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QatarEnergy plans QR1bn salt plant

QatarEnergy is planning to build a salt production plant in the Um Al Houl area in Qatar through a joint venture with Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company, Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company and other strategic partners at an estimated cost of QR1bn.

Endorsed as part of QatarEnergy's Tawteen localisation programme, the new plant seeks to ensure Qatar's self-sufficiency by producing both industrial and table salts to meet local market demand as well as for regional and international export.

The plant will produce industrial salts necessary for the petrochemical industry as well as bromine, potassium chlorides, and demineralised water, which will allow for product diversification and additional economic growth and enhance the circular economy.

With a production capacity totalling 1mn tonnes per annum, the project will add new value to Qatar's economy and industrial development by reducing reliance on imported raw materials since it imports about 850,000 tonnes of table

The new plant seeks to ensure Qatar's self-sufficiency by producing both industrial and table salts to meet local demand as well as for export

and industrial salts annually.

"This project constitutes a milestone step in our ongoing efforts to support industrial localisation and to promote sustainable practices within Qatar's energy sector. It embodies our commitment to innovation and economic growth, that are core tenets of Qatar's National Vision 2030," said HE Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, the president and chief executive officer of QatarEnergy.

This innovative project, will

utilise reject water recovery from reverse osmosis (RO) desalination units, hence, transforming reject water from desalination processes into a valuable resource.

"By transforming waste into a valuable resource, we are setting new benchmarks for industrial efficiency and economic resilience. This is a major step in QatarEnergy's broader strategy of enhancing local supply chains and increasing industrial self-sufficiency," al-Kaabi said.

As a part of the Tawteen programme, the project benefits from initiatives aimed at boosting local content and supporting the growth of local industries. This collaboration demonstrates a robust public-private partnership aimed at achieving strategic national objectives.

Tawteen has already allocated 78 investment opportunities as part of its announced target of 100 opportunities to support the localisation of services and industries in Qatar's energy sector. As part of this effort, Tawteen has already created 7,000 white collar jobs since it was launched in 2019.

Amir receives message from Ethiopian PM



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a written message from Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr Abiy Ahmed, pertaining to bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The message was handed over by Minister of Finance of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ahmed Shide when His Highness the Amir met him in his office at Lusail Palace yesterday. (QNA)

Amir, Indian PM discuss ways to strengthen ties

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with Prime Minister of the friendly Republic of India Narendra Modi, the relations of friendship and co-operation between the two countries and ways to strengthen them in a range of fields. This came in a phone call His Highness the Amir held with the Prime Minister of India yesterday, during which the Amir expressed his congratulations to the Indian prime minister on his party's victory in the general elections in India. During the call, His Highness the Amir and the Indian prime minister discussed latest regional and international developments. (QNA)

PM opens Korean Medical Center

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani inaugurated yesterday the Korean Medical Center (KMC) at Lusail City. After the inauguration, HE the Prime Minister toured the wings of the medical centre, where 155 Korean and international medical cadres work. **Page 12**

Jordan to host Gaza emergency meet

Jordan is due to hold an international conference today on the urgent humanitarian response for the Gaza Strip. The conference is jointly organised by Jordan, Egypt and the UN to co-ordinate a unified international response to the humanitarian situation in the Strip, as well as determining the effective mechanisms and steps required for response and the essential operational and logistical needs in this framework. The event comes within the framework of the Arab support for the Palestinian question.

Plane carrying Malawi vice-president missing

An aircraft carrying Malawi's Vice-President Saulos Klaus Chilima and nine others has gone missing. Malawi's presidency said yesterday. "All efforts by aviation authorities to make contact with the aircraft since it went off the radar have failed thus far," it said. Chilima, 51, was aboard a Malawi Defence Force aircraft that left the capital Lilongwe at 9:17am (0717 GMT), it said.



Far-right forecast to win French snap election



Protestors hold a placard which reads "Le Pen and Hitler, same fight" during a demonstration against the French far-right party Rassemblement National (RN) political party after their success in the European elections, at a rally in Lyon, central eastern France, yesterday.

The far-right National Rally was forecast yesterday to win a snap election in France but fall short of an absolute majority in the first opinion poll published after President Emmanuel Macron's shock decision to dissolve parliament. Following a massive loss for his Renaissance party in Sunday's European Parliament election,

Macron announced snap elections for the lower house of parliament, with the first round scheduled for June 30, less than three weeks away, and the run-off on July 7. Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration, eurosceptic National Rally party, known as RN, would win 235 to 265 seats in the National Assembly, a

huge jump from its current 88 but short of the 289 needed for an absolute majority, according to the survey by Toluna Harris Interactive for Challenges, M6 and RTL. Macron's centrist alliance would see its number of lawmakers possibly halve, from 250 to 125-155, the poll showed yesterday. **Page 11**

UN SC backs plan for Israel-Hamas truce

Reuters
United Nations

The United Nations Security Council yesterday adopted a US-drafted resolution backing a proposal outlined by President Joe Biden for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Russia abstained from the vote, while the remaining 14 council members voted in favour. The US had finalised its text on Sunday after six days of negotiations among the council.

Biden laid out a three-phase ceasefire plan on May 31 that he described as an Israeli initiative. Some Security Council members questioned whether Israel had accepted the plan to end the fighting in Gaza.

The resolution welcomes the new ceasefire proposal, "which Is-

rael accepted, calls upon Hamas to also accept it, and urges both parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition."

The resolution also goes into detail about the proposal, and spells out that "if the negotiations take longer than six weeks for phase one, the ceasefire will still continue as long as negotiations continue."

The council in March demanded for an immediate ceasefire and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas.

For months, negotiators from the US, Egypt and Qatar have been trying to mediate a ceasefire. Hamas says it wants a permanent end to the war in the Gaza Strip and Israeli withdrawal from the enclave of 2.3mn people.

Israel has launched an air, ground and sea assault on the Palestinian territory, killing more than 37,000 Palestinians.



Representative of the United States to the UN, ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and other members of the United Nations Security Council vote on the Gaza ceasefire resolution at the United Nations headquarters yesterday.

Visit Qatar unveils exciting summer, Eid al-Adha events

From June to August, Qatar residents and visitors can experience fun-filled events, exciting promotions, and captivating musical concerts, especially during Eid al-Adha, as per Visit Qatar's latest summer edition of its tourism guide, Qatar Calendar.

In a statement, Qatar Calendar head Sheikhha Noor Abdulla al-Thani said: "Qatar has it all. Whether you are seeking adventure, thrilling entertainment, or family fun, residents and visitors will find something that perfectly suits their preferences during the summer months." This Eid al-Adha, Visit Qatar will be hosting two concerts - 'Thekra Remains' at the Al Mayassa Theater in the Qatar National Convention Centre



(QNCC) with singers Asma Lmawer and Oumima Taleb on June 18, and 'Lailat Elzaman Eljameel' with Mai Farooq and Reham Abdulhakem - on June 19.

Families can also visit Inflata City at QNCC from June 18 to July 13 for fun activities on inflatables. Msheireb Downtown Doha will be hosting 'Eid and Summer Nights' from June 16 to August 31 with magical festivities for visitors of all ages.

This summer marks the return of the popular Qatar Toy Festival, taking place from July 15 to August 14 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. Renowned toy brands and activations are gearing up for children.

When it comes to indoor fun, families can visit one of Qatar's

many indoor amusement parks, including Virtuocity, Angry Birds World, Doha Quest, and Trocadero, for unforgettable experiences. For those looking for outdoor summer fun, the newly opened Meryal Waterpark in Lusail, located on Qetaifan Island, boasts an 85-metre waterslide and a variety of attractions, including 36 exhilarating waterslides.

With more than 560km of coastline and pristine beaches, residents can indulge in several pristine public and private beaches across the country. "Our Habitas Ras Abrouq offers a unique blend of natural beauty and adventure, making it a must-visit for those looking to explore Qatar's scenic landscapes. **To Page 3**

Eid Mubarak



We extend our heartiest greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

And to all the honorable people of Qatar on the occasion of

Eid Al-Adha

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



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Labour minister meets ILO chief

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met International Labour Organisation (ILO) director-general Gilbert Houngbo yesterday on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

The meeting discussed aspects of co-operation between Qatar and the ILO and ways to support and develop them in the coming period.

The two sides stressed the need to take advantage of the 112th session of the International Labour Conference, which brings together the three labour parties and comes up with effective recommendations and solutions to overcome the effects of the crises, which have had many negative effects on the global labour market, especially considering the challenges facing many economies in various countries of the world. - **QNA**

Qatar Chamber represents bosses at ILO conference

Qatar Chamber represented employers during its recent participation in the 112th International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva.

Engineer Nasser Ahmed al-Meer, the chairman's consultant for labour affairs, led the delegation that included Abdulaziz Saleh al-Kuwari, Mohamed Saad al-Mohannadi, Alanoud Zayed al-Mohannadi, and Alhanouf Nasser al-Rumaihi.

In his remarks, al-Meer highlighted vast opportunities in emerging sectors like green technology and sustainable practices, opening doors for Qatari businesses to explore new avenues.

Al-Meer also outlined Qatar's efforts to support business sectors and provide incentives for local and foreign investors.

Qatar elected to ILO governing body

Qatar has achieved a new milestone in the international labour sector by obtaining membership in the governing body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) representing the West Asia region for 2024-2027, with the majority of votes.

The election took place during the 112th session of the International Labour Conference being held in Geneva from June 3-14.

Qatar's election acknowledges its accomplishments in the labour sector and development through measures and initiatives for a safe work environment.

It highlights its active role internationally and contribution to solving labour issues amidst evolving economic and political landscapes.

This further reinforces international trust in Qatar's credibility, built upon years of enhancing labour conditions.

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri served as president of the International Labour

Conference for the 111th session in 2023 and as vice-president for government representatives during the 110th session in 2022.

In recent years, a successful strategic alliance between Qatar and the ILO has led to significant milestones, such as establishing an ILO office in Qatar and effectively implementing joint programmes since 2017.

Productive collaboration with global labour unions has also enhanced working conditions and brought about notable successes through strong partnerships.

The ILO's governing body comprises 56 government members, 28 worker members, and 28 employer members.

This body is tasked with decision-making regarding policies and programmes, setting the agenda for the International Labour Conference, approving programme drafts and budgets, and selecting the ILO director-general.



Ministry honours 5th batch of Tamheen graduates

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in collaboration with the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB), has honoured graduates of the fifth batch of Tamheen - a training programme to qualify Qataris who do not hold teaching certificates to be involved in the teaching profession.

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi attended the graduation ceremony yesterday for the 43 graduates, as did HE the President of the CGB, Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, who is also the secretary-general of the National Planning Council.

Speaking at the ceremony, the director of the MoEHE's Training and Development Centre, Iman Salman al-Mohannadi, hailed the ministry's multiple programmes offering training to national cadres to be teachers, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The director of the CGB's Nomination and Replacement Department, Dhabia Ahmed al-Buainain, said that the programme aligns with the needs of the labour market, and hailed the CGB's efforts to provide the labour market with Qatari talents and competencies, and facilitate the procedures for their integration into various fields of work in the government sector, especially the education sector.

Maha Khaled al-Hababi spoke on behalf of the graduates, stressing the importance and richness of the programmes content, and the information and skills they acquired that qualify them to begin working as teachers.

A pioneering initiative launched by the MoEHE in the academic year 2019-2020, Tamheen has so far produced 141 graduates. - **QNA**

Visit Qatar unveils fun summer, Eid events

From Page 1

"Our Habitas Ras Abrouq is an award-winning and sustainable centre located at the edge of the Unesco-protected Al-Reem Biosphere Reserve," the statement said. "Heading south towards the Saudi Arabia/Qatari border, the Hilton Salwa Beach Resort Villas promises a luxurious stay with its pristine beaches and exciting water activities."

Visitors can also indulge in a number of private beaches at Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha, Doha Beach Club, Banana Island Resort Doha, West Bay Beach, 974 Beach and Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha.

Families can also head to Katara Beach and the Four Seasons Hotel Doha, and Doha Sands for beach activities.

Residents and visitors can take advantage of several enticing promotions and offers across hotels, restaurants, and world-class facilities in Qatar.

Katara Hospitality is currently offering a 40% discount across several of its hotels in Doha.

GCC hails Qatar, Egypt for Gaza truce efforts

The 160th ministerial meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), held in Doha and chaired by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, has called for a positive and serious response to US President Joe Biden's announcement of the agreement reached regarding the ceasefire and Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the release of hostages and detainees, the safe return of displaced persons to their homes, and the provision of adequate humanitarian aid to civilians.

The council stressed the need to build on this declaration to reach a political framework to resume negotiations for a comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution, praising the efforts made by Qatar and Egypt to achieve a ceasefire and stop the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip. - **QNA**



Education ministry adopts new part-time work policy measures in public schools

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has announced new procedures for implementing a part-time work policy under Cabinet Resolution No 13 of 2021, to improve the work environment and provide the necessary flexibility for teachers and administrators.

The MoEHE said the part-time work system will be available to Qatari academics and administrators according to regulations and conditions that have been circulated to schools, and will ensure that tasks are organised in a way that does not affect the educational process, and in a manner that is consistent with the interests of students and the school.

It added that this system will not be applied during exam periods or the month of Ramadan.

The MoEHE noted that this decision will come into effect at the beginning of the academic year 2024-2025. - **QNA**



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Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar
on the occasion of

EID AL ADHA

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir

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Environment minister meets several officials



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met separately yesterday with Costa Rican Minister of Environment and Energy Franz Tattenbach and Norwedgian Minister for International Development Anne Beathe Tvinneim. The meetings were held on the sidelines of HE Dr al-Subaie's participation in the high-level event on Ocean Action, held in San Jose. The meetings discussed international efforts to conserve oceans and use them adequately for sustainable development. The meetings also discussed ways to strengthen joint relations in protecting, preserving, and supporting the environment, in addition to combating the effects of climate change. **(QNA)**



Official

Amir greets Portuguese president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and is Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Portuguese President Dr Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa on his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Luis Montenegro. **(QNA)**

PM meets chief of Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with the visiting Chairman of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress and Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Sichuan Provincial Committee, Wang Xiaohui. The meeting discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. **(QNA)**

Municipality minister meets visiting Chinese delegation



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met with Secretary of China's Sichuan Province Wang Xiaohui and his accompanying delegation who are visiting the country. The visit of the Chinese delegation aims at promoting tourism in Sichuan Province which is the only home to pandas in China, as well as highlighting Qatar's role in preserving pandas and its efforts in establishing the largest reserve in the world to host the two pandas, the Ministry of Municipality said in a statement yesterday. The meeting discussed boosting co-operation and exchange of expertise between the Ministry of Municipality and Sichuan Province in areas of joint interest. The visiting delegation expressed appreciation for Qatar's efforts in establishing the Panda House Park in accordance with the highest international specifications and standards. Qatar is the first in the Middle East and the 20th in the world to host the giant panda, after China gifted two giant pandas in October 2022. **(QNA)**



Minister meets Finnish FM



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met in Helsinki yesterday with Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen. The meeting discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to the developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, and several topics of mutual interest. The Finnish foreign minister expressed her appreciation to Qatar for its mediation for a ceasefire in Gaza, and its efforts to reunite Ukrainian children with their families in Ukraine. For his part, HE Dr al-Khulaifi praised Finland's efforts in the conflict resolution field and its endeavours to bring about peace. **(QNA)**

Shura Council discusses report on rainwater drainage network

The Shura Council held its weekly session yesterday under the chairmanship of its Speaker HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. During the session, the Council reviewed the report of the Services and the Public Utilities Committee on the general discussion request submitted by a number of Council members regarding 'rainwater accumulation and subsequent losses caused'.

In this context, HE the Speaker praised the advanced infrastructure accomplished over the past years thanks to the attention and directives of the wise leadership which spared no effort in ensuring the availability of a solid infrastructure that serves all aspects of life. He pointed out that the Council is aware of what everyone has suffered from in recent years due to unprecedented amounts of rain and the losses it caused. Based on the Council's keenness on addressing

such issues, this issue was studied and discussed extensively based on the Council's commitment to working side by side with the relevant authorities to find effective and sustainable solutions to these negatives, he said.

He added that they seek to support the efforts of these entities to enhance and improve the infrastructure to confront the challenges of climate fluctuations and achieve safety and security for all citizens and residents. The Council heard the report of the Services and the Public Utilities Committee regarding the rainwater drainage network and its findings after several meetings with representatives of the Public Works Authority.

The committee's report pointed to a number of reasons for the accumulation of rainwater in some locations, including the blockage of the network or the failure of any part of it, and the lack of a rainwa-

ter drainage network in some areas since what has been accomplished of the network does not exceed 28% of the plan.

The report also indicated that the amounts of rain witnessed by the country sometimes exceed the design and carrying capacity of the network, which leads to accumulations of water during specific periods. The Council members praised the findings of the report and noted the great development the country has witnessed in infrastructure, appreciating the great efforts made by Ashghal in this aspect.

After extensive discussions, the Council decided to submit a proposal to the government to find realistic and sustainable solutions to the problem of rainwater accumulation. The proposal outlined the Council's views to address the problem, the most important of which is doubling rainwater withdrawal pumps and water with-

drawal tanks, especially in areas where rainwater accumulates, such as tunnels, in addition to developing and activating the governance of procedures used to receive warnings and quickly taking action by all concerned parties, when weather conditions worsen to avoid any losses that may result from the accumulation of rainwater.

The proposal also included a call to review maintenance plans for infrastructure projects to ensure its effectiveness and to continue and accelerate the construction of water drainage networks in all parts of the country. The Council reviewed a draft law issuing the unified industrial regulation law for the GCC countries, which was referred to it by the government, and decided to refer it to the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee for further perusal and submission of its report to the council accordingly. **(QNA)**

HIA issues Eid al-Adha travel advisory

Hamad International Airport (HIA) has issued a passenger advisory about the anticipated travel peak period during the upcoming Eid al-Adha public holidays and school summer break. The departure peak is expected to commence on Thursday, June 13, and continue through the weekend. The arrival peak will begin the weekend starting June 20.

To manage this busy period efficiently, HIA has planned extensively in co-ordination with all relevant stakeholders, a statement said yesterday. To help passengers travel with ease during this peak period, HIA offers the following advice:

- Check-In Online: Passengers are encouraged to check in online before arriving at the airport. This allows for a smoother and faster check-in process, reducing wait times at the airport and ensuring a stress-free travel experience.

- Arrive Early: Passengers are advised to arrive at the airport four hours before their scheduled flight departure time. This allows ample time for check-in, security screening, and boarding procedures.

- Use Self-Service Check-In and Bag-Drop Services: Qatar Airways passengers can take advantage of HIA's self-service check-in and bag-drop services, which enable passengers to check in themselves, print boarding passes and bag tags, tag their bags, and drop them at the bag drop counter. This convenient option speeds up the check-in process and helps passengers minimise queue times.

- E-Gate Machines: Citizens and residents above the age of 18 are encouraged to use the airport's e-gate machines for faster immigration clearance.

- Check-In & Boarding Closure Time: Check-in closes 60 minutes before departure and boarding closes 20 minutes

before departure time. Passengers must ensure they complete the check-in process and proceed to the departure gate keeping these timelines in mind.

- Baggage Allowance and Weight Restrictions: Passengers are reminded to adhere to baggage allowance and weight restrictions specified by their airline. It is essential to stay within the designated weight and size requirements to avoid additional fees or delays during the check-in process.

- Avoid Non-Standard Luggage: Refrain from travelling with non-standard or oversized luggage that may pose challenges during security screening and boarding processes.

- Drop-Offs and Pick-Ups: it is suggested to use the short-term car park for pick-ups and drop-offs. Public transport options can also be used when suitable, to travel to and from the airport.

QCDC, Renad Academy sign MoU to expand 'WeGrow'

Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC), founded by Qatar Foundation (QF), and Renad Academy, a member of QF, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand the successful pilot phase of the "WeGrow" programme into a mainstay collaborative programme between the two organisations. Originally launched as a pilot, the "WeGrow" programme is designed to enhance the employability and career prospects of students with learning difficulties, particularly students with autism from Renad Academy, QCDC said in a press release yesterday. The programme provides tailored support, skill development

training, and hands-on opportunities to enable students to enter the workforce successfully, it added. Director of QCDC Abdulla al-Mansoori, and Director of Renad Academy Matthew Campion officially signed the MoU at Renad. Meanwhile, al-Mansoori said: "The success of the pilot phase of the 'WeGrow' programme has demonstrated the positive impact it can have on students with learning difficulties." Campion said: "We greatly appreciate our collaboration with and support from QCDC and the signing of the MoU will ensure that all students will have the opportunity in the future to engage in meaningful work-based



placements and experiences. One of the most significant outcomes of the pilot program was that the approach was personalised for each student." **(QNA)**

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
QF-RFQ-518	Provision for Renovation and Modification Works at Various Locations at QF on Call-off Basis for Five (5) Years - Education City- Group A	1,000.00	100,000.00	29 th July 2024, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-519	Provision for Renovation and Modification Works at Various Locations at QF on Call-off Basis for Five (5) Years - Education City- Group B	1,000.00	100,000.00	29 th July 2024, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-520	Provision for Renovation and Modification Works at Various Locations at QF on Call-off Basis for Five (5) Years - Education City- Group C	1,000.00	100,000.00	29 th July 2024, 2:00 PM

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

1) **Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.
Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

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

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 11th June until 23rd June 2024.

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

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

QNB celebrates Qatari graduates from Kawader Malia Programme



Eleven QNB staff used the programme as a major three-month-long learning and development opportunity, making it the highest number of QNB graduates since the Kawader Malia sponsorship started.

QNB Group, a diamond sponsor for the ninth edition of the 'Kawader Malia 2024', has celebrated its graduates from the programme, launched by Qatar Finance and Business Academy, in partnership with the Qatar Central Bank, and several other strategic partners.

Eleven QNB staff used the programme as a major three-month-long learning and development opportunity, making it the highest number of QNB graduates since the Kawader Malia sponsorship started. This demonstrates the bank's ongoing commitment to Qatar National Vision 2030 and its practical support in helping create a knowledge-based economy.

Abdullah Nasser al-Khalifa, senior executive vice-president – QNB Group Human Capital, said: "At QNB, we are committed to supporting the next generation of Qatari graduates into the financial sector. "By investing in education,

QNB not only contributes to the personal and professional growth of individuals but also fosters a more knowledgeable and skilled workforce.

"We are proud of the 11 QNB staff members who successfully completed Kawader Malia as it shows our confidence in the programme."

The programme was designed exclusively for high-potential young Qatari talent to develop the next generation of national business leaders and decision-makers in Qatar's emerging financial service industry by providing distinguished professional development programmes and certifications.

The Learning and Development team at QNB Group worked in close collaboration with their partners at Qatar Finance and Banking Academy to tailor the programme to align with their specific job roles.

The graduates pursued learning

paths in Risk, Financial Analysis, and Internal Audit as they worked to bridge the performance gap between academic and professional practice.

The graduation ceremony for the programme was organised by Qatar Finance and Business Academy, in the presence of senior officials from the banking and financial sector patronised by HE Sheikh Bandar bin Mohamed bin Saoud al-Thani, the Governor of the Qatar Central Bank.

QNB Group currently ranks as the most valuable bank brand in the Middle East and Africa. Through its subsidiaries and associate companies, the group's presence spans 28 countries across three continents providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services.

The total number of employees is 30,000, operating from approximately 900 locations, with an ATM network of 5,000 machines.

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Mutton - 95 QAR

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Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som launches summer wellness for GCC residents

GCC Residents relax and revive with the all-inclusive Zulal Discovery Reconnect Retreat

The multi-award-winning Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som, the first and largest wellness destination in the Middle East invites wellness seekers to invest in lasting holistic health this summer. Valid on stays until 30 September 2024, the Summer Wellness is open to all residents of the GCC in search of rest and renewal away from the stresses of city life.

With a generous 25% off Discovery Reconnect Retreat and rates starting from QAR 1140 per



night based on single occupancy, guests receive a personalised health and wellness consultation upon arrival, one daily treatment per night of stay, three wellness cuisine meals per night of stay, full access to the resort's state-of-the-art facilities and they can join a host of scheduled group classes and activities.

Away from the hustle and bustle of Doha, Zulal Wellness Resort is located on the most northern tip of Qatar a one-hour drive from the city. In the hot summer months Zulal Wellness Resort enjoys temperatures between 5 and 10 degrees cooler than the rest of Qatar and the Summer Wellness presents the ideal opportunity for families, couples and solo wellness seekers to spend time on their health on a rejuvenating journey that's close by, yet far away enough to completely switch off.

The all-inclusive package applies to stays at the Zulal Discovery and ensures a comprehensive wellness experience. Zulal Discovery



welcomes guests of all ages, particularly families, offering the perfect place to reconnect and explore the joys of healthy living through a wellness lifestyle. Guests can extend beyond the wellness inclusions of their retreat and avail of an additional 20% off à la carte spa and wellness treatments.

The Summer Wellness Offer also gives guests full access to shared fitness, wellness and leisure activities. From wellness talks, fitness classes to aqua activities,

mindfulness practice and specialised workshops with leaders and experts from the world of wellness, GCC residents can escape the ordinary and embrace transformative wellness just a short haul from home.

Summer Wellness rates start from 1140 QAR per night for single occupancy, and 1718 QAR per night for two people sharing. This offer is valid until 30 September 2024 on the Discovery Reconnect Retreat at

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Qatar Charity to provide Adahi in Gaza

As part of its Dhul-Hijjah campaign, and with the support of benefactors, Qatar Charity (QC) seeks to launch a Udhayah project to provide 1,200 cattle for Palestine, including 700 for Gaza and 500 for Ramallah and other cities in the West Bank.

The Udhayah project will be implemented in Ramallah and the West Bank in co-ordination with QC's team in Ramallah. In the Gaza Strip, QC will strive to implement the Udhayah project based on the available options.

Mana al-Ansari, director of Emergency and Relief at QC, emphasised the organisation's commitment to performing the Udhayah sacrifices for the people of Gaza within the prescribed time and delivering the meat to needy families.

The official explained: "There are several methods for handling the Udhayah for Gaza. The first is slaughtering within Gaza, though the available animals are limited and insufficient. The second method involves slaughtering at the borders, either in Jordan



or Egypt, within the prescribed time, then freezing the meat and transporting it later. The third option is to slaughter in a distant country, can the meat, and ship it by air to Gaza.

"If more requests are received from donors, we will resort to slaughtering at the borders and freezing the meat. If the requests increase beyond what is available in Egypt, Jordan, and Gaza, canning remains an option," noting that "several partners in Egypt, Jordan, and Turkiye have been contacted."

The campaign focuses on regions and countries experienc-

ing exceptional circumstances or natural disasters, such as Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen, in addition to Syrian IDPs and refugees. QC urges the people of Qatar to continue supporting those affected in Gaza and Palestine. Contributions can be made conveniently through QC's website [qch.qa/adha-e].

Also, a 'Home Collector' can be requested through the app (qch.qa/appen), in addition to dialling 44920000 for this purpose. Furthermore, benefactors can donate at QC's branches, as well as at its collection points in the commercial complexes.



A section of the graduates.

Awsaj Academy celebrates graduation

Awsaj Academy, a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the 324 graduates of the Prime Programme Class of 2024. The event at the Qatar National Convention Centre, brought together students, families, and faculty.

The Prime Programme is an evening initiative by Awsaj Academy designed to support high school students with learning difficulties in both public and private schools, with the goal of enriching their educational experience and guiding them toward lifelong success.

The ceremony, attended by Abeer al-Khalifa, head of Pre-University Education, QF, marked a significant milestone for students. Mark Hughes, the executive director, Special Schools & SEN Services QF, said: "The role of the Prime Programme has not been limited to providing knowledge and skills,



Dignitaries at the graduation event.

but has also extended to building our students' self-confidence, belief in their abilities, and pride in their achievements."

Iman al-Meer, one of the Prime Programme graduates, said: "I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the journey that has led us to this moment.

For me, attending Awsaj Academy has been nothing short of transformative. It provided me

with the opportunity to thrive in an environment that values individuality and fosters growth."

"I learned not only academic subjects, but also invaluable life lessons," she continued. "I learned the importance of resilience in the face of challenges, the power of collaboration, and the beauty of embracing diversity, understanding that our differences are our greatest strength."

Subsidised sheep initiative launched

The first day of launching the subsidised sheep initiative has seen great turnout of Qataris at Al Wakra Central Market, Al Sheehaniya and Al Shamal Slaughterhouse, in addition to Abu Nkhla, Al Mazroua, and Al Khor yards to receive their allocated sheep.

The sheep was sold at QR1,000 per head as part of the initiative. Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, a number of Qataris stressed that this initiative is very effective and helped in stabilising prices of sheep at this time of the year when demand surges. They said that the prices of sheep outside the initiative amounted to QR1,500-2,000 per head.

Mossa Othman, director of Public Relations at Widam Food Company, said all the outlets designated to sell the subsidised sheep saw considerably high turnout at the first day



of launching the initiative. He said Widam has adequate stock of Somalian sheep, weighing around 20-30kg, available for both Qataris and expatriates at QR650 per head.

Complying with all conditions and standards for sacrificial sheep, they are available at Widam outlets and through on-

line booking at Widam App only on the first two days of Eid.

He stressed that all livestock will be subject to strict veterinary checkups before and after slaughtering. In case of destroying the carcass due to any diseases, a certificate will be issued to compensate the customer accordingly.

Qeeri, MoPH host workshop on wastewater-based surveillance

The Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (Qeeri) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), recently hosted a workshop titled Wastewater-based Surveillance: One-Health Approach and National Impact.

The event brought together leading experts, researchers, and stakeholders from the public health and environmental sustainability sectors including the Ministry of Interior, Qatar Airways, Hamad Medical Corporation, Naufar Hospital, Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar, and Ginko Bioworks. Participants explored the transformative potential of wastewater monitoring in disease surveillance and community health assessment. They also engaged in discussions and workshops focused on cutting-edge methodologies and case studies, unveiling the power of waste-

water-based epidemiology in tracking disease outbreaks, identifying emerging pathogens, and assessing community health dynamics.

Wastewater-based surveillance (WBS) has emerged as a vital tool in global public health efforts. Monitoring wastewater for pathogens like Covid-19, polio, influenza, monkeypox and norovirus, among others, offers significant value in detecting diseases within communities even before clinical cases are reported.

"Wastewater-based surveillance is a valuable tool for public health and environmental sustainability, offering a unique perspective on community health trends and disease patterns," said Dr Tareq al-Ansari, acting executive director of Qeeri. "This workshop emphasised the scientific and research aspects of WBS, highlighting its benefits to the community, as well as

the importance of collaboration among leading experts and stakeholders."

Dr Hamad al-Romaihi, director of the Health Protection & Communicable Disease Control Department at MoPH, said: "Reflecting on the significance of WBS, the invaluable partnership and joint efforts between the MoPH and HBKU stood as a cornerstone in safeguarding public health and the community in Qatar, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic and the historic FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

As we move forward, we will continue to be dedicated to advancing our national disease surveillance systems and fostering sustained collaborations with environmental partners to optimise our efforts in combating emerging pathogens and re-emerging infectious diseases."



Haj Mission ensures readiness of pilgrims' quarters in Makkah

QNA
Makkah

Qatari Haj Mission's Control and Inspection Unit continues its inspection tours to ensure that all Qatari campaigns meet the conditions and standards set by the mission. This is done by providing the highest standards of security and safety in their residences and applying health and nutritional requirements before the country's pilgrims begin to arrive on Monday.

Head of Control and Inspection Unit Mohamed Abdullah al-Hay said that the unit conducts daily and regular inspection tours of campaign's accommodations and inspects their various services and facilities. Inspections are carried out to ensure the cleanliness and arrangement of the living rooms and bathrooms allocated in addition to other facilities such as



prayer rooms and meeting halls and reception.

Al-Hay stressed that the monitoring and inspection unit is making every effort to ensure all appropriate conditions for pilgrims' accommodation, and thus making sure the comfort and satisfaction of pilgrims with the services provided to them by the campaigns in terms of housing, nutrition, secu-

urity and safety matters.

Following a number of inspection tours over the past few days, the Head of the Control and Inspection Unit confirmed the readiness of Qatari campaigns' residences to receive the pilgrims of Qatar, noting that the Qatari campaigns have hotel residences and upscale services, including hotels on or close to Al Haram Square.

Eid al-Adha celebrations in Msheireb Downtown

Msheireb Properties announced an Eid al-Adha 2024 programme at Msheireb Galleria in Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD), from June 16-22, featuring stage performances and adventures for all age groups. "The Eid celebrations are designed to provide unforgettable moments of joy, discovery, and togetherness for residents and visitors alike. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Downtown," said Dr Hafiz Ali Abdullah, senior director of

Corporate Communications at Msheireb Properties. A treasure hunt will prompt children to solve riddles and puzzles to find hidden clues throughout Msheireb Galleria. They will then enter the treasure hunt room to complete challenges digitally. Photo booths will offer families the perfect opportunity to capture fun and memorable moments. A groundbreaking immersive experience that combines

cutting-edge technology, stunning visuals, and captivating storytelling to take visitors to the lost city of Atlantis. Stage shows, competitions and interactive games, along with arts and crafts stations, henna artistry, balloon twisting, and face painting for children will also be available. The Downtown's three premier hotel destinations, Mandarin Oriental, Doha, Park Hyatt Doha and Alwadi Hotel Doha M Gallery will welcome guests with special offers and Eid activities.

Eid al-Adha offer at Meryal Waterpark



To celebrate Eid al-Adha, Meryal Waterpark, described as Qatar's largest of its kind, is offering a special promotion for bookings made through its official website until June 13.

Spanning six acres, Meryal Waterpark has an array of attractions, including 53 slides and nine other unique experiences. Among the park's standout features is the RIG 1938, the world's tallest tower and one of Meryal's most thrilling at-



tractions, a statement explained.

The Eid entertainment and activities include live shows, dance shows, and more, for QR200. This special booking is valid for visiting from June 14-21.

The attractions at Meryal Waterpark include tube slides, corkscrew drop slides, Rapid Refinery—where wheels turn as you slide, Drillers Roughneck and the Cracks Unit.

Alsfun offers children's slides,

while the Oil Splash and Blow Out provide interactive play structures.

Lockers are available in three sizes for guest belongings. Cabanas nestled on The Rig 1938 Icon Island provide a private oasis where guests can relax and unwind in style.

Each cabana is equipped with its own boat docking station, a lounge area and sound system. More information is available at <https://meryalwaterpark.com/>



Katara signs MoU with Jusour

Katara - the Cultural Village has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Qatar Manpower Solutions Company (Jusour) to enhance co-operation in all programmes and initiatives of the latter, which cover many areas.

“Katara seeks to benefit from exceptional experiences and expertise to promote and enhance the culture of innovation, creativity, and excellence in line with Qatar National Vision 2030,” general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti told a press conference yesterday.

Jusour CEO engineer Abdelhadi Bakhit Barqan said: “We believe this co-operation will contribute to achieving our vision of being a major catalyst in the Qatari labour market and a leader in effective partnerships. This will be through providing a range of high-quality programmes and



services that serve job seekers and various employers.”

He explained that Katara organises many cultural events and activities that enrich society with knowledge and provide opportunities to learn about different cultures.

All of Jusour’s programmes and initiatives, including the Sahem

programme, which aims to provide part-time job opportunities for students enrolled at the accredited universities and higher education institutions in Qatar, will be supported through this MoU.

The participation of students in these events and activities will help refine their experiences and skills and build their resumes.

talabat kicks off Road Safety Week

talabat, the region’s leading platform for everyday deliveries, launched Road Safety Week initiatives to enhance riders’ awareness of traffic rules and regulations.

A local event was hosted by talabat in the presence of the Ministry of Interior, Traffic Department and Federation of Indian Nurses Qatar, whereby several sessions were covered with riders to discuss safe practices on the road.

talabat also took the opportunity to award the safest riders with cash prizes for their safe driving habits, which were analysed daily through talabat’s telematics in-app safety solution.

talabat’s Road Safety Week also featured a series of on-ground safety initiatives, which included a safety briefing for talabat Patrollers, a session for third-party logistics supervisors on telematics and safety guidelines, distribution of safety flyers to riders and vendors, and a training session for riders at the Hero Academy.

In a press statement, talabat



talabat’s Road Safety Week featured a series of on-ground safety initiatives.

Qatar managing director Francisco Miguel De Sousa said: “For the third consecutive year, our objective of launching Road Safety Week is to advocate for safe driving practices within our community. By raising awareness and providing education through engaging events to riders and our logistics partners, we aim to ensure the safety of all individuals on the road. I extend my sincere gratitude to the

Ministry of Interior, the Traffic Department, and Federation of Indian Nurses Qatar for their participation in our annual road safety event.”

With these initiatives, talabat seeks to promote safer driving habits and safeguard the well-being of the community. Customers can download the talabat app from the iOS App Store, Google Play Store, or Huawei App Gallery.

New book recounts WCM-Q service-learning trip to Tanzania

Students, staff and faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) worked together to publish a book titled ‘A Student Doctor’s Guide to Tanzania’ after a service-learning trip to the East African nation.

The 134-page book features a wealth of photographs of Tanzania’s people, landscapes, and wildlife, plus chapters by students recounting their experiences of the 10-day trip and discussing the country’s culture, history, and healthcare system.

The editor and photographer of the book is WCM-Q’s Dr Dietrich Büsselberg, associate dean for admissions and professor of physiology and biophysics.

During the trip, sponsored by WCM-Q’s Division of Student Affairs, the students provided basic health checks for local people, visited an orphanage,



WCM-Q team in Tanzania.

attended lessons at a primary school, met with members of the Maasai tribe at a cultural village, and learned traditional batik arts and crafts.

The book recounts the group’s

visits to Tarangire National Park, Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, home of the famed Ngorongoro Crater, where they had the chance to view spectacular land-

scapes and wildlife, including elephants, zebra, lions, giraffes, cheetah, baboons, rhinoceros, wildebeest, antelopes, and many other creatures.

Dr Büsselberg said: “Tanzania is a place of outstanding natural beauty with a vibrant and distinctive culture and fantastically welcoming people. This book shows the beauty of the country, but also provides useful information about the challenges involved in delivering healthcare in Tanzania for student doctors who are interested in visiting on a service-learning trip.”

The book, published and printed in Doha, is hosted online on Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press’ academic platform (QScience.com). The co-editor for text of the book was Christine Gaskell, senior teaching specialist at WCM-Q, and the graphic design by Benjamin Gaskell.

Al Janoub Gardens retail outlets boost Al Wukair shopping scene

Al Janoub Gardens Residence in Al Wukair area has demonstrated, in a short period, remarkable success and managed to create a positive impact in the real estate market not only in terms of residential units but also at the level of retail outlets, a statement said.

A series of openings in the upcoming phase, will include a variety of commercial activities serving the compound and the neighbouring residential areas.

Al Janoub Gardens provides up to 240 outlets and shops with activities ranging from supermarkets, cafes, and restaurants, to women’s and men’s salons, services, and entertainment, with spaces ranging between 39sq m and 62sq m, including the possibility of combining several shops to reach about 282sq m.

Hani Dabash, deputy group CEO of Ezdan Holding Group, said: “The Al Janoub Gardens project marks a significant moment in Ezdan Real Estate Company’s timeline by providing a unique and superior lifestyle to all its inhabitants.

“It ensures luxury and joy with its sports amenities, entertainment options, and gardens. Additionally, it features retail outlets that enhance the shopping experience, along with services that reduce time and effort for its residents, offering them luxury. We anticipate that the resident count in the compound will surpass 10,000 once fully leased.

“The compound has earned accolades for success and achievement from our valued audience, having fully leased the entire first phase and all residential units totalling 880 apartments in record time. We swiftly initiated the sec-

ond phase of the project, which sustained this success by achieving an occupancy rate of over 75% in just a few weeks, and we anticipate surpassing 90% occupancy next month.”

Dabash noted that the success achieved at the residential level was positively reflected in the commercial leasing movement. Plenty of leasing requests among commercial activities, including supermarkets, cafes, and restaurants were recorded, and many of them have already signed leasing contracts, and expected to operate next month.

Al Janoub Gardens project is distinguished by its vital location on two main roads, Al Wakra Main Road and Al Wukair Main Road, opposite Al Janoub Stadium. In addition to the diverse service shops it provides, it also features gyms and a central garden featuring children’s playgrounds and flowing waterfalls. The project includes one of the largest mosques ever constructed by Ezdan Real Estate Company.

During the first quarter of this year, Ezdan Real Estate Company announced the start of leasing for the first phase of Al Janoub Gardens mixed-use project (residential and commercial), featuring over 2,500 fully furnished residential apartments of various sizes and retail outlets.

This project spans more than 400,000sq m and includes roughly 4,200 parking spaces for both residents and visitors, located outdoors and in basement areas. Additionally, the project encompasses a mosque, children’s play areas, and swimming pools spread throughout the development.

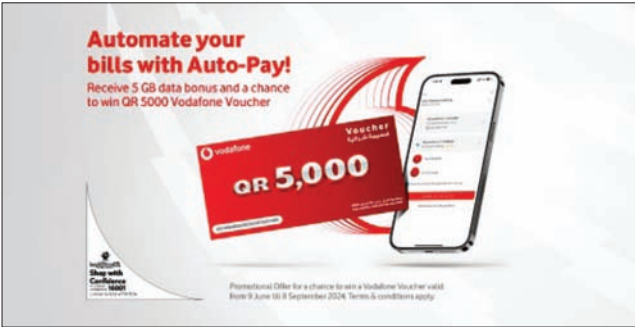
Vodafone Qatar announces rewards for auto-pay customers

Vodafone Qatar has announced that all Voice or Mobile Broadband (MBB) plan customers who sign up for Auto-Pay will be eligible for an exclusive lucky draw.

In line with the launch of its Auto-Pay payment solution at the end of last year, eligible customers will have the chance to win a Vodafone voucher worth QR5,000, which can be used to purchase any handsets or accessories from the company’s retail stores.

Auto-Pay is a service that customers can setup through the My Vodafone app to have their bills paid automatically every month, offering a secure, hassle-free, and seamless payment process, eliminating the need to visit a store.

Simon O’Rourke, Consumer Business Unit director at Vodafone Qatar, said: “We continuously aim to provide custom-



ers with easy solutions, giving them instant, easy and secure access to their payment needs.

“These new Auto-Pay rewards are our way of saying thank you to our loyal customers, providing them with more than just convenience, but also opportunities to enjoy and benefit further from being part of the Vodafone family.”

All Voice and MBB plan customers that sign-up for Auto-Pay can also enjoy a limited-

time offer of 5GB extra data on every bill payment, valid for two weeks, to stay connected and explore more online.

Running until September 8, 2024, one lucky winner will be selected from the draw each month. For more information on Vodafone Qatar’s Auto-Pay payment solution, visit <https://www.vodafone.qa/en/about-us/vodafone-qatar-launches-auto-bill-payment-solution>

QPO concert on June 13

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) will perform iconic pop hits, reimagined with orchestral flair, at a concert on June 13 at 7.30pm at the Qatar National Convention Centre’s Al Mayassa Theatre.

Led by Grammy-nominated conductor Alastair Willis, the orchestra will be joined by an exceptional lineup of vocalists, hand-picked from the US Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Programme alumni and Qatar Music Affairs Centre’s ‘Nagham’ singing competition.

According to QPO, this unique concert represents a celebration of the enduring relationship between Qatar and the US, bringing together a diverse group of artists from around the world, including Japan, Finland, Sudan, the Philippines, and beyond, united by the universal language of music.

The evening will feature an eclectic mix of pop legends, including Gloria Gaynor, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Mariah Carey, Amy Winehouse, and Whitney Houston, alongside contemporary favourites such as Adele, Gotye, and Lionel Richie.

The concert will also feature Layla al-Thani, the daughter of renowned Qatari composer Dana Alfardan (QPO’s Cultural Ambassador), a statement added.

3-day Philippine Independence Day celebrations in Qatar from June 20

The much-anticipated community celebration of the 126th Philippine Independence Day (PID) anniversary in Qatar will be held from June 20-22 at the Ezdan Palace Hotel in Duhail.

Under the theme ‘Makulay ang Kalayaan 2024’, the annual celebration will be highlighted by vibrant cultural presentations and competitions, trade fair exhibitions and a bazaar, authentic cuisine offerings, a motor show, and guest appearances by celebrities from the Philippines.

‘Makulay ang Kalayaan 2024’ will be jointly organised by the Oryx Knights Eagles Club (OKEC), in partnership with Creative Events Management & Services, OKEC Charter president Joseph Timothy Rivera announced at a press conference yesterday.



The ‘Makulay ang Kalayaan 2024’ executive committee, composed of 12 Doha-based Filipino organisations, has announced a meaningful celebration of the 126th Philippine Independence Day (PID) anniversary in Qatar slated from June 20-22.

Rivera, who is also chairman of the Filipino community organising committee, was joined by Kamila Bellamlih, Cluster Director of Creative Events & Kobeco Concept, and Juan Paolo Ferrer, chairman of the Filipino Association of Manpower Services (FAMS).

The organisers announced

that pioneering programmes and unique activities are lined up “to make this year’s annual gathering truly meaningful.”

The celebrations will be highlighted by an opening gala dinner on June 20. The festivities will kick off with the launch of corporate social responsibility (CSR)

initiatives, such as a special visit to children with cancer at the Hamad General Hospital, as well as community outreach programmes on skills enhancement of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) in Qatar, in partnership with FAMS.

Special programmes addressing the need for additional Filipino

schools in Qatar will also be revealed during the event.

Attending guests and benefactors will be serenaded by lively musical renditions from select Filipino bands in Qatar, as well as ethnic and contemporary performances by students from the Philippine International School of Qatar (PISQ) and the Philippine School Doha (PSD), including the Middle East finalists to the upcoming Dance World Cup in Prague.

Highlights for the second day include a traditional community parade/sagala, followed by the opening ceremony to be attended by Philippine embassy officials, visiting VIPs, community leaders, and the general public. Philippine senator Loren Legarda will be attending the ceremonies virtually.

The full-day programme will include various performances and activities to be capped with the pageant finals of the ‘Ginoo at Binibining Agila ng Kalayaan’.

The winning contestant will further compete in the Miss Philippine Eagles 2024 pageant in Manila hosted by The Fraternal Order of Eagles - Philippines Eagles (TFOE-PE) with more than P1mn in cash prizes at stake.

This pageant is in support of the First 1,000 days of a child (F1KD), the organisers emphasised.

As many as 86 Doha-based Filipino organisations are expected to participate in the morning parade, according to Rivera, who expressed optimism that ‘Makulay ang Kalayaan 2024’ will surpass the attendance of last year’s PID celebration.

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GULF TIMES

Mexico investors fear vote threat to the rule of law

The Mexican governing party’s unexpectedly lopsided victory this week has investors concerned that it may use its mandate to sweep aside some of the checks on presidential power which have long been a source of comfort to the business community.

The possibility that current president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador could push through some of those changes during his final month in office in September has some investors especially on edge.

That period will overlap with a new legislature in which his MORENA ruling party is likely to be enjoying a super-majority that would give it the power to rewrite the country’s constitution. Some analysts hold out hope that Lopez Obrador’s anointed successor, President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, who will be sworn in on Oct 1, may take a more gradualist approach, but even that is not a given. She has mostly professed her loyalty to her charismatic mentor’s policies. Lopez Obrador proposed a bevvy of constitutional changes in February that would drastically remake Mexico’s judiciary, eliminate or neuter some key regulatory agencies and introduce some expensive new social benefits, including an expanded state pension plan.

Although none of the measures are welcome by investors, what makes some observers particularly nervous are the proposed changes to Mexico’s court system - which would include the popular election of Supreme Court judges - plus the evisceration of key oversight bodies.

“What an investor wants least, and even less an investor who is going to install a factory worth billions in Mexico, is for the rules of the game to suddenly change,” said Esteban Polidura, Julius Baer’s director of investment strategy for the Americas.

“That’s why they place a big importance on the continued existence of a State of Law, that the existing rules are respected and that the independence of institutions which are there to make decisions not linked to a particular government are respected.”

What makes some observers particularly nervous are the proposed changes to Mexico’s court system

criticized as a hit on an independent court system, which has served as a check over some of Lopez Obrador’s most extreme policies.

“One of the great checks that the government has had has been the independent institutions and in particular the judiciary,” Ramse Gutierrez, co-director of investments at Franklin Templeton in Mexico City, said. Sheinbaum told local media on Thursday night that any reform has to be properly evaluated and explained to the Mexican people. If the fate of checks and balances looms as the key issue for many investors, others are also anxious about plans to boost retirement and other social benefits at a time of already heightened concerns about election-year spending by the once frugally minded Lopez Obrador.

Mexico’s overall fiscal deficit is set to end 2024 at 5.9% of economic output, according to the government estimate, which would be the country’s highest since the 1980s. While it may be compelling for Lopez Obrador to spend more on universal pensions, healthcare and education, the costs and fiscal constraints could make it complicated, said Aaron Gifford, senior emerging markets sovereign analyst at T. Rowe Price.

“Still, with the budget deficit where it is, markets are worried about fiscal slippage even despite Sheinbaum’s pledge to be fiscally responsible.”

Some still expect Sheinbaum, like Lopez Obrador through most of his six years in power, to end up being a moderate spender. The 2024 budget “was pretty political in the sense that it was aimed at providing fiscal leeway for (Lopez Obrador) to complete a number of pet projects,” said Damian Buchet, London-based chief investment officer at Finisterre Capital. “But after that, Sheinbaum has already signaled that without being called fiscal tightening, she would actually return to fiscal orthodoxy.” Another question is whether Sheinbaum will emulate Lopez Obrador’s tendency to meddle in various aspects of the economy from mining to energy and water, to a partially-built airport near Mexico City which he scuttled early in his term - and whether the guard-rails which sometimes boxed him in will survive the September legislative session.

“The main issue is the rules of the game, the State of Law, that the established rules are followed,” Franklin Templeton’s Gutierrez said, noting that markets were particularly nervous about the idea of choosing judges and justices through popular vote. — Reuters

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What Europe needs is a democracy commissioner

By Paolo Cesarini, Christophe Leclercq & Maria João Rodrigues
Brussels

When European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen took office in December 2019, she established a “new push for European democracy” as one of her six policy priorities. After the European Parliament elections on June 6-9, one of the biggest threats to democracy still needs to be adequately addressed: the risks confronting Europe’s media sector.

To be sure, EU lawmakers have taken important steps that will help safeguard media. The Digital Markets Act, limiting the power of the largest digital platforms as “gatekeepers”, and the Digital Services Act, making them more transparent and accountable, entered into force in 2022. The Artificial Intelligence Act, focusing on the development of “trustworthy” AI, and the Media Freedom Act, designed to protect media from political or economic interference, have now also been passed.

But the challenges media face remain formidable. Business models were upended by the Internet, causing publishers to slash the total number of journalists; for example, 60% of US newspaper jobs have vanished since 1990. At the same time, online media have not fully compensated for such cuts. With the advent of AI, this trend could go into overdrive, with most journalists outside of public broadcasting thrown out of work. Meanwhile, oligarchs rule over the media landscape in many countries, and disinformation spreads like wildfire.

Bold action to safeguard and strengthen free, independent media has become urgent. A strong media sector is a pillar of any democracy – as

the EU’s Democracy Action Plan recognises. But, for the EU mandate in 2024-29, implementing enacted legislation is not enough. The rule of law and AI guidelines do not feed journalists. The EU’s leaders must signal that they take the sustainability of news media seriously. To this end, the next European Commission should mandate a “media industrial policy”, and regroup related resources toward a directorate-general for democracy and media, overseen by a dedicated “Democracy Commissioner”.

Industrial policy does not equal state control, and it need not cost a lot. It should be viewed as the coordination of public-sector efforts to enable a strategic domain to transform itself. Europe has done this for many industries, often to great effect. A successful media industrial policy would emphasise five priorities.

First, it would foster regulation that maximises the impact of legislation. While the recent acts are crucial, and should be transposed into national laws, it is up to regulators – including telecommunications and competition authorities – to nurture an information ecosystem that reflects a better balance between media organisations and digital platforms.

For example, platforms should be forced to incorporate “trustworthiness indicators” into their algorithms – a step they agreed to, in principle, six years ago. This would slow the spread of fake news and boost audiences of quality content, in turn leading to higher advertising and subscription revenue for publishers and broadcasters.

Second, while research and development related to AI is relatively well-funded, the media industry will require targeted, creative thinking from all sides. The EU’s Media and Audiovisual Action Plan, still in the early stages of implementation, aims explicitly

to foster more innovation in the industry. It includes the NEWS initiative, which bundles together EU actions to strengthen the news-media sector. Taking these efforts further would not necessarily cost more.

For example, the EU issues a yearly call for “Journalism Partnerships,” which are cross-border collaborations between news-media organisations, focusing on innovative business models or newsroom transformations. But this programme – which is significantly oversubscribed – receives just €6mn (\$6.5mn) in annual funding. In the future, funding procedures in other European Commission directorates-general should include co-labelling all EU proposals relevant to news media “NEWS”.

Third, the media industry today relies essentially on ads and subscriptions. What we need is more diverse financing, including public support for innovation, but not subsidising journalists’ salaries, which would distort media ethics.

In supporting the media sector’s transformation, public procurement, philanthropy, and new forms of investment also have a role to play. Public agencies should shift their advertising budgets toward quality media. Philanthropy can correct market failures and complement EU programmes. As for investment, reducing the cost of capital via sovereign funds could attract impact investors and help safeguard media from oligarchs. The InvestEU program should include a dedicated NEWS track.

The fourth priority is structural transformation. Within the EU and beyond, a few large platforms dominate the information and advertising ecosystem. By comparison, news publishers – which tend to confine their operations to a single country or even locality –

are tiny. An uncoordinated army of dwarfs battling an oligopoly is not sustainable.

A better approach would entail organisations sharing some costs – especially as they shift from variable costs (like printing and physical distribution) to fixed expenses (like editors’ salaries, IT, and product launches). This can be done through cooperation, or even consolidation. While mergers within a national or local context can raise risks for pluralism and jobs, cross-border deals can strengthen all brands involved, preserve jobs, and reduce the influence of national governments. To facilitate this process, competition regulators could set targets related to pluralism (for example, preserving diverse brands as conditions for merger approvals) and encourage newsroom transformation (when allowing state aid).

Lastly, both individual and collective skills must be upgraded. Journalists must be able not only to deal with AI, but also to make the most of innovations in information-technology and marketing. Cross-border co-operation also requires institutional skills, including expertise in crucial areas of change (not least AI). Since these imperatives lie at the crossroads of education and research, public support is appropriate.

During the next EU mandate, most independent media will die or shrink, one way or another. But, if EU leaders do their jobs right, plenty can be reborn in a more resilient form.

– Project Syndicate

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Far-right National Rally projected to win snap poll

Reuters
Paris

The far-right National Rally was forecast yesterday to win a snap election in France but fall short of an absolute majority in the first opinion poll published after President Emmanuel Macron's shock decision to dissolve parliament.

Following a massive loss for his Renaissance party in Sunday's European Parliament election, Macron announced snap elections for the lower house of parliament, with the first round scheduled for June 30, less than three weeks away, and the run-off on July 7.

Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration, eurosceptic National Rally party, known as RN, would win 235 to 265 seats in the National Assembly, a huge jump from its current 88 but short of the 289 needed for an absolute majority, according to the survey by Toluna Harris Interactive for Challenges, M6 and RTL.

Macron's centrist alliance would see its number of lawmakers possibly halve, from 250 to 125-155, the poll showed yesterday. Left-wing parties could together control 115 to 145 seats, though each party could run on its own.

There is no certainty the RN would run the government, with or without an alliance with others. Other scenarios include

a wide-ranging coalition of mainstream parties, or a completely hung parliament.

But Macron's shock decision does offer the increasingly popular far-right a real shot at power. Amounting to a roll of the dice on his political future, this immediately sent the euro down, while French stocks and government bonds tumbled. RN won 31.4% of the European Parliament vote while the Renaissance party coalition had 14.6%.

Even if RN does score a majority in the French parliament, Macron would remain president for three more years and still be in charge of defence and foreign policy.

But he would lose control over the domestic agenda including economic policy, security, immigration and finances, which would in turn impact other policies, such as aid to Ukraine, as he would need parliament's backing to finance any support as part of France's budget.

"We're still in shock," Emmanuel Pellerin, a lawmaker from Macron's Renaissance party, told Reuters. "Everything points to the RN winning a relative or absolute majority. But that forces the French to think about what is at stake."

In that context, political parties were racing to field candidates and discuss possible alliances.

RN leaders Jordan Bardella and Le Pen held talks yesterday with Marion Marechal of the smaller far-right Reconquete party. Marechal is Le Pen's niece and used



Rassemblement National party leader Marine Le Pen (left) followed by party President Jordan Bardella arrives on stage after the French president called for new general elections during an evening gathering on the final day of the European Parliament election, at the Pavillon Chesnaie du Roy in Paris. (AFP)

to be a prominent member of her party before they fell out.

Bardella said after the meeting that talks were under way over forming an alliance. He added he was also talking with some members of the conservative Les Republicains.

"I fervently wish that we can find ways to all come together," Marechal told re-

Macron urges French to make 'right choice'

President Emmanuel Macron yesterday said that he was confident French voters would make the "right choice" in snap elections he called after the far-right crushed his centrist alliance in Sunday's EU ballot.

"I am confident in the capacity of the French people to make the right choice for themselves and for future generations," Macron wrote on X yesterday.

His announcement of elections for a new National Assembly on June 30, with a second round on July 7, has sparked widespread alarm, even from within the ranks of his party.

"By playing with fire, the head of state could end up by burning himself and dragging the entire country into the fire," *Le Monde* wrote in an editorial.

build the future and above all to go and win." A source close to Macron said the 46-year-old leader, whose power has been diminished since he lost his absolute majority in parliament two years ago, calculated that there was a chance he could win back a majority by taking everyone by surprise.

For Le Pen and Bardella, the challenge is to transform popularity into a win. The vote is likely to revolve not only around discontent with Macron's style of power, cost of living and immigration policies, but also about whether the RN can be trusted to run a major European government.

Among policies put forward by the party, the RN has proposed higher public spending, despite already significant levels of French debt, threatening to further raise funding costs at banks.

The RN also wants to expel more migrants, stop family reunification, restrict childcare benefits to French citizens, give French nationals preference in access to social housing and jobs and withdraw residency for migrants who are out of work for more than a year.

The euro fell by as much as 0.6%, while Paris blue-chip stocks dropped by 1.4%, led by steep losses in banks BNP Paribas and Societe Generale.

The early election will come shortly before the July 26 start of the Paris Olympics, when all eyes will be on France.

Sharifs, Modi exchange greetings in X diplomacy

India and Pakistan's leaders resorted to diplomacy via X yesterday, a day after Narendra Modi was sworn in as prime minister for the third time. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his elder brother and former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif congratulated Modi in posts on the social media platform within hours of each other, in what was Pakistan's first response to the election results from across the border.

"Your party's success in recent elections reflects the confidence of the people in your leadership. Let us replace hate with hope and seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia," Nawaz said in one post.

Modi responded, saying "The people of India have always stood for peace, security and progressive ideas. Advancing the well-being and security of our people shall always remain our priority."

Modi secured a record-equaling third term but lost his outright majority and is dependent on regional parties for support in his first coalition government.

Nuclear-armed rivals and neighbours India and Pakistan have fought three wars, including two over control of the disputed Kashmir region in the Himalayas.

Ties between the two have been frozen since India ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir state in 2019 and split it into two federally administered territories. They came closer to yet another war when India launched air strikes inside Pakistan to target what it said was a militants' sanctuary. Pakistan responded in kind, captured an Indian pilot before returning him in a peace gesture.

New Delhi invited leaders of seven regional countries to Sunday's grand inauguration at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, or president's palace, in New Delhi but Sharif wasn't included.

A few hours after Shehbaz Sharif had wished him well, Modi responded on X: "Thank you @cmshehbaz for your good wishes".

The elder Sharif has always been a proponent of peace with India, which is said to be one of the reasons he fell out with his country's powerful military in his last tenure from 2013 to 2017.

Analysts don't see any chance of peace talks between the two sides anytime soon, however. "Modi is not ready as yet," said author and defence analyst Ayesha Siddiqa. The two sides have some backdoor diplomatic initiatives, however, which may be "a gentle start," she said.

Sunak scotches resignation talk

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak yesterday dismissed rumours that he would quit before the July 4 general election, as criticism about his early departure from D-Day commemoration events rumbled on.

The Conservative leader issued an apology after outrage from veterans' groups that he declined to join other world leaders at an event in northern France to mark the 80th anniversary of the invasion.

His decision to instead record a television interview, which also prompted criticism from his own colleagues, was the latest misstep on the campaign trail for the vote.

But Sunak, who opinion polls predict will lead the Tories to a shuddering defeat to the main opposition Labour party, was defiant. "People are gonna say what they're gonna say," he said.

He warned against thinking the election result was a foregone conclusion, and said he had battled back from adversity before, notably after an internal Tory leadership defeat to Liz Truss in 2022.

"The reality is I'm not going to stop going, I'm not going to stop fighting for people's votes, I'm not going to stop fighting for the future of our country," he added on a campaign stop.

Scholz coalition defies calls for elections after EU rout

AFP
Berlin

Germany will not hold a snap election despite calls for Olaf Scholz to step aside after his governing coalition's dismal performance in the EU Parliament election, a spokesman for the chancellor said yesterday.

"The regular election date is next autumn (2025). And that's what we plan to do," Scholz's spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said at a press conference.

The coalition suffered a stinging defeat at the European elections, with all three parties in Scholz's government trailing the conservatives and the far-right, preliminary results showed.

His Social Democrats (SPD) scored their worst result ever, coming in third at 14% behind the far-right AfD at around 16% and well behind the conservative CDU-CSU bloc's 30%.

The Greens recorded 12% while the liberal FDP took 5%.

In the former East Germany, where three key regional elections are to be held later this year, the AfD was the biggest party, with the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper branding Scholz and his government a "coalition of losers".

The result sparked calls from opposition parties for Scholz to follow the lead of French President Emmanuel Macron and



UNDER THE WEATHER: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz before a meeting with the leadership of his SPD party at the SPD headquarters in Berlin yesterday, one day after European Parliament elections. (AFP)

call a snap election. Speaking later yesterday, Scholz would not be drawn on the possibility of an election but acknowledged the result was "bad for all three governing parties", adding that no-one should "simply go back to business as usual".

He also expressed concerns about the growing support for right-wing parties across the European Union.

"We must never get used to this and it must always be our task to push them back, and to ensure that there are clear majorities in favour of parties with a clear commitment to our democracy," he said. AfD co-

leader Alice Weidel was among those calling for Scholz to go.

"There is now only one task left for Scholz: clear the way for new elections – instead of governing for another year against a large majority of the population," Weidel wrote on X.

Markus Soeder, leader of the conservatives in the southern state of Bavaria, also called for new elections as soon as possible.

The three-way coalition "no longer has the support of the population", Soeder told the RTL broadcaster, calling for Germany to follow in the footsteps of France. *Der Spiegel* weekly said

the EU election drubbing was a personal defeat for Scholz, whose face appeared on many campaign posters alongside his party's top candidate.

"Scholz put a lot of himself into the campaign, and it's been to no avail. On the contrary, his strong presence may even have reinforced the downward trend," the magazine said.

Der Spiegel called on Scholz to make a strong statement about his intentions for the future.

"After this personal defeat, he must say how he wants to continue to lead... Otherwise the country risks paralysis," the magazine said. Even voices from within Scholz's SPD were calling his future into question.

"With 14% nobody has an uncontested claim to lead the SPD," said Sigmar Gabriel, a former leader of the Social Democrats.

The most obvious replacement for Scholz would be Boris Pistorius, Germany's popular defence minister.

For the Greens, the EU election result represented a significant dip from the 20.5% they scored in 2019.

Scholz's fragile coalition will face its next test when it presents its budget for 2025 at the beginning of July.

The SPD and the Greens have often clashed with the liberals on budget issues, with liberal Finance Minister Christian Lindner taking a hard line on spending.

38 migrants killed after boat capsizes off Yemen

Thirty-eight migrants coming from the Horn of Africa were killed after their boat capsized off Yemen's Aden, a local official and witnesses said yesterday. Hadi Al-Khurma, the director of Rudum district, told Reuters the boat sank

before it reached the shores of the Shabwa governorate, east of Aden.

"Fishermen and residents managed to rescue 78 of the migrants, who reported that about 100 others who were with them on the same

boat are missing. The search is still ongoing, and the UN has been informed of the incident," he said. According to the UN, 97,000 migrants arrived in Yemen from the Horn of Africa last year.

Frost discovered on top of giant Mars volcanoes

Early morning frost has been detected on the peaks of massive volcanoes on Mars, an unexpected discovery about the dispersal of water on Mars that could one day prove essential for human exploration, scientists said.

The early morning frost was spotted in images taken by the European Space Agency's Trace Gas Orbiter, according to a study published in the journal *Nature Geoscience* yesterday.

The immense volcanoes are in the Tharsis plateau, an elevated region nearly 5,000km wide near the Martian equator. The volcanoes have been extinct for millions of years. Among them is the largest volcano in the solar system, Olympus Mons, which is almost three times taller than Mount Everest.

The discovery came by chance – no-one expected to find frost in this region.



This handout photo obtained yesterday courtesy of ESA shows frost on the Olympus Mons volcano taken by the HRSC camera aboard ESA's Mars Express. (AFP/ESA/Adomas Valentinas)

"We thought it was impossible for frost to form around Mars's equator," lead study author Adomas Valentinas said in a statement.

Plenty of sunshine and a thin atmosphere mean the temperature is relatively warm up there, "unlike what we see on Earth, where you might expect to see frosty peaks," the researcher at Brown University in the United States said in a statement.

There is also little water in the atmosphere near the Martian equator, making condensation less likely. "Other space probes have observed frost but in wetter regions – notably the northern plains," study co-author Frederic Schmidt of France's Paris-Saclay University told AFP. The Trace Gas Orbiter, which has been orbiting Mars since 2018, was able to take images when the first rays of the Sun crossed over the tops of

the volcanoes. "We saw a shiny, blue deposit there, a particular texture that we only see in the early morning and during the cold seasons," Schmidt said.

The layer of the ice is only the thickness of a hair – and it does not last long.

But there is about 150,000 tonnes of water – equivalent to 60 Olympic swimming pools – in the daily frost at the summits of volcanoes Olympus Mons, Arsia Mons, Ascraeus Mons and Ceraunius Tholus, the ESA said.

The researchers suggested the frost is caused by a microclimate that forms inside the calderas of the huge volcanoes. As wind whips up the sides of the volcanoes, it brings "relatively moist air from near the surface up to higher altitudes, where it condenses and settles as frost," study co-author Nicolas Thomas explained.

"We actually see this happening

on Earth and other parts of Mars," said Thomas, who works on the Trace Gas Orbiter's imaging system.

Modelling how these frosts form "could allow scientists to reveal more of Mars's remaining secrets, including where water exists and how it moves between reservoirs," the ESA said.

This may prove crucial for planned missions that could see humans set foot on Martian soil. "We could recover water from the frost for human consumption, or launch rockets from Mars by separating the oxygen and hydrogen molecules," Schmidt said.

Mapping the location of water on Mars – which only exists as ice or vapour – could also be key in the search for signs of extra-terrestrial life.

Liquid water is considered one of the essential ingredients for life on other planets.



HE Sheikh Mohamed touring the facilities at the KMC.



HE Sheikh Mohamed being briefed on the facilities at the KMC.



HE Sheikh Mohamed inaugurating the KMC at Lusail.

PM inaugurates Korean Medical Center

Dr Ahmed al-Kalla speaking during the media tour. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani inaugurated yesterday the Korean Medical Center (KMC) at Lusail City. Following the inauguration he toured the facilities and was briefed on the

KMC's specialist departments and centres by medical director and head of executive health Dr Lee Sunpyo and other officials.

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah and Korean ambassador to Qatar Lee Joon-Ho attended the inauguration, as did Estithmar Holding Group chairperson Mohamed Moutaz al-Khayyat, Estithmar vice-chairperson and president Ramez al-Khayyat, Estithmar chief executive Mohamed Badr al-Sada, and members of Estithmar Holding's board of directors.

Elegancia Healthcare chief executive Joseph Hazel and KMC general manager Dr Ahmed al-Kalla also attended the inauguration.

The KMC brings together four most sought-after Korean healthcare providers – namely Asan Medical Center, J K Medical Group, Seoul Ahnkang Hospital and Lime Tree Dental Hospital – under one facility.

"After the successful collaboration between The View Hospital and Cedars-Sinai, as well as Estithmar Holding's impressive extension of operations in Algeria and Iraq, we are honoured to have HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani officially inaugurate the Korean Medical Center," Moutaz al-Khayyat said.

"South Korea has been a global leader in healthcare thanks to its effective and

specialised healthcare system that continues to achieve remarkable results," said Ramez al-Khayyat.

"Therefore, our strategy when establishing the Korean Medical Center is to attract the most prominent healthcare providers in Korea to provide the most exceptional healthcare experience in Qatar and the region," he said.

The KMC comprises seven integrated and comprehensive centres: the Executive Health Center; the Spine & Joint Center; the Pain Management, Rehabilitation, Korean Medicine Center; the Fertility Center; the Beauty and Wellness Center; the Dental Center; and the Primary Care Center.

During a media tour of the newly opened facility, general manager Dr al-Kalla highlighted that for the first time in the world, the KMC has brought four completely different Korean entities under one roof.

"Asan Medical Center will offer its major services at the KMC, and we have three affiliated sectors under the Asan Medical Center," he said.

"The Asan Medical Center offers the Executive Health Center that comes with customised and comprehensive packages and offers personalised healthcare not offered anywhere in the world except in Korea, and now at the KMC," Dr al-Kalla said. "It also offers the Spine & Joint Center, which focuses on non-invasive

techniques in addition to the stem cell therapy injections of the knee."

"Asan Medical Center is also associated with our Fertility Center, as it has perfected the way of addressing IVF (in vitro fertilisation) to increase the success rate of the procedure," he continued. "They cater to the most complex cases with very high success rate."

The J K Medical Group, according to Dr al-Kalla, is ranked first in plastic surgery in Korea, focuses on the stem cell therapy, anti-ageing and regenerative medicine and wellness.

"Lime Tree Dental Hospital is our affiliated partner in our dental department, with focus on perfecting the orthodontics cosmetic technique which we have been able to replicate in our centre in the KMC," he said. "This covers paediatrics to adult patients with our in-house state-of-the-art dental laboratory."

The official said that Seoul Ahnkang Hospital focuses on pain management.

He said the technique of FIMS procedure for pain management is available nowhere except in Korea and now at the KMC.

FIMS stands for Fluoroscopy Guided Interventional Musculoskeletal Adhesiolysis and Nerve Stimulation.

"We have been able to bring technologies that were offered only in Korea and now available at the KMC, and for the first time in the region," he said.

UDC marks World Environment Day at The Pearl Island

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, recently celebrated World Environment Day at The Pearl Island with a series of activities for the community.

The event, held in collaboration with United School International (USI), emphasised the importance of environmental stewardship and sustainability through hands-on youth engagement and awareness campaigns.

One of the highlights was the "Sustainability Action Maze" competition, a dynamic activity designed specifically for the youth of The Pearl Island.

Participants navigated a specially designed maze, making critical decisions and analysing the consequences of their actions.

This interactive experience aimed to teach young participants the importance of sustainable practices and land restoration in their communities.

The UDC's celebration of World Environment Day aligns with its ongoing environmental-conscious practices.

The UDC has launched its annual six-month recycling campaign to encourage residents to recycle plastic by separating it from general waste.

Participants will be rewarded with discount vouchers from participating outlets at The Pearl Island for every 1kg of plastic recycled. Four collection points were established across The Pearl Island, with recycling operations carried out in partnership with Seashore.

The Pearl Island community has made strides in recycling, achieving a 37% recycling rate for community and retail waste – a 15% increase from the previous year.

This includes recycling plastics, paper/cardboard, aluminium cans, e-waste, and batteries.

This year, residents contributed 2.3 tonnes of plastic waste, which was successfully recycled into useful goods for the community.

Further demonstrating its commitment to environmental innovation, the UDC has launched Collec'Thor Sea Cleaners, also known as seabins.

These floating trash collectors, made from recycled materials, have gathered over 2,500kg of sea waste, including 147kg of recyclables.

Efficient waste management at The Pearl Island is not only essential for maintaining a clean and healthy environment but also offers significant economic and environmental benefits.

Since 2023, the UDC's recycling efforts have resulted in savings equivalent to 8,400 trees, 212,000 barrels of crude oil, 3.4mn gallons of fresh water, 1,900cu m of land space, and 2.1mn kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity.

In a further commitment to sustainable transportation, the UDC installed seven EV chargers at The Pearl Island.

These chargers support capacities of up to 60kWh and 120kWh, with one of the chargers being Qatar's fastest, capable of charging EVs up to 180kWh and allowing vehicles to reach an 80% charge in just 10-15 minutes.

The UDC's Environmental and Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026 recognises the significant impact of plastic on climate change and aims to offset all greenhouse gas emissions.

This strategy promotes low-carbon solutions, encourages the reduction of plastic use, and the establishment of comprehensive recycling mechanisms throughout the UDC's offices, worksites, and The Pearl Island.

World Environment Day, observed an-



One of the highlights of the educational event was the 'Sustainability Action Maze' competition, an activity designed for the youth of The Pearl Island.

nually on June 5 and established by the UN General Assembly in 1972, has become a global platform for environmental outreach.

The Pearl Island community is therefore continually encouraged to embrace environmental awareness and action, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals and championing environmental causes.

The UDC remains committed to environmental action and sustainability, continually striving to enhance the quality of life for its residents while preserving and protecting the natural environment.

Through initiatives like these, the UDC aims to inspire a culture of sustainability and environmental responsibility within The Pearl Island community.



The event honoured the batch of 2023-2024 graduate residents, fellows, and medical students.

Sidra Medicine celebrates second Medical Education Day

Sidra Medicine, a member of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), celebrated its second Medical Education Day to honour its batch of 2023-2024 graduate residents, fellows, and medical students.

Sidra Medicine acknowledged the accomplishments of nine graduating medical students sponsored by Sidra Medicine, 24 resident trainees,

and 18 graduating fellows for being the top performers in their respective paediatric specialties.

The specialties included neurology, cardiology, genetic medicine, emergency medicine, psychiatry, and pulmonology.

The Medical Education Day event was marked with several special awards including "Best Faculty Member", "Best Programme Co-ordina-

tor", "Educational Researcher of the Year", and "Best Resident."

During the Appreciation and Awarding Ceremony, presided over by chair of Medical Education and DIO (designated institutional officer) Prof Ibrahim Janahi, who presented the awards alongside chief executive Dr Iyabo Tinubu-Karch and acting chief medical officer Dr Ahmed al-Hammadi.