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US waives visas for Qatar, in first for Arab country

Qatar has been designated as the first Arab country to enter the US Visa Waiver Programme (VWP) by Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N Mayorkas, in consultation with Secretary of State Antony J Blinken, a statement from the US embassy in Doha said yesterday. Starting no later than December 1, 2024, the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) online application and mobile app will be updated to allow citizens and nationals of Qatar to apply to travel to the US for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days without first obtaining a US visa. These authorisations are generally valid for two years. Travellers with valid B-1/B-2 visas may continue to use their visa for travel to the US, and B-1/B-2 visas will remain an option for Qatari citizens. **Page 4**

QC distributes aid to displaced Lebanese

Qatar Charity's field teams have begun distributing urgent humanitarian aid in Lebanon in light of the increasing number of displaced people who have taken refuge in schools and institutes. Qatar Charity (QC) seeks to continue providing assistance to those affected and this assistance will focus on food baskets, shelter materials and personal hygiene kits, in addition to clean drinking water. Qatar Charity is one of the first Arab and international humanitarian organisations to help the displaced Lebanese. Israeli attacks have forced thousands of residents of the targeted areas, particularly south Lebanon, to flee. **(QNA)**
Page 4

Alarm grows as Israel, Hezbollah exchange intense fire

AFP
Beirut

Israel and Hezbollah traded heavy fire yesterday, defying international calls for de-escalation during a second day of clashes that Lebanon said claimed hundreds of lives. At least 569 people were killed, including 50 children and 94 women, in Israeli strikes on Lebanon on Monday, Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad told Al Jazeera Mubasher TV yesterday. Hezbollah claimed 18 attacks on Israel yesterday, while the Israeli military said the

Monday strike toll goes up to 569 in Lebanon

Iran-backed group fired about 300 rockets across the border. The war in Gaza has drawn in Hezbollah and other Iran-backed militants from across the Middle East, including Yemen and Iraq. Lebanese Health Minister Firass Abiad said the "vast majority, if not all, of those killed in yesterday's attacks were unarmed people in their homes".

His office said another six people were killed yesterday in a strike on south Beirut. Israel said it "eliminated" Hezbollah's rocket forces commander Ibrahim Kobeissi in the strike on the Lebanese capital. A source close to Hezbollah also said Kobeissi had been killed. In the evening, the Israeli military said it was "currently conducting extensive strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon". Lebanon's official National News Agency later reported extensive Israeli strikes, particularly in the south but also in the east. At the UN General Assembly in New York, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the situation in Lebanon was critical.

Israel's war on Gaza genocide: Amir

Amir addresses opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has called Israel's attack on Gaza a genocide and "the most barbaric, heinous and extensive aggression, violating human values, international charters and norms". Addressing the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York yesterday, His Highness the Amir said the aggression on Gaza is not a war but rather a crime of genocide by means of using the most sophisticated weapons against a people besieged in a detention camp where there is no escape from the barrage of aerial bombing.

"End the war on Gaza, end the war on Lebanon"

After a year of this war, it is no longer tenable to talk about Israel's 'right to defend itself' in this context without being complicit in justifying the crime, His Highness Sheikh Tamim said. The failure of the international community to stop the bombing of schools and hospitals, and weaponising access to food and medicine, is a major scandal, His Highness the Amir said. The Palestinian cause cannot be simply wished away, nor it can be marginalised because it is an issue of indigenous people on their own land and who are subjected to a settler-colonial occupation, His Highness Sheikh Tamim said. It has been proved that ignoring



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani addressing the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York yesterday.

"Qatar will continue to find a solution to the Gaza war through mediation, in partnership with Egypt and the US"

a just solution to the Palestinian issue is conducive to disaster, His Highness the Amir said, adding that some are still trying to find innovative measures to run Gaza after the war, with or without an authority, only on the basis of security considerations of the occupation, and not the security of those who are languishing under the occupation itself. "It is the approach that wants to tailor the entire region to fit Israel's size, while looking for circumventions to avoid ending the occupation and work on imposing the rule of one people over another by force." His Highness the Amir said, "The end of the occupation and

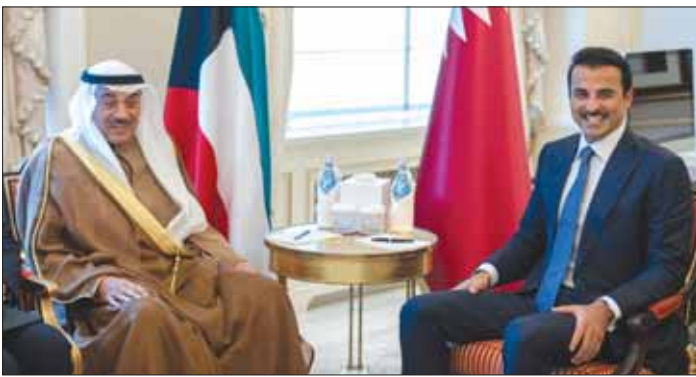
the Palestinian people exercising their right to self-determination is neither a favour nor a gift from anyone." There is no point in talking about security, peace, and stability in the Middle East region and across the world if not backed by concrete steps leading to an immediate ceasefire and an end to the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories, His Highness the Amir said. Drawing the attention of the august audience to the destruction of houses and schools and hospitals in Gaza, His Highness the Amir said: "It is no secret that we are facing a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and other Pales-

tinian territories, which are subjected to co-ordinated attacks by the occupation army and settlers in an attempt to enforce plans to expand settlements, annex the West Bank, and Judaize Jerusalem. "The international community bears responsibility for the consequences of what is happening to the brotherly Palestinian people who are subjected to unfolding genocidal war that has resulted, so far, in the death of more than 41,000 martyrs, let alone the missing under the rubble, including 17,000 children, 11,000 women and 100,000 wounded, including thousands of disabled and millions of people who were

"No peace in the region without a just solution to the Palestinian issue"

forcibly displaced several times, in addition to the complete destruction of the infrastructure of hospitals, schools and buildings including mosques and churches." Qatar has opted for undertaking mediation efforts in an endeavour to stop the aggression on Gaza and secure the release of prisoners and detainees, His Highness the Amir said. "In partnership with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America, a humanitarian agreement was reached last November. It resulted in a brief ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the release of 240 Palestinian prisoners and 109 of the detainees in Gaza, and increased the flow of relief shipments." His Highness the Amir said Qatar will continue to exert efforts with its partners to reach a permanent ceasefire, securing the release of prisoners and detainees, taking the path of a just solution in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, and enabling the Palestinian people to obtain all their legitimate rights, foremost of which is their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital on the 1967 borders. Israeli leaders know that the current war that they are waging against Lebanon will neither bring security and peace to northern Israel nor to Lebanon, and that the key to security rests on a just peace. "Stop the aggression on Gaza! Stop the war on Lebanon." His Highness the Amir also called for an end to the crisis in Yemen, Syria, Sudan and Libya. **Full text of Amir's speech Page 11 →**

Amir meets Crown Prince of Kuwait



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with Crown Prince of the sisterly State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah at the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations in New York. The Crown Prince of Kuwait conveyed the

greetings of the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah to His Highness the Amir as well as his wishes of continued happiness and good health to the Amir and more progress and prosperity for the Qatari people. His Highness the Amir entrusted the Crown Prince of Kuwait to convey his greetings and wishes of

happiness and health for the Amir of Kuwait and for the Kuwaiti people further progress and development. During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them, in addition to exchanging views on the most prominent regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Head of the State Security Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, along with members of the delegation accompanying the Amir. From the Kuwaiti side, it was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Ali al-Yahya and a number of senior officials. **(QNA)**



Amir meets UN secretary-general

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, at the UN headquarters in New York. They discussed ways to boost co-operation between Qatar and the UN. The deliberations also covered the latest regional and international developments, especially the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. In this regard, the UN Secretary-General renewed his praise for Qatar's efforts to hammer out a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, its diplomatic endeavours to end regional and international con-

licts and wars, reduce the climate change impacts, and its support for humanitarian and development projects. The two sides exchanged views on the key topics on 79th UNGA agenda. In attendance were HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, along with members of the delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir. **(QNA)**

Amir leaves New York

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani left New York yesterday after heading Qatar’s delegation participating in the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly in the United States. His Highness the Amir was accompanied by an official delegation. **(QNA)**

Amir sends cables of congratulations to Sri Lanka’s new president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President Anura Kumara Disnayake, on the occasion of his election and taking the constitutional oath as President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, wishing him success and the relations between the two countries further development and growth. **(QNA)**

Amir sends cables of congratulations to president of Guinea-Bissau

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau Umaro Sissoco Embalo on the anniversary of his country’s Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable to Prime Minister Rui Duarte Barros on the occasion. **(QNA)**

PM meets US assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Barbara Leaf, on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly in New York. They discussed the close Qatar-US strategic relations and ways to boost them. The deliberations also covered the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories and the joint mediation efforts to end the war on the enclave in addition to ways to de-escalate in Lebanon. **(QNA)**

Qatar condemns in strongest terms Israeli aggression on Lebanon

QNA
Doha

The State of Qatar condemned, in the strongest terms, the Israeli aggression on Lebanon that left hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries, warning at the same time against expanding the circle of violence in the region and sliding into a comprehensive regional war, amid the ongoing war on the Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated that the continued escalation is primarily due to the absence of any deterrent to Israel’s actions, its continued repeated violations of international law, and its continued impunity.

It also warned that this reality exacerbates crises, puts the region on the brink of the abyss, and exposes it to more tensions that will have a profound impact regionally and internationally.

The ministry urged the international community to assume its responsibilities by taking urgent action to compel the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their brutal aggression against Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

It also reiterated the State of Qatar’s commitment to supporting all regional and international efforts aimed at achieving security and stability in the region.

The ministry stressed the State of Qatar’s firm stance towards the Republic of Lebanon and its unity and territorial integrity, emphasising Qatar’s full support for all efforts that enhance Lebanon’s stability and prosperity.

High-level event explores inclusion of women in future of Afghanistan

QNA
New York

HE the Minister of State for International Cooperation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater participated on Monday in a high-level side event on ‘The Inclusion of Women in the Future of Afghanistan’, co-organised by the permanent missions of the State of Qatar, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Ireland, and the Swiss Confederation, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The high-level event was opened by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, with the participation of President of the Swiss Confederation Viola Amherd and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi.

In a speech to the meeting, HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation

said that women’s empowerment and integration into Afghanistan’s future is among the State of Qatar’s priorities and its long-term efforts in the country.

Reiterating the State of Qatar’s clear and firm position on the need to respect and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of women, girls and all members of the Afghan people in line with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, she added that these rights include the right to education, economic participation and other freedoms necessary for development and societal progress in Afghanistan.

As Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to education, we remain committed to ensuring that all Afghans have access to this basic right, she said. HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation pointed to the State of Qatar’s pledge to provide more than \$75mn to support Afghanistan in addition to its commitment



to a number of projects to support Afghan women such as scholarship programmes and funding training programmes in various fields, including medical sectors, hosting the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) in Doha, and supporting the reopening of girls’ schools in Afghanistan.

Pointing to that the State of Qatar’s

hosting of the third UN meeting of special envoys on Afghanistan last June, HE AlKhater noted that the discussions during the meeting highlighted the need for a unified approach to address issues related to the humanitarian situation, the rights of women and girls, and security and stability in Afghanistan.



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Al-Muraikhi in New York meetings

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met with Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan Hussein Awad Ali, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) in New York. During the meeting, they reviewed co-operation between the two countries and ways to support and enhance it, as well as a number of regional and international issues of common interest.



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met with Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador Adriana Mira, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The meeting discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways of enhancing and promoting it, in addition to regional and international issues of common concern. **(QNA)**

Labour minister meets Egypt's envoy



HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met with ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the State of Qatar Amr Kamal El Din El Sherbini. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of joint co-operation between the State of Qatar and the Arab Republic of Egypt, especially in topics related to labour sector.

Qatar attends ministerial meeting of NAM



Qatar participated in the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi chaired the State of Qatar's delegation to the meeting.

Al-Hammadi meets Bahrain envoy



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with ambassador of Bahrain to Qatar Mohammed bin Ali al-Ghatam. During the meeting, relations between the two countries were reviewed. **(QNA)**

Qatar partakes in ministerial meeting of Arab League FMs



Qatar participated in the annual consultative ministerial meeting of the foreign ministers of the member states of the League of Arab States, held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) in New York. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi led Qatar's delegation to the meeting. **(QNA)**

Huawei Announces New Product Lineup in Barcelona Reaffirming Commitment to Innovation, Fashion, and Creativity

At the HUAWEI Innovative Product Launch event in Barcelona, Spain, Huawei introduced a range of highly anticipated products, highlighting its 'Fashion Forward' approach to wearables. The new lineup of wearables includes the HUAWEI WATCH GT 5 Series, HUAWEI WATCH D2, and the HUAWEI WATCH Ultimate Green. Additionally, Huawei unveiled the HUAWEI MatePad Pro 12.2-inch and HUAWEI MatePad 12 X—brand new tablets offering advanced technologies for enhanced productivity and seamless connectivity. To provide a worry-free experience, Huawei is offering the HUAWEI Care+ Service, which can be purchased alongside the new devices.

The HUAWEI WATCH GT 5 Series introduces a major leap in health and fitness tracking with the debut of the HUAWEI TruSense System. It now leads the industry in tracking vital signs such as heart rate, blood oxygen levels, and respiratory rate. The new Emotional Wellbeing Assistant allows the watch to infer the user's emotional state. The battery life remains impressive, boasting up to 14 days on the 46mm model and 7 days on the 41mm version. The watch is compatible with Android and iOS smartphones.

The HUAWEI WATCH D2 is the successor to the HUAWEI WATCH D, which brought blood pressure monitoring to the wrist. The new watch introduces Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM), offering



Alex Huang, Chief Marketing Officer of Huawei Consumer BG, emphasised the brand's global impact and commitment to innovation. "We aim to bring innovative products that offer consumers a unique blend of fashion and creativity," said Alex. "By inspiring our users, Huawei strives to create a more connected and heartwarming world where technology enhances daily living and brings people closer together."

Boasting IP69K certification for water and corrosion resistance, the series is built for durability. It's available in two editions—HUAWEI WATCH GT 5 Pro and HUAWEI WATCH GT 5—with three sizes and 12 colourways. The 46mm version features an iconic octagonal dial, a 1.43-inch AMOLED display, and durable materials like sapphire glass and titanium. The sleeker 42mm version offers a nano-ceramic build with gold accents and a 1.32-inch AMOLED screen. The HUAWEI WATCH GT 5 Series offers the sleek 41mm and a larger 46mm options. Unlike the Pros, these are constructed with durable stainless steel.

24-hour blood pressure tracking throughout a full sleep-wake cycle. For individuals with hypertension, the watch helps identify their blood pressure circadian rhythms and detect abnormal nighttime blood pressure decline rates. For those without hypertension, the watch can help assess their risk.

Additionally, the HUAWEI WATCH D2 offers comprehensive health monitoring capabilities, including heart rate, blood pressure, blood oxygen, stress, skin temperature, ECG, vascular elasticity, pulse wave arrhythmia, and sleep apnea detection. With a single tap, users can measure nine body indicators and generate a Health Glance report to identify potential health risks. In terms of design, the HUAWEI WATCH D2 features a glossy mirror bezel and a rotating crown that exudes a premium feel.

HUAWEI WATCH Ultimate introduces the new Advanced Golf Course Features and the enhanced Expedition Mode, along with a new green edition. The new green edition brings an exclusive dual-colour



nano-tech ceramic bezel, crafted through a highly complex manufacturing process. As Huawei's ultimate luxury smartwatch, the HUAWEI WATCH Ultimate boasts a Zirconium-based liquid metal body and a high-strength sapphire glass cover, ensuring maximum durability and wear resistance. Additionally, it offers a 100-meter diving mode with audio functions.

The new HUAWEI MatePad Pro 12.2" features an innovative Tandem OLED



PaperMatte screen capable of reaching an astounding 2000 nits of brightness. It delivers stunning HDR visuals, ensuring lifelike colours even in bright sunlight. This display incorporates cutting-edge anti-sparkle and nanoscale anti-glare etching technologies, alongside magnetron nano optical layers to reduce light interference and glare offering a paper-like viewing. The all-new HUAWEI Glide Keyboard offers integrated stylus storage and charging, with

a magnetic hinge for easy mode switching. Built with anti-stain materials, it resists coffee spills, oil, and lipstick smudges.

The GoPaint app on the new tablet introduces Splatter and Fluid brushes, delivering pro-level tools for digital painting. The MatePad Pro 12.2" comes in a stunning Golden Silk rear cover that redefines artistry in gadget design.

The HUAWEI MatePad 12 X is an elegant-looking tablet Available in three beautiful pastel colours—Greenery, Sakura Pink, and White. They all have a unique metallic white lustre, adding a refined aesthetic touch. Designed for young professionals, its 12-inch PaperMatte Display simulates the texture of paper using nano-level etching making it the most suitable screen for paperless creation. Paired with the HUAWEI M-Pencil, it delivers a writing experience that feels natural, improving precision by 47% compared with traditional tablets. The HUAWEI MatePad 12 X also comes with Huawei Notes, a professional note-taking app designed by Huawei for seamless, paperless creation, making it the perfect tool for creativity and productivity.



Qatar enters US Visa Waiver Programme

Qatar has been designated as the first Arab country to enter the US Visa Waiver Programme (VWP) by Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N Mayorkas, in consultation with Secretary of State Antony J Blinken, a statement from the US embassy in Doha said yesterday.

Starting no later than December 1, 2024, the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) online application and mobile app will be updated to allow citizens and nationals of Qatar to apply to travel to the US for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days without first obtaining a US visa. These authorisations are generally valid for two years. Travellers with valid B-1/B-2 visas may continue to use their visa for travel to the US, and B-1/B-2 visas will remain an option for Qatari citizens. ESTA applications may be found at esta.cbp.dhs.gov or download the

“ESTA Mobile” app through the iOS App Store or the Google Play store.

US citizens already enjoy visa-free travel to Qatar, and beginning October 1, 2024, will be eligible to stay in Qatar for up to 90 days instead of the previous 30-day limit if they have a passport that is valid for at least three months from arrival and a confirmed hotel booking on arrival.

Under the VWP, citizens and nationals of Qatar will be able to apply for authorisation to travel to the US through the ESTA online or mobile app at a date to be announced shortly after Qatar’s VWP admission. Participating countries are reviewed at least biennially, as required in statute, to ensure they continue to meet all programme requirements.

Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken commended Qatar for meeting the stringent security re-

Qatar ambassador to the US lauds VWP inclusion

Qatar’s inclusion in the US Visa Waiver Programme (VWP) reflects the deepening of the already strong relationship between the two countries, ambassador Sheikh Meshal al-Thani said in a statement issued from Qatar’s embassy in Washington. “At a security level, this designation

comes as our countries work closely together across a range of critical areas, including counter-terrorism, combating illegal financial networks, and fighting human trafficking. “In addition to security, this development will bring significant benefits for both countries, and

we look forward to increased bilateral co-operation in commerce, tourism, and cultural exchange in the years to come. “We are proud of this significant development in our partnership and remain committed to further advancements between our two countries,” the envoy added.

rate of nonimmigrant visa refusals below 3% during the previous fiscal year; issues secure travel documents; extends reciprocal entry privileges to all US citizens and nationals without regard to national origin, religion, ethnicity, or gender; and works closely with US law enforcement and counterterrorism authorities. Qatar put forth a significant whole-of-government effort to meet all programme requirements, including entering into partnerships with the US to share information on terrorism and serious crimes. As with all VWP countries, Department of Homeland Security will continually monitor Qatar’s compliance with all programme requirements.

Qatar will be the 42nd member of the VWP and the third country added under Secretary Mayorkas’s tenure. More information on the VWP can be found at www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program

quirements to join the VWP. Qatar has been an exceptional partner for the US, and the strategic relationship has only grown stronger over the past few years.

“Qatar’s participation in the VWP increases information sharing regarding one of the world’s busiest travel and transfer hubs, strengthening the security of the US,” said Mayorkas. “I commend our Qatari partners for meeting the

stringent requirements this agreement entails and look forward to our continued work together on behalf of our respective countries.”

Blinken said: “Qatar’s fulfilment of the stringent security requirements to join the Visa Waiver Programme will deepen our strategic partnership and enhance the flow of people and commerce between our two countries. Qatar’s entry will make travel between the Unit-

ed States and Qatar safer, more secure, and easier for both Americans and Qataris.”

The VWP builds comprehensive security partnerships between the US and designated countries that meet strict requirements related to counterterrorism, law enforcement, immigration enforcement, document security, and border management. These requirements include that the country have a

QC distributes urgent relief aid to displaced people in southern Lebanon



Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed relief aid in southern Lebanon. Qatar Charity’s field teams began distributing the necessary and urgent humanitarian aid in Lebanon in light of the increasing number of displaced people who have currently taken refuge in schools and institutes. Qatar Charity (QC) seeks to continue providing assistance to those affected in light of the worsening crisis, and this assistance will focus on food baskets, providing shelter materials and personal hygiene kits, in addition to clean drinking water. Qatar Charity (QC) is one of the first Arab and international humanitarian organisations to move to help the displaced Lebanese in light of the escalating crisis. Since Monday, southern Lebanon has been subjected to extensive Israeli attacks targeting border villages and infrastructure, which has forced thousands of residents of the targeted areas to flee. **(QNA)**

Official

Amir sends cables of condolences to ruler of Umm Al Quwain

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to Member of the Federal Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Umm Al Quwain Sheikh Saud bin Rashid al-Mualla, on the death of Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed bin Rashid al-Mualla. **(QNA)**

QC hosts Start Network’s Hub Fellowship training

Qatar Charity (QC), in partnership with Start Network, a global consortium of nearly 100 humanitarian agencies, is hosting an in-person Hub Fellowship Learning Session and Empowered Local Leadership Training in Doha. Launched on Monday, the exercise will continue until October 2. The aim is to empower staff from local, national, and international humanitarian organisations known as hubs.

The training session focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of hub secretariats, strengthening the leadership and advocacy capacity of local hub leaders, and fostering peer-to-peer learning among hub teams.

This initiative aligns with Start Network’s mission to transform humanitarian action through innovation, fast funding, early action, and locally driven approaches, and it reflects QC’s vision of empowering communities and fostering sustainable development through effective, locally led humanitarian responses.

The workshop has brought together up to 25 participants from various global hubs, including those from India, Kenya, Guatemala, Pakistan, DRC, Bangladesh,



Afghanistan, South Sudan, the Philippines, and Somalia. Representatives from Start Network’s offices in Kenya, the Philippines, and the UK are also attending.

Joyce Nyaboga, senior network development adviser (design and infra-

structure), said this event represents the culmination of a series of learning and workplace projects under the Hub Fellowship programme, designed to build the local capacity needed to develop and sustain hubs.

“We believe that our collaboration with Qatar Charity will significantly contribute to empowering local leadership in humanitarian response and highlight Qatar Charity’s commitment to fostering effective, locally led crisis responses.”

Speaking at opening ceremony, Mana Mohammed al-Ansari, director of Humanitarian Operations Department at QC, said the event will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing the capabilities of humanitarian workers globally and strengthening collective response to crises.

It was in 2018 that Start Network welcomed QC into its membership. In 2019, Qatar Charity hosted the annual gathering of Start Network in Doha, which was attended by 87 dignitaries representing 41 member organisations, including major international and regional humanitarian NGOs.

Ehsan receives Arabia CSR Award 2024

The Center for Empowerment and Care of the Elderly (Ehsan), one of the centres affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development and Family’s Qatar Foundation for Social Work, has received the Arabia CSR Award 2024 at an international forum on sustainable economy, held in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Arabia Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Award is one of the most prominent regional initiatives focusing on promoting the concept of social responsibility among companies operating in the Arab region. The award recognises responsible practices that aim to achieve social and environmental benefits and contribute to achieving sustainable development. This year’s edition is distinguished by its partnership with the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The first edition of the award was launched on September 25, 2019, coinciding with the World CSR Day. The award was received by Director of Support Services and Acting Director of Communications at Ehsan, Wissam Mohammed al-Wissam, during the award ceremony held in Bahrain. **(QNA)**

PHCC physical activity survey

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has launched the 2024 Physical Activity Survey for children and adolescents aged 5-18 by the Child and Adolescent Health Department. This was announced by Dr Sadriya al-Kohji, senior community medicine consultant and assistant director of medicine for Child and Adolescent Health, a statement said yesterday.

This is the second time the survey is being conducted based on the fact that physically active children enjoy better mental health, improved concentration, and higher intelligence, which positively impacts their academic performance. Dr al-Kohji noted that data from the World Health Organisation’s National School Survey in Qatar (2015-2016) showed that children aged 12 to 18 engage in insufficient physical activity. Additionally, a study on physical activity during school hours

for children aged 5-9 found that children spent most of their school time in sedentary activities.

“While Qatar has national physical activity guidelines, there has not been a routine or standardised survey of physical activity by age until now. This is what we have implemented at PHCC to ensure we provide the most suitable services for this age group and meet the national physical activity recommendations in Qatar. “In 2023, we began conducting a survey to understand children’s activity levels and the types of activities they engage in, and we are currently analysing over 30,000 responses received.

“Any parent with a child or adolescent aged 5-18 registered at PHCC in 2024 will receive a text message from PHCC containing a link to the physical activity survey between October 1 and early December,” Dr al-Kohji added.

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Ooredoo Qatar, New Balance in pact for Doha Marathon 2025

Ooredoo Qatar has announced a new three-year partnership with New Balance, which will see the globally renowned sports footwear and apparel brand as the official footwear and apparel partner for the 2025 edition of Doha Marathon by Ooredoo on January 17.

The signing ceremony was attended by Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, director of Public Relations, CSR, and Sponsorship at Ooredoo Qatar, and Stuart Henwood, regional general manager for Middle East, Africa, & India at New Balance.

They were joined by regional executives from New Balance, along with several prominent figures from Qatar's sports community, including representatives from Aspire and Al Sadd FC, as well as coaches from

the New Balance Run Club in Doha.

The partnership is set to enhance the experience for over 15,000 participants expected at next year's event, which has grown to become one of the premier sporting events in the region.

New Balance, which supports prestigious global athletic events, such as the London and New York Marathons, will bring its world-class expertise and innovative products to the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo.

Al-Kuwari, said: "As the official footwear and apparel partner of the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo, we are confident that New Balance will enhance the overall experience for all participants."

Henwood, said: "At New Balance, running is at the core of



The stakeholders at the partnership announcement yesterday. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

who we are, and we are extremely proud to be the official kit partner for the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo for the next three years.

In line with our commitment to nurturing inclusive running culture through Run Your Way, New Balance has been actively setting

up New Balance Running Community Clubs across the Mena region. These include Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Casablanca & most

recently Doha. Our Doha community club has now over 200 people registered weekly to take part in running."

Qatar Youth Hostels marks International Day of Peace, Sign Language

Qatar Youth Hostels (QYH) celebrated the International Day of Peace and the International Day of Sign Language, on this occasion Abdullah Saeed, Head of Public Relations and Communications, said: "We at QYH pay great attention to international days, especially those that send important messages to the world. Including our celebration of the International Day of Peace, which was launched by the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) and which we celebrate on September 21 of each year with a new and different theme.

"This year, we celebrated the importance of "promoting a culture of peace", as members of the QYH participated by filming a video expressing their opinions and message by sending an invitation to everyone to work together to build safe and stable societies in which human rights are respected and the dignity of individuals is preserved.

"Peace begins from within each individual, and is reflected in their daily actions and interactions with others."



The Head of Public Relations and Communications added: "In addition, our celebration of the International Day of Sign Language is no less important than other international days, as the deaf category in society is large and possesses many talents and has an effective and important role in society. Therefore, in co-operation

with the Qatari Cultural Center for the Deaf, we celebrated this day by organising a workshop titled "Sign Language" in order to contribute to raising awareness of the importance of possessing sign language skills to know how to deal and engage in work with this category in society."

MINI, Ford, Lincoln, Genesis models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Alfardan Automobiles, has announced the recall of MINI Countryman S, Countryman JCW, Aceman, 3-Door SE, and 3-Door S, 2024 models, as signal interference in the electronics of the braking system may cause failure of the brake power assistance system.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Alman Motors Company, announced the recall of Ford Expedition, Explorer, Mustang, Kuga, and Taurus, and Lincoln Aviator, Navigator, and Corsair, 2020-2023 models, as in all the affected vehicles, due to an error in the SYNC software, customers may experience SYNC system instability and/or failure to preserve certain settings across ignition cycles. This may result in a black infotainment screen, incorrect language setting, erased or unsaved radio presets, and potential inability to perform software updates.

The MoCI, in co-operation with

Skyline Automotive, also announced the recall of Genesis G70, G90, and G80, 2016-2019 models, as some vehicles might experience a starter damage while parked or driving if operated in abnormally wet conditions, such as a flooded road.

The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: Call Center: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, social media channels @mociqatar, and mobile application MOCiQatar available on iPhone and Android devices.

MWANI QATAR  مواني قطر

TENDERS AND AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tenders and Auctions Committee of Mwani Qatar hereby announces the below auction :

SL no.	AUCTION FOR	AUCTION NO.	BOND	DOC FEES	CLOSING DATE	CONTACT DETAILS
1	SALE OF TWO LANDING CRAFTS VESSELS SHWEMSA AND ALLHUADAD	MQ\TAC/AUCT\46\2024	QRS. 1,200,000	QRS. 5,000	24.10.2024	dp@mwani.com.qa

As per the following terms and conditions:

- 1 - Auction documents can be obtained (via Email) from the Finance and Accounting Department Tel No. (40453724/568) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. (0850 - 102030 - 060) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of the Commercial Registration/ ID to : (tender.secretary@mwani.com.qa) Tel. (40453724/568 - 31265655 / 30121037) .
- 2 - Offer should be accompanied with a Bond / issued by one of the Banks operating in Qatar for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 120 days from the closing date. The offer which is not accompanied by the Bond will not be considered. The successful bidder should pay the total awarding amount within five working days from the awarding date. he should also submit a Performance Bond of 10% of the total Auction value, which should be valid for (90) days after the expiry of the contract period.
- 3 - Offers should be valid for ninety (90) days commencing from the closing date.
- 4 - The deadline for submitting offers will be **02:00 pm** of the date shown above. Any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- 5 - The offers should be deposited in the Tenders and Auctions Committee Box of MQ as per the address given above. The auction submitting party should confirm that he has received the receipt for delivering the offer. It should be in closed envelopes, sealed with red wax and addressed to the Chairman, Tenders and Auctions Committee of MQ , writing the number and subject of the auction.
- 6 - The offers must be submitted in One envelope system, (Original and Copy) The envelopes should not bear any mark denoting the name of the Company. The original bond must be attached with the Original offer.
- 7 - Mwani Qatar has the right to divide the auction among more than one bidder.
- 8- For Technical clarification please contact Operation Dept. as per the Email above

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Amir’s speeches at UN ‘reflect people’s aspirations for peace, justice’

HE the President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and the former High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations Nasser bin Abdulaziz al-Nasr emphasised that the wise vision adopted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani plays an effective role in making Qatar a model within the United Nations and solidifies its position as a major supporter of peace and stability. In an interview with Qatar News Agency

(QNA), al-Nasr said the speeches of His Highness the Amir at the UN General Assembly consistently reflects the hopes and aspirations of other nations, as they emphasise the values of international peace, security, and stability, which are at the core of the UNs objectives, and highlight Qatar’s strong commitment to justice and peace globally, with a focus on enhancing co-operation among nations and peoples. Al-Nasr added that his election as President of the 66th Session of the

United Nations General Assembly was an exceptional event in Qatar’s history, stressing that this achievement was realised due to the support and wise vision of the leadership, as well as the political leadership’s belief in the capabilities of the Qatari people and their determination to actively participate on the international stage. The former High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations praised Qatar’s position on the

international stage, noting its ability to face global challenges with intelligence and flexibility, especially amid the crises facing the world and the region. He highlighted Qatar’s role as a strong voice for mediation and peace through its effective diplomatic initiatives. He also pointed out Qatar’s hosting of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly (UNCPGA) meeting and the issuance of the Doha Declaration that called for a ceasefire and

the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. He considered this a diplomatic achievement that adds to the nation’s record and reflects its deep commitment to humanitarian and international issues. Al-Nasr concluded by noting that Qatar continues to enhance its active role in the international community, its commitment to the values of co-operation and peace, and its position as a major supporter of peace and stability in the region and the world. **(QNA)**

Qatar’s collaboration in supporting children’s education wins praise

QNA
Doha

THE Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, praised Qatar’s collaboration with the United Nations in supporting children’s education and protecting them from the abuses they face due to wars, highlighting Qatar’s mediation efforts in resolving conflicts in various countries.

Gamba said the UN body recognised early on that the best way to enhance their efforts with those of Qatar, on the behalf of children who are used and abused during wars, is to establish the Analysis and Outreach Hub of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG CAAC).

She added that the office has a physical presence in only two regions globally, one in Europe and the other in Doha, emphasising the office’s role in amplifying engagement with conflict parties, advocating for public awareness, capacity building, and launching global initiatives from Doha, not just for the Middle East.

She explained that the office supports mediation and negotiations, which Qatar has become very good at, including ceasefire negotiations, advocating for humane treatment of individuals, and reuniting children separated by conflict.

She commended Qatar’s co-operation with the centre in achieving goals aimed at protecting children from violations worldwide.

Additionally, she noted that last year, a regional meeting was held under the Arab League to address serious violations as a standard for the entire Middle East, along with in the fifth anniversary of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack (IDPEA), hosted by Her Highness the Chairperson of Education Above All (EAA) Foundation Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, in Doha.

Regarding the qualitative initiatives launched by Qatar to protect children in conflict zones, Gamba said that Qatar is an exceptional country.

Gamba pointed out she works with countries worldwide, but there are things Qatar does that she wants to highlight and appreciate, adding that Qatar leads public awareness on why education is a fundamental strategic need for the world and emphasises the importance of protecting it.

She pointed to the EAA Foundation, launched by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, as perhaps the most significant strategic step in education.

This is alongside the efforts of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, which implements practical projects, training, assistance, and resources for building peace, as well as helping people rehabilitate and recover after conflict.

Gamba highlighted the pivotal role of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs in creating a safe space for conflict parties to discuss ceasefires, reunite children with their families, and vulnerable individuals.

Qatar’s quiet diplomacy is truly impressive, she said explaining that as the UN office for children and armed conflict, they developed operational guidelines for all mediators to bring children’s issues into negotiations



as they arise, and they have a partnership with the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding this, especially concerning how vulnerable children with disabilities are during conflict.

Another crucial issue is the prevention of child recruitment or involvement in violence through controlling the digital environment and cybercrime.

She mentioned the third edition of the National Human Rights Forum organised by the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) last week in Doha, which discussed ways to incorporate children’s rights into the digital space, address related violations, and manage social media access to children who may be wrongly recruited by inappropriate individuals, while also criminalising offenders. This is alongside numerous initiatives aimed at criminalising child abduction and their use in warfare.

Gamba said every country in the world wants to claim that it protects education and seeks to provide the best education for its children, but what Qatar is doing goes beyond just the ability to educate children; it pertains to the fundamental rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that every child from birth to 18 has the right to an education free from harm and fear.

She added that Qatar has pushed this right to its limits, viewing education not only as a strategic asset for future development but also as a strategic commitment to stopping attacks on education, explaining that when you attack education, you prevent a country from developing and securing its future.

Concerning the war in Gaza and the suffering of children, the Special Representative confirmed that the UN has paid a heavy price in protecting children in Gaza with limited resources, adding that efforts have been made to communicate with all parties to prevent violations against children and alleviate their suffering.

She expressed regret that, despite all efforts, there has been a 155% increase in confirmed violations against children in Gaza this year.

Consequently, the UN has reached out to all parties to try to prevent and halt such actions and alleviate children’s suffering, which is extremely challenging due to access difficulties, ongoing military operations, and insecurity, she explained, noting that the UN has lost many of its staff. She emphasised the importance of reaching a ceasefire, monitoring, reporting, and ensuring access to children. **(QNA)**

UN lauds Qatar’s global conflict resolution role

THE United Nations highly appreciates Qatar’s efforts as a mediator and peace talks sponsor to settle global disputes, said UN Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations, Alexandre Zouev.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Zouev hailed Qatar as a highly important UN member state and highlighted the many multi-sector initiatives being discussed between UN and Qatari officials.

He also spoke about the collaboration between the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions and the Doha-based Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC).

“For my Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, it’s very important that Qatar is hosting in Doha the regional Anti-Corruption Center, which we strongly support,” he said.

Zouev praised the Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (ACE Award) as “a very big initiative”.

“I was honoured to participate together with His Highness the Amir in several presentations of his personal prize for anti corruption success...in Kigali, Rwanda, in Doha, Qatar, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan”. He added that he was looking forward to going to Costa Rica where the next round of ACE Award will be held.

Elaborating on Qatar’s mediation efforts across various areas in conflict, Zouev said: “I already had a chance to tell His Highness personally how much we appreciate in the UN this leadership that contributed enormously to all negotiations around Darfur conflict in Sudan, then Afghan peace process. For Lebanon, Qatar helped broker the Doha agreement in 2008 which ended 18 months of political crisis in this Middle East country”.



He also hailed Doha’s efforts to hammer out a deal ending Djibouti-Eritrea border dispute.

Zouev voiced concerns about the situation in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon and Gaza, noting the joint mediation by Qatar, Egypt and the US to reach a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip.

Zouev warned of the deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and recently in Lebanon, revealing UN concerns that the war may spill over into other parts of the Middle East.

“Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said on many occasions that we must respect international law and international humanitarian law in all situations, and particularly in the case of the conflict in Gaza,” Zouev said.

He highlighted that nearly 200 UN staffers were killed in Gaza, the highest toll the international organisation has suffered since its establishment in 1945.

Hailing Qatar’s positive negotiations to hammer out a ceasefire and release the hostages, Zouev said Qatar was making great efforts to protect the most vulnerable groups, especially with thousands of children, women and elderly people, being affected by the various military operations compounded by

a polio virus outbreak.

He added the UN had embarked on a campaign to vaccinate against polio and provide food and hygiene supplies to the affected people in Gaza despite the posed challenges.

“We in the United Nations hope that Doha-based negotiations will conclude with a positive result and at least with a humanitarian ceasefire. We hope that all efforts of the government of Qatar will be appreciated in this conflict and in many situations where it is playing a very positive role,” he said.

Concerned about the ongoing conflicts in Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Zouev stressed that the UN Security Council’s primary responsibility is maintaining international peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter.

He said other regional military and political organisations should contribute to solving disputes.

“We have a relationship with all regional and global organisations which do not belong to the United Nations, like Nato, but in any case, we are being guided by the Security Council because its primary responsibility is maintenance of peace and security globally,” he said. **(QNA)**

Career Counselors Hub 2024 edition begins



QNA
Doha

IN partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), the US embassy in Doha, and Qatar Foundation’s Student Life Department, Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC) launched the 2024 edition of the Career Counselors Hub at Multaqa, Education City, yesterday.

The two-day event brought together over 250 career practitioners from across Qatar, providing a platform for learning, networking, and knowledge exchange.

The hub serves as a dynamic platform where career counsellors, academic advisors, and practitioners can communicate and gain insights into best practices and trends in career guidance.

Through a comprehensive programme of workshops, training sessions, and networking opportunities, the event aims to equip par-



ticipants with the skills needed to effectively support Qatar’s youth and contribute to the development of the nation’s future workforce.

Commenting on the significance of the event, director of QCDC Abdullah Ahmed al-Mansoori emphasised how the professionalisation of career counsellors directly impacts the quality and accessibility of career services provided to Qatar’s students.

“As we continue to build a national approach to career development, the role of well-trained, knowledgeable career practitioners becomes increasingly critical. By enhancing their professional capacities, we ensure that our counsellors are fully equipped to guide Qatar’s youth toward informed academic and career choices. This event underscores our long-term commitment to professionalising and standardising career guidance and contributing to a future-ready workforce that aligns with Qatar’s sustainable development goals,” al-Mansoori said



Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at MoEHE, Maha al-Rowaili, expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the fruitful collaboration with the ‘Career Counselors Hub 2024’ organisers for their active support and distinguished role in organising this important event.

“The hub aligns with the ministry’s efforts to enhance academic and career guidance in schools and its commitment to achieving the best outcomes for students. It serves as a valuable platform for career counsellors to develop their skills and knowledge. The hub has had a significant impact over the years on providing continuous support to academic counsellors, and we hope for continued fruitful co-operation in the future to achieve the national educational goals,” al-Rowaili said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, US embassy in Doha charge d’affaires Stefanie Altman-Winans stated, “studying in the US offers Qatari students the opportunity

to immerse themselves in a diverse, dynamic learning environment that fosters innovation and leadership. With access to world-class universities, cutting-edge research, and a global network of peers, Qatari students can gain the skills and perspectives needed to excel in an interconnected world and bring those insights back to contribute to Qatar’s continued growth and development.”

In his opening remarks, Executive Director of Student Affairs at Qatar Foundations Higher Education Dr Abdunassir al-Tamimi emphasised the “pivotal role of career counsellors in supporting Qatar’s education and shaping the future of young minds.”

“At Qatar Foundation, we are committed to providing an educational experience that goes beyond traditional boundaries through the concept of the Multiversity. Through this model, Qatar Foundation is equipping students with world-class education and the ability to thrive in today’s inter-

connected world; and counsellors play an integral role in introducing this world of endless possibilities to our youth, helping them realise their ambitions and aspirations,” he said.

The first day of the event featured a wide range of activities designed to enhance attendees skills. Participants attended workshops covering topics such as effective career planning, recent trends in career guidance, and strategies for navigating university admissions processes.

A networking exhibition allowed local universities, government entities, and educational institutes to engage the counsellors and explore future collaboration opportunities.

Building on the momentum of the first day, the second day will be entirely dedicated to intensive counsellor training sessions and workshops. Additionally, a panel discussion on “The Importance of Building Strong Relationships Between School Counsellors and University Admissions” will engage

attendees to reflect on the critical role of effective communication and collaboration, exploring how these relationships can enhance advocacy for students, streamline the application process, and provide more informed guidance.

Attendees are invited to the 2024 Doha Counsellors Day tomorrow, as part of the collaboration with Education City partner universities. The event will offer school counsellors and administrators a detailed look into academic programmes and admissions processes.

Since its inception, Career Counselors Hub has been a vital part of QCDC’s efforts to advance career counselling and development. Through the strong partnership between QCDC, MoEHE, and the US embassy in Doha, the event continues to play a key role in shaping the future career guidance landscape in the state, ensuring that the next generation is well-equipped to succeed in the workforce. **(QNA)**



6th Samla endurance race announced

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The 6th edition of Samla endurance race 2024 will be held from December 5-7, the event organiser Social and Sport Contribution Fund (Daam) announced yesterday.

Officials of the organising committee stressed that expectations are high for a record-breaking number of participants in the 200km race, which will start from Al Ghariya Area and end at Umm Bab within 50 hours.

Registration is open for Qatari men from the age of 18. There will be several support camps alongside the race route, supplying all the necessary logistic, medical and food supplies to the participants, in addition to check-points and control stations to monitor, according to the set rules and regulations.

The race has six phases. It starts with a swimming competition from Al Ghariya in the north along the designated sea route to the Fuwairit beach, covering 3km. This is followed immediately by a 66km run, passing through Al Zubara towards the Umm Al Maa area, where the first camp is located.

The first camp also marks the third phase: kayaking. Competitors will kayak from Umm Al Maa to the opposite shore. The fourth phase involves cycling on a rough terrain, starting from Umm Al Maa and passing through Al Nasraniyah area for a distance of 75km. The fifth



Officials announce details of the 6th edition of Samla endurance race 2024. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

phase is air rifle shooting, where competitors must hit a target from a distance of 8m with five shots.

The final stage is a 50-km run from Al Nasraniyah to the finish line at Umm Bab. Further, this year's edition will include several surprise challenges and hurdles carefully designed to test endurance and quick response of the contestants. All winners and those who successfully complete the race will get cash prizes in addition to

medals sponsored by Daam. The top three finishers will receive trophies (gold, silver, and bronze) in addition to cash prizes: QR500,000 for first place, QR300,000 for second place, and QR200,000 for third place.

Competitors finishing in places four through ten will receive silver medals and QR75,000 each, while those finishing beyond tenth place will receive an encouragement prize of QR10,000 for completing the race within

the designated time. Azzam al-Mannai, chairman of the Samla Race organising committee, highlighted the keenness to increase the challenges with each new edition. He also thanked the Ministry of Sports and Youth and all the other sponsors from the private sector for their support and commitment to enhance the race.

Yousef Mohamed al-Nuaimi, director of Shared Services at Daam, said: "The fund will provide the necessary financing for the race under the agreement recently signed with the Ministry of Sports and Youth. We also take this opportunity to highlight the contributions of companies listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange, which play a key role in supporting various social, sports, and cultural initiatives, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030."

Rashed al-Buainain, chief administrative officer of Qatar Insurance Group, said: "As part of our corporate social responsibility and enhancing awareness about the importance of sport, we are proud to be one of the official sponsors of the Samla Race for the second consecutive year."

Mohamed Jassim al-Jaidah, CEO of Al-Jaidah Group, said: "We are happy to be part of this unique experience for the second time. Samla is a source of pride for all Qataris. Based on our successful past experience, we anticipate this to be the most exciting edition yet."

Alkass Sports Channels will broadcast live all the activities of the race. Registration can be done online only through www.samla.com.qa during October 1-27.



Ice Cube: 'Sculpted by Light'

Bella Hadid highlights Chopard's jewellery icon in a dazzling new campaign



Chopard's new campaign celebrates the purity, appeal and contemporary character of Ice Cube jewellery. Shot by British fashion photographer and director Charlotte Wales, it reveals a captivating fusion between Bella Hadid's beauty and the sunny radiance of Ice Cube jewellery. The skilful use of light creates a mesmerising atmosphere, while accentuating the perfect geometry of these creations. This symbiosis of light and jewellery reveals the very essence of Ice Cube design.

Adorned with Chopard's flamboyant cubes, Bella Hadid is surrounded by an abstract urban scene set against the backdrop of a night skyline infinitely repeated in a play of mirrors, in which lit-up windows in buildings echo Ice Cube's brilliance. Night reveals the incandescence of the jewellery in a fascinating juxtaposition of two icons. Without shadow, there is no light: such is the common thread running through the images in this 'Sculpted by Light' campaign.



A unique motif paying tribute to minimalism

As the collection's central motif, the cube embodies an idea of geometric perfection and magnifies the light bouncing off its facets. Chopard's Co-President and Artistic Director Caroline Scheufele introduced this motif in 1999 through a watch that ditched flashy

artifice to focus instead on pure shapes. Ever since, the collection has continued to evolve in a perpetual dialogue with light.

Reflecting the Bauhaus movement's principles emphasising simplicity and functionality, this minimalist, uncluttered aesthetic is characterised by highly graphic lines using only essential elements: light, shape and resistant materials. Ice Cube

meets the minimalist inspiration of modern architecture through its vertical nature evoking the skyscrapers of international capitals that are natural homes to the avant-garde. These streamlined, geometric designs are showcased in the new 'Sculpted by Light' visuals. Minimalism is expressed as an art of living that involves choosing to safeguard essentials, meaning all that is precious and

enduring rather than ephemeral. Ice Cube jewellery embodies this desire to focus on that which is simple, pure, beautiful and lasting.

Apparent simplicity, grounded in refinement

Ice Cube stems from a quest for perfection combining high technology and craftsmanship. While each cube

with its identically repeated motif may appear simple, each of its four perfectly symmetrical edges is in fact subtly faceted. As a result, light finds a wealth of refraction points in these tiny surfaces, multiplying the jewellery's brilliance. Highly technical machining resulting from six years of R&D has enabled perfect milling that creates taut lines on minute surfaces. This constantly optimised, diamond-equipped tool machines the precious metal to the nearest hundredth of a centimetre, producing a pre-polished surface of exceptional quality. The mirror-polished surface is further buffed with a dedicated pad to endow it with ultimate shine and brilliance: this phase is done exclusively by hand, as is the diamond paving on the gemset sections.

An ethical aura

Firmly committed to an ethical approach blending seamlessly with its identity, Chopard favours essential and enduring creations. As early as 2017, the use of ethical gold to produce the jewellery in the collection testified to the Maison's commitment to responsible practices. While Chopard made ethical gold the norm for all its watch and jewellery creations the following year, the fact that it used Ice Cube to spearhead its sustainable endeavours demonstrates its attachment to a collection that is part of a contemporary approach in which materials are every bit as important as product design.





Qatar plays crucial role in safeguarding global peace, security: UNOCT official

Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov has emphasised that Qatar, through its active diplomacy, plays a significant role in safeguarding global peace and security.

In his remarks to Qatar News Agency, Voronkov pointed out that Qatari diplomacy is very active and strong, and has an influential presence in the world, and that the conferences and forums organised by Qatar throughout the year, especially the 'Doha Forum' held in December each year, discuss all major issues in the world,

related to peace, security, and economic development.

He said Qatar and the UNOCT are linked by a strategic partnership, voicing the UNOCT's gratitude and thanks to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani for the support that Qatar has provided and continues to provide to the UNOCT.

He added that the UNOCT works closely with the government of Qatar, through its Permanent Mission to the UN, led by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani. He noted that there is very good co-operation, contin-

uous and permanent dialogue, and a very advanced approach to various issues of interest to both sides, and he believes that the two parties have created a model of unique co-operation.

He indicated that Qatar provides financial support to the UNOCT, in addition to providing technical assistance to member states when needed, as well as political support.

He said that the UNOCT has 19 global programmes and activities, in which Qatar participates in 12, in terms of financial support or through the participation of experts. He noted that during 2023,

the UNOCT, in co-operation with Qatar, succeeded in implementing activities and programmes in 155 countries around the world, highlighting that the UNOCT is present in Qatar through a parliamentary office and a centre for behavioural sciences.

Regarding the programmes implemented by the UNOCT to combat global terrorism, Voronkov said that there are several programmes implemented by the UNOCT in this regard, including, for example, the Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) Programme, which is now being implemented in 75 countries. He said that it is



Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov speaks to QNA.

a very important programme, because it revolves around global security, as all flights are taken into consideration, through the digital infrastructure and the digital platform used by various countries.

He added that the UNOCT is absolutely certain that this programme has contributed significantly to improving the security situation in several countries. He also pointed to the "Fusion cells" programme, which is a technique for organising co-ordination ac-

tivities between different agencies, such as law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to effectively co-ordinate counter-terrorism activities, and it is also an important programme for countries that lack experience in this field.

He pointed out that the UNOCT has engaged with Qatar in implementing two programmes in the field of behavioural sciences, which is a highly innovative approach to dealing with and preventing extremism. (QNA)



Education ministry launches 'My values draw my identity' project

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) launched the "My values draw my identity" project, which will run for three years from 2024 to 2027.

The project, with its inauguration ceremony attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Maha al-Ruwali, aims to complete the plans and programmes that began in 2021 under the supervision of the Department of Schools and Kindergartens in the private education sector and in co-operation with the Education Center to promote and consolidate educational values among students through integrated school campaigns and activities. At this stage, the project provides specialised educational resources to support teachers and students and help them adopt and apply values in their daily lives. The project seeks to promote the inclusive education of our students and to strengthen the national identity and Qatari culture in private schools and kindergartens.

In his speech on the occasion, Assistant Undersecretary for Special Education Affairs Omar al-Naama said: "This project, which we are launching in partnership with several national bodies and institutions, comes at a time when we are witnessing significant challenges at the level of identity and loyalty, which makes instilling and emphasising local values necessary to achieve a balance between preserving our traditions and keeping pace with global developments.

Director of the Department of Private Schools and Kindergartens Dr Rania Mohammed confirmed that the department, in



collaboration with the Center for Cultivating Tomorrow's Leaders – one of the educational service centres in the ministry – has been keen to launch the project "My Values Shape My Identity" in its fourth edition with a fresh and different approach in content and implementation methodology. This unique methodology is based on Islamic and national references when preparing the project's initiatives. It relies on scientific principles to identify educational challenges.

Dr Shawkat Talafha, executive director of the Tarbia Center, pointed out that the world is going through significant value challenges, many of which have exceeded the limit of imagination and expectation.

Some manifestations and phenomena have become incomprehensible, and the ability of educators to predict the next and new has declined. We have entered into a conflict with these challenges, trying to dismantle them to understand them and to reach the best way to deal with them. Initiatives differ in their content and objectives, including Aseel Initiative which aims to strengthen Islamic and national identity; Fitra Initiative which aims to promote common sense in the hearts of male and female students; Ikhaa Initiative which aims to raise awareness of how to deal with bullying; Nafsi Amana Initiative which aims to raise

awareness about body destroyers and how to prevent them as well as Safe Sailing Initiative which addresses digitisation problems and aims to educate students about its safe use.

Director of the Community Police Department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Dr Ibrahim Mohammed al-Samih stressed that many initiatives aim to instil national loyalty.

Director of the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at the Ministry of Justice Dr Saleh Ali al-Fadala expressed his happiness with the project and stressed that they provide legal awareness to the community in general. Director of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Sports and Youth Hind Sagr confirmed that 43 ongoing projects are workshops and lectures on youth issues throughout the year.

Reem Malallah from the National Museum of Qatar said that the goal is the same: consolidate the national identity. Samah al-Siddiqi from the Communications Authority said the authority organises workshops and lectures to spread awareness of cybercrimes, consumer protection, digital safety, protecting children from the Internet, and reviewing any content provided to children.

Director and Founder of Qatar Initiatives Dr Mohammed Khalifa al-Kubaisi presented a distinctive initiative for students to become participants in the project and not just as listeners, by launching a competition to produce meaningful intellectual content that promotes values and ethics. Criteria and a jury will be set for the competition. After collecting the results, all programmes will be displayed on a YouTube channel. (QNA)

Top experts gather for Int'l Coastal Symposium



The 17th International Coastal Symposium (ICS 2024) is being hosted by the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) from Sept 24-27 under the theme "Coastlines under Global Change."

ICS 2024 brings together top coastal scientists, engineers, researchers, and policymakers from across the globe.

The symposium will serve as a platform for exchanging groundbreaking research and innovative solutions to the critical challenges facing coastal areas worldwide, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and climate change. The keynote speakers for the event bring a wealth of expertise in marine science, coastal engineering, and environmental protection.

ICS 2024 will focus on key topics such as coastal management, policy and planning, marine and coastal engineering, the impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems, sustainable tourism in coastal areas, decarbonisation of the marine industry, and coastal evolution and shoreline change. These discussions aim to inspire new ideas and solutions for the sustainable development and protection of coastal environments.

In his speech during the inaugural session, President of UDST Dr Salem bin Nasser Al-Naemi said: "Coastal life is deeply woven into our Qatari history, culture, and environment. Recognising the vital role that coastal areas play in supporting the nation's economy through their rich diversity, it is fitting that we dedicate this symposium to our homeland, often referred to as the Pearl of the



Arabian Peninsula. This gathering brings together esteemed local and international experts and researchers in an active academic setting. In alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan. Discussions will focus on key issues that highlight the essential contributions of coastal environments to our economic and social systems while exploring the solutions, technologies necessary to ensure their sustainability. We hope this symposium fosters valuable exchanges, dialogue and collaboration aimed at protecting and sustaining the rich diversity of our coasts. We also encourage you to explore Qatar's coastline, which spans over 560 kilometres and represents a cherished heritage we are committed to preserving."

President and Senior Adviser International Coastal Symposium (ICS) Dr Chris Makowski said: "The ICS has matured over the past years and now attracts researchers from all different regions of the world in a wide variety of fields. We are all gathered here at the ICS2024 in Doha, Qatar, to collectively share in the latest coastal studies being conducted today. This is a historic meeting, as it will be the first one to officially take place in the Middle East, and we hope this will be a trend in the future. We wish to thank UDST for their organisation and we encourage participants to not only take advantage of the wonderful talks and posters being presented at the ICS 2024, but to also explore the unique opportunities this beautiful coastal city has to offer."

Dr Abdulrahman Hassan Abo

Nanda, Senior Research Programme Specialist, Office of Scientific Research Programmes at the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council (QRDI), one of the sponsors of the symposium, also spoke at the inaugural session about the symposium's importance and the topics that will be addressed.

A documentary was also screened on the strategic importance of Qatar's beaches and coastal environment, shaping the future in terms of coastal sciences and related challenges, maritime trade and coastal ecosystems as a treasure trove of biodiversity, herbs and coral reefs as habitats for many aquatic organisms and other areas and mangrove trees that are considered havens for birds in the country, which in general opens the door wide to conduct related research.

The proceedings from ICS 2024 will be published in the *Journal of Coastal Research* (JCR), ensuring international visibility for the high-quality research presented. Additionally, awards for Best Paper and Best Student Paper will be offered, encouraging excellence and innovation among participants.

As a leading institution recognised for its commitment to applied learning and sustainability, UDST's hosting of ICS 2024 aligns perfectly with the symposium's objectives. This event also highlights the university's dedication to research that supports Qatar's National Vision 2030, with its focus on environmental sustainability, economic growth and social development. (QNA)

Gord, Naufar sign pact to advance decarbonisation efforts

The Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) and Naufar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing sustainability, energy efficiency, water management, and carbon reduction.

The MoU was signed during the third edition of the Sustainable Buildings and RetrofitTech Summit Qatar, by Gord's Founding Chairman Dr Yousef Mohammed Alhorr, and Naufar's Chief Operation Officer (COO) Saleh Ali al-Mohannadi.

Speaking about the collaboration, Dr Yousef Alhorr said: "Through our collaboration with Naufar, we will implement forward-looking green solutions to reduce Naufar's environmental footprint, enhance operational efficiency, and create healthier spaces for occupants. But more importantly, we will drive substantial progress in carbon reduction, ultimately contributing to a

more sustainable built environment in Qatar and beyond."

Saleh al-Mohannadi stated: "This partnership with Gord is a strategic step toward enhancing the sustainability of our operations. By integrating environmentally conscious solutions, we aim to improve the efficiency of our facilities and reduce our carbon footprint while maintaining the highest standards of patient care. We are confident that Gord's support will set a benchmark for sustainability in similar projects.

As part of this agreement, Gord will assist Naufar in navigating the certification process to secure green building certifications, striving for the highest ratings possible.

This support extends to enhancing accountability for the services delivered by Naufar's contractors and technical service providers, ensuring that all aspects of project execution meet stringent sustainability standards.



Naufar will incorporate Gord's services for Measurement and Verification (M&V) of retrofit projects establishing benchmarks for energy and water consumption in existing buildings under its management. The two organisations will collaboratively define strategies for auditing these buildings, focusing on energy and water efficiency.



Gord's role will facilitate Naufar in managing ESCO companies and their retrofit projects, aligning with Naufar's specific requirements, including M&V of energy performance contracts executed by these companies. Additionally, Gord will support the development of a customised Green IT strategy for Naufar, aimed at reducing electronic waste, optimis-

ing data centre operations, and minimising the carbon footprint of IT infrastructure, ultimately aiding in the attainment of Green IT certifications.

The collaboration will also encompass comprehensive sustainability consulting services from Gord, covering strategy development, implementation and ongoing support.

Apart from the MoU, Gord made significant contribution at the Sustainable Buildings and RetrofitTech Summit Qatar, which focused on critical topics such as green construction materials, energy efficiency, and sustainable design, attracting senior officials and professionals from various sectors including energy, construction and sustainability.

In his keynote address opening the summit, Dr Yousef Alhorr emphasised Gord's commitment to advancing sustainable building practices in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, calling for collaboration to catalyse green initiatives.

As part of the exhibition organised at the event, Gord showcased its low-carbon solutions, including Synergia7n1s ultra-efficient hybrid cooling system, web-based simulation tools of Energia and Arcadia Suites, and testing solutions for indoor air quality. (QNA)

Diplomatic successes, commitment to global treaties reflective of Qatar’s identity

Since gaining independence in 1971, Qatar has paid special attention to establishing its identity and enhancing its international presence.

It built a network of distinguished relationships with global organisations and joined the United Nations, the Arab League, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), and the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) to build a modern, prosperous state, enhance its regional role economically, politically, and culturally, and contribute effectively to global security, peace, and stability.

In line with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatari diplomacy in the field of international co-operation has achieved notable successes, making it a global model.

Qatar’s international co-operation strategy supports the goal of advancing economic and social development in low-income countries, aligning with the global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and supporting global partnerships to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, and promote economic development and environmental sustainability.

Over 100 countries in different continents have benefited from Qatar’s aid.

Driven by a focus on human welfare and aspirations, Qatar has prioritised human rights.

Protecting these rights is a fundamental pillar of its policy and a strategic choice emphasised in Qatar National Vision 2030.

It is reflected in the national development strategy and the strengthening of relevant national institutions, including the National Human Rights Committee.

To enhance its role in this area, Qatar has joined the Human Rights Council and plays an active role in promoting the Council’s mission to uphold global respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination.

Qatar is among the first countries in the region to grant women the right to vote and run for office, and Qatari women currently hold prominent positions in the government.

Qatar has also undertaken substantial legislative reforms, including those related to the legal framework for migrant workers’ rights, property ownership by non-Qataris, political asylum, domestic workers, permanent residency, and the regulation of migrant entry, exit, and residence.

Qatar has partnered with the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to establish an analysis and communication centre in Doha and hosts the UN Training and Documentation Centre for Human Rights for South-West Asia and the Arab region.

To match its words with actions, Qatar established the National Human Rights Committee in 2002 to enhance and entrench the state of rights, freedoms, and law.

Believing that the protection of our planet is the responsibility of all its nations

and peoples across different continents, Qatar has signed the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

His Highness the Amir initiated a proposal to establish an international organisation for drylands and created the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, which is tasked with reducing emissions that cause climate change.

In 2012, Qatar hosted the 18th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and opened the regional office of the Global Green Growth Institute in Doha to assist developing countries in adopting sustainability-based development strategies.

Qatar participates in annual international climate conferences and successfully organised the FIFA World Cup 2022 as the first “carbon-neutral” tournament, focusing on balancing carbon emissions and preventing an increase in atmospheric carbon levels.

Qatar has also successfully designed two sustainable smart cities: Lusail and Msheireb Downtown Doha.



Qatar aims to increase its liquefied natural gas (LNG) production to 127mn tonnes annually by 2027, which will help combat climate change.

Believing that the world is one family and that its security is a collective responsibility, Qatar actively participates in international counter-terrorism efforts and co-operates with UN counter-terrorism agencies.

Qatar emphasises the need to address the root causes of terrorism without associating it with any religion, ideology, or civilisation.

To confirm its support for regional and international counter-terrorism efforts, Qatar opened the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism.

In its commitment to establishing global peace, enhancing interfaith dialogue, and combating discrimination based on religion or belief, Qatar established the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue, which aims to promote a culture of dialogue and foster a culture of acceptance and peaceful coexistence among followers of different religions and civilisations.

Recognising the critical importance of combating corruption, Qatar ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in 2007, the only global legally binding instrument for combating corruption and enhancing prevention, oversight, and accountability efforts.

Qatar launched the His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s Anti-Corruption Excellence award in 2016.

Qatar actively engages in and excels in international social activities.

Several international initiatives have been launched, including Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser’s initiative to Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC), which focuses on protecting and supporting the right to education in crisis, conflict, and war zones.

In its commitment to strengthening its strategic partnership with the United Nations and supporting its efforts to maintain international peace and security, Qatar joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1989.

Qatar supports peace initiatives in various parts of the world and has made significant efforts and mediations to resolve a range of international disputes and crises, becoming known as a peace-making nation.

Expressing the global confidence in Qatar, the United Nations House in Doha was inaugurated, housing 12 international organisations and agencies addressing key international issues such as counter-terrorism, sustainable development, child protection, and education.

Remaining steadfast in its commitment to international treaties, Qatar continues to stand alongside various UN agencies to achieve their goals, build partnerships, and create global initiatives that benefit the international community, working towards a stable world characterised by peace, prosperity, and co-operation. – QNA

World condemns Israel’s strikes on Lebanon

The Israeli aggression on Lebanon has prompted a widespread condemnation and warnings against the risk of a full-blown regional war, in the wake of the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon on Monday, which left hundreds killed and injured.

Qatar has condemned, in the strongest terms, the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, and warned against expanding the circle of violence in the region and the slide into a comprehensive regional war, amid the ongoing war on the Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) indicated that the continued escalation is primarily due to the absence of any deterrent to Israel’s actions, its repeated violations of international law, and its continued impunity.

The ministry also warned that this reality exacerbates crises, and puts the region on the brink of the abyss.

The MoFA urged the international community to assume its responsibilities by taking urgent action to compel the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their aggression against Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Saudi Arabia stressed the importance of maintaining Lebanon’s stability and respecting its sovereignty in line with the international law, noting that it is following the developments of the security-related events taking place in Lebanese territory with great concern, and renewed its warning of the danger of the violence spreading in the region, and the serious repercussions of the escalation on the security and stability of the region.

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi affirmed the GCC’s steadfast support for Lebanon’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and stability.

The Arab League Council at the level of foreign ministers warned of the repercussions of escalating the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

This came in the statement issued by the Council at the conclusion of its annual consultative meeting on Monday night on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79).

King Abdullah II of Jordan affirmed that Jordan stands with Lebanon and its security, sovereignty, and the safety of its citizens in the face of the Israeli war.

He urged the international community to stand with Lebanon at this difficult time to protect innocent civilians, and to move urgently to end all forms of regional escalation.

King Abdullah warned of the dangerous Israeli escalation in Lebanon, and stressed the need for concerted international efforts to put a stop to it before the entire region is dragged into an all-out war; noting that ending escalation in the region begins with the immediate stop of the war on Gaza.

Egypt’s ministry of foreign affairs called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to intervene immediately to end the Israeli escalation in Lebanon, noting that said it continues its efforts towards a ceasefire in Gaza.

In Baghdad, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Fuad Hussein announced



Broken glass is seen on the ground, at the site of an Israeli strike in Lebanon, in Beirut’s southern suburbs. - Reuters

that Iraq has submitted a proposal to hold an emergency Arab-Islamic summit aimed at unifying efforts to stop the Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

In Washington, US President Joe Biden affirmed efforts to reduce the escalation in Lebanon “in a way that allows people to return home safely”.

The White House said that finding a solution to the conflict on both sides of the Blue Line border between Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories quickly and through diplomatic means is in the interest of all parties.

Turkiye’s foreign ministry has warned that Israel’s attacks on Lebanon mark a new phase in its efforts to drag the entire region into chaos.

France’s Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said that France had requested an emergency UNSC

meeting to address the conflict.

“These strikes conducted on both sides of the Blue Line, and in the region more broadly, must immediately end,” he said.

China has also condemned Israel’s indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi affirmed China’s firm support for Lebanon in safeguarding its security and sovereignty.

He affirmed that China strongly condemns any action that violates the basic norms governing international relations, adding that the current situation “is a manifestation of the spillover effect of the conflicts in Gaza”.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that Israel seeks to create this all-out conflict, stressing that a larger war in the Middle East will not benefit anyone throughout the world.

Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis lamented that there is no effective pressure on Israel to end the war on the Gaza Strip, warning that the escalation in Lebanon is a “minefield” that the international community could not be able to deal with.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that he is gravely alarmed by the escalating situation in Lebanon and the large number of civilian casualties.

His spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said the UN chief noted the ongoing efforts by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to reduce tensions, and reiterated the urgent need for an immediate de-escalation and that all efforts be devoted to a diplomatic solution.

The Group of Seven (G7) has also called for a “a stop to the current destructive cycle” that could cata-pult the “entire Middle East into a broader regional conflict with unimaginable consequences”.

“Actions and counter-reactions risk magnifying this dangerous spiral of violence,” said a statement by the G7.

UN foreign policy chief Josep Borrell warned “we are almost in a full-fledged war” and called for full efforts at de-escalation during the UN General Assembly in New York.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has warned of “far-reaching and devastating consequences” for the entire region if Israel’s attacks in southern Lebanon continue to escalate. – QNA

2024 is Palestine’s Year at the UN: top OIC official

The Permanent Observer for the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) to the UN, Hameed Ajibaiye Opeleyeru, noted that 2024 is the year of Palestine at the UN, highlighting the important resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly this year, the latest of which calls for the end of the Israeli occupation and the dismantling of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories within a maximum period of 12 months.

In statements to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), he noted that this year has witnessed numerous General Assembly meetings to discuss the situation in Palestine and to take decisive actions regarding the Palestinian cause, especially after the Security Council’s failure to issue effective resolutions concerning developments in the Gaza Strip.

Opeleyeru added that among the noteworthy resolutions adopted by the General Assembly this year is one that calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and ensures the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, in addition to another resolution that supports Palestine’s right to full membership in the UN, allowing Palestine to sit within the organisation among member states rather than as an observer.

He described the General Assembly’s resolution demanding the end of the illegal Israeli occupation in Palestine as an important achievement that crowns the significant efforts made by Arab and Islamic working groups and others at the UN.

In his remarks to the QNA, Opeleyeru expressed hope that there will be more successes in the future, and that relevant UN resolutions regarding the Palestinian issue will be implemented to reach a two-state solution and end the Israeli occupation within the framework of international efforts for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

On the difficult humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, he said that the OIC is continuously working through various mechanisms and funds related to humanitarian efforts to support humanitarian work in Gaza and alleviate the worsening humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories.

He also spoke of Qatar’s role in humanitarian efforts in Islamic countries and many parts of the world.

Opeleyeru said that the OIC appreciates and values Qatar’s role, adding that Qatar is always at the forefront of countries that support and endorse initiatives and decisions through the OIC. – QNA

Qatar’s initiatives put nation on the world stage

Qatar holds a distinguished global position thanks to its humanitarian efforts across continents, contributing to strengthening international peace and security.

Qatar consistently strives to harness its resources to achieve the desired development goals in accordance with its National Vision 2030.

It relies on multilateral co-operation as a means of co-ordinating efforts to address global issues.

This includes forming partnerships with United Nations agencies and international bodies, as well as local organisations.

Qatar has initiated numerous projects that reflect its commitment to helping needy communities, particularly through contributions from Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) and Qatar Charity (QC).

In 2023, the QFFD provided various countries with grants totalling to over half a billion dollars, according to the funds website.

The allocation included \$95,787,309 for education, \$51,288,045 for economic development projects, \$53,749,100 for budget support, and \$38,566,783 for healthcare projects, with other grants amounting to \$4,865,961.

In response to the crisis in the Gaza Strip following the events of October 7, Qatar has played a significant role in providing humanitarian relief through various channels, including a QFFD donation of \$25mn to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) on July 25.

On July 25, the QFFD sent to the Palestinian people in Gaza seven

trucks carrying 55 tonnes of urgent humanitarian aid.

Qatar’s role is not limited to providing aid.

On July 24, the QFFD signed an agreement with the Municipality of Tirana in Albania to build the Qatar Square in the capital.

The agreement seeks to build a public square that will span 23,700sq m, with a cost of €11mn.

It will include facilities and spaces for celebrations, exhibitions, and events, along with various shops and gathering areas, in addition to a water purification system for the Lido River to sustain natural irrigation water for the surrounding park that will be constructed as part of the project.

The project plans to achieve long-term developmental goals by providing a suitable environment for the construction of 25,000 housing units around the square and securing diverse job opportunities for Albanian citizens.

In Africa, a delegation from the QFFD, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), and the International Committee of the Red Cross visited South Sudan to oversee humanitarian activities and distribute aid to Sudanese refugees and returnees from South Sudan.

The July 14-19 visit was an opportunity to evaluate the implementation of the agreement signed on February 18 between the QFFD, QRCS, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which allocated \$2,344,420 to support affected refugees and returnees in South Sudan due to armed conflict in Sudan, severe flooding, and harsh weather conditions in South Sudan.



During the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the QFFD contributed a significant amount of aid to over 30 countries and international organisations, supporting efforts to ensure equitable vaccine access, particularly in the least developed countries.

The fund also provided over \$140mn to multilateral health institutions and programmes such as COVAX to develop and fairly distribute vaccines to more than 90 developing countries.

Recognising the importance of implementing the decisions of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) for least developed countries and small island developing states most vulnerable to climate change, the QFFD mobilised support for these countries to implement strategies to address the impacts of climate phenomena, natural disasters, and rising ocean levels.

Over the past decade, the QFFD has provided \$980mn for the education sector in various countries, benefiting millions of youths and children in 65 countries worldwide.

In 2022, the fund launched the “Women in Conflict Zones” initia-

tive during an official event on the sidelines of the 77th UN General Assembly in New York to support women and girls in conflict and crisis contexts.

When it comes to Qatar Charity, 96mn people worldwide have benefited from its interventions and projects over the past five years.

In a report provided to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the QC indicated that these projects were implemented in crisis and disaster-stricken areas and needy communities in over 70 countries thanks to its field offices and its local and international partnerships.

Qatar Charity has provided QR2.4bn in relief and aid projects over the past five years, benefiting around 59mn affected people in more than 70 countries.

Due to the emergency situation in Sudan since the outbreak of conflict in 2023, Qatar Charity provided humanitarian aid to displaced people in various areas, with assistance worth over QR16mn, benefiting approximately 1.2mn people.

Aid to Palestine amounted to QR392mn over the past five years, benefiting 16.5mn people.

The cost of relief operations in

Syria so far stands at QR903mn, with nearly 24mn beneficiaries.

The director of the QC’s Emergency and Relief Department, Mana al-Ansari, said Qatar Charity is committed to intervening promptly and providing life-saving humanitarian aid to victims of natural disasters and crises worldwide.

He said the QC focuses on developing poor areas and communities, with its diverse development projects constituting a significant portion of its global operations, exceeded QR2.2bn over the past five years, benefiting around 29mn people.

The director of the QC’s Development Operations Department, Abdulaziz Jassim Haji, said that development projects are a priority for Qatar Charity due to its goal of making a difference in the lives of poor communities.

The QC’s “Rofaqa” initiative currently sponsors 212,000 orphans, poor families, students, people with disabilities, and teachers across 39 countries on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe.

In 2023 and 2024, Qatar Charity signed more than 40 agreements with UN and international entities to implement relief and development projects worldwide, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the World Food Programme (WFP), Unicef, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNRWA, and the World Health Organisation (WHO). – QNA

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GULF TIMES

CBDC momentum growing amid race to master digital currencies

Money is undergoing its biggest reinvention in centuries. With many consumers abandoning physical cash and cryptocurrencies evolving fast, central banks are on the move to ensure they don't fall behind on innovation. A total of 134 countries representing 98% of the global economy are now exploring digital versions of their currencies, with almost half at an advanced stage and pioneers like China, the Bahamas and Nigeria starting to see a pickup in usage. All G20 nations are now looking into central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and that 44 countries in total are piloting them, according to a research by the US-based Atlantic Council published last week. That is up from 36 a year ago and is part of a global push by authorities to respond to declining cash usage and the threat to their money-printing powers from the likes of bitcoin and the Big Tech. One of the most notable developments this year has been the sizeable increase in the Bahamas, Jamaica and Nigeria's CBDCs, the only three countries that have already launched them. China, which is running the world's largest pilot scheme, has seen use of its porotype e-CNY nearly quadruple to 7tn yuan (\$987bn) of transactions.

A total of 134 countries representing 98% of the global economy are now exploring digital versions of their currencies

much to do with crypto apart from the blockchain technology powering crypto, which is also being used in some CBDC projects. Central banks are experimenting on two main tracks: wholesale and retail. In the latter, consumers would have direct access to digital central-bank money, just as they nowadays hold cash. In wholesale projects, the focus is on a more-efficient technology for payments between banks and the central bank, possibly using blockchain. Retail CBDCs are particularly interesting for less-developed countries, where financial inclusion and even the logistics of distributing cash are a big issue. Most developed countries have instead focused on wholesale applications and are more reserved about retail because of their potential impact on commercial banking. Digital payments could be settled cheaper and faster than they currently are – perhaps instantly, which would eliminate credit risk, and without the need for correspondent banks when crossing borders. In some countries where electronic payment methods are not very prevalent due to high costs for merchants, using a card or phone could become more widespread. That could foster competition among payment service providers so that even conventional credit card systems – like Visa or Mastercard – might become cheaper. On the other hand, in a retail CBDC setting, every citizen could theoretically have an electronic wallet at the central bank, eliminating the need for a regular bank account. That could undermine the broader financial system, since commercial banks are still needed for making loans and other important tasks. The European Central Bank has launched a multi-year digital euro pilot, while the US, which has long dragged its feet on a digital dollar, has joined a cross-border CBDC project with six other major central banks. Longer term, amid a global race by central banks to master the concept of digital currencies – a disruptive technology once they looked down with regulatory scepticism – the goal is a digital form of legal tender that can compete with private-sector alternatives by being safer and cheaper to use.

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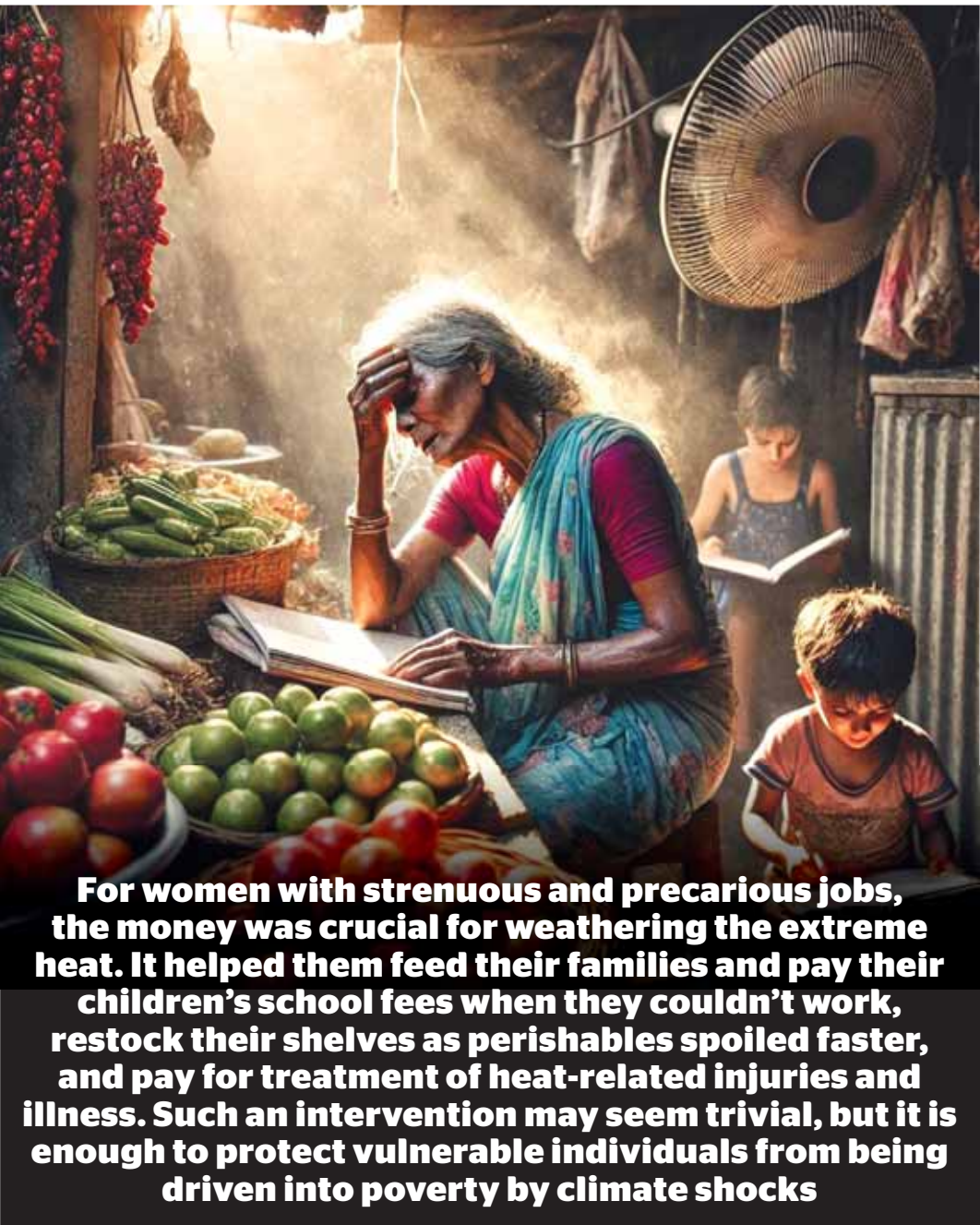
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Helping women adapt to extreme heat helps us all

By Jess Ayers and Helen Mountford
London/San Francisco

Climate shocks – from heat waves to droughts, floods to wildfires – often hit women the hardest. New research published this May in *The Lancet* found that even in wealthy European countries, women died at nearly twice the rate as men from extreme heat over the last two decades. According to Marcos Quijal, one of the report's authors, the findings “reflect a global trend.” In July, as heat records accumulated, causing even more deaths and economic damage, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for international action to address what he described as our “global boiling.” But protecting vulnerable communities from extreme heat requires deep commitment and significant funding, both of which seem to be in short supply. The flow of climate finance has traditionally been skewed toward emissions-reduction efforts and clean-energy projects, because adaptation measures are viewed as being too location-specific and hard to scale, as well as generating low returns. The UN Environment Programme's 2023 Adaptation Gap Report found that climate-finance flows in 2021 amounted to only about one-tenth of the estimated \$215-387bn per year that developing countries need to meet their adaptation needs. Philanthropic foundations, however, are catalysing investment by showing that adaptation is more scalable than previously thought. This summer, Climate Resilience for All, a global NGO focused on helping climate-vulnerable women build resilience, partnered with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union for informal workers in India, and local insurance companies Swiss Re and ICICI Lombard. These public- and private-sector groups teamed up with philanthropies to buy low-cost heat-wave insurance for 50,000 members across 22 districts. As temperatures soared above 46° Celsius, every woman received a pay-out, averaging \$12.38 per person. For women with strenuous and precarious jobs, the money was crucial for weathering the extreme heat. It helped them feed their families and pay their children's school fees when they couldn't work, restock their shelves as perishables spoiled faster, and pay for treatment of heat-related injuries and illness. Such an intervention may seem trivial, but it is enough to protect vulnerable individuals



For women with strenuous and precarious jobs, the money was crucial for weathering the extreme heat. It helped them feed their families and pay their children's school fees when they couldn't work, restock their shelves as perishables spoiled faster, and pay for treatment of heat-related injuries and illness. Such an intervention may seem trivial, but it is enough to protect vulnerable individuals from being driven into poverty by climate shocks

from being driven into poverty by climate shocks. “I enrolled 350 members. When they got ₹400 [just under \$5], they said it was like ₹4,000, as it came at a critical time of life. Some women repaid debts, others paid for their children's education and bought fresh goods,” reported Sarojben, a grassroots leader of SEWA, adding, “It brings dignity to us.” This pioneering insurance scheme is adaptation at its best: directly reaching those most in need when they need support the most. Moreover, the programme is scalable and delivers significant social and economic benefits, enabling women to move up the development ladder and put themselves and their families on firmer financial footing. Globally, women – including the leaders of SEWA, Climate Resilience for All, and many other organisations – have some of the best ideas for minimising the effects of climate change, often based on their practical experience. Moreover, many of these solutions can be deployed at scale. But helping millions more women protect their livelihoods and their health in the face of unrelenting heat requires more funding. Philanthropy is a start. As leaders of two of the world's largest climate foundations, we are keenly aware of the important role it plays in encouraging effective solutions to the climate crisis. Unlike other investors, philanthropies can pursue and test innovative initiatives such as heat insurance and solar-reflective cool roofs. And this type of work is expanding: At the UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, we came together with other philanthropies to launch the Adaptation and Resilience Funder Collaborative. In July, in response to Guterres's call to action, this group of climate-, development-, and health-focused foundations committed an initial investment of \$50mn to support adaptation measures. But such an investment, while important, is a drop

in the ocean compared to the adaptation-finance gap. All stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil-society organisations, and local communities, have a role to play in reducing the risks of extreme heat, protecting human health, and offering economic opportunities for everyone. Building resilience to extreme heat is no easy feat, especially for the more than 500mn women in the informal economy. Innovative solutions such as heat insurance do exist, but philanthropies, governments, and private investors must work together to scale them up faster to counter the effects of rapidly rising temperatures. The payoff will be worth it, because boosting women's climate resilience benefits us all. – Project Syndicate

• Jess Ayers is CEO of Quadrature Climate Foundation. Helen Mountford is President and CEO of ClimateWorks Foundation.

‘Doomsday’ glacier set to melt faster

By Danielle Bochove
Bloomberg

Tidal action on the underside of the Thwaites Glacier in the Antarctic will “inexorably” accelerate melting this century, according to new research by British and American scientists. The researchers warn the faster melting could destabilise the entire West Antarctic Ice sheet, leading to its eventual collapse. The massive glacier – which is roughly the size of Florida – is of particular interest to scientists because of the rapid speed at which it is changing and the impact its loss would have on sea levels (the reason for its “Doomsday” moniker). It also acts as an anchor holding back the West Antarctic ice sheet. More than 2km thick in places, Thwaites has been likened to a cork in a bottle. Were it to collapse, sea levels would rise by 65cm. That's already a significant amount, given oceans are currently rising 4.6mm a year. But if it led to the eventual loss of the entire ice sheet, sea levels would rise 3.3mm. While some computer models suggest reductions in greenhouse



gas emissions under the 2015 Paris Agreement may mitigate the glacier's retreat, the outlook for the glacier remains “grim,” according to a report by the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration (ITGC), a project that includes researchers from the British Antarctic Survey, the US National Science Foundation and the UK's Natural Environment Research Council. Thwaites has been retreating for more than 80 years but that process has accelerated in the past 30, Rob Larer, a marine geophysicist who contributed to the research, said in a news release. “Our findings indicate it is set to retreat further and faster.” Other dynamics that aren't currently incorporated into large-scale models could speed up its demise, the new research shows. Using a torpedo-shaped robot, scientists determined that the underside of Thwaites is insulated by a thin layer of cold water. However, in areas where the parts of the glacier lift off the seabed and the ice begins to float, tidal action is pumping warmer sea water, at high pressure, as far as 10km under the ice. The process is disrupting that insulating layer and will likely significantly speed up how fast the grounding zone – the area where the glacier sits on the seabed – retreats. A similar process has been observed on glaciers in Greenland.

The group also flagged a worst-case scenario in which 100-metre-or-higher ice cliffs at the front of Thwaites are formed and then rapidly calve off icebergs, causing runaway glacial retreat that could raise sea levels by tens of centimetres in this century. However, the researchers said it's too early to know if such scenarios are likely. A key unanswered question is whether the loss of Thwaites Glacier is already irreversible. Heavy snowfalls, for example, regularly occur in the Antarctic and help replenish ice loss, Michelle MacLennan, a climate scientist with the University of Colorado at Boulder, explained during a news briefing. “The problem though is that we have this imbalance: There is more ice loss occurring than snowfall can compensate for,” she said. Increased moisture in the planet's atmosphere, caused by global warming evaporating ocean waters, could result in more Antarctic snow – at least for a while. At a certain point, though, that's expected to switch over to rain and surface melting on the ice, creating a situation where the glacier is melting from above and below. How fast that happens depends in part on nations' progress to slow climate change.



Amir urges concrete steps for peace in Middle East region



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani addresses the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly held in New York yesterday.

◆ Full text of Amir’s UN General Assembly speech

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani participated in the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), held this morning in New York. The session was attended by Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies heads of state and government, heads of delegations, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani delivered a speech at the session. The speech reads as follows:

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly,
Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Honourable Audience,

May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate HE Mr. Philemon Yang on assuming the presidency of the 79th session of the General Assembly, wishing him every success in his tasks. And I express appreciation to HE Mr. Dennis Francis for his efforts during his presidency of the previous session. And we commend the prominent role played by HE Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in strengthening its role and achieving its lofty goals.

Mr. President,

The blatant aggression that befalls the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip today is the most barbaric, heinous and extensive in breaching human values, international charters and norms. This is not a war within the international relations well-known and common concept of war, but rather a crime of genocide by means of using the most sophisticated weapons against a people besieged in a detention camp where there is no escape from the barrage of aerial bombing. Verily, the resolutions, condemnations and reports have been exhausted, and nothing is left behind except the undeterred, ongoing and premeditated stark crime, that victimises children, women and the elderly. We oppose violence and the targeting of innocent civilians by any party, but after a year of the war, and with all that has been and is still being perpetrated in it, it is no longer tenable to talk about Israel's right to defend itself in this context without being complicit in justifying the crime. It is no longer plausible for any official to claim that he does not know, thanks to the well-known facts and reports issued by international organisations about the bombing of schools and hospitals and weaponising access to food and medicine, in addition to the published and publicly uttered intentions of Israeli leaders. Therefore, the failure to intervene to stop the aggression is a major scandal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every year I stand on this podium and begin my speech by talking about the Palestinian cause, the absence of justice,

the perils of believing that it can be neglected, and the illusions of making peace without a just solution. I have done so every year at a time when the Palestinian cause has become absent from the speeches of major powers representatives in our world. There are those who are tempted by the possibility of either marginalising this issue to get rid of its burden, or seeing it vanished without resolving it, but the Palestinian cause is resistant to marginalisation, because it is an issue of indigenous people on their own land and who are subjected to a settler-colonial occupation. This occupation has taken the form of an apartheid system in the 21st century. Can this be overlooked, The Palestinian cause will remain lingering in place, except in two cases, either the end of the occupation, or the disappearance of the Palestinian people. However, it seems that there are those in Israel who entertain wishful thinking to eliminate this people. The ongoing Israeli aggression for nearly a year is nothing but a result of the absence of a sincere political will, deliberate international failure to resolve the Palestinian issue with a just solution, and insistence of the occupying Israeli authorities to impose a fait accompli on the Palestinians and the world with all types of force. The ongoing brutal war has fired the coup de grace at international legitimacy and inflicted serious damage on the credibility of the post-World War II concepts on which the international community was founded. As if the dire consequences of this approach, which are visible before our eyes, are not enough to prove that ignoring a just solution is conducive to disaster, we discover, to our disbelief, that some are still trying to find innovative measures to run Gaza after the war, with or without an authority, only on the basis of security considerations (and what is meant in this respect, of course, is the security of the occupation, not the security of those who are languishing under the occupation itself). It is the same mindset that led from one disaster to another. It is the approach that wants to tailor the entire region to fit Israel's size, while looking for circumventions to avoid ending the occupation and work on imposing the rule of one people over another by force. Is it reasonable that even after this disaster, the major countries with the ability to influence the course of events are unable to reach a conclusion of the necessity to stop the war and pivot towards a just solution immediately instead of innovatively working on formulations to evade it. The end of the occupation and the Palestinian people exercising their right to self-determination is neither a favour nor a gift from anyone. Unfortunately, the Security Council has failed to implement its ceasefire resolution in the Gaza Strip and to refrain from granting the state of Palestine full membership status in the United Nations despite the General Assembly's adoption of a resolution supporting Palestine's request for UN membership last May. The state of Palestine's full UN membership neither establishes its

sovereignty nor ends the occupation, but at least sends a message to the far-right government involved in challenging international legitimacy, that force does not eliminate rights. Talking about such a step harming the peace process is simply eyewash, because there is no Israeli partner for peace during the current government's tenure, and no peace process taking place, but rather a genocide. In this regard, we highly value the position of the countries that recognised the State of Palestine based on 1967 borders. The continuation of the humanitarian tragedy of the brotherly Palestinian people for more than seven and a half decades is a shameful stain on the conscience of the international community and its institutions. There is no point in talking about security, peace, and stability in the Middle East region and across the world if not backed by concrete steps leading to an immediate ceasefire and an end to the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories.

Honourable Audience,

It is no secret that we are facing a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and other Palestinian territories, which are subjected to co-ordinated attacks by the occupation army and settlers in an attempt to enforce plans to expand settlements, annex the West Bank, and Judaize Jerusalem. The international community bears responsibility for the consequences of what is happening to the brotherly Palestinian people who are subjected to unfolding genocidal war that has resulted, so far, in the death of more than 41 thousand martyrs, let alone the missing under the rubble, including seventeen thousand children, eleven thousand women and one hundred thousand wounded including thousands of disabled and millions of people who were forcibly displaced several times, in addition to the complete destruction of the infrastructure of hospitals, schools and buildings including mosques and churches. A whole society is being destroyed in the course of the genocide against segments of the Palestinian people. It is the Gazan Palestinian community that has retained its composure and achieved remarkable development levels amid the more than 17-year-old stifling siege.

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar has opted for undertaking mediation efforts in an endeavour to stop the aggression on Gaza and secure the release of prisoners and detainees. It is a mediation amidst fierce war and complex circumstances, during which one party would not hesitate to assassinate counterpart political leaders with whom it negotiates, such as the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, who many people feign forgetfulness that he was not only the political leader of Hamas but also the first elected Palestinian prime minister. For us, mediation and humanitarian work are both a strategic political choice at the regional and international levels, and a humanitarian duty before being a political one. And we are not boastful of that vis-a-vis others.

Our mediation efforts, in partnership with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America, culminated in a humanitarian agreement last November. It resulted in a brief ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the release of 240 Palestinian prisoners and 109 of the detainees in Gaza, and increased the flow of relief shipments. We also provided humanitarian support to the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, contributed to evacuating the wounded and sick, supporting humanitarian initiatives to deliver aid through all accessible routes, and increasing our support to UNRWA, an irreplaceable international agency whose services are indispensable and which has been subjected to a defamation for political purposes related to the Israeli government's desire to eliminate the refugee crisis without resolving the Palestine cause. The State of Qatar will spare no effort to provide various forms of humanitarian assistance to the brotherly Palestinian people until this crisis is resolved. Despite the daunting challenges, obstruction attempts, and the aspersions we are subjected to, we will continue our effort of mediation to resolve the disputes through peaceful means, as we are cognisant that any dispute will never lack a force interested in its continuation while being sceptical of any mediation regardless of the intentions. We will continue to exert efforts with our partners until reaching a permanent ceasefire, securing the release of prisoners and detainees, taking the path of a just solution in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, and enabling the Palestinian people to obtain all their legitimate rights, foremost of which is their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital on the 1967 borders. The establishment of an independent Palestinian state within a just and permanent solution is in the interest of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. We will not achieve this goal except with a serious partner who is aware of the importance of renouncing discord and ending the occupation and all forms of aggression, so that we can reach together the desired peace in the Middle East. Apart from committing a major crime by rigging wireless communication devices and exploding them simultaneously across thousands of people with total disregard for their identity or location, Israel is currently waging a war on Lebanon and no one knows to what extent this war could escalate. This is what we have repeatedly warned against, if the brutal war on Gaza doesn't end. This systematic destructive war must stop, and this is the choice before Israel as its leaders know very well. They know that it will neither bring security and peace to northern Israel nor to Lebanon, and that the key to security rests on a just peace. Stop the aggression on Gaza! Stop the war on Lebanon. In brotherly Yemen, we look forward to preserving the 2022 truce and proceeding therefrom towards a comprehensive ceasefire, resolving the crisis, ensuring Yemen's unity and achieving the aspirations of its brotherly people, through negotiations

between the Yemeni parties based on the outcomes of the national dialogue, the Gulf initiative and relevant Security Council resolutions. As regards the crisis in Syria, and since the beginning of the crisis, the position of the State of Qatar has been clear that Qatar is keen on the interests of brotherly Syrian people, hoping that the parties and countries involved in the crisis will be convinced of the necessity for dialogue and understanding to end this crisis in accordance with the Geneva Declaration 1 and Security Council Resolution 2254, in a way that will achieve the aspirations of the Syrian people and preserve Syria's unity, sovereignty and independence. Regarding the Sudanese issue, we call on all Sudanese parties to stop fighting, and we affirm our support for all regional and international efforts to end this crisis in a way that will ensure the unity of state institutions and the sovereignty and stability of Sudan. In Libya, we support the political trajectory and the implementation of Security Council resolutions, and we urge all parties to recourse to dialogue and overcome differences in order to complete the comprehensive national reconciliation and preserve the progress and gains achieved on the security, political and economic tracks, and unify state institutions. Arab countries cannot achieve security and stability without the existence of firmly established states capable of legislating and enforcing the law, developing and implementing national policies. No state can firmly be established and stable in the presence of armed factions that are not under its control. These are self evident and unquestionable matters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The war between Russia and Ukraine has caused great human suffering and left repercussions on Europe and the world. We reiterate our call on all parties to implement the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, and seek to find a peaceful solution, as the only possible solution. In this context, and based on our firm belief in the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes, we have made a tangible contribution over the past year, as Qatari mediation led to prisoner swap between the United States and Venezuela, and dozens of Ukrainian children were reunited with their families after being separated by war. Finally, we affirm that the State of Qatar will spare no effort in working with its international partners and the United Nations to firmly consolidate the pillars of peace, security, sustainable development, human rights and the rule of law at all levels and to address global challenges in order to achieve a better future for all.

Thank you, and may the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

In attendance were HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and Their Excellencies members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir. **(QNA)**

Katara launches ‘Look Away, Look Again’ art exhibition

Katara - the Cultural Village has launched the “Look Away, Look Again” exhibition by photographer and artist Faycal Bezzaoucha, in the presence of a number of ambassadors accredited to the state.

The exhibition, until October 7, presents 25 photographs in which the artist takes viewers on a journey into his inner world and his view of the details that reflect his artistic vision.

Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti has stated that the exhibition includes photographs that captivate and invites the visitor to delve deep within and link the artistic dimension with human interaction.

He described the exhibition as “an addition to the various art exhibitions presented by Katara that contribute to enriching the local artistic and cultural scene”, stressing the importance of arts of all kinds in achieving cultural exchange and civilisational communication between peoples.

Algeria-born Bezzaoucha, 49, gained fame through his first exhibition in 2014, which was titled “Picture Story”.

He is known for his photographic portraits, and focusing on the details of the people he photographs. - QNA

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The exhibition aims to raise awareness and funds for children affected by the ongoing crisis in Gaza.



Abdulla AlNaama



Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo



Bachir Mohamad



Hassan Manasrah

Artists working together ‘For the Children of Gaza’

Msheireb Museums, in collaboration with Qatar Charity (QC), has announced its latest humanitarian initiative: the group art exhibition “For the Children of Gaza”.

Aimed at raising awareness and funds for children affected by the ongoing crisis in Gaza, the exhibition opens today at Bin Jelmood House, one of the most iconic cultural venues in Msheireb Museums in Doha.

The exhibition, open to the public until October 19, builds upon Msheireb’s commitment to using art to push for social change.

It represents a continuation of the impactful message delivered by “Echo of Lost Innocence”, which recently garnered international attention with its powerful message.

Admission to “For the Children of Gaza” art exhibition is free.

In a press statement, Msheireb Museums general manager Abdulla al-Naama expressed the institution’s ongoing commitment.

“This exhibition speaks to the role of art in transforming lives and elevating important global causes,” he said. “We are humbled to have the chance to convene a group of extraordinary artists whose work reflects the beauty of human creativity and brings to the forefront the ongoing struggle faced by Gaza’s children.”

Curated by artist Bachir Mohamad, the exhibition centres around 100 sculptures from the “Echo of Lost Innocence” installation, depicting the impact of war on

children while symbolising hope, resilience, and survival.

These pieces will be displayed alongside works from 54 local and international artists who have united to support the children of Gaza.

Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, the chief executive’s assistant for the resources development and communication sector at the QC, highlighted the importance of the collaboration.

“The partnership between Msheireb Museums and Qatar Charity, alongside the artists involved, brings creativity and compassion together for a noble cause,” he said. “This exhibition is helping generate much-needed funds and raise global awareness about the urgent need to support Gaza’s children.”

The exhibition features contributions from prominent figures such as Yousef Ahmad, Wafika Sultan, and Mohammed Alhamadi from Qatar, as well as international talents including Hassan Manasrah and Kholoud Kassab from Palestine, Mala Waseem from Pakistan, Farjana Salahuddin from Bangladesh, and Dana Said from Syria.

Each artist donated a piece from their body of work, turning this exhibition into a truly collective call to action.

Some of the participating artists shared their perspectives on the exhibition’s significance.

“Art has the power to convey emotions and truths that words cannot,” Ahmad said. “Through this exhibition, we have the chance to bring light to the dark realities

faced by Gaza’s children and support their right to a better future.”

“Contributing to this noble cause is an honour,” Alhamadi said. “Through my work, I hope to share the message of hope, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of children everywhere.”

“Art can be a force for good. In this exhibition, we not only showcase our work but also stand in solidarity with the children of Gaza, calling for compassion and action,” Sultan stated.

“My art is a reflection of the pain and suffering my people have endured, but also a celebration of their strength,” Manasrah explained. “I hope this exhibition will inspire others to support our children and give them hope for a brighter future.”

“The children of Gaza are the real heroes,” Salahuddin said. “Through this exhibition, we hope to tell their stories and remind the world of its responsibility to protect them.”

By partnering with the QC, Msheireb Museums ensures that all funds raised from the exhibition will directly benefit initiatives aimed at providing education, healthcare, and psychological support to children living in conflict zones.

This spirit of collaboration extends to the partners and sponsors supporting the exhibition, including Msheireb Properties, Msheireb Downtown Doha, the Ministry of Social Development and Family, Home Grown, Sogha from Msheireb, Baker’s Bites, The Local Context, Bluribbon Design Atelier, almarkhiya Gallery, and iPrint.



Mohammed Alhamadi



Farjana Salahuddin



Wafika Sultan



Yousef Ahmad

4th edition of Katara Space Science programme kicks off

The fourth edition of Katara Space Science Programme (KSSP) kicked off yesterday at Al Thuraya Planetarium in Katara.

The event is organised by Katara - the Cultural Village in collaboration with MAPS International, with the attendance of a number of those interested in the field of science and space.

During the three-day programme period ending tomorrow, participants will have a valuable opportunity to engage in dialogue with experts, gain deep insights, and increase awareness and education about space sciences.

Space scientist from the University of Southern California and Nasa’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Dr Essam Heggy, spoke yesterday about his scientific and professional career in the field of space.

He pointed out the most important projects and research in which he participated, most notably his participation in



photographing the internal composition of the ice layers on the planet Mars, which proved the presence of water on Mars for long periods similar to planet Earth.

Dr Heggy also highlighted his interest



in the desert in the Gulf region, especially in Qatar, pointing to the study conducted by scientists and researchers, confirming the strong evidence of the existence of an oasis dating back more than 3,600 years,

covering an area of 2-3sq km, in southern Qatar.

The director of the Indian Space Agency’s Cryogenic Upper Stage Project, Dr Lalitha Ramachandran, provided a his-

torical overview of India’s interest in space, which began in 1962, when the first administrative building was built, which has now been transformed into a space museum visited by thousands every year.

The director of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, Dr K Ramachandran, delivered a public lecture on the history of space exploration, highlighting key contributors and significant missions.

He also discussed important space vehicles and telescopes, including the Hubble and James Webb telescopes, offering valuable insight into the field.

The fourth edition of the KSSP is accompanied by the “Cosmic Canvas - Space Art” exhibition, which will continue until October 18.

It includes original printed artworks from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), holographic art, and visual art by artist Mariam Hashemi Brian and other artists. - QNA