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Kuwaiti, UAE and Yemeni ministers arrive in Doha



Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah al-Yahya, UAE Minister of State Khalifa Shaheen al-Marar arrived in Doha yesterday to take part in the 160th meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council as well as the two joint ministerial meetings between the GCC and Turkiye and Yemen. The two ministers were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and GCC Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi. HE al-Muraikhi also received Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr Shaya Zindani who arrived to participate in the joint ministerial consultative meeting. **(ONA)**



GCC chief in Doha to take part in ministerial meetings

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed AlBudaiwi arrived in Doha yesterday to take part in the 160th meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council, as well as the two joint ministerial meetings between the GCC and each of Turkiye and Yemen. AlBudaiwi was welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi. **(QNA)**



Qatari Haj Mission opens clinics for pilgrims in Jeddah

The Qatari Haj Mission yesterday opened the clinics of its Medical Service Unit for pilgrims from Qatar. According to an official statement from the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, Rashid bin Saeed al-Khayaren, consul general of Qatar in Jeddah, opened the clinics at the mission headquarters in Jeddah after they received approval from the Saudi health authorities.

The consul general was received at the Qatari Haj Mission headquarters by deputy head Ali Sultan al-Musaifri, Dr Khaled Abdul Hadi, head of the Medical Services Unit, Dr Mishal Abdullah al-Musaifri, the unit deputy head and a number of the mission's advisers and officials.

The consul general made an inspection tour of the medical unit and its facilities, during which he was briefed on the clinic's sections and the equipment that the mission provides to the pilgrims. He appreciated the mission's efforts for the pilgrims.

He noted that Qatar's consulate in Jeddah is in co-operation with the Qatari Haj delegation to serve the country's pilgrims and provide all appropriate services. The Saudi Ministry of Health earlier accredited all the medical staff and private clinics of the Medical Services Unit of the Qatari Haj Mission.



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5 th Prize 5,000 QAR. x 50 Winners = 250,000/- (Vouchers 5,000/- x 50 Winners)
6 th Prize 2,500 QAR. x 60 Winners = 150,000/- (Vouchers 2,500/- x 60 Winners)

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8 th Prize 50,000 Loyalty Points (2 Winners)
9 th Prize 25,000 Loyalty Points (4 Winners)
10 th Prize 10,000 Loyalty Points (30 Winners)
11 th Prize 5,000 Loyalty Points (50 Winners)
12 th Prize 2,500 Loyalty Points (60 Winners)

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Mango Festival sees record sales

The Mango Festival at Souq Waqif concluded yesterday with excellent turnout of visitors from all nationalities and total sales that exceeded 100 tonnes of different varieties of mango.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, Khaled Saif al-Suwaidi, general supervisor of the Mango Festival, stressed that the festival has made record sales of the mangoes on display that have exceeded the sales of any similar festival held before at Souq Waqif. He said: "The average number of daily visitors to the festival was about 10,000, with the highest sales recorded on Friday at 15 tonnes."

He pointed out that the festival was the first experience for the management of Souq Waqif in collaboration with the Indian Embassy in Doha to highlight the fruit of mango, which enjoys great popularity within the Qatari community.

He noted that the festival hosted around 36 companies, each with 30 suppliers, all gath-



Khaled Saif al-Suwaidi.

ered under one roof, which contributed to creating a competitive environment among the participants.

He further stressed that besides lower prices compared to the other market places, the festival gave special focus to the quality of the products on display. He noted that the mangoes displayed are transported directly from India to Doha by plane.

He pointed out that the prevailing prices at the festival are about 20% lower than those in the market, adding that in

addition to selling mangoes, there were around 120 other products related to mangoes on display in the tent.

He explained that this edition saw the participation of between 70-100 Qatari and Indian companies, showcasing about 100 varieties of air-shipped mangoes specifically for the festival, in addition to some products derived from mangoes, as the fruit is a main ingredient in many juices and desserts.

He said: "We were surprised by the large turnout at the festival that included visitors from the GCC countries as well. Such a turnout encourages the management of Souq Waqif to organise this festival again next year."

He added that this is the first time such a festival has been held, noting that the festival tent was equipped with cooling systems to ensure the preservation of the exhibits, especially since the mangoes come from India daily, in addition to ensuring the comfort of participants and visitors.

Ashghal installs VRS along 60km on Al Shamal Road

From Page 1

The Road Operation and Maintenance Department employs the latest innovations in road safety and railing technology related to vehicle restraint systems. This includes using high quality materials and design methodologies that not only enhance the effectiveness of these systems but also ensure their environmental sustainability and aesthetic integrity. In addition to routine maintenance ensuring that these systems remain functional and reliable, reducing the risk of failure during accidents and emergencies.

The Ashghal statement added: "With the increase in the numbers of vehicles using Al Shamal Road, adherence to safety regulations and standards is essential. The focus is shifting to enhance the roads' mobility systems, optimising driver's safety by reducing traffic accidents and congestions, ensuring a seamless



flow of traffic, saving time, energy, cost, and most importantly safeguarding both lives and property."

Indian business delegation visits Qatar

The Embassy of India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), a premier business association of India, organised a high-level visit of CEOs delegation, to Qatar led by Vir S Advani, chairman, CII Trade Policy Council and chairman and managing director, Blue Star Limited, from June 2 to 3 to explore possibilities of co-operation and collaboration with the Qatari businesses and institutions.

During their visit, the CII delegation held several meetings, including with Saleh bin Majid al-Khulaifi, assistant undersecretary for Industry Affairs and Business Development, Ministry of Com-

merce & Industry, and Khalid Ahmad al-Obaidli, president, Public Authority for Regulatory Real Estate. The delegation also held meetings/visits to Qatar Financial Centre, Qatar Free Zones Authority, and Invest Qatar.

The meetings and discussions focused on identifying potential synergies in areas like MEP technology, AI, renewable energy, food security, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare. These discussions highlighted the significant potential for mutually beneficial co-operation between Indian and Qatari businesses.

The CII CEOs delegation attended a networking luncheon

with the Qatari and Indian businessmen and investors, organised by the Indian Business and Professionals Council. The chief guest of the event, Indian ambassador, Vipul, highlighted the abundant business opportunities between India and Qatar. He noted the significant contributions of the Indian community to Qatar's progress and emphasised the strong bilateral ties between the two nations. Vir S Advani, in his address, outlined CII's commitment to deeper engagement with Qatar, focusing on economic growth, technological collaboration, investment partnerships, and formalising the CII-IBPC, Qatar partnership.



The delegation explored possibilities of co-operation and collaboration with the Qatari businesses and institutions.

HBK Contracting a leading local Qatari Contractor has been awarded four ROSPA Safety and Health awards for on-going Civil Engineering Projects



Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents ROSPA is a UK based charity that focuses on promoting Safety and preventing accidents in various environments including Work Places, Homes, Roads and Leisure activities.

Established in 1916 ROSPA provides Guidance, Training and Resources to help reduce accidental injuries and fatalities. ROSPA also offers awards and recognition for organizations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to Health and Safety practices.

HBK Contracting a Leading construction company in the State of Qatar has won this Year 2023-2024 four awards in Collaboration with their partners PORR – Qatar, MIDMAC, PARSONS and Matt Macdonald. These awards winning efforts were guided and orchestrated by (ASHGHAL) Public Works Authority – Drainage Department who promotes strict standards of Health and Safety in its Projects.

The Four Awards of HBK Contracting and Partners were awarded to the following projects:



1. Construction of Flood Prevention Scheme, contract Number C850/2 has won ROSPA Gold Awards granted to HBK Contracting.
2. Design and Build of Mesaimer Pumping Station and outfall (MPSO) contract Number C2017/109 won a Gold Award granted to HBK – PORR JV.
3. Design and Build of Wakrah – Wukair Drainage tunnel, contract Number C/853-2 has won two Gold Medals granted to HBK – PORR – MIDMAC JV.



Qatar takes part in Arab Forum for Equality

Qatar participated in the Third Arab Forum for Equality organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Cairo.

Qatar was represented at the forum by Assistant Undersecretary for Family Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Sheikhha Sheikhha bint Jassim al-Thani.

The forum aimed to engage specialists, policymakers, decision-makers, and civil society organisations in the Arab region to find practical solutions to address aspects of inequality in times of crises. It sought to identify the links between inequality and multiple crises and to showcase best practices in this field.

Additionally, the forum aimed to discuss



recommendations made during the first and second forums (Amman 2022–Beirut 2023) and to propose innovative and practical policy solutions that could mitigate forms of inequality during crises in the short, medium, and long term. **(QNA)**

QC launches QR40mn aid campaign for Gaza



Qatar Charity (QC) launched the 'Labbeh Gaza' campaign, aiming to provide the essential needs of the people in the Gaza Strip in the areas of food, shelter, and medicine. The campaign aims to benefit 550,000 people, with a total cost estimated at QR40mn.

The campaign aims to provide aid in four main areas: food, health, shelter, and education. In the food sector, the aid includes food packages, ready-to-eat meals, and others. Shelter assistance



'Labbeh Gaza' logo

encompasses tents, caravans, renovating home, and building housing units. Health aid consists of medical supplies, medicines, health sector support, and hospital renovations. Education support involves renovating and building schools and universities and providing scholar-

ships.

CEO's Assistant for the Resources Development and Media sector at Qatar Charity Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, said that Qatar Charity has dedicated this

campaign to the first ten days of the month of Dhul-Hijjah, which are considered the best days to compete in doing good deeds.

He indicated that the campaign came due to the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza, which is further exacerbated by the acute shortage of basic necessities.

He urged the generous people in Qatar, who always aid the needy, to continue supporting the people of Gaza, pointing that their support will help meet the essential needs of the people of Gaza and alleviate their suffering. **(QNA)**

NCQAA holds training workshop for auditors



QNA
Doha

The National Committee for Qualifications and Academic Accreditation (NCQAA) has successfully concluded its inaugural training workshop for auditors. The workshop saw the participation of professors and academics from various universities and educational institutions across the country.

The three-day workshop, organised in collaboration with the British Accreditation Agency, aimed to establish a professional team of auditors based on modern scientific principles. These principles take into account global developments in higher education and quality assurance. Special programmes were designed to equip participants with additional skills and scientific expertise related to the NCQAA's institutional accreditation standards and policies. Essential skills covered included how to formulate questions for educational institution members, report writing, and making recommendations.

Chairperson of the NCQAA Dr Mazen Hasna noted that all workshop participants were faculty members from various Qatari universities and educational institutions. He mentioned that 140 academics applied to join the workshop and evaluation team, with the first group already trained. Different workshops will be held to qualify the remaining groups. This initiative marks the first step towards building a local database of auditors, which will later be shared with Gulf countries as well.

In a press statement, Dr Hasna announced that the first field visit for the participants would take place in October. They will visit two educational institutions to assess their status and provide recommendations to the accreditation committee.

Several participating university professors emphasised the importance of the workshop, which included both theoretical and practical sections. They highlighted the significance of quality in setting standards in Qatar and expressed their eagerness to form a committee that would conduct visits to GCC countries, other Arab nations, and even internationally. Given that the workshop was conducted in English, it adhered to international standards.

The professors considered the workshop an excellent opportunity to hone academic

skills in quality assurance and interact with academics from various institutions. They noted that the training, focused on the NCQAA's academic standards, would assist in evaluating the academic performance of educational institutions and programmes. Established in 2022, the NCQAA oversees the National Qualifications Framework. It is responsible for accrediting qualifications (certificates and degrees) awarded by higher education institutions in the country to ensure their alignment with the National Qualifications Framework. Additionally, the NCQAA contributes to the development of higher education institutions by setting quality assurance standards and implementing accreditation policies.

DECLARATION OF LIQUIDATOR

THE LIQUIDATOR

Linsar Karuppamveetil Shamsudheen
of Kreston SVP Chartered Accountants
Declares

LIQUIDATION OF
ELECTRA TRADING COMPANY W.L.L
With Limited Liability (Under Liquidation)
CR No. 46921

That the company's activities will be liquidated as per the provisions of article (312) and following articles of the commercial companies law no. (8) for the year 2021

Anyone has claims or pending issues against the company must contact the liquidator within **20 days** from this notice at **7712 9898** or **6668 8575** or **info@krestonsvp.com**

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QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/EAR/6618/24 CALL OFF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	06/06/2024 to 24/06/2024	0	609,218	15/07/2024

Scope of Work:

Scope of WORK includes the following:

- Scope #1: Groundwater monitoring, Noise monitoring, Water sampling, and Shutdown Support
- Scope #2: Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Methane and Passing Valve Monitoring.
- Scope #3: Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS) Data Management and Stack Monitoring.

Bidders shall be based in Qatar and are free to quote for any or all of the scopes depending upon their fulfilling tender requirements.

Bid Validity: Bid should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that has been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/US>



TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

ORYX GTL Limited is pleased to announce the following tender(s):

S. No.	Tender Ref.	Tender Title:	Tender Bond QAR	Bid Closing Date & Tender Bond Validity Period
1	TC-CN-017-24-MC	Call-off Contract for Blasting and Painting Services	226,500/-	10 July 2024 at 12.00 noon & 180 days

Companies wishing to register their interest and obtain Tender Document(s) for the above Tender(s) must pay a non-refundable registration fee and register with ORYX GTL as detailed below:

Tender Registration Fee	QAR 500/- (Non-refundable) per Tender
Payable to	ORYX GTL Limited
IBAN (29 Digits)	QA23QNBA0000000000013010705001
Bank	Qatar National Bank – HQ or any branch (cash only)
Registration Dates	From 09 th June 2024 to 13 th June 2024 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Registration Process and Requirements:	Write an e-mail to oryxgtltenders@oryxgtl.com.qa with the following attachments: 1.Copy of Commercial Registration (CR) 2.Copy of bank deposit slip of the Tender Registration Fee. 3. Copy of ICV Certificate

COMPANIES WHO HAVE PAID THE NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE BUT FAILED TO FORMALLY REGISTER AT THE DATE AND TIME STATED ABOVE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ACCEPTABLE TENDERER.

TENDER BOND SHALL BE ISSUED BY A BANK REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF QATAR.

Effective from 1st July 2023, bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Tender Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/US>

For more information about ORYX GTL and its tenders, please visit our website: <http://www.oryxgtl.com.qa>

Dukhan Bank picks Thara'a savings account June draw winners

Dukhan Bank has announced the names of the most recent round of draw winners for Thara'a, its Shariah-compliant savings account, at the bank's headquarters under the supervision of a representative of the Qualitative License and Market Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

A cash prize worth QR5,000 was awarded to Lailaa Tavakoli, Fai Chan, Abdulla al-Kubaisi, Kholoud al-Sheeb, Naeema Alansari, Wisam Dal-loul, Fatima al-Obaidan, Abdulla al-Thani, Amer Daffar, Mohamed Abdelalim, Hala al-Motawa, Aisha al-Hajri, Youssef Boussabah, Mansoor Yadegarfar, Amal al-Lenjawi, Mezba Mazid, Fatima Alamri, Abdulhadi al-Sahli, Mohamed Rahman, Turki al-Subaey, Alaa Elrub, Wadha al-Kuwari, Paul Adams, Moudhi Almohanadi,



Mohamed al-Qahtani, Estabrak Thabet, Mona Abouzor, Mohamed Alya-fei, Bothayna al-Ahmed, and Elham Nasser.

Dukhan Bank continues its customer-centric approach by unveiling its new Thara'a savings account campaign, reinforcing its commitment to rewarding clients. Departing from the previous annual grand prize structure of QR1mn for a solitary winner, the enhanced campaign now boasts a collec-

tive grand prize of QR3mn, distributed among three fortunate individuals.

Additionally, the initiative introduces 30 monthly winners, each contending for a QR5,000 prize, resulting in a noteworthy increase in the total prizes awarded to customers – a grand total of 273, with a cumulative value of QR4.35mn.

Coupled with cash prizes and a reward scheme, Thara'a is a product full of value-added benefits and services, and it offers account holders access to Dukhan Bank's innovative banking channels.

Customers may learn about the many benefits of Thara'a savings account by visiting dukhanbank.com, calling 800 8555, or asking the virtual assistant 'Rashid' on the website, mobile app, or via WhatsApp on 44100888.

Jumbo Electronics introduces JBL Bar 1300 in Qatar market

Jumbo Electronics has introduced the brand new JBL Bar 1300 in Qatar.

More than just a great soundbar, it is a signature of people's taste in music. The theatre-quality 3D sound and four up-firing drivers in the main bar and two more in the detachable speakers, the JBL Bar 1300 delivers true Dolby Atmos and DTS:X together with Multibeam for an enhanced 3D surround sound experience. People can enjoy real surround sound without the hassle of extra wires and power connections.

Thrilling, precise bass from a mighty 10" wireless subwoofer brings the excitement to the action movies and the emotion to the music along with Pure Voice technology that uses JBL's unique algorithm to optimise voice clarity ensuring not to miss a word of dialogue, even when the surround effects are at their peak.

With 1170 watts of total system power, the JBL Bar 1300 transforms the movies, music and games into immersive sound experiences and pulls everyone into the middle of the action.

JBL Bar 1300 works with voice assistant-enabled speakers by linking the JBL Bar 1300 with the voice assistant-enabled device and ask Alexa, Google Assistant, or Siri to stream all the favourite music to the soundbar. It also provides uncompressed Dolby Atmos surround sound through a single HDMI cable thanks to the HDMI eARC connection. The three HDMI input connections also



JBL Bar 1300

offer 4K video quality from a compatible video player or gaming console. Another useful and classy feature of the Bar 1300 is that the unique sound calibration algorithm from JBL ensures the best adaptive 3D sound experience for any room or layout.

"JBL BAR 1300 is another spectacularly innovative product from JBL stables. Many such products have been launched in Qatar by JBL through Jumbo Electronics WLL and are already run-away success in Qatar market. Our award-winning after-sales service will ensure that you are protected and covered. We are the only authorised distributors of JBL products in Qatar," said CV Rappai, director and CEO of Video Home & Electronics Centre LLC.

JBL BAR 1300 is available across all Jumbo retail outlets, jumbosouq.com and in all leading hypermarkets across Qatar.

QNL preserves rich culture and heritage of Qatar, Gulf states

Qatar National Library (QNL) said that since its inception, it has been dedicated to preserving and documenting the history and culture of Qatar and the region.

This commitment is deeply rooted in the library's mission to safeguard the region's heritage.

In a statement yesterday on the occasion of the International Archives Day, QNL said it is operating a Preservation and Conservation Centre where experts work tirelessly to protect archival and heritage materials from deterioration.



Qatar Digital Library is another of QNL's initiatives to preserve the region's archival and documentary heritage, as it is one of the largest online repositories dedicated to the history and culture of the Middle East, providing free access to a wealth of primary historical materials about politics, people, places, trade, culture and customs in the Gulf region and the Arab world

QNL's efforts extend beyond the physical preservation of heritage materials. The library also works to preserve these items for future generations through its digitisation centre, which has successfully digitised nearly 15.5mn pages. These pages include books, maps, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers and video files, all of which are made accessible to the global public through QNL's digital repository in its beta version.

To mark the International Archives Day, experts at the library have highlighted three of their most distinguished archival treasures: a rare Qur'anic manuscript, a historical letter, and rare photographs taken by a French traveller to the region in the mid-19th century. All these items are available digitally for pub-

lic viewing on the library's website. The oldest of these holdings is a leaf from the Blue Mus'haf, a rare Qur'anic manuscript written in gold Kufic script on blue parchment, epitomising timeless elegance. This manuscript dates back to Kairouan, Tunisia, around

the 3rd or 4th century AH (9th century CE). The leaves of this unique Blue Mus'haf have been scattered across various museums and libraries worldwide.

QNL's archives also include rare and old photographs of the Middle East, documenting pivotal mo-

ments and providing researchers and enthusiasts with a deeper understanding of the region's history. In 1852, the French writer and photographer Maxime Du Camp published a documentary album of photographs taken in Egypt, Nubia, Palestine, and Syria during his journey with the French orientalist Gustave Flaubert, offering a unique and rare insight into the architecture, geography, and people of that time.

QNL's archival holdings not only document the history of Qatar and the region from centuries long-gone, but also include numerous archival items from the modern era.

A letter dated March 17, 1902 documents the appointment of Mohamed Amin as an assistant administrative officer in Qatar. The letter, which narrates his journey through Baghdad and Basra before reaching Qatar, provides a window into the Ottoman presence in the Gulf region and enhances the historical narrative of the political reality in the Arab world. Qatar Digital Library is another of QNL's initiatives to preserve the region's archival and documentary heritage through digitisation. It is one of the largest online repositories dedicated to the history and culture of the Middle East, providing free online access to a wealth of primary historical materials about politics, people, places, trade, culture and customs in the Gulf region and the Arab world.

The online library holds nearly 2.5mn digital copies of archives, maps, manuscripts, audio recordings, photographs, and drawings preserved in the British Library's collections, with commentary and explanations in both English and Arabic.

Commenting on the library's role in documenting the region's archival heritage, head of Manuscripts and Archives at QNL's Distinctive Collections Rawad Bou Malhab said: "Qatar National Library remains committed to documenting the rich culture and history of Qatar and the Gulf states as part of its responsibility to preserve the heritage of Qatar and the region. Our archives reflect the identity of our community, our Arab and Islamic civilisation, and the values we hold dear. They connect the younger generations with their ancestors, instilling pride in their past and a sense of belonging to their country, language and culture."

He added: "By establishing high-speed cloud storage infrastructure alongside leading preservation and conservation techniques, QNL aims to address the significant gap in digital preservation practices in the region. Failing to protect knowledge today could impede future generations' access to information and their understanding of their country's past and history." (QNA)

Prestigious award for WCM-Q dean



Dr Javid I Sheikh with the plaque.

Dr Javid I Sheikh, dean of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q), has been selected as this year's recipient of the Joan and Sanford I Weill Exemplary Achievement Award.

This accolade, presented at a special gala in New York City, recognises and celebrates Dr Sheikh's exceptional leadership and outstanding contributions to the field of medicine. An internationally renowned medical executive and visionary thought leader in global academic medicine, Dr Sheikh has transformed WCM-Q into a premier institution since beginning his tenure as dean in 2010.

His pioneering work implementing innovative biomedical education and research programmes has earned WCM-Q recognition as a leading institution preparing "global physician-scientists" for the 21st century.

Under Dr Sheikh's exemplary leadership, WCM-Q has established a comprehensive research infrastructure with state-of-the-art core laboratories that serve as national resources and address some of the most pressing health needs in Qatar and the region. His commitment to advancing

medical science also led to the creation of the Artificial Intelligence Centre for Precision Health at WCM-Q, utilising advanced data analytics to further Qatar's goals in promoting scientific wellness and peak functioning. In 2016, Dr Sheikh played a pivotal role in the establishment of Precision Health Innovations and Education a globally interconnected forum dedicated to showcasing conceptual and technological advancements in health professions education. Additionally, he established WCM-Q's Institute for Population Health in 2012, implementing comprehensive programmes to promote health and prevent disease among the population in Qatar and the wider region.

Dr Sheikh said: "This award stands as a testament to the achievements made possible through the visionary leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and the unwavering support of HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani and our partners Qatar Foundation. I would like to also extend my deep appreciation to my dedicated, talented team for making my career an exceptional journey filled with countless opportunities for both professional and personal growth."

In Loving Memory Of
Mrs. Mariyam Madathuveetil



With deepest sorrow, we mourn the loss of
Mrs. Mariyam Madathuveetil, beloved mother of
Mr. Asharaf KP- Managing Director, on 08th June, 2024.
Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Ashraf and the
entire family during this difficult time.

With heartfelt condolences,
Management and Staff of Wellcare Group

Wellcare group
Pharmacies | Trading | Agencies

شركة الكهرباء والماء القطرية ش.م.ع.ق.
QATAR ELECTRICITY & WATER CO. Q.P.S.C

Announces Auction of the Below Vehicle:

Auction No.	Quantity	Description	Cheque or Bid Bond QAR
VEH/02J/2024	ONE	LEXUS 2022 LX 600 3.5L V6 WHITE COLOR	5,000.00

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR THE AUCTION

- Auction form can be downloaded from the below link www.qewc.com/qewc/tenders/
- Closing Date and Time: 13.06.2024 at 11:00 AM
- The auction is conducted on an "as-is-where-is" basis.
- The vehicle will be displayed at the parking area of Qatar Navigation Tower. For site visit, please contact Mobile No. 55868298
- Location and Timing for Submission of Bids: QEWC Head Office Qatar Navigation Tower in Al-Dafna Area, Zone 63, during working hours
- Auction Bids to be deposited in Auction Box allocated in Ground Floor of the above address and should be in two sealed envelopes (Bid Bond or Cheque) and (Auction Bid) addressed to the Head of Tender and Purchase committee.
- Auction Bid without Bid Bond or Cheque will be rejected.

For More Information Email to 2059@qewc.com or Call Mobile No. 55868298



Qatar takes part in Ocean Action event in Costa Rica

Qatar, represented by HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, took part in the high-level event on “Ocean Action: Immersed in Change”, held in Costa Rica on June 7-8.

The minister attended the first session of the event on Ocean Action, which discussed the preparations leading up to the next UN Ocean Conference, to be held in France in June of 2025, as well as the escalating challenges facing the oceans, and the lack of international funding to

achieve the 14th goal of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his speech at the event, HE Dr al-Subaie highlighted Qatar’s efforts with regards to protecting the marine environment, preserving its biodiversity, and protecting it against pollution, adding that it does so through legislation, marine reserves, as well as research and studies, monitoring of marine habitats and endangered species, and raising public environmental awareness.

In a related development, the minister held a

number of official meetings with heads of delegations participating in the event.

These include the head of the Saudi delegation, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Cabinet member, and Saudi climate envoy Adel bin Ahmed al-Jubeir; head of the French delegation, Minister of State for Marine Affairs Herve Berville; head of the Brazilian delegation, Secretary of Multilateral Political Affairs Carlos Marcio Cozendey; and head of the Ecuador’s delegation, Minister of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition Sade Fritsch.

Costa Rican president meets environment minister



Costa Rican President Rodrigo Chaves Robles met HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, on the sidelines of Qatar’s participation in the High-Level Event on Ocean Action held in Costa Rica on June 7-8.

The meeting discussed bilateral relations with regards to the environment and oceans, ways to support and develop them, as well as enhancing co-operation prospects in sustainability and climate change mitigation, along with various other topics of mutual interest. - **QNA**



Tamani al-Yafei wins excellence award in culture and sports

Tamani al-Yafei (**pictured**), chief executive of the “Hour and Hour” programme, has won the Excellence Award in the Cultural and Sports field for 2024 at the third annual Lifestyle Magazine Awards, held at JW Marriott Marquis Hotel.

She was honoured for her efforts and activities in the field of sports and heritage fields in the country, in addition to volunteering to provide many community initiatives.

Al-Yafei also came up with the idea of the slogan *Our Identity in Our Heritage*, which included many events and initiatives that had a great societal impact.

She has voiced appreciation for the Lifestyle Magazine initiative, saying that it brings together annually a large list of innovators and bidders in various fields, and works to support creativity and innovation among all segments of society.

Al-Yafei, through the “Hour and Hour” programme, presented many initiatives and events that included an educational hour and a sports hour, or a cultural hour and a sports hour, focusing on all segments of society.

“Hour and Hour” attracted a group of children to train in the art of recitation, composing poetry, writing stories, and instilling values and national identity in them.

They have reached advanced stages of knowledge of local heritage and culture.

ICSS and partners celebrate advanced programme grads

The International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), together with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), celebrated the first batch of certified practitioners of the “Sport Safety and Security Training and Advanced Education Programme” in an online certification ceremony.

The internationally certified programme aims to enhance, develop, and strengthen the knowledge, skills, abilities, processes and resources of safety and security professionals to strengthen the safety and security of sport in Africa with a main focus on football competitions.

The event highlighted the learning journey of 25 students from African bodies.

The alumni shared experiences and how the programme shaped their professional careers as safety and security professionals in African football federations, leagues, and clubs.

Commenting on this occasion, ICSS chief executive Massimiliano Montanari said: “It was great

meeting the first sport safety and security practitioners able to successfully complete our online courses, the first ever training jointly certified by the CAF, UNITAR and the ICSS.”

“We welcome other security professionals to join and wish the best continuation to our amazing alumni,” he said.

“Sport transcends cultural barriers; it unites people and promotes harmony,” CAF Head of Safety and Security, Dr Christian Emeruwa said.

“However, to preserve its positive effects, the safety and security of sport is crucial,” he noted. “It requires specific expertise, continuous training, and unwavering commitment for excellence.”

“This is why we are proud to have been part of this initiative of developing the CAF-ICSS-UNITAR Advanced sport safety and security professional course to prepare current and future operators in the industry,” Emeruwa added.

“On behalf of UNITAR, I would like to congratulate all the participants who have successfully com-

pleted the courses and will receive our certificates of achievement,” associate director at UNITAR’s CIFAL Global Network, Julio Andrade, said.

Graduating from the Sport Safety and Security Training and Advanced Education Programme brought a lot of emotions for the participants.

Managing director at Uganda’s Mandela National Stadium in Uganda, Jamil Sewanya, who is also a CAF and FIFA safety and security officer, said: “Studying on the Sport Safety and Security Training and Advanced Education Programme has enabled me to gain knowledge and skills required for managing safety and security in football events. The faculty and lectures are outstanding.”

CAF safety and security officer from Eswatini, Xolile Nokuthula Vilakati, said: “The programme has been an incredible opportunity for me to develop my leadership skills and enhance my professionalism in my daily duties in the implementation and leading of safety and security operations on all CAF events.” - **QNA**

Xiaomi launches Redmi 13 smartphone in Qatar

Xiaomi has unveiled Redmi 13 in collaboration with Intertec Group, the official distributor of Xiaomi smartphones and smart products in Qatar.

The latest member of its Redmi family sets a new standard for entry-level smartphones.

Redmi 13 delivers a sleek, stylish design packed with a host of enhanced capabilities that defy expectations.

Intertec Group chief operating officer Asraf NK said that Xiaomi stands as one of the leading iconic brands in Qatar, renowned for maintaining brand consistency through an effective sales force and innovative marketing approaches.

By focusing on customer satisfaction and staying ahead of market trends, Xiaomi has built a strong reputation and loyal customer base.

Redmi 13 debuts with a 108MP super-clear main camera, equipped with 3x in-sensor zoom to provide users with images of outstanding detail.



Redmi 13 can produce ultra-clear night photos and vibrant HDR images steeped in vividness and clarity.

Beyond exceptional main camera performance, Redmi 13 also caters to selfie enthusiasts.

With its upgraded 13MP front camera and soft-light ring which uses the display to create natural and balanced light-

ing, Redmi 13 delivers incredible selfies.

Redmi 13 introduces a refined touch to the Redmi series with its sleek glass back design.

Available in four colour options – Midnight Black, Sandy Gold, Pearl Pink, and the standout Ocean Blue, which boasts a captivating effect that mimics the ripples of the sea – Redmi

Embassy issues advisory against fraudulent messages regarding school admission

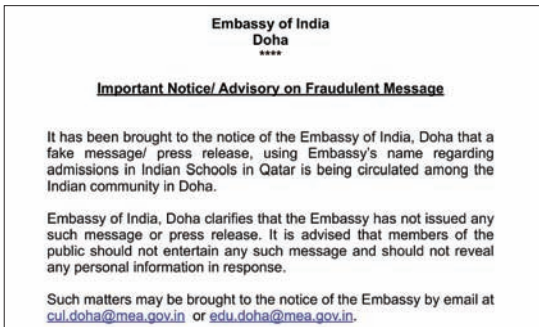
The Indian embassy in Doha has issued an advisory warning against fraudulent messages regarding admission in Indian schools in Qatar.

“It has been brought to the notice of the embassy of India, Doha that a fake message/press release, using the embassy’s name regarding admissions in Indian schools in Qatar, is being circulated among the Indian community in Doha,” a statement by the

embassy on social media platform X said.

The embassy clarifies that it has not issued any such message or press release. It advised the public not to circulate any such message and not to reveal any personal information in response.

“Such matters may be brought to the notice of the embassy by e-mail at cul.doha@mea.gov.in or edu.doha@mea.gov.in,” the embassy said.



ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **MOHAMMED REYAS MANADATH PAREED PILLAI**

holder of

INDIAN Passport No. Z3833665
QID No. 26435619073

hereby change my name

from

MOHAMMED REYAS MANADATH PAREED PILLAI

to

MOHAMMED RIYAS MANADATH PAREED PILAI

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **PIERE HAEI SAMIA**

holder of

LEBANON Passport No. RL4265321
QID No. 28142201036

hereby change my name

from

PIERE HAEI SAMIA

to

PIERRE HAEI SAMIA DIT ASBAHIA

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **MOHAMED SHAKEEL PEER MOHAMED**

holder of

INDIAN Passport No. B6730659
QID No. 27635600474

hereby change my name

from

MOHAMED SHAKEEL PEER MOHAMED

to

MOHAMED SHAKEEL

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **TSEAAY ZENEBE AESSALEGN**

holder of

ETHIOPIA Passport No. EP7714536
QID No. 27123000093

hereby change my name

from

TSEAAY ZENEBE AESSALEGN

to

TSEHAY ZENEBE DESSALEGN

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **VERONICA PAULINA RODRIGUES**

holder of

INDIAN Passport No. N0361361
QID No. 26735609644

hereby change my name

from

VERONICA PAULINA RODRIGUES

to

VERONICA PAULINA GONSALVES

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

Virgin Galactic completes ‘final’ spaceflight

Reuters/AFP
Washington

Virgin Galactic has successfully completed its last spaceflight before heading into a two-year pause on commercial operations to upgrade its fleet, as the space tourism company seeks to finally turn a profit.

The Richard Branson-founded space tourism company flew four tourists yesterday to the edge of space and back aboard its spaceplane.

The Galactic 07 mission carried Turkish, US and Italian passengers to an altitude of about 55 miles (88.51km) on a flight lasting slightly more than an hour.

Virgin Galactic said that mission took off from and returned to Spaceport America in New Mexico yesterday.

“Galactic07 is back on terra firma, now as astronauts!” the company said on X, formerly Twitter, referring to a team of two pilots and two passengers.

“Our pilots, crew and spaceship have landed safely at Spaceport America, New Mexico,” it added.

It marked Virgin Galactic’s VSS Unity spaceplane’s final commercial flight as the company is now producing its fourth-generation spaceships expected to enter commercial service in 2026, the company said in a statement.

A huge carrier plane took off from the runway at 8.31am Mountain Time and

climbed to an altitude of some 44,500’ (13,500m) over approximately 50 minutes.

After that, it released from under its wings a spaceplane that soared at supersonic speed to the edge of space, where the passengers were able to enjoy a few minutes of weightlessness and admire the Earth’s curve.

It landed on the same runway at 9.41am, having accelerated to Mach 2.96, almost three times the speed of sound.

One of the private was Tuva Atasever, a Turkish space agency astronaut whose seat was contracted through another space company, Axiom, while the names of the other three were revealed only after landing.

They were Anand “Andy” Harish Sad-

hwani, a propulsion engineer at SpaceX; New York real estate developer and airplane pilot Irving Izchak Pergament; and Italian investment adviser Giorgio Manenti.

During the flight, Atasever wore custom headgear with brain activity monitoring sensors to collect physiological data, a dosimeter, and two commercially available insulin pens to examine the ability to administer accurate insulin doses in microgravity, Virgin said in a statement.

It was the seventh commercial flight for the company founded in 2004 by British tycoon Branson, in an emerging suborbital tourism market where its main competitor is Blue Origin, owned by Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos.

The future of Virgin Galactic is at stake as it seeks at long last to get into the black.

The company is burning through cash, losing more than \$100mn in each of the past two quarters, with its reserves standing at \$867mn at the end of March.

It also laid off 185 people, or 18% of its workforce, late last year.

Its shares are currently trading at 85¢, down from \$55 in 2021, the year Branson himself flew, garnering global headlines.

Blue Origin, which launches on a small suborbital rocket, resumed crewed flights in May after its own hiatus of nearly two years, though it experienced an anomaly with one of the three landing parachutes failing to fully inflate, which could delay the next mission.

Mass fish death in Mexico blamed on severe drought

Reuters
Anahuac, Mexico

Thousands of dead fish have blanketed the surface of a lagoon in Mexico’s northern state of Chihuahua, and local officials are blaming an intense drought.

The fish deaths at the Bustillos Lagoon, by the town of Anahuac in Chihuahua, came during long dry spells as temperatures have climbed above 40° Celsius (104° Fahrenheit).

The lagoon’s water levels are dangerously low, officials said.

Some form of drought is afflicting nearly 90% of Mexico, the highest rate since 2011, according to government data.

Chihuahua state has been hit particularly hard with most of its territory engulfed by the most extreme levels of dryness.

There was much less water in the lagoon for the fish to live in, and the

remaining water was of poor quality, according to Irma de la Pena, head of the Ecology Department in the city of Cuauhtemec.

“When the amount of water decreases, the pollutants become more concentrated and therefore they also affect the species that live here,” De la Pena said.

Mass fish deaths in the area have happened in previous years when the lagoon dried up and fish stranded.

Livestock, including cows and donkeys, are also perishing as dams run low and farmers struggle to secure water.

Heat and drought have become so severe that many people who rely on agriculture have packed up and left.

“It’s very abandoned because since it doesn’t rain ... they no longer dare to continue living here,” said Jesus Maria Palacios, a raiser of livestock in Cuauhtemec.

At the lagoon, local authorities are racing to cover the dead fish



Municipal workers spread quicklime over dead fish to reduce the stench, at the dry bed of the Bustillos Lagoon in Anahuac, Chihuahua state, Mexico.

with lime, concerned that their rapid decomposition under the baking sun could endanger public health by attracting insects and spreading disease.

They are asking local organisa-

tions to help in the endeavour.

“What we need is support, especially with the potential we have for a health issue,” said Saul Sausamed, president of the Anahuac community.

Apollo 8 astronaut dies in small plane crash at age 90

William Anders, the former US astronaut who took the historic *Earthrise* photo from space over 55 years ago, died in a plane crash on Friday at the age of 90, his family said.

Anders had been piloting a small plane which crashed off the coast of Washington state on Friday morning, his son told US media.

Anders was alone in the plane.

His body was later recovered by a dive team, the *Seattle Times* reported, quoting a Coast Guard spokesperson.

A member of the Apollo 8 mission in December 1968, Anders became one of the first humans to orbit the moon, along with fellow Americans Frank Borman and James Lovell.

The crew circled the moon 10 times without landing, before successfully returning to Earth on December 27, 1968. On one of the lunar orbits, Anders captured a photo of the bright blue Earth against the vast darkness of space, with the Moon’s cratered surface in the foreground.

The *Earthrise* photo is frequently listed in roundups of key historical images, and was included in *Life Magazine*’s book *100 Photographs that Changed The World*. – **AFP**

Police kill alleged organised crime boss in Rio shootout

A suspected organised crime boss in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro was killed on Friday in a shootout with police as they tried to arrest him, local authorities said.

Rio’s civil police said in a statement that Rui Paulo Gonçalves Esteves, also known as “Pipito”, was the alleged head of an organised criminal group accused of extortion and sowing terror in the city.

“When he was approached, he attacked the agents and a confrontation ensued. The criminal was hit and taken to a local hospital, but died of his wounds,” police said.

Rio Governor Claudio Castro said police had dealt a “hard blow against criminals who disturb the peace of the population”.

Castro wrote on social media site X that Pipito earlier “gave the order to burn 35 buses” in western Rio neighbourhoods in retaliation for the death of a relative of another alleged crime boss, who is in prison. – **AFP**

Student killed in rare Panama university campus shooting

A campus shooting in Panama left one person dead as two gunmen attacked a group of university students, apparently due to a gang dispute, police said on Friday.

One other person was wounded in the attack on the grounds of a University of Panama site in the southwestern city of Santiago de Veraguas.

The motive was thought to be a settling of scores between criminal groups, police deputy commissioner Hector Delgado said in a video posted on social media.

Shootings at universities and schools are not common in Panama, a country of 4.2mn people that recorded 544 homicides in 2023.

An investigation has been launched and no arrests have been made, a police source said on condition of anonymity.

In a statement suspending administrative work and classes, the university condemned the violence and expressed condolences to the victims’ friends and families. – **AFP/Reuters**

Almana Computer Services unveils groundbreaking innovations at Extreme Networks Event

Almana Computer Services (ACS), a pioneering leader in the networking industry, recently showcased its latest advancements and cutting-edge technologies at the highly anticipated Extreme Networks Event. The event took place at the luxurious Wyndham Doha West Bay, attracting a distinguished gathering of IT professionals, partners, and industry leaders.

The Extreme Networks Event was meticulously designed to facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance awareness about the latest innovations in IT solutions. Renowned for its exceptional track record in delivering mega IT projects, Almana Computer Services seized this opportunity to highlight its pioneering advancements. The event was attended by ACS team members, clients, consultants, and partners, all eager to learn about the latest technological developments.



The demonstrations highlighted several key areas, including enhanced network performance, robust security measures, and seamless scalability. Participants were able to explore the practical benefits of these solutions, gaining insights into how they can be integrated into their own organizational frameworks.

Almana Computer Services’ Extreme Networks Event underscores its commitment to excellence and innovation. By continually pushing the boundaries of technology, ACS aims to provide its clients with state-of-the-art IT solutions that drive efficiency, security, and growth. The event not only showcased ACS’s current capabilities but also set the stage for future advancements in the IT industry.

As ACS continues to lead the way in the networking industry, its dedication to delivering exceptional IT solutions remains unwavering. The event reinforced ACS’s position as a trusted partner in the IT landscape, ready to tackle the challenges of an increasingly interconnected world with cutting-edge technology and unparalleled expertise.



construction. Additionally, we excel in IT consulting, technical services, disaster recovery services, data center design, help desk and asset management, and application development,” Khan stated.

A major highlight of the event was the introduction of a new lineup of networking solutions by Atef Djimoui, Regional Sales Manager of Extreme Networks. Djimoui presented these innovative solutions, emphasizing their unparalleled performance, scalability, and security.

“Leveraging cutting-edge technologies, these solutions are engineered to empower organizations to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world,” he explained. The new offerings from Extreme Networks promise to set new benchmarks in the industry, catering to the evolving needs of businesses in various sectors.

One of the most engaging segments of the event was the interactive demonstrations led by Ahmad El Soufi, Senior Systems Engineer of Extreme Fabrics. El Soufi showcased the real-world applications of Extreme Networks’ innovations through live simulations and hands-on experiences. Attendees had the opportunity to witness firsthand how these advanced technologies can drive tangible outcomes and propel businesses forward.





Palestinian solidarity gatherings



Protesters hold a banner reading “Gaza, Palestine, stop genocide” during a demonstration to support Palestinians and to demand for a ceasefire at Place de la Bastille in Paris, France, yesterday.



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators march in Farragut Square in Washington, DC, yesterday to protest against Israel's actions in Gaza.

Turkiye, Egypt, Iran urge world to up pressure on Israel



Palestinians walk on the rubble of destroyed buildings following operations by the Israeli Special Forces in the Nuseirat camp, in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

AFP
Istanbul

An alliance of mostly Muslim-majority countries including Türkiye, Egypt and Iran yesterday demanded full Palestinian membership of the United Nations and greater international pressure on Israel amid the Gaza war.

The D-8 Organisation for Economic Co-operation, which also includes Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan, called for an immediate ceasefire in the devastated Palestinian territory, where Israel has been battling Hamas fighters for more than eight months.

Foreign ministers from the group meeting in Istanbul called on the United States to lift its veto on full Palestinian UN membership and on all countries to “exert diplomatic, political, economic and legal pressure” on Israel. They also urged states to ensure Israel complies with the International Court of Justice's decisions, withdraws from the southern Rafah governorate and



Mourners react during the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Deir al-Balah, in central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

guarantees the safe entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Denouncing an “ongoing genocide and grave violations of international law”, the group called on states to contribute to and join legal proceedings against Israel at international courts.

The eight countries also demanded an end to arms and ammunition deliveries to Israel and that all measures be taken to protect Palestinian civilians, rejecting any attempted forced

displacement. They advocated a two-state solution based on 1967 borders with east Jerusalem as a Palestinian capital and a guarantee mechanism to protect a future settlement. The Gaza war was sparked by Hamas' unprecedented October first week storming of southern Israel. Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 36,801 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

Abbas seeks urgent UNSC session to discuss Nuseirat massacre

QNA
Ramallah

In response to the gruesome massacre perpetrated by Israeli occupation forces in the Nuseirat camp yesterday, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas requested holding an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss the repercussions of the bloodshed.

Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) stated that President Abbas instructed Palestine's envoy to the United Nations to request an emergency session of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to urge the international community to urgently intervene to halt the Palestinians tragedy in the Gaza enclave and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Wafa highlighted that the Palestinian President Abbas is currently engaging in intensive efforts with Arab and international

parties to convene this emergency session of the UNSC to uphold its role in stopping the Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and to compel the Israeli occupation state to adhere to the international legitimacy resolutions that call for an immediate ceasefire.

OIC CONDEMNS ATTACK ON SCHOOL

The Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) has condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli bombing of a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) school in Gaza, which was sheltering displaced persons. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of over 40 Palestinians and injured numerous civilians, most of whom were women and children, QNA reported from Jeddah.

In a statement issued yesterday, the OIC considered the Israeli bombing of the school as an extension of the ongoing genocide in Gaza and a blatant violation of

international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions, relevant United Nations resolutions, and orders from the International Court of Justice.

The OIC viewed the United Nations' decision to include Israel, the occupying power, on the list of violators of children's rights in armed conflicts, known as the “list of shame,” as an important step towards supporting the rule of international law and ending the culture of impunity concerning Israeli war crimes, thereby ensuring justice for Palestinian victims. The organisation called on the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to fulfil its responsibilities by working to end the continuous Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and taking serious measures to ensure the accountability of those who commit war crimes and genocide against Palestinians, ultimately achieving international justice.

Iran reformists condition participation in vote

AFP
Tehran

The main coalition of reformists in Iran said yesterday that it would only participate in this month's presidential election if at least one of their candidates is approved to run.

“Reformists participate in elections if they have a candidate, otherwise, participation should not be expected,” said the Reform Front spokesperson, Javad Emam, according to reformist newspaper *Etemad*.

The early presidential election on June 28 seeks to replace President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter accident on May 19. The 80 hopefuls, who have submitted their candidacy, should wait until Thursday to see whether they are approved by the Guardian Council, an unelected body dominated by conservatives which vets all candidates for public office.

Before legislative elections on March 1, the Reform Front said it would not take part in “meaningless, non-competitive, and ineffective elections”, after massive disqualification of its candidates. “The Guardian Council cannot nominate a candidate for the reformist movement,” said the leader of the Reform Front, Azar Mansouri, quoted by the local Fars news agency. “We must have our own candidates.” The reformists call for more social freedoms and the establishment of a civil society.

They have announced a list of three people as their candidates: former first vice-president Es-hagh Jahangiri, whose candidacy for the 2021 presidential election was invalidated, as well as former ministers Abbas Akhoun-di and Masoud Pezeshkian. In the 2021 presidential election, the 12-strong Guardian Council invalidated many reformist figures, allowing an easy victory for Ebrahim Raisi, the candidate from the conservative camp.

Suspected rebels kill at least 38 in eastern Congo attack

Reuters
Beni

Suspected rebels killed at least 38 people in an overnight attack on villages in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, two district officials and a civil society leader said yesterday.

Local civil society leader Justin Kavalami blamed members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) for the attack. The ADF, alleged to be behind another village assault that killed at least 16 people earlier this week, originates from neighbouring Uganda. Now based in eastern Congo, it has pledged allegiance to Islamic State and mounts frequent attacks, further destabilising a region where many militant groups are active.

Armed men used guns and machetes to attack residents of villages in Beni territory, in North Kivu province, overnight on Friday.

Colombia halts coal exports to Israel over Gaza war

Reuters
Bogota

Colombia's President Gustavo Petro yesterday said the country, which is reported to be Israel's biggest supplier of coal, will suspend exports of the fuel source to Israel over its assault on the Gaza Strip.

Petro, a leftist, cut diplomatic ties with Israel in May and has strongly criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In a post on social media platform X, he said coal exports would be halted “until the genocide is stopped” referring to Palestinian deaths in the conflict.

Israel denies accusations that



Colombian President Gustavo Petro.

its war violates the international genocide convention.

The measure will take effect in five days, according to a Colombian government decree, which said coal is used by Israel as an energy source to make weapons and other military goods. “Colombia believes that

the military operations against the Palestinian people represent a transgression of a peremptory norm of international law,” the document said.

According to the American Journal of Transportation, Colombia is the biggest supplier of coal to Israel, representing more than half of its imports.

Israel has relied on coal for 20% of its electricity generation but that is expected to drop to 3%, and it has other coal sources, the journal said.

Colombia's private mining association has said such a ban would violate international agreements and put market confidence and foreign investment at risk.

Israeli airstrike kills two in Lebanon

Reuters
Beirut

Two people were killed yesterday in an Israeli airstrike on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese town of Aitaroun, Lebanon's state news agency NNA said.

The Israeli military said in a statement that its soldiers had identified a Hezbollah fighter in the Aitaroun area, and that soon afterwards an Israeli aircraft had carried out an airstrike that hit the individual.

Israeli forces launched two missiles targeting a cafe at a petrol station, causing significant damage to the premises and to the surrounding area, NNA said.

Lebanese armed group Hezbollah said its fighters retaliated by firing rockets on Malkia, in northern Israel, followed by a salvo of missiles at a military command centre in northern Israel using the Falag 2 rockets. A security source told Reuters it was the first time the group used that model of rockets, having used the Falag 1 previously.

Israel Defence Forces (IDF) “identified a Hezbollah fighter in the area of Aitaroun in southern Lebanon, and shortly afterward an IAF aircraft struck the



Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli airstrike on the southern Lebanese village of Khiam near the border, yesterday, amid ongoing cross-border tensions as fighting continues between Israel and Hamas fighters in the Gaza Strip.

fighter,” the Israeli military said in a statement. The IDF said yesterday jets had also struck infrastructure in the area of the town of Khiam after tanks had earlier fired at a Hezbollah military structure in the Kfarkela area. The conflict between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel, which has been fought in parallel to the Gaza war, has intensified in recent days, adding to concerns that an even wider confrontation could break out between the heavily armed adversaries.



Protesters march in support of Palestinians during a demonstration in Westminster in London, yesterday.



Thousands rally in London for Gaza ceasefire

AFP
London

Thousands of people marched through central London to parliament yesterday calling for a permanent ceasefire in the Gaza-Israel war. Protesters waved Palestinian flags and chanted: “End the genocide” and “Free, free

Palestine”. The demonstration, organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), also passed a pro-Israel counter-protest. With a UK general election due to be held on July 4, the group called on people to show political parties that “they must act” by ceasing to arm Israel and demanding a permanent ceasefire “if they want our vote”. The protest came as Israel said

its forces had rescued four of the hostages alive from a Gaza refugee camp. Israel’s retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 36,801 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory’s health ministry. “It’s so clearly morally wrong what Israel is doing to the Palestinian people,” said one demonstrator, 35-year-old Canadian musician Thomas

Rapsey. “We want the bombing to stop,” he said. Another protester, who asked to be identified only as Lucy, called Israel’s actions in Gaza “horrific”. “We’ve seen a genocide on our TV now for eight months, and no one in the world seems to care or do anything about it. “It’s been ignored by the world leaders and major institutions so

it’s important for me to feel that I could do something,” the 26-year-old research analyst told AFP. Both Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and main opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer have said Israel has a right to defend itself under international law, while expressing concern at the numbers of Palestinians killed. They support a ceasefire, if both

sides in the conflict agree, and the release of Israeli hostages. They also back the creation of a Palestinian state as part of the Middle East peace process. A member of Starmer’s top team said recently that the UK should pause arms sales to Israel to stop an offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah – a position the British government has rejected.

Rahul Gandhi nominated as leader of India’s opposition

AFP
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s chief rival Rahul Gandhi was nominated yesterday to lead India’s opposition in parliament after an election result that rescued his party from the political wilderness.

Modi will be sworn into office for a third term this weekend following a poll that deprived his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of a majority, forcing it to rely on coalition allies to govern.

Gandhi defied analysts’ expectations and exit polls to help his Congress party nearly double its parliamentary numbers, its best result since Modi was swept to power a decade ago. A meeting of the Congress leadership yesterday voted unanimously to recommend Gandhi’s election as India’s official opposition leader, a post that had been left vacant since 2014.

“All participants unanimously passed the resolution that Rahul Gandhi should take the position of leader of opposition in the parliament,” Congress general secretary K C Venugopal told a news conference afterwards. The nomination will be put before a meeting of lawmakers belonging to a Congress-led opposition alliance.

Gandhi is the scion of the dynasty that dominated Indian politics for decades and is the son, grandson and great-grandson of former prime ministers, beginning with independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru. If elected, as expected, he will be recognised as India’s official opposition leader when the



Senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi arrive to attend a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party comprising all newly elected Lok Sabha Members of Parliament (MP) and Rajya Sabha MPs in Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi.

new parliament sits, which local media reports suggest will happen as soon as early next week.

Parliamentary regulations require the opposition leader to come from a party that commands at least 10 percent of the lawmakers in the 543-seat lower house. The post has been vacant for 10 years because two dismal election results for Congress – once India’s dominant party – left it short of that threshold.

Gandhi is one of several top opposition figures to face criminal proceedings in cases they claim are politically driven by Modi’s government. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment last year in 2023 in a separate case in Gujarat but was not jailed after appealing with India’s top court.

The sentence did, however, force

his brief disqualification from parliament until the Supreme Court suspended his conviction. On Friday, he made another brief court appearance in the tech hub of Bengaluru, in a case brought by a BJP member for accusing the party of corruption in its administration of the southern state of Karnataka. US think tank Freedom House said this year that the BJP had “increasingly used government institutions to target political opponents”.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, an ally of Gandhi’s, was jailed this year in connection with an ongoing graft investigation. Tuesday’s election results increased the party’s parliamentary representation from 52 to 99 seats. A statement from the Congress executive said that “many challenges” remained in the party’s



Senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and President of the Indian National Congress Mallikarjun Kharge attend a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

road to reclaiming its credibility and returning to government in the future. “The people of India have spoken – the Congress has been given another chance,” the statement said. “It is now up to us to build on it. We must and we will.”

Modi and his Hindu-nationalist BJP ruled outright for the past decade but failed to repeat its previous two landslide wins this time, despite widespread expectations of another easy triumph. He was instead forced into quick-fire talks with the 15-member National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition, which guaranteed him the parliamentary numbers to govern.

There are no indications yet of what concessions Modi may have offered in return, though several larger coalition allies are reported to be seeking cabinet posts. The

NDA has 293 members in the next parliament, 21 above a simple majority. Modi and his new ministers will be sworn in by President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday evening.

Leaders of India’s neighbours including Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina began arriving in New Delhi yesterday for the ceremony. Tesla founder Elon Musk was among the latest international figures to congratulate Modi on his re-election, writing on his social media platform X that he was looking forward to his companies “doing exciting work in India”. “Appreciate your greetings,” Modi wrote in his Saturday response.

“Our demography, predictable politics and stable democratic polity will continue to provide the business environment for all our partners.”

Hope in defeat for opposition figurehead

The son, grandson and great-grandson of former prime ministers, Rahul Gandhi was seen as India’s next leader in waiting when he made his foray into politics in 2004. Two decades on, the 53-year-old opposition Congress party leader recorded his greatest success so far: a 140-odd-seat defeat at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In normal political circumstances, it would rank as an electoral humiliation, but compared to the BJP landslides of 2014 and 2019, it is a stunning turnaround. Yesterday, he was nominated to be India’s official opposition in parliament. The once-dominant Congress had withered under his stewardship, and expectations were already low even before exit polls predicted another crushing win for the BJP. Instead, a relaxed Gandhi held up a little red book at his party headquarters on Tuesday and proclaimed that the voters “have taken the first and the biggest step to save the constitution of this country”. Congress has struggled to present a coherent alternative vision to the BJP’s Hindu-first agenda, while Gandhi has been hamstrung by several criminal cases lodged against him by BJP members, including a defamation conviction that saw him briefly disqualified from parliament last year. He has struggled to shed his image of an entitled princeling, while his often lacklustre oratory skills are overshadowed by the populist appeal of his politically battle-hardened rival Modi. But in 2022, Gandhi sought to change his public reputation, presenting what he said was his real self by embarking on a cross-country trek to hear the concerns of ordinary voters. — AFP

Thaksin says ready to face royal insult charges

Former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra said yesterday he was ready to face charges of insulting the monarchy that mark a setback to a political heavyweight whose allies are currently in government. The complaint, lodged by the royalist military that ousted the government of his sister Yingluck Shinawatra, stems from an interview the influential tycoon gave to foreign media in 2015. Other charges include violating a computer crime law. Thaksin said he would meet prosecutors on June 18, but he was not concerned about the case and was ready to fight it. “It’s nothing. The case is baseless,” he told reporters. Thaksin, 74, denies wrongdoing and has repeatedly pledged loyalty to the crown, criticism of which is forbidden under Thailand’s controversial lese-majeste law, one of the strictest of its kind around the world. His is the most high-profile case among more than 270

prosecutions in recent years under the law, which carries a maximum jail term of 15 years for each perceived insult against the royal family. Thaksin founded the populist Pheu Thai party and his family’s parties have won all but one election since 2001, with three Shinawatra governments toppled by coups or court rulings. The billionaire returned to Thailand in 2023 from 15 years of self-imposed exile, when he remained a central figure during repeated bouts of political upheaval. He was convicted of abuse of power and conflicts of interest and sentenced to eight years in prison, later commuted to one year by the king. He was released on parole in February after just six months in detention. Pheu Thai leads the current government, with Thaksin’s business ally Srettha Thavisin serving as prime minister and his daughter, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the party’s chief. — Reuters

N Korea sends trash-carrying balloons again: Seoul military

AFP
Seoul

North Korea again sent trash-carrying balloons towards the South yesterday, Seoul’s military said, after anti-Pyongyang activists in the South said they have despatched balloons with leaflets against leader Kim Jong-un across the border.

“North Korea is again floating (suspected) balloons carrying trash towards the South,” the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement, advising the public to refrain from touching the balloons if spotted and to report them to authorities. The announcement came hours after Seoul’s military said it was on alert for possibly more trash-carrying balloons arriving from North Korea, a potential response to the propaganda balloons sent

this week by activists in the South.

The Seoul city government, as well as the Gyeonggi Province, also sent a similar text alert to residents yesterday, warning about the balloons.

North Korea sent hundreds of balloons in two waves last week with bags of trash into the South, describing them as a response to anti-Pyongyang propaganda balloons sent the other way by South Korean activists.

Pyongyang announced a halt to the balloons last Sunday but days later, a South Korean group called “Fighters for Free North Korea” said it on Thursday had sent 10 balloons with USB thumb drives containing K-pop music and 200,000 leaflets against leader Kim Jong-un. Another group, comprising North Korean defectors, also said it had sent 10 balloons on Friday with 100 radios,

200,000 anti-Pyongyang leaflets, and USB thumb drives containing a speech by South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol.

North Korea had said it would respond with “wastepaper and rubbish” a hundred times the amount if more South Korean leaflets were sent.

Last year, South Korea’s Constitutional Court struck down a 2020 law that criminalised the sending of anti-Pyongyang propaganda, calling it an undue limitation on free speech.

Experts say there are now no legal grounds for the government to stop activists from sending balloons into North Korea. South Korea’s unification ministry said yesterday that the issue is “being approached in consideration” of the 2023 court decision.

Kim Jong-un’s powerful sister Kim Yo-jong mocked South Korea

for complaining about the balloons last week, saying North Koreans were simply exercising their freedom of expression. The North Korean balloons last week landed in a number of locations in the South, and were found to be carrying garbage such as cigarette butts, cardboard scrap and waste batteries.

In response to the balloons, South Korea on Tuesday completely suspended a 2018 military deal with the North, which was meant to reduce tensions between the neighbours.

Authorities in Seoul have condemned the North Korean balloons as a “low-class” act and threatened countermeasures that it said Pyongyang would find “unendurable”. Activists in South Korea have long sent balloons northwards, filled with anti-Pyongyang propaganda, cash, rice, and Korean TV series on USB thumb drives.

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GULF TIMES

1.5°C target for global warming must prevail

The world is burning, and our political leaders are failing us. With temperatures rising at an alarming rate, it seems that anyone who believes it is still possible to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius is in a rapidly shrinking minority. As governments around the world fail to meet their responsibilities under the Paris climate agreement, the window for keeping global temperatures below the 1.5°C limit has all but closed due to insufficient action. But while some eminent commentators have declared the 1.5°C target “deader than a doornail,” I have come to the opposite conclusion: 1.5°C will never die.

To be sure, the world is in a dire state. Greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions dumped in the atmosphere since the start of the Industrial Revolution have already warmed the planet by roughly 1.3°C, according to this year’s annual report on Indicators of Global Climate Change. And studies, including mine, unequivocally show that crucial climate goals are not being met. Under current policies, global temperatures are projected to increase by 2.5-3°C by the end of this century. Even if governments meet all their existing climate pledges, the odds against global warming staying below 1.5°C are seven to one. Combine this with the fossil-fuel industry’s delaying tactics, including the greenwashing of their polluting business practices and recent roll-back on self-imposed emissions targets, and it becomes abundantly clear that our chances of staying below 1.5°C are indeed slim. Consequently, climate scientists expect global warming to “blast past” the 1.5°C limit.

But just as risks do not vanish when safety limits are exceeded, the Paris agreement’s climate commitments do not disappear once we cross 1.5°C. While 1.5°C is a political target, it was not pulled out of thin air. It is a scientifically informed limit, first championed by small island states and later supported by a broad coalition of ambitious countries. By now, it is clear to many governments that allowing global warming to exceed 1.5°C involves unacceptable societal risks, undermines development, and poses an existential threat to vulnerable communities and their cultures. Moreover, the line between “safe” and “dangerous” warming is becoming increasingly blurred. As the devastating effects of climate change worldwide show, even 1.5°C is dangerous and our societies are ill-equipped to handle it.

Over the past 20 years, we have experienced what a world that has warmed by about 1°C is like. No region has been spared the impact, with a growing number of countries facing fires, floods, and storms, resulting in devastating human and financial costs that extend well beyond national borders. Between 2000 and 2019, climate-related disasters claimed over half a million lives, caused over \$2tn in estimated damage, and affected almost four billion people worldwide. Even at 1.5°C warming, up to one in seven species face extinction, critical ecosystems like tropical coral reefs face destruction, and extreme heat waves that our great-grandparents experienced once in a lifetime will occur on average every six years. Centuries of ice melt will cause sea levels to rise, flooding major cities like London, New York, Shanghai, and Kolkata. Vulnerable and marginalised communities’ efforts to escape poverty will be undermined, and every country’s economic development will be impeded.

Limiting global warming is thus a matter of social justice, human rights, and long-term development, and this imperative remains even if we cross the 1.5°C threshold. Moreover, while exceeding 1.5°C will have unpredictable political consequences as compensation claims for avoidable climate-related damage increase, the political implications of reducing GHG emissions remain consistent with what the Paris agreement already outlines.

To halt global warming, the Paris agreement expects countries to implement emission-reduction plans that represent their “highest possible ambition.” While governments are failing to meet this goal, exceeding 1.5°C does not change their responsibilities; in fact, fulfilling these commitments will become more important as temperatures continue to rise. The only way to improve our chances of keeping warming close to 1.5°C is by pledging and implementing more ambitious near-term emission cuts every year until 2035.

Even if we cannot avoid overshooting 1.5°C, the 1.5°C target remains relevant. Every fraction of a degree counts, and global climate efforts must therefore focus on limiting the exceedance of 1.5°C and returning to safe levels as quickly as possible. The Paris agreement’s target of achieving global net-zero GHG emissions, in particular, could help reverse some of the excess warming. To maintain a safe, liveable, and just planet, we must keep our eyes on the 1.5°C limit and ensure that pursuing it remains our top priority. – Project Syndicate

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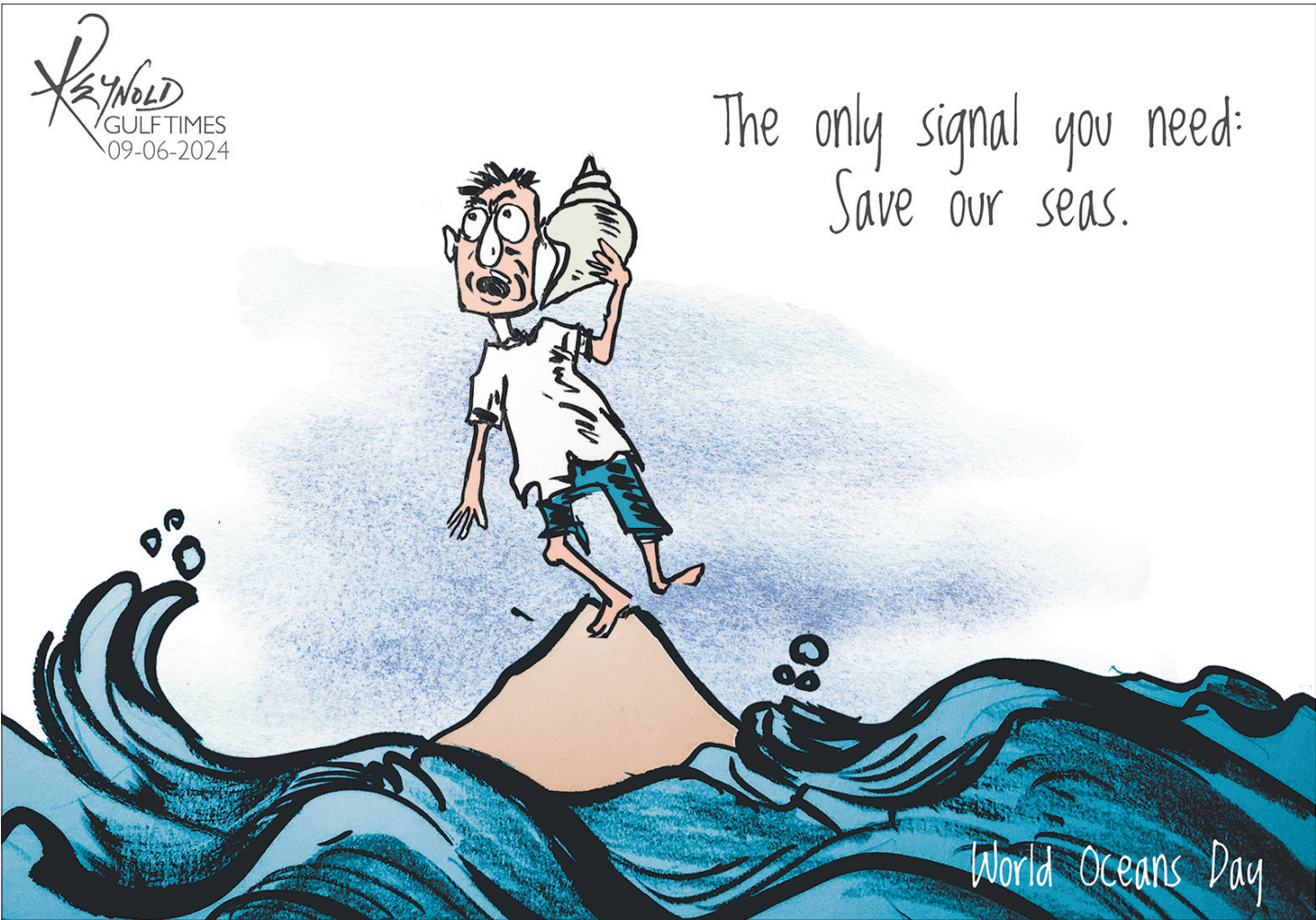
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American Big Business will regret writing off democracy

By Katharina Pistor
New York

American Big Business is in the process of writing off democracy, or so it seems. Stephen Schwarzman of Blackstone, the real-estate investment/private-equity conglomerate, is only the latest business leader to endorse Donald Trump’s candidacy for the presidency. The CEOs of major oil companies have done the same, and Jamie Dimon, the chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, recently remarked that Trump’s views on Nato, immigration, and many other critical issues are “kind of right.”

Much has changed since January 2021, when Trump’s followers stormed the Capitol to prevent the certification of the 2020 presidential election. In the weeks following the insurrection, many businesses solemnly vowed not to fund candidates who denied that Joe Biden had won fair and square. But these commitments turned out to be no more than hot air.

The business world has never shown a real penchant for democratic governance, of course. When it comes to its own operations, it prefers autocracy over self-governance. Chief executives demand the obeisance of managers and workers, and shareholders, who are supposed to be in charge, are easily appeased with financial rewards and rarely muster the kind of collective action that it would take to hold executives to account.

What makes these business leaders so powerful? The standard answer is that they control the

company’s assets. This is what Karl Marx meant when he argued that control over the means of production allows capitalists to extract surplus value from labour. Since then, economic models have vindicated him, demonstrating that control over assets does indeed translate into control over labour.

But matters are a little more complicated. After all, Schwarzman and Dimon do not own their companies’ machines or the buildings that house the traders, investors, or bank personnel whom they employ. They may own shares in their business empires, or options to buy more shares in their firms, but these holdings typically amount to only a fraction of all shares outstanding. And while shareholders, collectively, are often portrayed as owners, equity does not give them control over the business’s operations or its assets. Rather, it confers a right to vote for directors, to trade one’s shares, and to receive dividends.

But while CEOs rule as if they were true masters, they do so through a power that is enshrined in the legal tools they use to build their empires. They can rely on corporate and labour laws that privilege shareholders over labour; financial regulations that protect the stability of financial markets; and the generosity of central banks and taxpayers, who not infrequently bail out their businesses when they have overplayed their hands.

These dependencies are rarely acknowledged, and the crucial role that democracy plays in establishing the legitimacy and authority of the law even less so. Business leaders are more

comfortable cutting deals with themselves than they are with submitting to collective self-governance, but they are also deeply reliant on law and the political system that underpins it.

By self-dealing, they are replaying the early history of state building, which the late sociologist Charles Tilly analogised to “organised crime.” In early modern Europe, political leaders remain in power by regularly cutting deals with their friends, who then cut more deals with clients whom they needed on their side. The “rest” of society served as foot soldiers: a resource to be exploited by the powerful to fund internal and external peacekeeping.

But here is the rub. Unlike deals that are encoded in law, these kinds of arrangements are not enforceable. Nothing prevents a future president from breaching the promises he makes to business leaders on the campaign trail, and Trump has made it abundantly clear that he has little patience for the law and the constraints it imposes on him as a business leader, a president, or a private citizen. That makes him a highly unreliable business partner, and an outright dangerous candidate for the presidency.

Yet many business leaders are turning a blind eye to all this. They are betting on more empowerment, lower taxes, and fewer legal and regulatory constraints. Some will try to cut deals to prevent Trump from taking revenge on them for past disloyalty or slights. But what they will all be getting, ultimately, is legal uncertainty – which is bad for business.

Call it the Hong Kong

syndrome. When advocates of democracy and the rule of law took to the streets in Hong Kong to resist central control by the mainland Chinese government, most business leaders (and the bosses of big law and accounting firms) stood by silently, and then embraced the security law that ended Hong Kong’s relative autonomy. Presumably, they feared the people more than the Chinese state, and thus welcomed the restoration of order after the demonstrations were crushed.

But this strategy has backfired. State control has tightened not only on advocates of democracy, but on business as well. Businesses have resorted to self-help by moving data centres to other jurisdictions, giving their employees in Hong Kong single-use cell phones, and otherwise reducing their presence in a city that once shined as a global marketplace and financial hub.

They did not understand that individual self-defence is more costly and less effective than collective self-defence. The latter requires a vibrant constitutional democracy in which the rule of law reflects a genuine commitment to robust self-governance, rather than serving as a fig leaf for rule by Big Business. By the time Schwarzman, Dimon, and other US business titans discover the costs of writing off democracy by embracing Trump, it will be too late. – Project Syndicate

• Katharina Pistor, Professor of Comparative Law at Columbia Law School, is the author of The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality.



Business leaders are more comfortable cutting deals with themselves than they are with submitting to collective self-governance, but they are also deeply reliant on law and the political system that underpins it, writes the author.

Biden, Macron discuss Middle East, Ukraine

Reuters
Paris

Fresh from commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day, French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed US President Joe Biden in Paris yesterday for a state visit that included talks about the Middle East, Ukraine and trade.

The two countries will work harder to prevent a regional escalation in Gaza and focus on calming tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, Macron told reporters at the Elysee presidential palace, with Biden at his side.

“We are redoubling efforts together to avoid a regional explosion, particularly in Lebanon,” Macron said.

Both men welcomed the rescue by Israeli forces of four hostages held by Hamas since October. “We won’t stop working until all the hostages come home and a ceasefire is reached,” Biden said.

Biden has been a staunch supporter of Israel. Tens of thousands of Palestinian deaths have soured Biden’s left-leaning political base on Israel, hurting him as he runs against Republican Donald Trump for re-election in November.

Biden and Macron, who spent the last few days celebrating D-Day veterans and



US first lady Jill Biden, US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron arrive to attend an official state dinner at the Presidential Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. (AFP)

extolling democratic values, did not take questions from reporters.

The visit yesterday began with a ceremony at the iconic Arc de Triomphe,

where the leaders paid their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier while a massive French flag hanging from the arch fluttered in the breeze above their heads.

Accompanied by their wives, Biden and Macron greeted army veterans. Then, escorted by French guards on horseback, they drove down the capital’s renowned Avenue des Champs-Élysées, en route to the Elysee.

The day concluded with a dinner at the French presidential palace, where celebrities including Pharrell Williams and John McEnroe joined political and business leaders.

Biden and Macron share a warm relationship despite past tensions over a submarine deal with Australia. Biden hosted Macron for a state visit at the White House in 2022.

They are aligned in their countries’ support for Ukraine and opposition to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and a joint roadmap released by the presidents included a commitment to back efforts to use frozen Russian assets to help Kyiv.

Tapping profits from Russian assets has drawn concerns from some countries, but a US Treasury official said on Tuesday the United States and its G7 partners were making progress.

“The United States is standing strong with Ukraine. We’re standing with our allies. We are standing with France,” Biden said. “Putin is not going to stop with Ukraine.... All of Europe will be threatened. We’re not going to let that happen.”

Biden met with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky in Paris on Friday, apologising for a months-long delay by the US Congress in approving the latest military aid, and Zelensky addressed France’s National Assembly.

Beyond Ukraine, trade issues between the two sides of the Atlantic loomed large, especially over the US Inflation Reduction Act, which Biden signed into law in August 2022. European officials see it as a protectionist move that siphons off investments from EU companies.

Macron said he and Biden discussed the consequences of the IRA for the European economy again yesterday. Despite his criticism of the IRA during his state visit to Washington in 2022, Macron and European allies have since won few concessions from Washington.

“We really wish to move towards a re-synchronisation of our economies, between the United States of America and European economies, in terms of regulation and in terms of investment levels,” Macron said.



Italian Prime Minister and leader of Italian far-right party Brothers of Italy Giorgia Meloni casts her ballot to vote for the European elections yesterday in Rome. (AFP)

Italy votes with Meloni poised as powerbroker

Italy became the first heavyweight nation to cast votes for the EU’s next parliament yesterday, in a test of far-right leader Giorgia Meloni’s strength at home — and future influence in the bloc. Most of the European Union’s 27 member countries, including powerhouses France and Germany, go to the polls today, the final day, with projected overall results due late that evening. The two-day ballot in Italy — the EU’s third-largest economy with 76 of 720 seats in the new parliament — could have big consequences. Meloni cast her vote in her Rome constituency, under sweltering late spring temperatures, telling reporters that the EU contest “will shape the next five years”. Polls suggest Meloni’s Brothers of Italy party could win with 27% of the vote — more than quadrupling its score from 2019 — amid a broader surge of far-right groups across the bloc. Walter Esposito, a 78-year-old Roman, cast his vote for her party in protest at EU policies on the environment, complaining that “Europe has always tried to crush Italy and the Italian people.” At the other end of the political spectrum, Carlotta Cinardi, an 18-year-old student, said she found no party that “100% represents my ideas” — but voted green as the “most progressive towards young people.” A victory could set up Meloni as a powerbroker in determining whether EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen gets the backing she needs, from both member states and parliament, for a second term. Meloni has been actively courted both by the centre-right von der Leyen — and by French far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who wants to create a right-wing EU supergroup. But a European diplomat warned against overestimating her influence. “Meloni will have an influence on Italian interests, at the commission, in parliament,” said the diplomat, who asked not to be named. “She will play the game. But does that make her a kingmaker? No.” For the time being, Meloni is keeping her cards close to her chest — though she makes clear she wants to relegate the EU’s left-wing parties to the opposition. Public concern over the flow of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean was one of the key issues that propelled Meloni to power in 2022. EU-wide, immigration is the hot-button issue driving support to far-right parties. They are forecast to grab a quarter of parliament seats — though the centrist mainstream is still seen coming out on top.

Serb professor drops bid for dean over physical abuse allegations

A professor at a Serbian university said he was giving up his bid to become a dean yesterday, following protests over sex abuse allegations against him. The prospect of Slavisa Orlovic being appointed dean of political science at the University of Belgrade on Friday had sparked protests, with several women posting accusations on social media. Orlovic said yesterday that he was giving up his bid for the position. “The faculty comes first,” he wrote on the social media platform X. “There is no ongoing procedure against me,” he added. He did not respond to an earlier request by AFP for a response. Dozens of allegations of sexual violence and harassment against Orlovic have been posted on social media over recent weeks after the faculty said it would vote on whether to make him dean. Some of the alleged acts date back more than 20 years. At least one of the online accusers identified herself. In 2014, when Orlovic was serving as vice dean, a female student filed a complaint against him with the university, alleging sexual harassment. He was later removed from the position, though the official reason given was unsatisfactory co-operation with the faculty administration. One protester, 22-year-old Emilija Milenkovic, told AFP his announcement yesterday was a “great victory for female students”. She added: “This shows what can happen to all professors who abuse their position to carry out sexual or any other form of violence against students.”

Polish man remanded in custody after shock attack on Danish PM

Shaken leader seeks ‘peace for body and soul’

Reuters, AFP
Copenhagen

A 39-year old Polish man was remanded in custody for 12 days yesterday over an assault the previous day on Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, which authorities said caused her to suffer a minor neck injury.

Frederiksen sustained a minor whiplash injury from the alleged assault, which occurred in a square in Copenhagen’s centre when a man walked up and hit the politician.

“Thank you for the many, many, many greetings with support and backing. It’s incredibly touching,” the prime minister told Ritzau news agency in a written statement yesterday.

“I am saddened and shaken by the episode yesterday, but am otherwise safe. For once, I need peace. Both for body and soul. I need to be with my family and need to be myself for a bit,” Frederiksen added.

Several EU leaders condemned Friday’s incident, which happened just three weeks after Slovakia’s Prime Minister Robert Fico was seriously injured in an assassination attempt.

“This is completely unacceptable and is an attack on our open, democratic societies,” Norway’s Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre told news agency NTB of the assault on Frederiksen.

Danish police said the alleged attacker was under the influence of alcohol and drugs at the time and said he was unaware that the victim was Denmark’s prime minister.

“There is nothing to indicate a political motive,” the man’s lawyer told a Copenhagen court yesterday. The incident happened two days before Danes head to the polls in European Union elections.

“Danish authorities have told us that the person detained is a Polish citizen, who has been staying in Denmark for some time,” a Polish foreign ministry spokesperson was cited by Polish state radio as saying.

“We see it as a single, spontaneous act, and we do not currently have it as a guiding hypothesis in our investigation that it was a planned attack on the prime



HURTING: Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen. (AFP)

minister,” Copenhagen police inspector Trine Moller told Ritzau news agency.

prosecutor Taruh Sekeroglu told reporters. “It is not our guiding... hypothesis that there is a political motive here. But that is something that the police of course will investigate,” Sekeroglu said.

Broadcaster DR said police had described the man, who denied being guilty of a crime, as “probably both under the influence of substances and drunk” when arrested.

The broadcaster also reported that while in court the prosecutor asked if the man could remember what he was doing between 5:30pm (1530 GMT) and 5:45pm the day before.

All the Danish prime minister’s official scheduled events yesterday were cancelled, her office said.

Frederiksen was able to walk away after the assault, Soren Kjergaard, a local coffee-shop worker, told Reuters after seeing her being escorted away by security.

Ordinary Danes on the streets of Copenhagen were shocked.

“I was just surprised that was something that could happen,” 45-year-old Anna Liljegren told AFP.

“I’m sure she has security,” she added.

Another Dane, 25-year-old Frederik Bey, told AFP he thought it was “quite disturbing that things like that can happen in Denmark”.

In 2019, Frederiksen became the country’s youngest prime minister at the age of 41 and kept the post after emerging victorious in the 2022 general election.

American centenarian WWII veteran marries sweetheart

‘I waited 96 years to find the right man’, says chuffed bride

AFP
Carentan (France)

It might have been the longest wait but yesterday 100-year-old American World War II veteran Harold Terens married his 96-year-old fiancée in Normandy, just days after being honoured on the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in northwestern France. To the sounds of *I will always love you*, *Ave Maria* and bagpipes, Terens and his sweetheart Jeanne Swerlin said “I do” in the town of Carentan-les-Marais at a ceremony attended by dozens of guests, some wearing military uniforms. To top off an extraordinary day, the newly wedded couple then attended the state banquet at the Elysee Palace in Paris thrown by President Emmanuel Macron in honour of visiting US leader Joe Biden. “I waited 96 years to find the right man and now I have a wedding like only a queen and king can have,” Swerlin told AFP before the ceremony in Normandy. “I feel young again,” Terens said. “It’s the best time of my entire life.” Terens, who wore a light blue suit, entered



Newly-weds Jeanne Swerlin, 96, and WWII veteran Harold Terens, 100, pose for photographs in front of a piper band as they celebrate their marriage during a wedding at the town hall of Carentan-les-Marais, in Normandy, northwestern France, yesterday. (AFP)

the local wedding hall to applause from family and friends. Dressed in satin pink, Swerlin made her entrance to the sound of Whitney Houston’s *I will always love you*. The bride and groom embraced, swaying with emotion.

Oui! Swerlin said in French when asked by the mayor, Jean-Pierre Lhonneur, if she wished to take Terens to be her husband. Terens and Swerlin, who live in Boca Raton, Florida, tied the knot after commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 Normandy landings.

“Today, Harold chose our country to marry Jeanne. They are among us today. congratulations to the young couple!” Macron told the pair in his toast to Biden at the state dinner. The glitzy assembly of guests rose and cheered the couple. “My religion is love,” Terens told AFP in Normandy. He said he always taught his family to “just love”. “I never leave my house without saying goodbye and kissing them, always, from the day they are born until today.” His son Bill Terens said they did not know “if he’d be alive or well enough to travel” to France for the anniversary of the D-Day landings as he regularly did in the past. But Terens said he felt good. “I want to marry Jeanne,” he also said, according to his son. “So we all thought it was a little crazy, but we supported him again, and here we are. He has always been a dreamer, he dreams of big things, and sometimes he gets them.” Anne-Marie Ruffier, a 66-year-old local, called the wedding a “unique event”. “It’s also a way of thanking this man who helped liberate France,” she told AFP. Pierre Le Goubey, 69, said he “wouldn’t have missed this wedding for the world”. “It’s a powerful symbol,” he said, adding that in a way the veteran was “marrying France”.

Philip Taubman, Swerlin’s son-in-law, praised the “once-in-a-lifetime” celebration. “It proves what life is all about,” he said. “Harold was a hero and he made a safer democracy of all the world and this is just the final celebration of his particular life.” Terens was awarded the French Legion of Honour by Macron in 2019. “We are very honoured that Mr. Terens has chosen to marry here, in Carentan, where in June 1944 the Allied troops landed on the beaches of Utah and Omaha,” the mayor said. “We’ll be offering him champagne, of course, but also a gift to thank him for taking part in the liberation of France.” During the war Terens was also part of a secret mission that took him to Soviet Ukraine via Casablanca, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Cairo, Baghdad and Tehran. After the war Terens married his first wife, Thelma, with whom he spent 70 years and raised three children until her death in 2018. In 2021, a friend introduced him to Swerlin, a charismatic woman who had also been widowed, and the two have been inseparable ever since. “She makes life worth living,” Terens told AFP last month in Florida. Swerlin said Terens was “an unbelievable guy”. “He’s handsome — and he’s a good kisser.”



‘British Food Week’ opens at LuLu

Leading hypermarket chain LuLu Group has launched the much-awaited “British Food Week” at its outlets in Qatar. The event showcases a wide array of food products imported directly from the UK, delighting customers with the variety and quality of British food products and brands.

The annual British food festival, which runs until June 12 across LuLu stores and online platforms, offers people in Qatar the chance to indulge in the best of British culinary traditions this summer.

The week-long celebration was inaugurated by British ambassador to Qatar Neerav Patel at LuLu Mall, Giardino Village, The Pearl Island, in the presence of LuLu Group International director Dr Mohamed Althaf, senior officials from the British embassy, members of the Qatar British Business Forum, and guests from leading business groups in Qatar.

“There’s a real sense of the breadth and variety of British brands that really want to be here,” Patel said. “Covering almost every

aisle and every aspect of fast-moving consumer goods, there’s a real appetite and desire among British small and medium-sized enterprises to come to Qatar.”

“Of all the countries around the world, Qatar is in the top ten destinations for so many of them,” he added. “We’ve got the statistics to prove it, and there’s a real match between supply and demand.”

“British brands and businesses, especially those emerging in sustainable, organic, and vegan spaces, are finding a real demand here,” the envoy noted. “There are many new suppliers coming on stream in the UK, and they are meeting a growing demand in Qatar.”

“Talking about the initiative first, I think it’s excellent,” Patel continued. “LuLu’s British Food Week is already an institution in this country and around the region, and I hope it continues for a long time.”

“It’s truly excellent and a symbol of the living bridge between our two countries,” he said. “It shows how much personal growth and effort can connect our two nations.”



“I believe one of our significant achievements is hosting the 12th British Festival in Qatar, which is arguably the longest-running country-specific festival,” Althaf said. “I remember our humble beginnings 12 years ago when we had just a few attendees and a trade volume of £3mn-£4mn.”

“Over the years, the festival has grown substantially, with last year’s exports to Qatar reaching almost £35mn,” he added. “While this figure may seem modest given the size of Qatar and the UK, it represents small and medium-sized companies that otherwise may not have had the opportunity to export.”

“Our festival aims to showcase the rich culinary and food heritage of Britain, particularly highlighting the food innovation from cities like Birmingham,” the official said.

The officials on tour of LuLu Hypermarket in The Pearl Island.

Right: Dr Mohamed Althaf and senior group officials receiving Neerav Patel during the event.

“Beyond traditional dishes like fish and chips, British food innovation extends to plant-based proteins, functional foods, and dairy products with health benefits.”

“Our partnership with various institutions in the UK is strengthening, emphasising our commitment to food security and quality standards,” Althaf continued.

“This festival holds great significance, especially in light of geopolitical tensions and the need to diversify food sources,” he pointed out. “We are proud to contribute to Qatar’s food security and look forward to further enhancing our partnership with the UK.”



More British products are available at LuLu shelves.

Left: Patel leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony with Althaf, embassy officials, members of the Qatar British Business Forum, and other guests.

PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Shoppers can look forward to exploring a diverse range of British summer treats, including cheeses, freeze-packed berries, teas, organic milk, yoghurts, speciality bread, and more, available at LuLu Hypermarkets across Qatar.

The inaugural ceremony was enlivened by live musical performances by children from the United School of International.

The LuLu Group’s award-winning logistics and warehousing facility in Birmingham supports the hypermarket chain, providing shoppers with a wide range of affordable British products, according to a press statement.

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