation aims to attract international students to enrol in national and private universities in the country. It also aims to highlight the efforts made in the international higher education sector under the 'Learn in Qatar' project, as this opportunity allows universities and educational institutions to exchange experiences and develop agreements with international institutions.

The 2024 annual NAFSA Conference and Exhibition, titled 'Resilience, Renewal, Community,' brought together more than 9,500 international education professionals. The conference included more than 250 programmes, including educational sessions, networking opportunities, and special events. It also included the NAFSA International Education Exhibition, which featured over 350 exhibitors representing nearly 50 countries. (QNA)

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



Omani delegation visits Karwa facilities



Mowasalat (Karwa) has received a delegation from the Omani Ministry of Education at its facilities. "It was an amazing opportunity to share our expertise on the new bus fleet, operations, safety systems and state-of-the-art vehicle and student tracking app for school transportation," Karwa said in a statement on X.



QRCS launches new life-saving project for vulnerable people in Yemen



Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched a new integrated, life-saving health and nutrition response project for the poorest people in Yemen, to meet the emergency and essential needs of around 126,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) and locals in the inaccessible parts of Maqbanah district, Taiz Governorate.

With \$1mn funding from the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), the project includes a package of health and nutrition measures to improve primary, secondary and surgical health-care services, as well as to provide children and women with access to life-saving preventive and therapeutic nutrition services.

Moreover, the project involves

capacity-building for health workers at the target facilities, with training courses on nutritional counselling programmes, mass immunisation, infection control, and community management for acute malnutrition treatment.

The monthly staff remunerations are also provided.

In the outdoor aspect, mobile clinics are being deployed to re-

mote camps/areas lacking medical services, in order to provide primary healthcare services, especially reproductive health and paediatrics, promoting awareness-raising messages on healthy infant nutrition and infection prevention, and applying the referral system for patients in need of advanced medical care to the supported hospitals and health centres. (QNA)

Education ministry unveils new curricula strategies for 2024-25

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) unveiled fresh curricula strategies for the academic year 2024-25, in line with the Third National Development Strategy. MoEHE's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs, Maha al-Ruwaili, said the new strategies seek to achieve an ideal balance between the academic, skill-based, social and psychological aspects of students according to their needs. She added the new plan stems from the commitment to providing education that meets the needs of students and enables them to acquire the skills and values that qualify them to face the challenges of the future. KG students will be offered free reading classes as part of their fun meeting classes along with increased sports activity. For elementary schools, students will have the opportunity to acquire further linguistic and artistic skills along with life skills that develop their motivation to learn. For the preparatory school students, further focus will be put on Arabic and English reading and writing classes with the inclusion of topics that meet students' interests and to develop their skills. Meanwhile, secondary school students will be required to submit graduation projects based on research and creative skills, as well as volunteering hours to develop their sense of social responsibility. Also among the new plans for the next academic year, is that teaching hours for preparatory school students will continue until 1:30pm, except for Thursdays, when it will end at 12:40pm, while the school day for secondary schools will go on until 1:30pm. (QNA)

Qatar takes part in 'Vision Golfe' forum in Paris

Qatar participated in the second edition of its yearly forum 'Vision Golfe' organised by Business France in Paris. At the forum, the Qatari delegation was headed by Qatar's ambassador to France HE Sheikh Ali bin Jassim al-Thani. Members of Qatar's delegation participated in the dialogue sessions held at the forum focusing on enhancing trade exchange, attracting investor capital, and exploring new investment opportunities, particularly in the sectors of energy, infrastructure, artificial intelligence, health, environment and tourism. The forum acts as the main business event between France and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) for strengthening and deepening economic and trade relations, dialogue, and for exchanging ideas to create an environment to enhance economic growth and achieve common prosperity. (QNA)



Pak Punjab CM meets Qatar's envoy

Chief Minister of Punjab Province in Pakistan Maryam Nawaz met with Qatar's ambassador in Islamabad Ali bin Mubarak al-Khater. The meeting discussed co-operative relations and ways to support and develop them, in addition to a number of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



UDST launches major efforts to promote STEM/TVET education

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) announced the launch of the Call for Action plan, detailing comprehensive recommendations on academic initiatives and related education policies while establishing a framework to link government, academia, and industry in fostering a sustainable and resilient workforce for the present and the future.

The Call for Action plan included in the Doha Declaration issued by the university after it recently organised the International Symposium on Education and Skills for a Future-Ready Workforce, includes eight strategic directions that represent a holistic roadmap for GCC countries to embrace and advance STEM/TVET education within these ambitious nations.

The plan aims to promote STEM education and TVET in higher education planning; institution-

alise industry-academia linkages and partnerships; advance policy development; enhance accessibility and attractiveness of STEM education and TVET; foster international collaboration; leverage technologies for learning; invest in teacher and educator development; and accelerate reskilling and upskilling initiatives.

President of UDST Dr Salem Al-Naemi said: "As the first and only national applied university in Qatar, we are proud to lead the efforts in advancing STEM education and TVET in Qatar. We are pleased to say that many of our partnerships, initiatives, and academic planning strive to satisfy the action plan put in place by the committee, for example, in the previous academic year, we launched Postgraduate Diploma in STEM/TVET Education, allowing bachelor degree holders to embark on rewarding careers as STEM/TVET educators while fulfilling the shortage

"As the first and only national applied university in Qatar, we are proud to lead the efforts in advancing STEM education and TVET in Qatar"

of qualified and passionate teachers in the field. We look forward to more fruitful collaborations with higher education institutions, government entities and the industry both in Qatar as well as different GCC nations."

UDST organised this important symposium last May, based on the decision of the committee of presidents and directors of universities and institutions of higher education and scientific research in the GCC countries. The university plays an effective role in enhancing GCC countries' efforts to build a sustainable and innovative workforce capable of facing current and future challenges. (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, PULICHARAMVEETIL KUNHIMARAKKAR ABDUL SHUKKUR

holder of

Indian Passport No. Z2838248

QID No. 26635600414

hereby change my name

from

PULICHARAMVEETIL KUNHIMARAKKAR ABDUL SHUKKUR

to

ABDUL SHUKKUR KUNHIMARAKKAR

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

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I, MOHAMMAD TAHIDULALAM SHAH BAZAL

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NEMRA MUSHTAQ

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Al-Muraikhi receives copies of credentials of Tajikistan, Paraguay ambassadors



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi received yesterday copies of the credentials of ambassadors of Tajikistan and Paraguay - Nurmurod Mahmudali and Jose Rafael Aguero Avila, respectively. HE al-Muraikhi wished the ambassadors success in their duties, assuring them of providing all support to advance the relations between Qatar and their respective countries for a closer co-operation in various fields. (QNA)

Workshop focuses on scholarships to empower Qataris for private sector

The Ministry of Labour, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, organised yesterday an introductory workshop to introduce private sector companies and institutions to the National Manpower Affairs Programme's latest development and highlight the main advantages of the new government scholarship programme for citizens wishing to work in the private sector.

The new scholarship plan will contribute to increasing the number of qualified Qataris in critical sectors such as health and education, by identifying specific disciplines and guiding their mission towards them, so that the Emission Plan will include students studying in disciplines within the needs of the private sector, which will have a positive impact in the coming years.

Assistant Undersecretary for National Workforce Affairs Sheikh Abdulrahman al-Badi affirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting and providing scholarship opportunities for Qatari students. This initiative aims to attract and integrate them into the private sector job market. It's part of the ministry's efforts to supply the private sector with qualified national talent capable of leading this vital sector, playing its pivotal role in Qatar's development journey.

She said the Ministry of Labour collaborates closely with the Ministry of Education, and several other ministries, private sector companies, and institutions. Their aim is to support the education of citizens who aspire to work in the private sector, empowering them to acquire knowledge and



develop skills. This effort seeks to enhance education indicators linked to the knowledge economy, in addition to preparing a highly efficient national workforce that effectively contributes to increasing private sector productivity, entrepreneurship, and driving the economic development of the country.

Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Higher Education Affairs Dr Harib Mohamed al-Jabri, outlined during the workshop the general objectives of the updated governmental scholarship plan. These objectives include economic growth through investment in human capital and the quality of education outcomes, highlighting the role of the private sector in this context.

He emphasised that one of the objectives of the new governmental scholarship plan is to ensure equal opportunities, diversity, inclusivity, and talent development. He affirmed that governmental scholarships provide an opportunity for all Qatari students to obtain a government-sponsored scholarship provided they meet the necessary and required conditions.

Al-Jabri discussed, in a related

context, the three main scholarship programmes. These include the internal scholarship programme for 10 universities within Qatar, part of the Education City universities, the external scholarship programme for the top 300 universities according to rankings based on fields and specialisations, allowing students to choose a university that suits their desired field of study.

In a related context, al-Jabri addressed the three major programmes; Internship Programme for 10 universities within Qatar within the city's educational universities, the exterior of the top 300 universities according to the classification of pathways and disciplines, allowing the student to choose the university that suits him according to the specialisation he desires. In addition, the Amiri Emission Programme for the Top 24 Universities by the World's General Classification of External Remission with conditions required for each of them, noting that the government broadcasts were previously limited to outstanding students' rights, while it now includes talented professionals in disciplines such as sport, art and innovation. (QNA)

Qatar committed to protecting local environment: minister

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turk al-Subaie affirmed Qatar's interest in the local environment and its commitment to protecting and preserving it through all state means, adding that Qatar's terrestrial and marine environments are a national heritage that must be protected, and is the responsibility of every member of Qatari society.

This came in a statement on the occasion of the World Environment Day, in which he said that protecting the environment is a priority for Qatar, evident in the country's plans, strategies, programmes, and initiatives that are underway to realise its vision of developing and enriching the local environment. This is in accordance with the Third National Development Strategy and the Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

HE the Minister said that this year's theme 'Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience' sheds light on the planet's urgent need for careful attention, especially against the backdrop of current climate change repercussions of increasing desertification, excessive deforestation, and rainfall scarcity.

He highlighted Qatar's efforts



HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turk al-Subaie

to expand its green areas in recent years through inaugurating new parks, planting trees, and preserving natural terrestrial and coastal vegetation. HE Dr al-Subaie noted the completion of the 'Plant a Million Trees' initiative in 2022 and the launch of the Plant 10mn Trees initiative to be realised by 2030, pointing to the state's focus on enhancing water efficiency in afforestation through the use of technology and water reuse, for the sake of sustainability.

He added that the ministry has numerous environmental projects and strategies in place to be implemented in the coming period, focusing on biodiversity, natural and terrestrial environments, along with continuing

with the afforestation initiatives.

He pointed out that the state has designated 27% of its terrestrial area as natural reserves, along with 2% marine reserves.

HE al-Subaie said that within the framework of preserving biodiversity, the ministry has launched a project to protect endangered sea turtles, which increased their number to about 50,000 turtles, as well as launched projects to protect dugongs and whale sharks, along with creating a local biodiversity database to keep record and to monitor, in addition to maintaining a balance between environmental, social, and human development in order to ensure a sustainable future.

He said the Qatar National Vision 2030 underscores the importance of balancing developmental needs with environmental protection through establishing effective and advanced environmental institutions to raise public awareness about environmental protection issues and to promote the use of environmentally friendly technologies, highlighting the ministry's keenness to spread environmental awareness, including the World Environment Day, and to support institutions and individuals alike in service of this cause. (QNA)

Sheikh Hamad Award receives 280 nominations

The Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding announced the initial screening process for the nominations submitted for the award in its tenth edition for 2024, which amounted to 280 nominations from 35 countries around the globe, with the participation of individuals and institutions concerned with translation.

Official Spokesperson and Media Adviser for the Award Dr Hanan al-Fayyad said that in 2024, the committee received 195 nominations from 17 Arab countries, and 85 nominations from 18 non-Arab countries.

The number of nominations in the single book category reached 209 nominations, distributed among 164 individuals and 45 institutions. The number of nominations in the achievement category reached 71, distributed among 38 individuals and 33 institutions. The nominated works include various fields of human

sciences, most notably: literature, Islamic studies, philosophy, social sciences, political science, and history. In the award's tenth edition, the French language was selected as the main language (along with English) in the single books category after it was selected in 2017. In achievement category, Balochi, Tatar, Hungarian, and Yoruba were selected as sub-languages, in addition to the two main languages.

These languages are selected in order to stimulate translation efforts from and into the Arabic language in the countries that speak these languages, and to encourage the continuity of acculturation between the societies of these countries and the Arab societies, al-Fayyad said. Launched in 2015, the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding seeks to honour translators and to acknowledge their role in strengthening the bonds of friendship and co-operation among people, nations. (QNA)

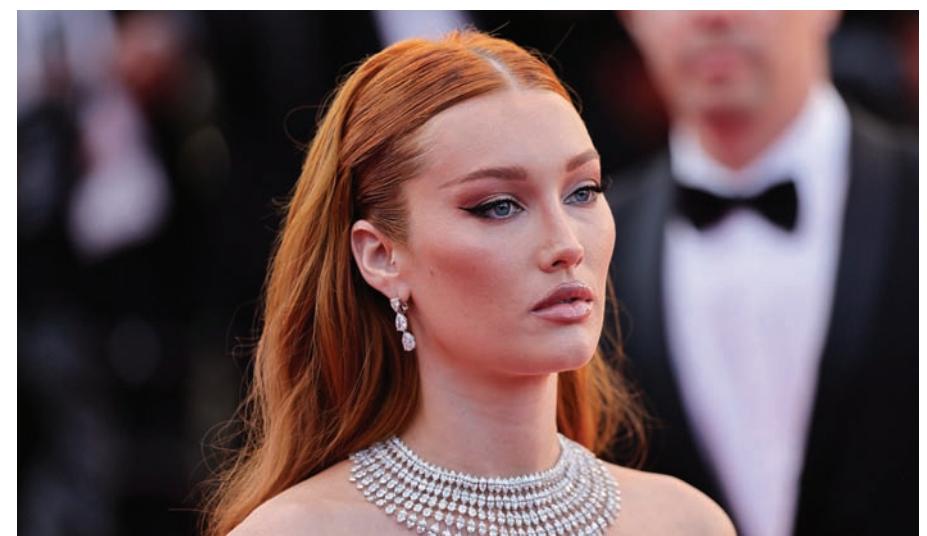
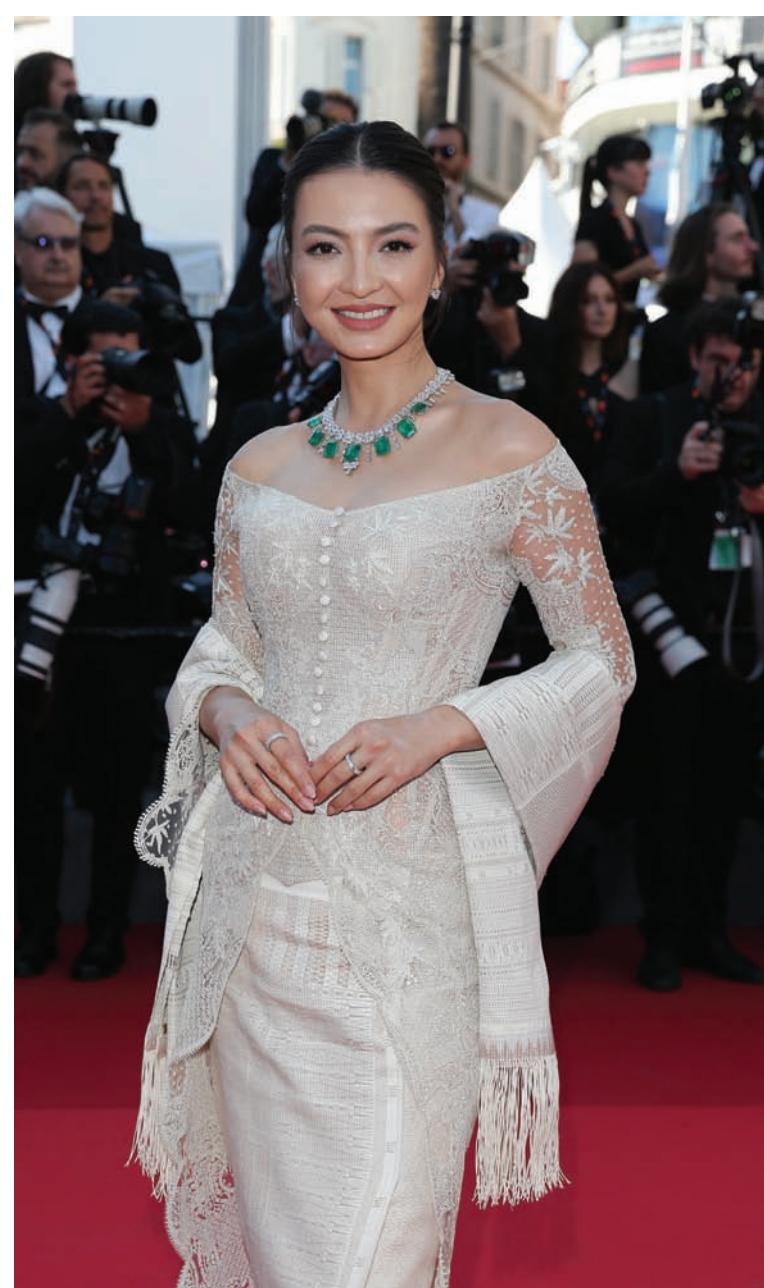
Chopard

77th Cannes International Film Festival

President of the Jury Greta Gerwig, Member of the Jury Eva Green, Co-President of the Jury "Caméra d'or" Emmanuelle Béart, Member of the Jury "Un Certain Regard" Maïmouna Doucouré, Demi Moore, Viola Davis, Sofia Carson, Raline Shah, Meredith Duxbury, Ikram Abdi, Ana Girardot, Macarena Gomez,

President of the Cannes International Film Festival Iris Knobloch, Chopard Co-President and Artistic Director Caroline Scheufele wear Chopard creations to the Closing Ceremony of the 77th Cannes International Film Festival of which Chopard is an Official Partner.

On this occasion, all the trophies crafted by Chopard in its workshops will be awarded, including the prestigious Palme d'or, which honors the best film in competition.



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WISH to launch report on ethical management of AI in healthcare

The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), an initiative of Qatar Foundation, has announced it will publish a report on the Ethics of AI in healthcare, exploring some of the most widely adopted practices of AI in healthcare and emphasising the associated ethical challenges.

The report will be published ahead of WISH 2024, which takes place on November 13-14 at the Qatar National Convention Centre, and will form the basis of discussions at the November event around the ethical implications of an increase in the use of AI in healthcare.

While ethical considerations in general will feature in the report, particular emphasis will be given to exploring the relationship between AI and healthcare from an Islamic perspective.

Dr Mohamed Ghaly, professor of Islam and Biomedical Ethics and head of the Research Centre for Islamic Legislation and Ethics, at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) will act as lead author of the report.

Dr Ghaly said: "Both secular and religious moral traditions need to grapple with serious ethical challenges surrounding the use of AI in healthcare, including unequal access to this technology, privacy and data protection, obtaining informed consent, and how these elements would relate to the long-held set of values and etiquettes governing the patient-physician relationship."

Maha El Akoum, manager, Policy and Content at WISH, said: "As adoption of AI in healthcare continues at pace, how we regulate it to ensure medical practice remains ethical and equitable becomes crucial. WISH is therefore taking a leading role, working with our colleagues at HBKU, to address this pressing issue, which is essential to fostering trust and ensuring ethical integrity."



The report will be published ahead of WISH Summit 2024.

DFI's Geekend back with new activations at Lusail Boulevard

Doha Film Institute (DFI) announced the return of Geekend, Qatar's premier pop culture event, scheduled from June 6 to 8 at the Geekdom Building at Lusail Boulevard.

Geekend 2024 promises an immersive experience for enthusiasts of all ages and interests, featuring a diverse range of activities, markets, and shows. Daily passes are available for just QR20, granting access to a world of creativity and fandom.

Providing a unique platform for local talent to share their passion for pop culture, and experiences that engage and inspire, the event presents ever-popular Geekdom Market, awesome activities and stage programmes, thrilling games, competitions, workshops and much more.

Abdullah al-Mosallam, chief administrative officer of DFI, founder of Geekend, said: "We are thrilled to unveil the highly anticipated Geekend with an array of captivating events and activations. Emerging as a cornerstone of culture in Qatar, Geekend once again promises an electrifying atmosphere for creatives, visitors, and gaming enthusiasts alike to revel in the camaraderie of this illustrious gathering of Geeks."

"Drawing participants from across the region showcases the event's significance within our local creative community and beyond, and we look forward to an ultimate weekend of fun and fandom for all."



Geekend 2024 promises an immersive experience for enthusiasts of all ages and interests.



Geekend, Qatar's premier pop culture event, returns.

Visitors can discover a rare collection of memorabilia at Geekdom's artist and vendor alley curated by 23 collectors from Qatar and Bahrain, where they will also showcase the works of local and regional artists, enticing passionate collectors.

The three-day extravaganza includes Mission Possible and Geekdom Side Quests, offering interactive daily activities such as the "Treasure Hunt," where participants decode hints and puzzles to uncover hidden treasures.

The Beyond Solar Gaming Challenge, presented by Core-game and developed by local game developer Fadi Soufi, invites players to compete in a survival-style challenge, vying for top scores on the leaderboard.

The Geekend Catan Boardgame Tournament, presented by Majlis Shabab, will see 16 players battle it out over the first two days, culminating in a grand showdown on the final day.

The event's spectacular stage programme will feature Karaoke nights and events organised by Nakama, including the Tokyo Street Fashion Contest, Family Feud Anime Edition, Nakama Classroom, and an Art Contest where participants create themed character drawings.



Ashghal wins Innovation Award

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has received the Innovation Award in the use of Artificial Intelligence, during the activities of the Microsoft Forum, which was held under the title 'Leading the Age of Artificial Intelligence'.

This is in recognition of Ashghal's commitment to adopting emerging technologies and in-

novative practices by integrating modern technology into most of its projects, which the authority underscores its commitment to innovation and digital transformation.

The award, according to a statement by Ashghal on X, was received by the Director of Shared Services Affairs, Mishal Sultan al-Hitmi.

HMC has treated around 100 children from Gaza, all of whom are suffering from war-related injuries. The Grand Round highlighted the case of one child to demonstrate how integrated care can transform patients' lives.

Dr Hanadi al-Hamad, deputy chief, Long-Term Care, Rehabilitation, and Geriatrics Care at HMC, said the event is part of ef-

orts to highlight the integrated capabilities of the Corporate Rehabilitation Therapy Services in improving the lives of patients with disabilities at HMC.

The goal of the event was to underscore the importance of integrated care and the significant impact a collaborative team approach can have on patient outcomes. This event also aimed to raise awareness among healthcare professionals on the effectiveness of integrated rehabilitation, as well as to facilitate the exchange of knowledge among profession-

The Corporate Rehabilitation Therapy Services at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) held its first Corporate Rehabilitation Grand Round.

The event titled "Transformative Rehabilitation for War-Injured Children: Holistic Care that Made a Difference" was held at HMC's Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Centre.

als from various departments at HMC, thereby enhancing integrated rehabilitation practices and the quality of healthcare provided to patients with disabilities," Dr al-Hamad said.

Dr Mahmoud Ibrahim Abeidah, head, Paediatrics Rehabilitation Department at Qatar Rehabilitation Institute said:

"The integrated paediatrics rehabilitation programme is a set of clear and precise procedures aimed at rehabilitating paediatric patients with disabilities using advanced methods and the lat-

est technologies provided by QRI. These technologies and treatment approaches assist specialists in the functional rehabilitation of children with complex injuries. They include robots used in gait rehabilitation and balance improvement, hydrotherapy which reduces pain and improves muscle strength, sensory stimulation which enhances sensory processing, along with cognitive and communication rehabilitation strategies, and evidence-based therapeutic exercises to maximise functional recovery."

HMC holds Corporate Rehabilitation Grand Round



The programme was attended by 139 healthcare providers from various HMC facilities.

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Qatar-Ukraine relations built on diverse partnerships, shared interests

Qatar and Ukraine share a solid relationship built on diverse partnerships in numerous fields, by virtue of the economic potential and distinguished geographical sites embraced by the two countries.

The Qatar-Ukraine relations have witnessed remarkable evolution during recent years through shared visits between the leaderships of the two nations and intensified co-ordination and consultation on a variety of regional and global issues.

The economic affairs are embodied by signed agreements and memorandums of understanding, which represent a legal foundation to carry out many joint projects and increase trade exchange between the two countries.

In this context, comes the visit of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to Doha.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President Zelensky discussed the relationship between the two friendly countries and avenues to reinforce it in multiple fields, in addition to reviewing a range of global issues of shared concern.

President Zelensky's visit marked the 31st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1993. The two sides exchanged ambassadors in November 2000.

In March 2009, the first political consultations were held between the foreign ministries of the two countries in Kyiv, prior to opening Qatar's embassy in Ukraine,

on August 16, 2013. Credentials of the first Qatari ambassador were received by the Ukrainian President on September 13, 2013.

The visit represented a new milestone of the evolving relationships between the two nations to further broaden their horizons. The visit also underscores the rock-solid bilateral relationship, along with the political and diplomatic role Qatar plays at the regional and global levels.

The Qatar-Ukraine bilateral relationship is underscored by an array of agreements and memorandums of understanding that echo their desire to strengthen co-operation in a variety of fields, particularly in the economic field, infrastructure, energy security, food security, tourism, sports, education, and others.

Shared visits by officials of the two nations had a profound impact on the evolution of ties in multiple fields.

Qatar-Ukraine relations were enhanced further during the official talks His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held with President Zelensky in Doha in April 2021. The talks culminated in the signing of a number of deals and MoUs between the governments of the two countries. This largely contributed to lending impetus to the Qatar-Ukraine relations and broadening their horizons.

President Zelensky hailed the trade and economic co-operation between the two countries, describing it as the groundwork for bilateral relationship.

The Qatar-Ukraine relations have witnessed remarkable evolution during recent years through shared visits between the leaderships of the two nations and intensified co-ordination and consultation on a variety of regional and global issues

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the occasion of the official visit to Qatar at that time, Zelensky highlighted that notwithstanding the circumstances the world had passed through due to Covid-19 pandemic, the trade exchange between Qatar and Ukraine reached high levels in 2020, worth \$150mn. He emphasised that this figure represented double the bilateral trade in 2018.

The Ukrainian president noted the concession project obtained by Qatari company QTerminals at Ukraine's Olivia Port, describing the partnership as incredible. He considered QTerminals as one of the most important players in the Ukrainian market.

Zelensky stated his priority was to systematically improve the investment climate and create best conditions for foreign investors in Ukraine. And for this purpose, Ukraine is reforming legislation and implementing ambitious national programmes.

Qatar has accomplished a plethora of crucial objectives with Ukraine on their bilateral agenda, particularly at the political and economic levels, such as the launch of direct flights between Doha and Kyiv, creating a system of visa cancellation requirements

and establishing a joint government committee for economic, trade and technological co-operation.

Since the early days of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, Qatar has been bound by the UN charter and the fundamental precepts of international law, including the commitments under the charter to settle international disputes through peaceful means, and uphold the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states as expressed by His Highness the Amir during the phone call he received from President Zelensky in February 2022.

As part of Qatar's humanitarian endeavours to alleviate the consequences of war on the Ukrainian people, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani announced, during his visit to Ukraine in July 2023, that His Highness the Amir gave directive to announce a pledge of \$100mn in humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs pointed out that the declared amount would be directed to rehabilitate health and educational infrastructure, in addition to providing drinking water, humanitarian services and allo-

cating 50 university scholarships, during 2023-2024, to Ukrainian students to study in Qatar.

Besides its supportive position for peaceful solution for the crisis, Qatar has played a critical humanitarian role throughout this crisis and had separately hosted a Ukrainian delegation last April, led by Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets, alongside a delegation from the Russian Federation, led by Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova Belova. This was part of Qatar's unwavering mediation efforts to reunify families separated by the current conflict.

In the past months, Qatar succeeded in organising four reunification processes for Ukrainian children with their families in Ukraine, as part of Qatar's ongoing mediation efforts to reunify separated families due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Last April, Qatar announced the arrival of 20 Russian and Ukrainian families in Doha under an integrated programme that aimed to provide healthcare and an overall support for these families and their children.

Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted that the programme helps promote health recovery and stability through focusing on psychological, physical, and social health for each family member, enabling families to rebuild their life confidently and safely. The programme is implemented in partnership with repre-

sentatives of Russia and Ukraine.

Last April, Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights jointly announced a partnership that would promote well-being and safety in Ukraine. Qatar announced a \$3mn aid to support the critical operation undertaken by the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

As outlined in the joint statement, the funding aims to back initiatives that aim to improve the life of children and Ukrainians affected by the armed conflict and the entire population through strengthening the possibility of receiving social and economic support.

In the context of its supportive position for achieving peace and stability in Ukraine, Qatar participated in the Ukraine Recovery Conference held in London, in June 2023, with the participation of officials from roughly 60 states and leaders of major international companies.

The conference was intended to help Ukraine recover through fostering the private sector's role and building an economy capable of adapting to changes.

In December 2022, Qatar participated in "In solidarity with the Ukrainian People" conference organised by France in partnership with Ukraine to remobilise support for Ukraine and provide and immediate assistance for the Ukrainian people. (QNA)

QC provides safe drinking water in Bangladesh

Qatar Charity has implemented many water purification projects in Bangladesh.

This initiative, part of Qatar Charity's continued efforts to provide safe drinking water has significantly contributed to protecting the environment and reducing diseases and epidemics.

Qatar Charity stated that it has set up 135 water purifiers in various areas of the south-western district of Gopalganj benefiting over 10,000 underprivileged individuals who were suffering from various diseases due to contaminated water.

The rise in heavy metal contamination in the groundwater of Gopalganj district in Bangladesh has severely impacted the lives of its residents, leading to a scarcity of clean drinking water.

The beneficiaries expressed joy at receiving clean drinking water from Qatar Charity's projects.



Qatar Charity has set up 135 water purifiers in various areas of the south-western district of Gopalganj.

They also shared how they suffered while collecting potable drinking water before this initiative.

"We used to struggle fetching water from distant tube wells, facing difficulties and dissatisfaction due to the high level of iron concentration. But now, thanks to Qatar Charity's water plant, getting water is easy," explained Lipi Begum, a housewife.

Kamrul Gajji, a government official of the department of public health engineering in the Gopalganj district, stated that the surface water in many areas of the district contains high levels of heavy metals, such as unsafe levels of iron, leading to a shortage of pure drinking water sources.

In the water and sanitation sector, over the last 10 years, Qatar Charity implemented 19,152 projects across different regions of Bangladesh, benefiting a total of 1,564,000 people.

'Malaysia Truly Asia: Food Culture' event organised

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The embassy of Malaysia in Qatar organised the 'Malaysia Truly Asia: Food Culture' event yesterday in the country, featuring an array of authentic Malaysian dishes - nominated to be included in the Unesco List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Speaking at the event, Malaysian ambassador Zamshari Shaharan highlighted the significance of the celebration, saying it marks the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations between Qatar and Malaysia.

The envoy said the event aims to raise awareness of Malaysian food culture, particularly the Malaysian breakfast culture.

To achieve this, he noted that the embassy partnered with Doha-based Malaysian chefs - an initiative that aligns with the government's goal of fostering synergies between the Malaysian community in Qatar and the embassy to promote Malaysia in the country.

The nomination of delicious Malaysian dishes like nasi lemak, roti canai, and teh tarik to the Unesco List of Intangible Cultural Heritage forms part of Malaysia's effort to boost its visibility internationally as a food lover's delight. The country seeks to establish itself as a diverse tourist destination with a rich array of culinary traditions.

The event was a feast for the senses, featuring live demonstrations of the art of roti canai making. This beloved Malaysian flatbread, recently crowned the world's best by TasteAtlas, enthralled attendees with its rich history and culinary artistry.

Roti canai's journey through time reflects the vibrant blend of



cultures that shaped Malaysia's food scene, resulting in a dish as diverse and layered as its own dough.

Guests were also treated to the spectacle of teh tarik preparation. This popular hot milk tea, brewed with strong black tea and condensed milk, is known for its unique "pulling" technique.

Adding to the cultural immersion, attendees had the chance to experience the traditional wrapping of nasi lemak.

This fragrant rice dish, cooked in coconut milk and pandan leaf, is a staple in Malaysia and neighbouring Malay communities. Served in banana leaves, nasi lemak embodies the essence of a typical Malay breakfast, a testament to the region's rich culinary heritage.

Malaysia, a country rich in cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity, is celebrated for its wide array of culinary traditions. This melting pot of influences has produced a symphony of flavours, making Malaysian cuisine a beloved global delicacy.

The nation's cuisine reflects its rich history. Migrations, colonial influences, and its strategic location have all contributed to a fascinating fusion of flavours. Malay, Chinese, Indian, and indigenous Bornean and Orang Asli traditions form the foundation, enriched by culinary influences from Arab, Portuguese, Dutch, and British cuisines.



Malaysian ambassador Zamshari Shaharan welcomes guests at the event. PICTURES: Joey Aguilar



'Malaysia Truly Asia: Food Culture' showcases an array of Malaysian dishes and sweets yesterday.

QU researchers uncover potential treatment for diabetic retinopathy

Researchers at the College of Nursing, Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with peers from King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia, and Zarqa Private University, Jordan, have made a discovery that could transform the treatment of diabetic retinopathy. Their study reveals that a natural compound found in tomatoes, Esculetoside A (ESA), shows promise in preventing the retinal damage that often leads to blindness in diabetes patients. Diabetic retinopathy, caused by high blood sugar and lipid levels damaging the retina, remains a leading cause of vision loss in people with diabetes. Published in the Elsevier journal *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy*,

the study demonstrates that ESA can significantly reduce retinal damage in diabetic rats by lowering oxidative stress, inflammation, and cell death through the activation of the Nrf2 pathway.

This discovery suggests ESA could play a crucial role in halting the progression of diabetic retinopathy. Dr Mahmoud al-Khateeb, a lecturer of pre-clinical affairs at the College of Nursing at QU, and the study's corresponding author, heralded the findings as a beacon of hope for diabetic patients worldwide.

"In our shared endeavour, we have cast a beacon of hope for diabetic patients worldwide. The discovery



The researchers of the study.

of ESA's potential in guarding against diabetic retinopathy marks a pivotal moment in medical research," Dr al-Khateeb said. The study involved type-1 diabetic rats treated with ESA, which showed significant improvements in retinal health without altering blood sugar or lipid levels. Researchers employed meticulous biochemical analyses, histological examinations, and advanced molecular techniques to uncover ESA's mechanisms. Unlike existing treatments, which often come with high costs and significant side effects, ESA offers a natural, potentially safer alternative. Despite the promising initial findings, further research is necessary to fully understand

ESA's mechanisms and efficacy across different stages of diabetic eye disease. The researchers plan to conduct advanced laboratory tests and clinical trials to ensure ESA's safety and effectiveness in humans. Dr Hisham al-Shaikhli, assistant professor at the College of Nursing at QU, and co-principal investigator of the study, emphasised the importance of ongoing research stating, "As we explore the potential of ESA, we know there is much we do not understand. We need to study it more in labs. We are so committed to learning more through careful clinical trials to make sure ESA is safe and effective for real-world use."

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GULF TIMES

Sheinbaum unlikely to repeat mentor's Trump 'bromance'

Claudia Sheinbaum's landslide win gives her an unprecedented mandate in Mexico, but success in handling the country's key ally and trading partner the United States hinges on how she can navigate the relationship and a possible clash if Donald Trump returns to the White House, according to former diplomats and analysts. A climate scientist who will become Mexico's first female president, Sheinbaum is closely aligned with Mexico's outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. He has not always seen eye to eye with Washington but found surprising common ground with Trump in his first term despite tensions on trade and migration.

The smooth ties between the two populists is unlikely to be replicated with Sheinbaum, analysts and ex-diplomats said, given her more reserved and disciplined style.

"I don't think she will have the type of bromance that Lopez Obrador had with Donald Trump," said Arturo Sarukhan, who was Mexico's ambassador to the United States from 2007 to 2013.

That could make things more difficult if the US Republican candidate defeats President Joe Biden in the November election. Polls show Trump leading in some battleground states.

But Sheinbaum will be all too aware that her promises to expand welfare programmes and continue the policies that have helped her party lift millions of Mexicans out of poverty depend on having a stable and growing economy; and that requires the United States.

In 2023, Mexico surpassed China to become the United States' largest trading partner, and some 80% of Mexico exports are to the United States.

'She is a scientist, a political leader and self-identifies as a feminist – qualifications that may irritate Trump if he's elected'

the relationship under Sheinbaum especially under a protectionist Trump administration, even though the pact itself is the product of a renegotiation that he orchestrated and boasted of during his first term. Kenneth Smith Ramos, Mexico's former chief negotiator for the USMCA, said there will be a number of sticking points, including energy policy and a small but growing Chinese investment in strategic sectors in Mexico.

"I can perfectly imagine a second Trump presidency where President Trump comes to Mexico and says, OK, you have to decide, do you side with the US or are you with China?" he said.

In addition to trade politics, Washington pressures the Mexican government to crack down on drug production and trafficking – especially of fentanyl – and on the movement of migrants north to the US border. Mexico, in return, wants the United States to stop guns from being smuggled south into Mexico.

"The interesting thing is how all these issues work together," said Christopher Landau, who served as US ambassador to Mexico during the Trump presidency.

"Assuming Trump wins, I think a day one issue is going to be the border and migration. So if Mexico is co-operative on that, that's certainly going to earn a lot of goodwill on the trade side," he said.

But it is not just under Trump that migration flows have become a bilateral bargaining chip. Biden, for example, signed an executive order on Tuesday that could allow authorities to stop receiving asylum requests and deny entrance to migrants once a daily threshold is exceeded, a policy that would result in migrants from around the world who cross the southern US border being returned to Mexico.

The announcement of such an executive order only days after Mexico's election shows how Mexico has been strong-armed by both Democratic and Republican US administrations into enforcing US policy south of the border, advocates and analysts say.

Still, the pressure on Mexico to ramp up detentions and deportations of migrants would likely increase under a second Trump term. Trump and other Republicans have also escalated their rhetoric about mobilising troops or firing missiles to combat Mexico's drug cartels – moves the Mexican government would vehemently oppose as a matter of national sovereignty.

And beyond personality styles and entrenched politics, there's the more simple fact that Sheinbaum will be Mexico's first woman president – a widely celebrated achievement that might nevertheless complicate her relationship with Trump.

"Claudia Sheinbaum is a scientist, a political leader and she self-identifies as a feminist," said Gema Kloppe-Santamaría, Assistant Professor of Latin American History at George Washington University. "All of these qualifications make her a potential candidate to irritate Trump, if he is elected." – Reuters

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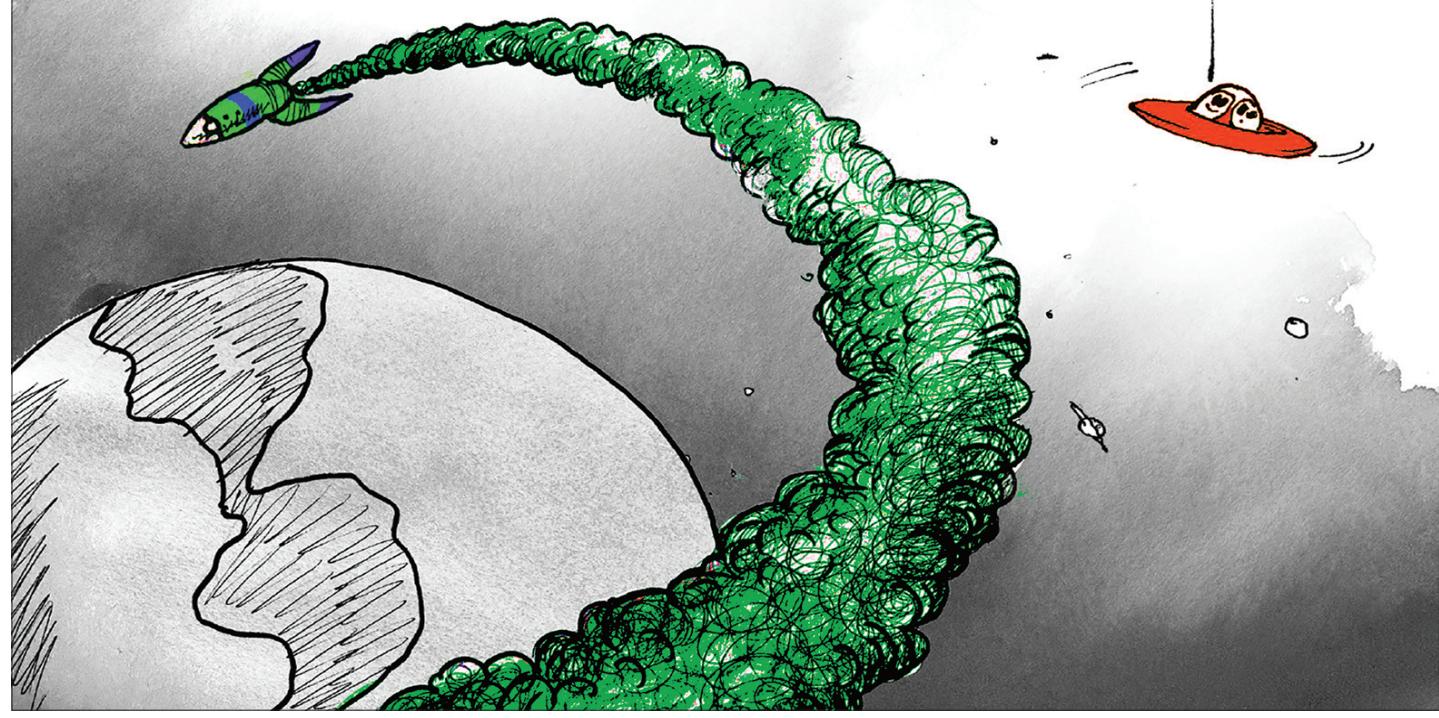
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"Green missiles for Environment Day?
Humans always miss the point."



The high cost of GPT-4o

By Angela Huyue Zhang
and S Alex Yang
Hong Kong/London

With the launch of GPT-4o, OpenAI has once again shown itself to be the world's most innovative artificial-intelligence company. This new multimodal AI tool – which seamlessly integrates text, voice, and visual capabilities – is significantly faster than previous models, greatly enhancing the user experience. But perhaps the most attractive feature of GPT-4o is that it is free – or so it seems.

One does not have to pay a subscription fee to use GPT-4o. Instead, users pay with their data. Like a black hole, GPT-4o increases in mass by sucking up any and all material that gets too close, accumulating every piece of information that users enter, whether in the form of text, audio files, or images.

GPT-4o gobbles up not only users' own information but also third-party data that are revealed during interactions with the AI service. Let's assume you are seeking a summary of a New York Times article's content. You take a screenshot and share it with GPT-4o, which reads the screenshot and generates the requested summary within seconds. For you, the interaction is over. But OpenAI is now in possession of all the copyrighted material from the screenshot you provided, and it can use that information to train and enhance its model.

OpenAI is not alone. In the past year, many firms – including Microsoft, Meta, Google, and X – have quietly updated their privacy policies in ways that potentially allow them to collect user data and apply it to train generative AI models. Though leading AI companies have already faced

• **Multimodal capabilities and user data collection**

GPT-4o integrates text, voice, and visual capabilities, offering a significantly faster user experience. However, instead of charging subscription fees, OpenAI collects extensive user data, including text, audio files, and images, as a form of payment.

• **Third-party data harvesting**

GPT-4o collects not only users' personal data but also third-party data shared during interactions, such as copyrighted material from screenshots, using it to train and improve its AI models.

• **Industry-wide data collection practices**

Many major tech firms, including Microsoft, Meta, Google, and X, have updated their privacy policies to allow extensive data collection for AI training, despite facing legal challenges over the unauthorised use of copyrighted content.

• **Challenges of opting out**

Users can opt out of data collection for AI training, but the process is cumbersome and linked to losing chat history, discouraging many from opting out. OpenAI's privacy settings are designed to make opting out difficult and inconvenient.

• **Regulatory and ethical concerns**

The practice of crowdsourcing data raises concerns about copyright infringement and ethical data use. While some content creators have tried to block data scraping and updated terms of service, regulators need to step in to limit AI firms' data collection capabilities to address these issues effectively.

numerous lawsuits in the United States over their unauthorised use of copyrighted content for this purpose, their appetite for data remains as voracious as ever. After all, the more they obtain, the better they can make their models.

The problem for leading AI firms is that high-quality training data has become increasingly scarce. In late 2021, OpenAI was so desperate for more data that it reportedly transcribed over a million hours of YouTube videos, violating the platform's rules. (Google, YouTube's parent company, has not pursued legal action against OpenAI, possibly to avoid accountability for its own harvesting of YouTube videos, the copyrights for which are owned by their creators.)

With GPT-4o, OpenAI is trying a different approach, leveraging a large and growing user base – drawn in by the promise of free service – to crowdsource massive amounts of multimodal data. This approach mirrors a well-

known tech-platform business model: charge users nothing for services, from search engines to social media, while profiting from app tracking and data harvesting – what Harvard professor Shoshana Zuboff famously called "surveillance capitalism."

To be sure, users can prohibit OpenAI from using their "chats" with GPT-4o for model training. But the obvious way to do this – on ChatGPT's settings page – automatically turns off the user's chat history, causing users to lose access to their past conversations. There is no discernable reason why these two functions should be linked, other than to discourage users from opting out of model training.

If users want to opt out of model training without losing their chat history, they must, first, figure out that there is another way, as OpenAI highlights only the first option. They must then navigate through OpenAI's privacy portal – a multi-step process. Simply put,

OpenAI has made sure that opting out carries significant transaction costs, in the hopes that users will not do it.

Even if users consent to the use of their data for AI training, consent alone would not guard against copyright infringement, because users are providing data that they may not actually own. Their interactions with GPT-4o thus have spillover effects on the creators of the content being shared – what economists call "externalities." In this sense, consent means little.

While OpenAI's crowdsourcing activities could lead to copyright violations, holding the company – or others like it – accountable will be no easy feat. AI-generated output rarely looks like the data that informed it, which makes it difficult for copyright holders to know for certain whether their content was used in model training. Moreover, a firm might be able to claim ignorance: users provided the content during interactions with its services, so how can the company know where they got it from?

Creators and publishers have employed a number of methods to keep their content from being sucked into the AI-training blackhole. Some have introduced technological solutions to block data scraping. Others have updated their terms of service to prohibit the use of their content for AI training. Last month, Sony Music – one of the world's largest record labels – sent letters to more than 700 generative-AI companies and streaming platforms, warning them not to use its content without explicit authorisation.

But as long as OpenAI can exploit the "user-provided" loophole, such efforts will be in vain. The only credible way to address GPT-4o's externality problem is for regulators to limit AI firms' ability to collect and use the data their users share.

– Project Syndicate



• *Angela Huyue Zhang, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Philip K.H. Wong Center for Chinese Law at the University of Hong Kong, is the author of *High Wire: How China Regulates Big Tech and Governs Its Economy*.*

• *S Alex Yang is Professor of Management Science and Operations at London Business School.*

Putin vows to pay back West in same coin

Says allowing Ukraine to target Russia with their arms is a serious, dangerous step

AFP
Saint Petersburg

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday criticised the West's delivery of long-range weapons to Ukraine, arguing Moscow could arm other countries with similar weapons to attack Western targets.

The comment — which Putin made at a rare press conference with foreign news outlets — came after several Western countries including the United States gave Ukraine the green light to strike targets inside Russia, a move Moscow has called a grave miscalculation.

"If someone thinks it is possible to supply such weapons to a warzone to attack our territory and create problems for us, why don't we have the right to supply weapons of the same class to regions of the world where there will be strikes on sensitive facilities of those (Western) countries," Putin said.

"That is, the response can be asymmetric. We will think about it," he told reporters.

"Delivering arms to a warzone is always bad. Even more so if



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with heads of International news agencies in Saint Petersburg yesterday. (AFP)

those who are delivering are not just delivering weapons but also controlling them. This is a very serious and very dangerous step," Putin said.

The Russian leader singled out Germany, saying that when the first German-supplied tanks "appeared on Ukrainian soil, it provoked a moral and ethical shock in Russia" because of the legacy of World War II.

Referring to German authorities, he said: "When they say that there will be more missiles which will hit targets on Russian territory, this definitely destroys Russian-German relations."

Sitting opposite representatives from news outlets includ-

ing AFP, Putin repeated that his country "did not start the war against Ukraine", instead blaming a pro-Western revolution in 2014.

"Everyone thinks that Russia started the war in Ukraine. I would like to emphasise that nobody in the West, in Europe, wants to remember how this tragedy started," Putin said.

He declined to give the number of Russia's battlefield losses in the more than two-year conflict, saying only that Ukraine's were five times higher.

"I can tell you that as a rule, no-one talks about it," Putin said, when asked why Russia had not yet disclosed a figure.

"If we talk about irrecoverable

'US courts being used against Trump'

President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that Russia did not care who the next US president was, as this would probably not change anything for Moscow, but he said the US court system was clearly being used in a political battle against Donald Trump.

"For us, we do not think the end result holds much significance. We will work with any president the American people elect."

Calling incumbent Joe Biden a predictable old school politician, he said Moscow would not meddle in domestic US politics, something it has been repeatedly accused of in the past by US intelligence services.

Trump's previous presidency had damaged US-Russia relations, he said, and it was hard to say whether it would be any different this time round if he won the November vote.

"We have never had any special ties with Mr Trump, but the fact remains that as president he started imposing massive sanctions on Russia, he withdrew from the treaty on intermediate and shorter-range missiles," said Putin. "To say — I am speaking quite sincerely — that we believe that after the elections something will change towards Russia in American policy, I would not say so. We don't think so. We think that nothing really serious will happen."

Putin did not however rule out a policy shift if, as he put it, Washington began looking to its own national interests.

"No-one in the US is interested in Ukraine, they are interested in the greatness of the United States, which is fighting not for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, but for its own greatness."

"But if the future administration will change its goal-setting vector, and will see the meaning of its existence, its work in strengthening the US from within, strengthening the economy, finances, building good relations in the world...then something may change."

The Russian leader said it was clear however that the US judicial system had been harnessed by Trump's political rivals to try to damage his electoral chances, a strategy Putin said did not appear to be working.

"They are burning themselves from the inside, their state, their political system... It is obvious all over the world that the prosecution of Trump, especially in court on charges that were formed on the basis of events that happened years ago, without direct proof, is simply using the judicial system in an internal political struggle," said Putin.

'Total destruction of civilian population in Gaza'

Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the conflict in Gaza as a "total destruction of the civilian population", as Israel's military pounded central Gaza with heavy air strikes yesterday. "What is happening now in Gaza in response to the terrorist attack on Israel, does not resemble a war. It is a kind of total destruction of the civilian population," Putin told representatives of foreign news outlets, including AFP.

losses, the ratio is one to five," he said.

The issue of military casualties is extremely sensitive in Russia, where all criticism of the conflict is banned and "spreading false information" about the army carries a maximum 15 year jail sentence.

When asked about the killing of AFP video journalist Arman Sodin in Ukraine last year, likely as a result of Russian rocket fire, Putin indicated Moscow was ready to help investigate.

"We will do everything in our power," he said.

"We are ready to do this work. I do not know how it could be done in practice since this person died in a warzone."

Slovak PM eyes return to work after shooting

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said yesterday he might return to work later this month and also accused the opposition of showing hatred and aggressiveness towards his party, in his first public comments since a May 15 assassination attempt.

Fico is recovering at home after being shot four times at close range when he greeted supporters at a government meeting in the central Slovak town of Handlová. The attack left him in serious condition in hospital and needing hours of surgery. In a video message posted on Facebook, Fico called his attacker an opposition activist, saying there was no reason to believe the shooting was the act of a "lone lunatic".

He said he felt no hatred toward the attacker and would not seek damages.

"On May 15, a Slovak opposition activist tried to assassinate me in Handlová because of my political views," Fico said in the video, adding medical staff had prevented the worst.

"If everything goes optimally, I could gradually return to work at the turn of June and July."

Dressed in a button-down shirt with rolled sleeves and filmed from the waist up sitting in a black leather office chair, Fico looked in good health. His attacker, identified by prosecutors as 71-year old Juraj C, was detained on the spot after the attack and charged with attempted premeditated murder.



On May 15, an activist of the Slovak opposition tried to assassinate me in Handlová because of my political views.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico speaking for the first time since being shot in Bratislava yesterday. (AFP)

Amanda Knox re-convicted of slander over murder accusation

An Italian court found American Amanda Knox guilty of slander yesterday and handed her a three-year jail sentence in a case related to the murder of her British flatmate in 2007. Knox, who spent four years in jail for the killing of British student Meredith Kercher before the conviction was annulled in 2015, had returned to Italy hoping to clear her name in the last legal case against her over the affair. However, the appeals court in Florence yesterday returned the same verdict as Knox received in an earlier case for wrongly accusing Congolese bar owner Patrick Lumumba of killing Kercher. Knox, who was in court with her husband Christopher Robinson, is set to appeal against the verdict to Italy's highest court. The sentence will have no practical impact as it is covered by the time Knox spent in prison. "Amanda is very upset... from the outcome of this hearing, she was looking to have a final point of all this, 17 years now, judicial procedure," lawyer Carlo Dalla Vedova said. Knox, who is now 36 and campaigns for social justice and has her own podcast, made no comment as she left the court.

Starliner launches first crew to space station



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying two astronauts aboard Boeing's Starliner-1 Crew Flight Test (CFT), is launched on a mission to the International Space Station, in Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday. (Reuters)

Boeing yesterday launched its very first astronauts bound for the International Space Station aboard a Starliner capsule, which joins a select club of spacefarers to carry humans beyond Earth. The third time turned out to be the charm for the aerospace giant, after two previous bids to fly were aborted with the crew strapped in and ready to go.

Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, both of whom have two previous spaceflights under their belts, blasted off at 10:52am atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

Their Starliner, named "Calypso" after famed oceanographer Jacques Cousteau's ship, is now chasing the ISS in orbit. It should rendezvous with the research lab at 12:15pm Sunday to begin a roughly one-week stay.

"Suni and I are honoured to share this dream of spaceflight with each and every one of you."

Wilmore, who is commander of the test flight, said just before liftoff. "Let's put some fire in this rocket, and let's push it to the heavens."

Starliner becomes just the sixth type of US-built spaceship to fly Nasa astronauts, following the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programmes in the 1960s and 1970s, the Space Shuttle from 1981 to 2011, and SpaceX's Crew Dragon from 2020.

"This is another milestone in this extraordinary history of Nasa," the space agency's chief Bill Nelson told reporters.

"And I want to give my personal congratulations to the whole team that went through a lot of trial and tribulation. But they had perseverance. And that's what we do at Nasa, we don't launch until it's right."

"On our children's pencil cases,

"Unwilling and unable to live without her, Ben killed himself a few hours later at their home" in Saint-Pancrace, a district of the French Mediterranean city of Nice. "The world of culture has lost a legend," Culture Minister Rachida Dati said, hailing a "goldsmith of language" with "humorous, sometimes satirical writing" and whose "art will continue to make France shine throughout the world."

"On our children's pencil cases,

"on so many everyday objects and even in our imaginations, Ben had left his mark, made of freedom and poetry, of apparent lightness and overwhelming depth," added President Emmanuel Macron in a statement.

Police vehicles remained stationed all day yesterday outside the artist's residence in Nice while a forensics investigator and a public prosecutor arrived at midday for

the investigation into the causes of death, an AFP journalist said.

The precise cause of death was not immediately clear.

Born in Naples in 1935 as Benjamin Vautier to a Franco-Swiss family, Ben co-founded the so-called Nice school of artists with fellow luminaries based in the Côte d'Azur including Yves Klein. His "writings" — phrases often drawn in white paint on a black background — seem at first glance to have been dreamed up by a schoolboy.

But they shake up the established notions of contemporary art with phrases like "What is the use of art?", "Is the new always new?", "What are you doing here?", or "My biggest worry is the me".

Ben defended the presence of art in everyday life and his works have been reproduced on school bags, pencil cases and notebooks and also adorn tram stops in Nice.

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HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, with officials and winners.

Culture minister honours winners at Doha Theatre Festival

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, honoured the winners at the conclusion of the 36th edition of the Doha Theatre Festival (DTF), held this year under the theme, 'Let us make theatre the mirror of our lives,' at the U Venue Theatre from May 25 to June 4.

The closing ceremony witnessed an artistic performance about the most important stages in the history of Qatari theatre, in the presence of HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, Minister of State and President of the Qatar National Library, and Dr Ghanem bin Mubarak al-Ali, assistant undersecretary, Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture.

The play 'Between Two Hearts' won the best show award, produced by Msheireb Properties Company. The play also received awards for best writing by Talib al-Dous, best



Award winners celebrate.

direction for Mohamed Youssef al-Mulla. In addition for best costumes, won by Luluwa, and best promising actor by Mohamed al-Mutawa. The play also won the award for best melodies and sound effects for Mohamed al-Mulla and Iyad Salsaa.

The play 'The Spirit of the Fan' by the Qatar Theatre Company won a number of awards, including best actor for Faisal Rasheed, best actress for Asrar Mohamed, best lighting, and best decoration, both of which were won by Nasser Abdelreda.

Mohamed al-Mulla, winner of the Best Director Award, said: "We thank the Ministry of Culture for its constant efforts in supporting the artistic movement in general and the theatrical movement in particular, as the 36th edition of the DTF was distinguished."

Talib al-Dous, winner of the Best Writing Award, said: "The festival brought us back to the era of previous festivals and the joy of winning and pride in the artistic works that we presented alongside an elite group of Qatari and Gulf actors."

LuLu Hypermarket launched a special promotion, offering reusable bags to customers and distributing plants to encourage sustainable practices.

LuLu Hypermarket, Ministry of Municipality celebrate World Environment Day

LuLu Hypermarket, in association with the Ministry of Municipality, celebrated World Environment Day yesterday, showcasing its unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability.

The event, held at LuLu Hypermarket's D Ring Road branch, featured a symbolic tree-planting ceremony. Sheikh Suhaim al-Thani, a representative of the Public Parks Department, and Shanavas P, regional manager of LuLu Hypermarkets in Qatar, planted a tree as part of the Ministry of Municipality's 'Plant Ten Million Trees' initiative.

The activity underscored the importance of conserving natural resources and promoting a greener future. LuLu Hypermarket is proud to contribute to this noble cause and remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that benefit the environment.

In addition to the tree-planting ceremony, a variety of engaging activities were organised to raise awareness about environmental conservation. LuLu Hypermarket launched a special promotion, offering reusable bags to customers and distributing plants to encourage sustainable practices.

During the event, an official from the ministry praised LuLu Hypermarket's environmental initiatives, particularly the implementation of innovative recycling vending machines across 18 stores in Qatar. These machines



Sheikh Suhaim al-Thani, a representative of the Public Parks Department, and Shanavas P, regional manager of LuLu Hypermarkets in Qatar, planted a tree as part of the Ministry of Municipality's 'Plant Ten Million Trees' initiative.

encourage customers to recycle plastic bottles, fostering a circular economy. A demonstration of plastic disposal in these vending machines was also conducted.

LuLu Hypermarket, in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality and the Public Parks Department, distributed plants to customers at the D Ring Road branch and The Pearl Qatar, further promoting green practices.

A senior official from LuLu management reflected on the initiative, "Our strategy is very clear: By 2030, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint by 50%, and by 2050, we intend to achieve net-zero emissions and become carbon neutral." Additionally, LuLu Hypermarket has set up kiosks

in select outlets for customers to drop off e-waste, partnering with local sustainability organisations. The supermarket has also launched a campaign to raise awareness about environmental issues among customers and promoted e-bills to reduce paper usage in stores.

As part of the World Environment Day celebrations, LuLu Hypermarket introduced a special 'Buy 2 Get 1 Free' promotion on reusable bags, encouraging customers to adopt eco-friendly alternatives and reduce their carbon footprint. Eco-friendly products were also highlighted in each store to emphasise the importance of sustainable shopping choices.

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بطيخ ايران اكجم



20.00
باتير حليب مخفوق النتر ٤ حبة



5.00
ماجي نوديل دجاج / كاري ٧٧ جم ٥ حبة



11.75
هالل دجاج شواية ١٢٠٠ جم ١ حبة



9.00
زيت دوار الشميس أولينا ١.٨ لتر ١ حبة



21.00
روزان ارز بسمتي ٥ كجم



28.50
تاج برتقال / مانجو ٢.٥ كجم ١ حبة



18.00
نيفيا سوافت كريم ٢٠٠ مل ٢ حبة



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