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Our Say



Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka,
Editor-in-Chief of *Gulf Times*

US visa waiver is recognition for Qatar's policies

Qatar has once again demonstrated its growing global stature, becoming the first Arab country designated to enter the prestigious US Visa Waiver Programme (VWP). This landmark achievement was confirmed by US Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas, in consultation with Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, and also announced by the US embassy in Doha.

Starting no later than December 1, 2024, Qatari citizens will be able to apply for travel to the US for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days without the need for a visa, using the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). This development underscores the deepening of ties between Qatar and the US, but it also signifies far more: Qatar's evolving role as a reliable security partner, its growing influence in international diplomacy, and the broadening of its economic and cultural relations with the West.

In particular, this achievement is because of the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in managing strategic relations and leading Qatar to these stages of progress and making the country an important player in international affairs. The US Visa Waiver Program is not simply a convenience for travellers; it reflects a country's trustworthiness as a global partner.

Entry into the VWP is a rigorous process, with strict eligibility criteria based on security, law enforcement cooperation, and reciprocal agreements. Qatar's inclusion in the VWP is a testament to its commitment to these principles, proving itself as a secure, dependable partner of the US. **To Page 11**
falmudahka@gulf-times.com

Qatar Rail to promote tourism via metro, tram

By **Joey Aguilar**
Staff Reporter

Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) launched yesterday a series of initiatives to mark World Tourism Day, encouraging visitors to use the seamless travel experience and world-class services provided by the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram networks. The global celebration takes place annually on September 27.

These initiatives, being held in partnership with key partners in the tourism sector, form part of its commitment to enhancing Qatar's position as a global tourist destination and supporting efforts to enrich the year-round visitor experience for residents and visitors, a Qatar Rail statement said.

The metro and tram stations are strategically located in the main areas of Doha and Lusail, respectively, to serve densely populated areas, key hubs, and tourist attractions. By their

connection to a wide range of tourist destinations, business centres, and key hospitality facilities across Qatar, the networks support the hosting of various types of tourism events, including sports, wellness, leisure, and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism.

Qatar Rail has collaborated with Stopover Tourism, a destination management company specialised in organising guided tours. The company launched its inaugural tours on Doha Metro ahead of World Tourism Day, offering specially curated experiences for visitors and layover passengers in Doha, with a professional guide introducing them to the city's key attractions.

The first tour was organised at Msheireb Station, passing through the National Museum and Souq Waqif stations. The tour provided visitors with a rich experience, showcasing Qatar's cultural and tourism heritage. **To Page 11**



Inaugural tours were launched yesterday on Doha Metro ahead of World Tourism Day, offering specially curated experiences for visitors and layover passengers in Doha, with a professional guide introducing them to the city's key attractions. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Baby Malkha Rouhi receives lifesaving treatment in Qatar



Baby Malkha Rouhi, her parents Risal Abdul Rasheed and Nihala Nizam, are seen with Dr Tawfeg Ben-Omran, Dr Khalid Ibrahim and representatives from Qatar Charity and Sidra Medicine.

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, successfully administered a life-saving medication for Malkha Rouhi, a baby diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a statement said yesterday.

The treatment, which offers hope for children with the severe and rare genetic disease, was made possible through the generous fundraising efforts of Qatar Charity (QC) and the broader community in Qatar.

Dr Tawfeg Ben-Omran, division chief of Genetic and Genomic Medicine at Sidra Medicine stated: "We are honoured by the trust placed in us by Malkha's family. Her groundbreaking gene therapy is an example of the power of collaboration between healthcare institutions, Qatar Charity and the community. We wish Malkha the very best of health and will be supporting her family in her post-recovery care." **To Page 11**

PM attends Joint Ministerial Meeting between GCC countries and US



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani participated yesterday in a joint ministerial meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The meeting addressed co-operation relations between the GCC countries and the US and ways to support and enhance them, the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, updates in joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Strip, and ways to de-escalate in Lebanon, in addition to a number of topics of common concern. **(QNA)**

Cabinet lauds Amir's UN speech for highlighting Palestinian issue

QNA
Doha

The Cabinet yesterday commended the historic speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Tuesday during the opening session of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79), which mainly addressed the Palestinian cause and the ongoing aggression and brutal war to which the brotherly Palestinian people are being subjected, amidst deliberate international inaction and Israeli insistence on forcing a fait accompli on the Palestinians and the world.

His Highness the Amir expressed the feelings of millions of Arabs, Muslims and peoples around the world who value justice and peace, by holding the international community responsible

for the consequences of the current situation that the Palestinian people are undergoing - subjected to a systematic destructive war that has extended to Lebanon, the Cabinet said.

With his clear, strong and honest words, His Highness the Amir affirmed that the key to security is just peace, the Cabinet, lauding his call to stop the aggression on Gaza and the war on Lebanon.

His Highness the Amir also stressed that Qatar will continue to make efforts with the partners until a permanent ceasefire is reached, prisoners and detainees are released, and the path of a just solution is taken in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, emphasising that Qatar will continue its efforts until the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate rights, foremost of which is their independent state with

East Jerusalem (Al-Quds) as its capital on the 1967 borders.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held at its seat at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

The Cabinet highlighted the emphasis His Highness the Amir put on the constants of Qatar's policy and its positions on Arab issues and global challenges, as well as Amir's call for dialogue to overcome the crises in Yemen, Syria, the Sudan and Libya.

The Cabinet also affirmed that His Highness Amir emphasised Qatar's continued work with its international partners and the UN to 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.

US leads new effort to end hostilities in Lebanon, Gaza

Reuters
Beirut

The United States is spearheading a new diplomatic effort to end hostilities in both Gaza and Lebanon, linking the two conflicts as part of a single initiative, seven sources familiar with the initiative told Reuters.

Details are being discussed at the UN General Assembly in New York, according to two Lebanese officials, two Western diplomats, a source familiar with the thinking of the armed Lebanese group Hezbollah, a source in Washington and a further person briefed on the talks.

But as the effort gathered pace, Israel suggested it could add a ground incursion to its expanding campaign of strikes against Hezbollah. Three Israeli officials told Reuters that, although the US and France were working on ceasefire proposals, no significant progress had yet been made.

Nevertheless, it was the first attempt to link the two fronts in a US diplomatic push, the other seven sources said.

The deal would include the eventual release of Israeli hostages seized by the Palestinian resistance group Hamas.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Khiam yesterday.

Gaza massacre toll 41,495

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 41,495 people have been killed in the war between Israel and the Palestinian militants, now in its 12th month. According to the ministry, 96,006 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began on October 7.



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Spotlight on provision of higher education access for Afghan refugees

QNA New York

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater participated in an event highlighting the achievements of international partners in providing access to higher education for Afghan refugees.

Hosted by the Institute of International Education, Education Above All (EAA), and the Afghan Future Fund, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the event was also attended by HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs in the United States of America (US) John Bass, the US Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights in Afghanistan Rina Amiri, Acting Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri, CEO of the EAA Fahad al-Sulaiti, and CEO of the Institute of International Education Dr Allan Goodman.

In her speech at the event, HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation said that



the State of Qatar is a key partner in international efforts to protect the educational rights of Afghan youth.

Through the action of the QFFD and EAA together with the Afghan Future Fund and the Institute of International Education, educational opportunities have been provided to outstanding students in Afghanistan, many of whom have faced threats to their safety, she noted.

She said that the Qatar Scholarship for Afghans Project (QSAP) is a shining example of this collective effort. Through this ini-

tiative, 250 displaced Afghan students have received scholarships to pursue their undergraduate and graduate studies at more than 40 prestigious universities in the US, she added, pointing out that this scholarship is more than just access to education, as it symbolizes hope, opportunity and determination to build a brighter future.

“Our collaboration with the US, through the Department of State, has been of particular importance,” HE AlKhater said, adding Qatar and the US have worked tirelessly together to protect the right of Afghan women and girls

to education, and their joint efforts have not only provided scholarships but also strengthened academic advising, leadership development and created safe and supportive spaces where Afghan students can thrive.

HE AlKhater continued by saying that this partnership highlights the values that both Qatar and the US share, namely that education is not a privilege but rather a basic human right, especially for those who are marginalized, stressing that Qatar has always been committed to supporting the broader educational infrastructure in Afghanistan and building the capabilities of the future of the next generation there.

During the event, participants shed light on co-operation between Qatar and the United States of America to support educational opportunities for Afghan youth and the unified efforts to promote education in Afghanistan, and discussed the current situation facing Afghan youth, especially females, regarding higher education and the successes, challenges and lessons learned in implementing the QSAP 1 project, in addition to formalising new partnerships and projects in response to the ongoing need for Afghan youth to access education.

QMC chief applauds Amir’s UNGA speech

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani al-Thani, CEO of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), praised the speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the 79th United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, stressing that it came at a critical time reflecting the tragic reality suffered by the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

“The speech expressed a comprehensive Qatari vision towards achieving regional and international peace. His Highness the Amir has placed Arab issues, most notably the situations in Palestine and Lebanon, at the heart of global attention, pointing to Qatar’s commitment to defending the rights of oppressed peoples and opposing any form of aggression.

“The speech also featured a call to enhance international co-operation to confront current challenges, whether economic or political, with a focus on the need to respect the sovereignty of states and work



“The speech expressed a comprehensive Qatari vision towards achieving regional and international peace”

together to achieve security and stability” Sheikh Abdulaziz added that His Highness’ message is a beacon of hope calling on the world to emerge from the darkness of aggression and wars towards a brighter future, where peace is the ultimate choice.

Qatar-Canada ties enter new era after Amir’s visit: Cabinet

QNA Doha

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah chaired the Cabinet’s regular meeting held at its seat at the Amiri Diwan yesterday morning. After the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi issued the following statement:

At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet commended the historic speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Tuesday during the opening session of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79), held in the UN

headquarters based in New York, which mainly addressed the Palestinian cause and the ongoing aggression and brutal war to which the brotherly Palestinian people are being subjected, amidst deliberate international inaction and Israeli insistence on forcing a fait accompli on the Palestinians and the world.

The Cabinet also acknowledged the outcomes of the official visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Canada on Sept 17-18. The Cabinet affirmed that the constructive discussions held between the Amir and Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, have moved the relations between the two countries to a new stage and strengthened their common aspiration to advance them and develop their bilateral co-operation in various fields for

the benefit of their friendly peoples, especially in light of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the field of development co-operation and the framework agreement for international co-operation in the field of education and development, which were signed on the sidelines of His Highness’ visit. The Cabinet then considered the topics listed on its agenda as follows:

First-Approval of a draft law on combating doping in sports, and its referral to the Shura Council.

The draft aims to implement and activate the provisions of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport, by establishing a comprehensive legislative system to combat doping in sports in the country.

Second - Approval of a draft de-

cision of the Minister of Commerce and Industry amending some provisions of the Minister of Economy and Commerce No 311 of 2018, regarding selling at reduced prices.

Third - The Cabinet reviewed the memorandum of the Shura Council’s General Secretariat on the council’s request regarding developing tourism economy and studying possible solutions that would lead to its development and advancement, and took the appropriate decision in its regard.

Fourth - Approval of Qatar Tourism’s membership in both the Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE) and the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA).

Fifth - Approval of:

1- Draft agreement on the Unesco Multisectoral Regional Of-

fice in Doha between the government of the State of Qatar and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

2- Draft MoU on political consultations on matters of mutual interest between the State of Qatar and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

3- Draft MoU for co-operation in the health field between the government of the State of Qatar and the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

4- Draft agreement between the government of the State of Qatar and the government of the Republic of Indonesia on the regulation of the employment of workers from Indonesia in Qatar.

5- Draft agreement between the government of the State of Qatar

and Iceland for the elimination of double taxing with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance.

Sixth - The Cabinet reviewed the following topics and took the appropriate measures in their regard:

1- The 18th report of the Permanent Committee to Monitor Fuel Filling and Storage Stations, during the first half of 2024.

2- Report on the outcomes of the visit of HE the Minister of Justice to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh - July 2024).

3- Report on the outcomes of the participation of HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Poland-Qatar New Tech Forum on sustainable economic development. (Poland - Warsaw - July 2024).

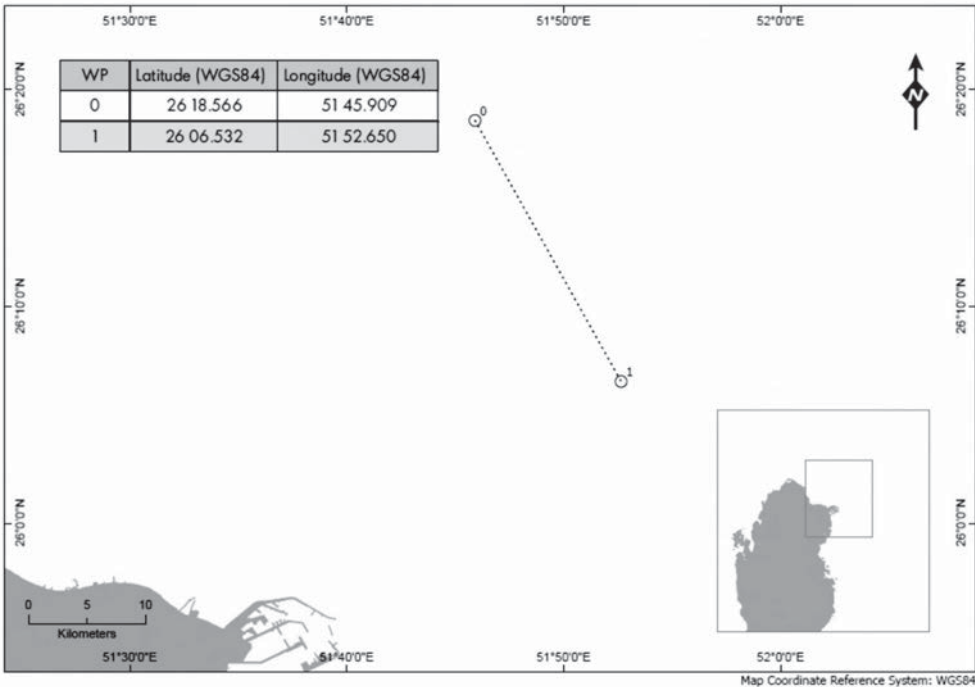
Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L.

Public Announcement to Fishermen and Mariners Rig Move and Drilling Operations Qatar Waters.



In pursuant and under directives from the Ministry Of Transport, Seafarers and registration department, Doha, Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Fishermen and Mariners that Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L intends to carry out a Rig Move of the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit, "Les Hat" in Qatari waters.

“Mobile Drilling Unit Les Hat” will be towed from Location 0 to Location 1. Towing will commence between 28th September and 5th October 2024 inclusive. On completion of the Towing Operation, “Les Hat” will be stationary at Location 1 until a further announcement.



Qatar Shell requests that vessels keep well clear of the Rig and its Towing Vessels while on Tow and Fishermen are requested to remove their equipment and keep away from the area.

Vessels ignoring this announcement will be responsible for all liabilities arising out of their actions (including any damage to equipment and delay time).

Qatar Shell Service Company assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of equipment following this advertisement.

For more details contact Tel: 44957777, Fax: 44957778



Public Announcement

To all Ships, Fisherman, and MarinersSubsea Survey Works Offshore in “North Field”By the Vessel “Fugro Proteus”

Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 25th September 2024 to 31st December 2024

In pursuant and under directives from the Registration and Seafarers Affairs Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fisherman that Qatar Energy LNG” Formerly known as Qatar Gas Operating Company Limited intends to undertake subsea survey works by the vessel “Fugro Proteus” in North Field locations, bound by the coordinates and location map shown below.

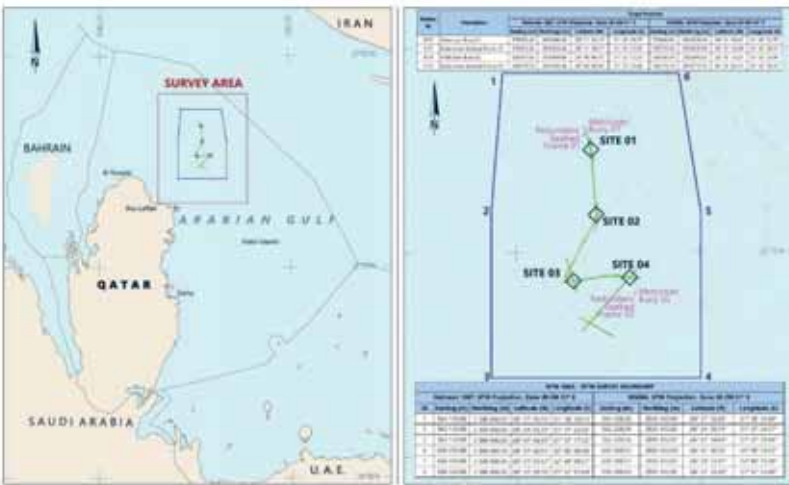
Coordinates: -

Corner Coordinates Covering Survey Area				
Nahrwan 1967, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E				
ID	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude	Longitude
1	564 130.00	2 945 000.00	26° 37' 35.70"	51° 38' 39.23"
2	562 130.00	2 920 000.00	26° 24' 03.39"	51° 37' 22.52"
3	562 130.00	2 890 000.00	26° 07' 48.20"	51° 37' 17.32"
4	600 000.00	2 890 000.00	26° 07' 40.53"	52° 00' 00.90"
5	600 000.00	2 920 000.00	26° 23' 55.63"	52° 00' 09.27"
6	596 000.00	2 945 000.00	26° 37' 29.18"	52° 57' 51.69"

Corner Coordinates Covering Survey Area				
WGS84, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E				
ID	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude	Longitude
1	564 228.36	2945 432.94	26° 37' 42.00"	51° 38' 42.89"
2	562 228.36	2920 432.82	26° 24' 09.74"	51° 37' 26.17"
3	562 228.36	2890 432.67	26° 07' 54.60"	51° 37' 20.96"
4	600 098.55	2890 432.69	26° 07' 46.92"	52° 00' 04.61"
5	600 098.53	2920 432.83	26° 24' 01.97"	52° 00' 12.98"
6	596 098.50	2945 432.95	26° 37' 35.48"	51° 57' 55.40"

Coordinates of Metocean Equipment				
Nahrwan 1967, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E				
ID	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude	Longitude
B27	578850.40	2933896.40	26° 31' 32.10"	51° 47' 29.07"
F27	578672.50	2933805.10	26° 31' 29.17"	51° 47' 22.63"
B29	588267.60	2905408.90	26° 16' 04.15"	51° 53' 02.25"
F29	588079.70	2905340.40	26° 16' 01.96"	51° 52' 55.46"

Coordinates of Metocean Equipment				
WGS84, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E				
ID	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude	Longitude
B27	578948.83	2934329.29	26° 31' 38.42"	51° 47' 32.75"
F27	578770.93	2934237.99	26° 31' 35.49"	51° 47' 26.31"
B29	588366.08	2905841.66	26° 16' 10.52"	51° 53' 05.94"
F29	588178.18	2905773.16	26° 16' 08.33"	51° 52' 59.15"



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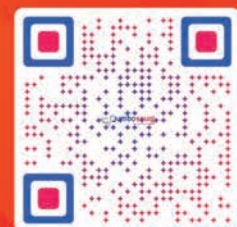
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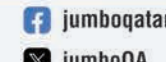


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Amir's 'Power does not nullify rights' statement reflects conscience of the region's peoples: envoy

Turkiye's ambassador to Qatar, Dr Mustafa Goksu, praised the speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani during the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly, held yesterday at the UN headquarters in New York. Ambassador Goksu stressed that His Highness the Amir's words resonate with the sentiments of the region's peoples, particularly on the Palestinian cause. He highlighted His Highness the Amir's statement, "Power does not nullify rights", and His Highness the Amir's

emphasis that "the end of occupation and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is not a favour or a gift from anyone". Goksu further stressed the alignment of Turkiye's vision with what was expressed in His Highness the Amir's speech, particularly regarding the assertion that the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people in Gaza is "the most brutal" and that the failure to intervene to stop this aggression represents a significant international failure. The ambassador also noted that His Highness the Amir's warning that the



Turkish ambassador Dr Mehmet Mustafa Goksu

ongoing war in Gaza "has fired the coup de grace at international legitimacy" is a sincere call to world leaders, placing them before their historical responsibilities. The ambassador added that Turkish President Erdogan stressed similar points in his speech at the 79th UNGA and stated that today, we need, more than ever, the values represented by the motto "The world is bigger than five!" and the world leaders should think thoroughly on this painful picture. Additionally, the Turkish ambassador commended Qatar's significant

role in mediating complex issues, particularly its efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza. He highlighted His Highness the Amir's statement that "mediation and humanitarian work are our strategic political choices at the regional and international levels, and our humanitarian duty before a political one, and we do not consider it a favour to anyone." Goksu pointed out that Qatar, with its consistent adherence to its original principles, has earned the trust of the world and the love and respect of nations.

GCC meeting on post, telecommunications kicks off in Doha

Qatar yesterday hosted the 30th Meeting of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Committee for Under-Secretaries of Post and Telecommunications in Doha.

The meeting was chaired by Engineer Ahmad Abdulla al-Muslemani, president of Qatar's Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA).

Hosting this meeting reflects Qatar's ongoing commitment to promoting co-operation among Gulf states.

The meeting aims to enhance co-operation in the fields of post and telecommunications, and exchange experiences and ideas to keep pace with the rapid developments in these vital sectors, contributing to digital transformation and sustainable development in the Gulf states.

The meeting discussed ways to develop telecommunications infrastructure and improve the quality of postal services.

The meeting's agenda also includes following up on decisions from previous meetings, such as roaming and restructuring of the Ministerial Committee for Digital Economy.



The 30th Meeting of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Committee for Under-Secretaries of Post and Telecommunications held in Doha was chaired by Engineer Ahmad Abdulla al-Muslemani, president of Qatar's Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA).

Additionally, the meeting will explore co-operation in space technology and electronic applications, review outcomes of discussion sessions on digital topics, and formulate recommendations to strengthen co-operation among Gulf states in these vital areas.

Al-Muslemani said, "We are pleased to host this important meeting in Qatar, where co-operation in postal and telecommunications fields is of critical

importance in light of the rapid digital transformations and technological advances the world is witnessing today. We look forward to fruitful discussions and a valuable exchange of experiences and ideas that will contribute to achieving the desired goals.

"This meeting is part of ongoing efforts to enhance economic integration among the GCC states and to realise the shared vision of developing the telecommunications and postal sectors."

QNL, General Customs Authority sign MoU to protect cultural, documentary heritage



Qatar National Library and the General Customs Authority in Qatar have announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to enhance co-operation and exchange expertise in protecting cultural heritage and combating illicit trafficking in cultural heritage.

Under the MoU, the two entities will collaborate in terms of training, capacity building.

Signed by the executive director of Qatar National Library Tan Huism, and director of the Regional Customs Training Center at the General Customs Authority Mubarak Ibrahim al-Buainain, the MoU recognises the Library's role as the IFLA Regional Center for the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage in Arab countries and the Middle East.

It further broadens the scope of the ongoing co-operation between the two entities in preserving and protecting documentary heritage in particular, through initiatives such as the "Himaya" project and the recently hosted "Third Doha Workshop to Combat Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Heritage".

The four-year MoU aims to strengthen the partnership and exchange of expertise between the two parties in eight



strategic areas, with a focus on co-operation, co-ordination, and participation in national and regional training workshops.

These workshops aim to educate employees of local and regional customs authorities on legal frameworks, international agreements, and methods to combat illicit trafficking in cultural heritage, with a focus on documentary heritage. The MoU also ensures co-operation in capacity building and training for specialists and experts in customs authorities at local and regional levels.

Head of Regional Workshops and International Events at the Customs Training and Regional Center Ahmed Hassan al-Jasim said: "The signing of the MoU with Qatar National Library marks a continuation of the developmental objectives pursued by the Authority. This partnership is crucial for enhancing collaboration between the Authority and the Library in preserving documentary heritage and educating customs officers on the regulations for handling such documents. Furthermore, it underscores a mutual commitment to enhance the training systems and facilitate the exchange of expertise and specialists across shared domains".

Head of Preservation and Conservation at Qatar National Library Maxim Nasra said the MoU marks the Library's latest endeavour to further advance its mission to protect cultural heritage. "Our collaboration draws on our shared expertise and empowers Qatar National Library to deliver on its objectives as the IFLA Regional Center given the key role that custom authorities play in combating illicit trafficking," Nasra said.

The MoU will translate into joint working committees, periodic co-ordination meetings across all fields, and the development of executive plans for various projects to meet shared objectives.

The General Customs Authority has participated in all editions of the Library's annual Doha Workshop to Combat Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Heritage, including the latest edition that was held from September 9 to 12.

This year's workshop focused on strengthening the legal and legislative frameworks for the protection of cultural and documentary heritage in Arab countries and across the Middle East. (QNA)

Jumbo Electronics Mega Promotion begins from today

Jumbo Electronics, Qatar's leading retailer of consumer electronics and home appliances, is launching its Mega Promotion today, running until October 16.

"This promotional event is designed to empower customers with incredible savings and a wide range of guaranteed gifts vouchers to elevate their living spaces with the latest technology," a statement said.

"Jumbo Electronics is committed to helping customers enhance their lifestyles with cutting-edge products that combine convenience and productivity. Whether you're looking for the latest smartphones, high-definition televisions, or energy-efficient home appliances, Jumbo is your one-stop destination.

"During promotion discounts of up to 25% are being offered on a select range of world-renowned brands, including LG, Harman Kardon, JBL, Nokia, Ariston, Indesit, JBL, Brother, Kenwood, Blueair, Nutribullet, and Oscar. Besides the up-front discount, customers will receive gift vouchers redeemable on future purchases from Jumbo, Malabar Diamonds, My book & Tawfeeq travels.

"To ensure every customer receives personalised assistance, Jumbo has a team of knowledgeable profes-



sionals ready to help shoppers navigate the extensive product range. With their expertise, customers can find the perfect solutions tailored to their needs."

Sajed Jassim Mohammed Sulaiman, vice-chairman and managing director of Jumbo Electronics, said: "As technology continues to evolve, we are excited to offer our customers the latest innovations that make their lives easier and more enjoyable. Our Mega Promotion reflects our commitment to enhancing your home experience.

"Jumbo Electronics has been a trusted name in Qatar's electronics retail sector for over four decades, providing customers with a wide selection of products, exceptional service, and innovative solutions. With a focus on quality and customer satisfaction, Jumbo continues to lead the way in the retail electronics market."

C V Rappai, director and CEO, remarked: "Over the past 44 years, we have experienced significant advancements in many areas, including our brand offerings, support infrastructure, and customer service. Jumbo has been instrumental in transforming the electronics retail landscape, and we take immense pride in our accomplishments. We will continue our journey of growth by adapting and refining our strategies to address any challenges that come our way. Despite potential hurdles, we remain hopeful about our future initiatives."

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Police Academy sets up virtual training rooms for cadets

The Police Academy has added four virtual training rooms while incorporating the latest innovations in the teaching and training of cadets.

Lt Col Fahad Saeed al-Subaie, deputy chairman of the Police Academy and director of the Police College, told local Arabic daily *Arrayah* that virtual training aims to simulate the police reality in practical life.

"The aim of establishing these rooms is to combine theoretical study and practical application within the academy's halls instead of candidates moving to actual training sites in various police locations outside the academy," he said.

A total of 130 students including 100 Qataris and 30 candidates from Arab countries will join the academy on September 28 in the 11th batch.

The new students will begin the first foundational period (recruitment period) which ex-



tends for 50 days, to transfer the student from civilian life to military life gradually.

The training period will have a strict plan, through which the candidates learn military discipline and organisational skills.

Col al-Subaie said the academy will also receive the third batch of students from the Police Sciences Diploma at the Police Institute.

A total of 100 students including 55 from the 11th batch at the Ras Laffan Emergency and Safe-



ty College will join the academy.

These candidates include cadets from outside Qatar. For the first time, cadets from non-Arab countries will join the academy for studies. The students will undergo the first foundational period of 50 days.

The training will be in two stages that include military training in infantry, weapons, physical fitness and shooting, in addition to introductory lectures on military discipline, military service law and practical subjects in first aid.

After completing the foundational period, the trainees will join the academic programme, which includes police and legal subjects, and subjects in general requirements such as Arabic and English, computers and Qatari history.

My White Flag honours for Al Faleh's DIKg

Doha International Kindergarten (DIKg), a part of Al Faleh Educational Holding, has been awarded the 'My White Flag' Award at the Certificate of Appreciation level by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for the 2023-24 academic year.

This recognition highlights DIKg's achievement of completing the academic year with zero violations, underscoring the school's dedication to educational excellence and regulatory compliance, a statement said.

The award ceremony yesterday at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education headquarters in Al Qatifiya, honoured schools that have met the highest standards of performance and conduct. DIKg head Catherine Ruth Jones accepted the award on behalf of the school.

Edward Cooper, director of Academic Affairs - Primary and Secondary Education Al Faleh Educational Holding, said: "We are thrilled to receive this recognition. It reflects the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, and families to maintaining a high standard of education and care. We remain committed to creating a nurturing environment where children can thrive academically, socially, and personally".

Sheikha Anwar bint Nawaf al-Thani, CEO of Al Faleh Educational Holding, said: "This award is a testament to our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and high-quality educational experience for all students. At Doha International Kindergarten, we strive to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to grow in a supportive environment that values both academic and personal development."

DIKg offers full-time education for children aged 3-5 years, following the National Curriculum of England's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The school's programme is designed to prepare students for primary education, with an emphasis on promoting respect for cultural diversity and fostering a love of learning, the statement added.



Sheikha Anwar bint Nawaf al-Thani

Ooredoo participates in World Cleanup Day at Al Zubarah archaeological site

Ooredoo Qatar successfully partnered with Seashore and Qatar Museums for a Beach Cleaning Day event as part of World Cleanup Day.

The event, in line with its continued dedication to sustainability and environmental responsibility, gathered employees and their families to clean Al Zubarah beach, a Unesco World Heritage site, and raise awareness of the critical issue of marine pollution.

Employees from Ooredoo, Seashore, and Qatar Museums, united in their efforts to make a positive impact on the environment.

The initiative aimed to highlight the importance of protecting natural resources and fostering a cleaner, healthier environment for the local community.

Sabah al-Kuwari, director Public Relations & Sponsorships at Ooredoo Qatar, commented: "Environmental responsibility is at the core of Ooredoo's corporate social responsibility initiatives. Through partnerships like this with Seashore, we lead by example, raising awareness and encouraging participation in activities



that benefit our environment and contribute to sustainability."

Saqr al-Mohannadi, Seashore vice chairman, said: "At Seashore, we are deeply committed to preserving the environment and reducing pollution, especially in our coastal areas."

"Collaborating with Ooredoo for World Cleanup Day reflects our shared values of sustainability and community responsibility. Together, we are making a tangible difference by protecting our natural heritage and fostering a cleaner environment for future generations."

Faisal al-Naimi, director of Archaeology at Qatar Museums,

stated: "Al Zubarah is not only a site of historical significance but also a vital part of our natural heritage. Our partnership with Seashore and Ooredoo for World Cleanup Day is a testament to our commitment to preserving both the cultural and environmental legacy of this important site."

"By protecting Al Zubarah's coastline, we safeguard its history and its future."

This collaboration aligns with Ooredoo's broader environmental and CSR goals, demonstrating the company's ongoing commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

QPO to perform *Heroes and Villains* on Sept 29 at QNCC

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) is set to present "Heroes and Villains" on September 29 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), honouring the iconic scores that have shaped the narratives of heroism and villainy on the big screen.

Under the baton of conductor Frank Strobel, the orchestra will embark on an exhilarating journey through the musical landscapes of cinema's most celebrated heroes and infamous villains.

Strobel, a conductor renowned for his diverse stylistic repertoire, has established himself as a prominent figure at the intersection of film and music. He has been instrumental in introducing film concerts to prestigious opera houses and concert venues. Since the 2021-22 season, he has held the position of Chief Conductor of the WDR Funkhausorchester in Cologne. The first half of the concert will feature legendary themes from the American West, highlighting the epic confrontations between heroes and outlaws.

Audiences will experience the courageous spirit of "The Magnificent Seven" alongside the contemporary reinterpretation found in "Django Unchained". In the second half, the programme will explore the intricate relationship between heroes and villains. The action-packed world of "Spider-Man" will come to life, followed by the intense struggle depicted in "Aliens", culminating in the adventurous escapades of "Indiana Jones".



Frank Strobel



This concert promises a captivating examination of how music influences our understanding of heroes and villains, vividly bringing to life the grand conflicts and moral dilemmas of cinema through the dynamic performance of a live orchestra.

Attendees will also be treated to the storytelling talents of narrator Manfred Callsen, who hails from Niebüll in North Friesland. Trained as an actor in Berlin, Callsen has performed at various esteemed theaters, including the ETA-Hoffmann-Theater Bamberg, the Hans-Otto-Theater Potsdam, the Staatsoper Berlin, and the Admiralspalast Berlin. Since 1993, he has appeared in over 70 film and television productions.

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Qatar affirms joint efforts to protect rights of women, children in conflict situation

QNA
Geneva

HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad has affirmed Qatar's keenness on continuous co-operation with international partners to enhance the protection of the rights of women and children in conflict situation, and to ensure their effective participation in rebuilding societies after these conflicts.

This came in the speech of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family, who represented the State of Qatar, at the high-level side event held under the title 'Pro-

moting and Protecting the Human Rights of Women and Children in conflict and post-conflict situations', within the work of the 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, in Geneva.

In her speech, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family underscored the importance of this event, which seeks to mobilise efforts for joint action to promote and protect the human rights of women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations. HE the Minister of Social Development and Family drew attention to the urgent humanitarian challenges facing the world today, and in this regard touched on the painful reality experienced by families in conflict zones, noting that



thousands of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities have lost their basic rights to security, dignity and peace.

She pointed to Qatar's role and its keenness to follow the approach of preventive diplomacy and effec-

tive multilateral dialogue, noting the State's great efforts to reunite families from Ukraine to ensure that children are reunited with their families and protected, and has taken all appropriate measures to avoid the dispersion of families

and to restore family contacts by providing information and facilitating efforts to search for missing persons.

In this context, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family called on the international community to shoulder its humanitarian responsibilities and work to build a future of lasting peace and justice.

In the context of her speech, HE the Minister pointed to the importance of the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, stressing that the family is the cornerstone in building stable and prosperous societies, and that it is necessary to protect families from the factors of disintegration surrounding them.

She affirmed the commitment of the State of Qatar and other countries to the joint pledge entitled 'Human Rights 75 .. Family Pledge' presented last year, which enhances support and protection for the family as the true and permanent wealth of nations.

HE the Minister noted the pioneering role of the State of Qatar in enhancing family stability and protecting it from threats, whether those resulting from conflicts, the effects of modern technology or social and economic transformations, and stressed the State's commitment to continuing its approach that places the family at the heart of development and humanitarian efforts, in accordance with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Transport minister holds meetings in Beijing



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti yesterday met with ministers and senior officials on the sidelines of Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024 in Beijing. HE the Minister met Kuwait's Minister of Public Works Dr Noura Muhammad Khaled al-Mashaan, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Transport and Logistic Services Dr Rumaih bin Mohamed al-Rumaih, Uzbekistan's Minister of Transport Ilhom Makhkamov Rustamovich and Civil Aviation Administration of China administrator Song Zhiyong. The meetings, according to an official statement from the Ministry of Transport, discussed the two countries' relations in the areas of transportation, mobility services, air transportation and their associated infrastructure, and ways to enhance them. Qatar's ambassador to China, Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Dehaimi attended the meetings.

Minister highlights Qatar's achievements in transport infrastructure at Beijing forum

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti has highlighted Qatar's achievements at the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024 in Beijing yesterday. While addressing the plenary session, he stated that Qatar has to date achieved 73% electrification in its public bus fleet.

The minister noted that sustainability is the cornerstone of the Transportation Master Plan for Qatar, which includes an integrated package of initiatives and projects built on key pivots.

"Those pivots are mainly the use of clean energy sources on public transportation, supporting transportation electrification, rolling out smart mobility and expressway projects along with their supportive infrastructures and laws, and managing the demand on land transportation, and other mobility technologies. "The goal is to achieve integration among all these elements and improve their networking, reduce traffic congestion and protect the environment to leave behind a real legacy for



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti addressing the plenary session of Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024 in Beijing.

current and coming generations," HE al-Sulaiti said.

Qatar's vision for seamless mobility is a necessity to achieve economic growth and sustainability, the minister said while calling for concerted action and for governments, the private sector and civil society to work closely to make this vision a reality.

"Qatar will continue developing

all transportation industry's activities and services and reinforcing its collaboration with UN and global stakeholders in this area, to achieve a vision of sustainable public transportation and infrastructure," he added.

HE the Minister also participated in the inauguration of the forum under the theme; "Sustainable Transport: Connecting the World through Logistics.

In attendance were the Chinese transport minister, several Arab and foreign ministers and senior officials, mobility and logistics industry leaders, regional and global organisation representatives, and CEOs of major transportation companies from around the world.

The two-day GSTF discusses the importance of enhancing and connecting global transportation systems, exchanging expertise and innovative technologies, fostering sustainability, reinforcing the efforts aimed at reducing carbon emissions, protecting the environment, and deepening global partnerships in world mobility industry.

Minister meets USAID deputy administrator

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met with Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Isobel Coleman, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The two sides discussed the

close strategic relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and promote them, and strengthening the co-operation between Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the USAID. The meeting also touched on the latest developments in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine and the

Caribbean countries, and ways of co-operation in development projects in these countries. The meeting was attended by Acting Director General of Qatar Fund for Development Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri, and Acting Director of the International Co-operation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nofe Khalid al-Suwaidi. **(QNA)**



Qatar attends Global Sustainable Transport Forum

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti yesterday attended the Ministers' Forum of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum (GSTF) 2024, which opened in Beijing, China, a statement from the ministry said.

Addressing the Ministers' Forum, themed 'Global Governance - Fostering a Global Sustainable Transport Partnership', HE al-Sulaiti said there was a need to adopt an all-out vision for a sustainable mobility system that can balance between the requirements of the modern age and the environmental, social and economic considerations.

The transportation sector, he said, plays a pivotal role in enhancing the transition to sustainable transportation; as they lay out the legal and regulatory frameworks that promote sustainable transportation, including developing and executing the policies and legislation that encourage the use of public transit system, investing in efficient and eco-friendly infrastructures and



setting out standards for carbon emissions from private vehicles.

"Sustainable transportation needs new and innovative technologies; so it is necessary to encourage innovation and back research, and development efforts in the industry by contributing to funding the universities and research centres to explore sustainable transportation solutions and supporting the research that explore new technologies such as autonomous vehicles or innovate low-emission alternate fuel," HE the Transport Minister said.

He noted the need to conduct regular assessments to their sustainable transportation's policies and projects to see their successes and shortcomings and to ensure adaptation to the continuous changing needs of the society and technological advancement. HE al-Sulaiti stressed the importance of partnerships between governments and the private sector to promote sustainable transportation as private sector companies contribute to developing innovative solutions that help improve transportation efficiency.

Workers feted on World Cleanliness Day

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Municipality, represented by the General Cleanness Department, in co-operation with Qatari Diar, concluded the activities of celebrating World Cleanliness Day, by organising a public cleanliness march in Lusail Boulevard in Lusail City, under the slogan 'Cleanliness is Everyone's Responsibility'.

The celebration aimed to highlight the vital and important role of cleanliness workers and honour their daily efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of the cities of Qatar. The celebration reflects the State of Qatar's commitment to promoting the concept of sustainable development and preserving the environment, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, which attaches utmost importance to a clean environment as one of the pillars of comprehensive development.

The march lasted for half an



hour and was overseen by relevant authorities from the Ministry of Interior. It saw significant participation from numerous officials from both the Ministry and Qatari Diar Company.

The event featured eight vehicles and machinery, along with 100 workers from the General Cleanness Department of the Ministry, as well as eight vehicles and one hundred workers from Qatari Diar Company.

This initiative underscored the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors on community issues,

particularly in promoting public cleanliness, which is recognised as a shared responsibility. The Ministry of Municipality has organised a number of awareness events and beach and island cleaning campaigns on the occasion of World Cleanliness Day, which marks the third Saturday of September every year.

These efforts reflect Qatar's pioneering role in promoting environmental awareness among all members of society and encouraging them to contribute to maintaining the cleanliness of public places and vital facilities.

Qatari team win silver medal at astronomy olympiad in Russia

A team of Qatari students has made a distinguished scientific achievement by winning the silver medal for the first time at the International Open Astronomy Olympiad, which was held in the city of Sochi, southern Russia, with the participation of students from 20 countries from around the world. The Olympiad aims to test students' skills in scientific challenges related to astronomy, and to exchange knowledge and experiences in this field. The Qatari team participating in the

Olympiad won the silver medal, as student Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed from Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys was able to achieve this honourable achievement, while students Mohammed Ghaith al-Kuwari, Saeed Ali Abu Sharb, and Mohammed Ismail Darwish were honoured for their distinguished participation and scientific activity, which reflects the high level of knowledge and commitment they showed during the competition, after intensive training.

The participation of the Qatari team received wide praise from the judges and organisers, who commended the performance of the students that exceeded expectations, despite this being the first participation of the State of Qatar in the Olympiad. The Minister of Education Sergei Kravtsov congratulated the student Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed on winning the silver medal, expressing his aspirations to see more Qatari participation in the upcoming Olympiad. **(QNA)**

Amir’s inclusive address at UN draws international interest

Arab and international media outlets highlighted the inclusive speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the opening session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79), which was held in New York on Tuesday.

The speech of His Highness the Amir was met with great resonance and welcome in the Palestinian street which is following Qatar’s tireless efforts to stop the Israeli aggression against them.

In this context, a report by the Turkish TRT Arabic TV highlighted the call of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to stop the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon, stressing in his speech before the UNGA that Qatar will continue to make efforts until a new agreement is reached for ceasefire in Gaza.

For its part, the Turkiye News Agency said in a report that during his speech before the UNGA, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani called to stop the aggression on the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon. The report that came under the title “Amir of Qatar addresses the world before the United Nations: Stop the aggression on Gaza, stop the war on Lebanon,” noted that the most prominent part of His Highness the Amir’s speech was that he considered the aggression that the Palestinian people are

being subjected to in Gaza is the most barbaric and heinous. The agency added that His Highness the Amir stressed that the failure to intervene to stop the aggression in Gaza is a major scandal, noting that His Highness stressed that there are those who are tempted by the possibility of marginalising the Palestinian cause, but the Palestinian cause is resistant to marginalisation. His Highness the Amir believed that the Palestinian cause would remain lingering in place, except in two cases, either the end of the occupation, or the disappearance of the Palestinian people.

In turn, Anadolu Agency of Turkiye said in a report that in his speech before the UNGA, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said that Qatar’s mediation to reach a ceasefire in Gaza will continue despite the Israeli accusations.

Anadolu added that His Highness the Amir emphasised that Ismail Haniyeh was not only the political leader of Hamas but also the first elected Palestinian prime minister, calling for an end to the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon.

The agency noted the reaction of His Highness the Amir to the explosions of wireless communication devices in Lebanon and quoted His Highness as saying: “Apart from committing a major crime by rigging wireless communica-

tion 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.”

The agency also pointed out His Highness the Amir’s description of the Israeli war on Gaza as “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.”

The agency quoted His Highness the Amir as stressing: “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 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.”

In turn, the French newspaper *Le Parisien* said that during his speech, His Highness the Amir considered that “The blatant aggression that befalls the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip today is the most extensive in breaching human values.”

The newspaper pointed out that His Highness said: “This is not a



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

war within the international relations’ well-known and common concept of war, but rather a crime of genocide.”

In the same context, Arab News newspaper of Saudi Arabia said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani described from the UNGA’s podium in New York, that the war waged by Israel on the Gaza Strip as a “genocide”.

Under the title “Amir of Qatar: What is happening in Gaza is a ‘crime of genocide’... We will continue our efforts until reaching a ceasefire,” the Asharq news website said, reporting parts from His Highness the Amir’s speech, including the Amir saying the aggression on Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip today is the most barbaric and His Highness’ emphasis that “There is no Israeli partner for peace during the current government’s tenure.”

Al Sharq website also noted that His Highness voiced his support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), stressing the

continuation of mediation efforts until a ceasefire is reached in Gaza.

The Italian media paid significant attention to His Highness the Amir’s speech, led by the Italian news agency ANSA, as well as the newspapers *Fatto Quotidiano*, the *Giornale di Brescia*, and the *Espansione TV* website, which all reported what was stated in the speech, noting His Highness the Amir’s statement on the plight of Palestinians.

Egyptian *Al Qahera News TV* and *Nile TV* broadcasted the full speech of His Highness the Amir at the UNGA’s opening session live on air.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), two political analysts praised His Highness the Amir’s inclusive speech, stressing that His Highness’ speech came at an important and sensitive time, was comprehensive, and expressed what is happening in the Palestinian reality.

In this context, political analyst Dr Fayed Abu Shamala said that His Highness the Amir was accu-

rate in describing the Palestinian situation, reflected the Palestinian reality in his speech, and held the international community responsible. He added that His Highness the Amir directly condemned the occupation, holding it responsible for the destruction and devastation that befell Gaza.

Abu Shamala indicated that His Highness the Amir’s speech represents what is going on in the conscience of the Palestinian people who want to stop the aggression, but at the same time do not want to give up their rights.

Professor of Strategic Studies Dr Ibrahim Habib saw that His Highness the Amir’s speech focused on the necessity of a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue, and clearly highlighted that there is no real Israeli peace partner, contrary to what the United States was saying, and what Israel claims that there is no Palestinian partner for peace.

Dr Habib emphasised that the speech was influential for a leader who speaks on behalf of the nation. **(QNA)**

Roundtable discusses Qatar’s key role in mediation, conflict resolution



Qatar’s embassy in the United Kingdom, in co-operation with the Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu), organised a roundtable. Attended by a group of senior parliamentary figures and experts in international affairs, the roundtable discussed Qatar’s leading role in mediation and conflict resolution, especially in light of the increasing challenges resulting from

the conflicts in the Middle East, as well as its role in promoting regional and international stability. Qatar’s ambassador to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Saud al-Thani and Director of Caabu Chris Doyle, along with a number of members of the UK Parliament and key figures participated in the roundtable. **(QNA)**

Special Envoy of FM takes part in roundtable on security in Yemen

HE Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab took part in a senior officials roundtable on Yemen. The event was held at a joint invitation of the European Union, Germany and the United States, on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly in New York. The deliberations included an exchange of views on a possible co-ordinated approach to the political and military dimensions in Yemen as a threat to regional security.

Al-Hanzab underscored the great importance attached by Qatar to maintaining the 2022 ceasefire agreement in Yemen, and pushing forward for a comprehensive ceasefire. He stressed the need to resolve the Yemeni crisis, ensure the country’s unity and achieve the aspirations of its people, through negotiations between Yemeni parties based on the Gulf Initiative outcomes and relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2216. **(QNA)**



Earthna events ‘enhanced environment awareness’

Executive Director of Earthna Center, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata has stressed that the centre’s activities and events have contributed to enhancing the community’s positive view towards the environment and sustainability issues, which has helped bring about positive change and to enhance the country’s environmental ambitions.

In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr de la Mata has indicated that the centre hosted the “Qatar National Dialogue on Climate Change” in 2023, in which

more than 400 ministries, government and private entities, civil society institutions, academics, and specialists participated. It helped guide Qatari efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change.

He added that at the community level, the 2023 Qatar Sustainability Week (the largest community campaign held annually in Qatar to promote environmental sustainability) was the largest ever, as it included more than 470 events and attracted 200,000 participants.

Dr De la Mata said that Earthna Center expects these numbers to increase in the ninth of the session, which will be held from

Sept 28-Oct 5, after hundreds of activities were prepared to be organised by various entities from the government and private sectors and civil society institutions across the country. He noted that the goal of the 2024 edition is to make a tangible positive difference and positive change that benefits society and future generations and enhances the community culture of the need to preserve the environment as a shared responsibility among all.

The Executive Director of Earthna Center added that this year’s edition is full of activities and workshops, as it will witness the launch of the fourth edition of the “Qatar National Dia-



Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata

logue on Climate Change”, which will be held on Oct 1-2, with the aim of enhancing collective climate action Qatar and formulating a common vision on how to address climate change. He pointed out that “Qatar Sustainabil-

ity Week” receives wide support from strategic partners every year, through their organisation and sponsorship of hundreds of activities and events, believing in the importance of these events in achieving Qatar National Vision 2030.

Regarding Earthna Prize for Environmental Challenges, Dr De la Mata pointed out that it celebrates and supports active projects in the field of preserving traditional knowledge and cultural heritage and drawing inspiration from them in creating solutions to contemporary environmental challenges. He pointed out that its value reaches USD1mm, to be received by four winners, and focuses in particular on projects in the fields

of water resource management, food security, sustainable urbanism, and stewardship.

He said the Earthna Center received nearly 400 applications for this year’s edition from over 100 countries, reflecting the great global interest in this prize. Earthna is currently in the process of evaluating the applications based on the extent to which they enhance the inclusiveness and application of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage in developing projects and policies; inspire sustainable practices; and meet the needs of communities in strengthening relations. He noted that the winners will be revealed at the Earthna Summit in April 2025. **(QNA)**

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GULF TIMES

Achieving peace through strength in Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin denies Ukraine's right to sovereignty, having invaded it twice since 2014. Thankfully, his efforts to subjugate the country have been thwarted by the courage of the Ukrainian people.

After two and a half years of fiercely defending their homeland, it has become abundantly clear that Ukrainians will never submit to Russian tyranny. But despite their resilience, Putin's brutal war of aggression continues. If Ukraine's allies fail to show the necessary resolve, the conflict could drag on for years, undermining European stability.

Moreover, an increasingly militaristic Russia threatens not only Ukraine but the entire world, with potentially catastrophic consequences. Russia's war has already sent shockwaves around the world, driving up energy and food prices and jeopardising nuclear safety. By violating fundamental principles of international law, Russia has destabilised the global order.

To promote peace, Ukraine's allies must make Putin understand that he cannot dictate the terms of how the war will end. They can do this by building global support for a peace agreement rooted in the fundamental principles of international law, strengthening Ukraine's position on the battlefield, providing long-term security guarantees, and outlining a clear path to Nato accession.

While Putin aims to prolong the war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is actively pursuing a sustainable peace. This summer, he gathered representatives from more than 90 countries in Switzerland to rally support for his ten-point peace formula, which calls for strengthening nuclear safety and addressing the conflict's environmental repercussions, in addition to full Russian withdrawal.

Ukraine and its allies must embrace the ancient maxim – if you want peace, prepare for war

Global pressure will be critical to reaching an agreement, but enduring peace also requires strong security guarantees. Given that Russia has repeatedly shown its disregard for international law and basic human rights by violating treaties and committing widespread war crimes, peace cannot rest on Putin's promises alone. The outcome of the war will depend on Ukraine's ability to defend itself.

The immediate priority is to improve Ukraine's position on the battlefield. As Russian missiles and drones continue to kill civilians across the country, with most attacks launched from Russian territory, Ukraine has every right to deploy long-range weapons to hit these targets and enter Russia to prevent further assaults. Limiting its ability to do so is essentially asking it to fight with one arm tied behind its back. Ukrainian forces have consistently shown they can use Western-supplied weapons effectively and responsibly. It is time for allies to lift any remaining restrictions on the types of weapons delivered and how they can be used.

But along with immediate support, Ukraine's allies must commit to providing it with military equipment and financial resources for as long as needed. Ukraine has already received long-term security guarantees from more than 30 countries as part of the Kyiv Security Compact, which we co-authored. Now is the time to prove that these guarantees have teeth. In the coming months, our efforts will focus on ensuring that the guarantees deliver on their promise. This involves monitoring their implementation, assessing evolving threats, and highlighting the ways Ukraine's security needs align with Europe's broader defence strategy.

Preventing Putin from winning the peace will require more than security guarantees. Ukraine's allies should expand their support by taking steps like training Ukrainian forces within the country and deploying civilian contractors or specialised military teams to repair damaged equipment on-site. Neighbouring allies could establish an extended air-defence shield over Western Ukraine to intercept incoming Russian missiles and drones, thereby saving civilian lives and enabling Ukraine to redeploy its air-defence systems to the front lines.

Each of these steps will undoubtedly strengthen Ukraine's position in any future negotiations. But ultimately, the only way to ensure long-term peace and security in Europe is to bring Ukraine into Nato. Leaving Ukraine in the grey zone between Russia and the Alliance would only invite more instability, aggression, and violence. Nato leaders must act decisively and offer Ukraine a path to membership. While this does not mean that Ukraine will join overnight, such a commitment would send a strong message to Putin that his war will not prevent its eventual accession.

Faced with Putin's heavily militarised and increasingly revanchist Russia, Ukraine and its allies must embrace the ancient Roman maxim *si vis pacem, para bellum* ("If you want peace, prepare for war"). Over the past two and a half years, the Ukrainian people have demonstrated an unwavering determination to defend their freedom. But to achieve lasting peace, the international community must muster the courage and strength to support and maintain it. –Project Syndicate

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In Madrid, solidarity with Lebanon



Demonstrators wave a Lebanese flag during a gathering called in support of Lebanon in Madrid yesterday. Lebanon's health minister said 51 people were killed and more than 220 injured on September 25, on the third day of major Israeli raids across the country. (AFP)

Crypto policy needs to empower builders

By Christian Catalini, Jai Massari and Rebecca Rettig
Cambridge

The cryptocurrency industry is going all in on November's US presidential election, channelling hundreds of millions of dollars to promote candidates who may support sensible regulation. But for all the investment – the sector tops all others as a source of funds this cycle – it remains unclear how either candidate would approach the issue and prioritise builders over speculators.

Casual observers may have heard that former president Donald Trump, the Republican candidate, has taken up the cause. Addressing a recent Bitcoin conference, he promised to make the United States the "crypto capital of the planet," create a Bitcoin strategic reserve, and embrace stablecoins. The crowd ate it up. Yet Trump's brand of boosterism underscores the sector's biggest challenge: for too long, those who want to use the technology for financial speculation have dominated policy debates, while those who actually want to build something with it are sidelined.

Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, has largely remained silent on the topic, but now has an opportunity to offer a more thoughtful and progressive approach to financial innovation. Crypto policy, like AI policy, is fundamentally about innovation and national competitiveness. To establish the US as a leader in this strategic sector, the next administration must first replace the current lineup of hostile financial regulators, led by Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Gary Gensler, who has consistently rejected meaningful dialogue with the industry.

But installing regulators who are more sympathetic to the quick-profit mentality would hardly be an improvement. Crypto's greatest strength – its ability to incentivise the construction of open networks – is also its biggest liability. As in the nineteenth-century railroad mania, cryptocurrencies have fuelled the creation of valuable new infrastructure, but they have also been exploited by reckless actors to perpetrate scams and fraud – Sam Bankman-Fried being a prime example of someone who knew how to play the game within the existing, imperfect regulatory framework.

Businesses engaging purely in speculation, or even outright scams, benefit the most from the current regulatory chaos. Worse, many

who have proactively advocated regulation or tried to collaborate with regulators have faced enforcement actions, resulting in a loss of access to essential banking services.

Regulators often lack incentives to adapt existing rules to new technologies, and incumbents often give them reason to defend the status quo. In crypto, accountability for criminality has come too late or not at all, leaving consumers burned. In the absence of regulatory clarity, market participants with established businesses or a need for banking services often shy away from exploring the technology, regardless of its potential. The result is a system that rewards recklessness and fraud while discouraging innovators seeking to improve payments, reform the financial sector, protect data privacy, or address market concentration in Big Tech.

Thoughtful crypto regulation will require more than Trump's pandering. This is an issue that goes beyond crypto. If the US is to lead in AI, defence, and other fields, it needs rules that recognise how much value these innovation-intensive sectors' can bring to the broader economy, not least by restoring competition. This is a complex undertaking. Success will require much more than courting Bitcoin maximalists and simply allowing stablecoins to exist.

Consider Trump's proposal for the US government to hold Bitcoin as a strategic asset. It is obvious that this would benefit Bitcoin's price, but not how it would serve the national interest. Instead, the federal government should recognise blockchain-based networks as critical infrastructure, akin to 5G.

Nor should the government blindly support domestic Bitcoin mining without encouraging methods that leverage renewables and stranded energy, or provide reinforcement for an increasingly fragile grid (as seen in Texas). Regulation should consider how Bitcoin mining and chip manufacturing could contribute to national security while ensuring minimal environmental impact.

In his Nashville speech, Trump accused the Biden administration of targeting crypto businesses' relationships with their banks. But the real problem is a regulatory and supervisory environment that makes it difficult for banks to engage safely with crypto. Many banks recognise that digital payments and assets will play a major role in the financial system. Yet they have been hampered by unreasonable rules like Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121 (SAB 121), which imposes punitive accounting standards on enterprises that cannot privately explore exceptions with SEC staff.

Trump also pledged to embrace stablecoins to reinforce dollar dominance. But, again, this issue is more complex than it may seem. To prevent the market from becoming as concentrated as the credit-card industry already is, the US needs to foster a competitive environment for stablecoin issuance. The dominant use case should not be dollarisation, as this goal could weaken capital controls, destabilise emerging economies, and undermine sanctions. Instead, legislation should ensure that stablecoins become a safe means of payment enabling instant, global transactions.

Achieving this vision demands a robust compliance framework. Current stablecoin issuers either don't know or don't want to know if their digital dollars are held by sanctioned countries or criminals. But this dangerous blind spot is a major hurdle for mainstream adoption. The onus is on crypto entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions that address identity and compliance challenges, but progress in these areas has been limited so far. New rules need to strengthen the incentives for the private sector to do the hard work.

At the end of the day, policymakers in Washington must come together and draft new rules, rather than trying to squeeze crypto use cases into laws from nearly a century ago. And the industry, for its part, needs to tackle the many problems that traditional financial services and crypto leaders have long ignored. A thoughtful crypto policy would prioritise builders over speculators. The upside, much like in the early days of the Internet, is a technology that can restore competition to sectors that haven't seen it in decades. – Project Syndicate

● Christian Catalini, Founder of the MIT Cryptoeconomics Lab, is a research scientist at MIT, Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer of Lightspark, and a member of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Technology Advisory Committee.

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● Rebecca Rettig, Chief Legal Officer and Chief Policy Officer at Polygon Labs, is a member of the Future of Finance Subcommittee of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Market Risk Advisory Committee.



A thoughtful crypto policy would prioritise builders over speculators. The upside, much like in the early days of the Internet, is a technology that can restore competition to sectors that haven't seen it in decades.

Envoy says Vietnam keen to enhance relations with Qatar



Vietnamese ambassador to Qatar Nguyen Huy Hiep.

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Vietnam-Qatar ties are set for further growth with an exchange of high-ranking delegations expected over the coming months, Vietnamese ambassador Nguyen Huy Hiep said yesterday.

“As the new ambassador, I prioritise strengthening bilateral relations in all sectors, from political and economic co-operation to labour, cultural, tourism, education, energy, investment, while unlocking co-operation potential in areas such as green energy, digital transformation,

and the Halal industry,” he explained.

The envoy pointed out that Vietnam and Qatar also exchanged mutual support at international forums and organisations. The bilateral trade volume varies from around \$400mn to \$500mn from year to year. “However, there are still many potentials and areas of co-operation awaiting actions from both sides to be unlocked, to further benefit the people of the two countries,” he explained.

The Vietnam ambassador stressed that cultural co-operation is a key area. In December 2020, the Ministry of Interior of Vietnam and the then Ministry

of Culture and Sports in Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding on information exchange between state management agencies on youth. “This has laid a foundation to develop co-operative programmes throughout 2021-2025.”

Every year, Qatar offers Vietnam four Arabic language scholarships at Qatar University, Katara, Bait Al Sulaiti, and the Qatar National Library, has regularly supported and created conditions to help the Vietnam embassy in Qatar organise exchange activities and to promote Vietnamese culture.

“To increase trade and investment between the two countries, the following initiatives are underway: Hosting economic and investment meetings, roundtables to introduce Vietnam’s policy on trade and investment, to connect Vietnamese companies and provinces with partners in Qatar; participating and engaging Vietnamese companies to Expo, Forums and Economic Events in Qatar such as AgriteQ, Project Qatar, and Qatar Hospitality among other initiatives and activities,” the envoy added.

Caravan Fish Market Seafood Restaurant opens



Caravan Fish Market Seafood Restaurant has been inaugurated by Qatari celebrity chef Aisha al-Tamimi, who praised the exceptional culinary offerings. “It is a privilege to inaugurate Caravan Fish Market and to taste such exquisite, fresh seafood. I am confident that this restaurant will become a beloved dining destination in Doha. My best wishes for its continued success,” she said. “We are truly humbled by the incredible turnout and the warm reception we received,” said Dr

Noushad C K, the CEO of Can International group of companies. “Chef Aisha al-Tamimi’s generous words and the support of all our guests have made this night unforgettable. We are thrilled to now open our doors to the public and share our passion for seafood with the people of Doha.” Located at Gulf Paradise Hotel, Al Khaleej Street, the restaurant promises to deliver a unique and memorable dining experience, celebrating the finest seafood in Doha, a statement added.

New travel rule for Qataris to US soon: MoFA

Qatari passport holders travelling to the US of America (US) for tourism and business purposes will be able soon to apply for a 90-day non-extendable travel authorisation, an official source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)’s Department of Consular Affairs said. The move is pursuant to Qatar’s accession to the US Visa Waiver Programme (VWP). Qatari nationals can apply for a two-year travel

authorisation via esta.cbp.dhs.gov or the mobile application (ESTA Mobile) through the iOS app store or Google Play store. The authorisations are valid for two years. The travel authorisation is deemed void upon the expiration of the passport, the source said, adding that the implementation and requirements of the VWP will be announced in due course. **(QNA)**

Temporary closure of Corniche tunnel

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced the temporary closure of the tunnel in one direction for those coming from Corniche towards Ras Abu Abboud Expressway from 12 midnight today (Thursday) to 6am on Sunday. During the closure in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, three lanes in one direction will be temporarily closed from Al Rufaa Intersection towards Ras Abu Abboud Expressway. The closure is to carry out road maintenance work. Road users can use adjacent alternative roads to reach their destinations.



Qatar attends Arab refugee convention meeting



Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, took part in the 11th meeting of the joint committee of experts and representatives of the ministries of justice and interior and relevant authorities in the member states to study the draft Arab convention on the status of refugees in the Arab countries, which was held yesterday by the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers at the



headquarters of the Arab League General Secretariat in Cairo. Minister Plenipotentiary Dr Maha Bakhit, head of the Arab League Legal Affairs Department, said the meeting will continue study of the articles of the draft Arab convention on the status of refugees in the Arab countries, in preparation for presenting the results of the study at the

upcoming session of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers in November. The meeting is held in implementation of the decision issued at the 39th session of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers on Oct 16, regarding the draft Arab convention on the status of refugees in the Arab countries, Dr Bakhit noted. **(QNA)**

US visa waiver is recognition for Qatar’s policies

From Page 1

Qatar’s pivotal role in addressing international crises has bolstered its reputation as a capable ally. From mediating in the Taliban issue to facilitating the release of prisoners during the Gaza conflict, Qatar has demonstrated its diplomatic finesse. Its contributions during the Afghanistan evacuation — helping secure the release of American hostages — were further proof of its reliability. The US and Qatar share a long-standing security partnership, which is also reflected in Qatar’s status as a major non-Nato ally. This relationship is grounded in mutual security interests, extending beyond defence co-operation to encompass broader regional stability. The Visa Waiver Program recognises Qatar’s security capabilities, acknowledging that the Gulf nation has met the stringent criteria for such an important agreement.

It is important to note that Qatar’s inclusion in the VWP is not simply a result of its recent rise as a strategic partner. Its classification as a major non-Nato ally was established well before this new visa agreement, indicating a long-standing relationship rooted in shared economic, political, and educational values.

The US-Qatar partnership has deep roots. Economically, Qatar hosts some of America’s largest corporations, such as ExxonMobil, Cisco, and Google, all of which have regional offices in Doha. These businesses benefit from the robust, business-friendly environment Qatar has cultivated, and the visa waiver will certainly encourage even more corporate collaboration. Additionally, Qatar’s world-class Education City hosting campuses of Northwestern University, Georgetown University, and Weill Cornell University, exemplify the

flourishing cultural and academic exchange between the two countries. These universities have become beacons of higher education in the region, nurturing future leaders and fostering an ongoing dialogue between Qatari and American communities. The economic impact of the visa waiver agreement is significant. While Qatar and the US already enjoy strong economic ties, the removal of visa requirements for short-term business and leisure visits will streamline travel, facilitating new business ventures and collaborations. With Qatar Airways connecting to nine US destinations, the potential for increased travel and commercial engagement will expand considerably. Qatari nationals will find it easier to explore business opportunities, attend educational programmes, and engage with American culture, while US companies will find it simpler to foster partnerships and increase investments in Qatar’s dynamic economy. Beyond economic gains, this agreement has cultural benefits. Both the American and Qatari people highly value family and community, sharing a mutual respect for these important social structures. The visa waiver will encourage more personal exchanges between the people of both nations, deepening friendships and enhancing understanding. The waiver is not only a logistical convenience; it opens the door to cultural and social connections that can bridge the gap between the West and the Middle East. Qatar’s inclusion in the US Visa Waiver Program is an achievement that is also a logical next step in a partnership that has been developing for decades. As the 41st country to join the VWP, Qatar now stands as a testament to the importance of trust, collaboration, and mutual benefit in global diplomacy.

QU signs pact with Qatar Pharmaceutical Industries

Qatar University (QU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Qatar Pharmaceutical Industries to establish a foundation for collaboration in the exchange of expertise and information, including newsletters, journals, studies, statistics and other data.

The MoU seeks to facilitate joint studies, organise conferences, meetings, training, research and studies, as well as co-operation in other areas of mutual interest, apart from partnering in all scientific, technical, administrative and research fields.

The MoU was signed by Dr Mohamed Izham Ibrahim, dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Mansoor Sultan al-Naemi, chairman of Qatar Pharmaceutical Industries, in the presence of several officials from both institutions.



Dr Ibrahim said: “This smart partnership marks a significant milestone in bridging academia and industry to advance pharmaceutical education and research. The QU College of Pharmacy is committed to collaborate with Qatar Pharmaceutical Industries in drug develop-

ment and commercialisation.” Al-Naemi stated: “By combining our scientific resources and expertise, we believe this collaboration will enhance our ability to innovate and bring forward new, life-changing treatments and address unmet medical needs.”

Ministry recalls Infiniti, Hyundai models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, has announced the recall of Infiniti QX60, 2022-2023 models, as service interval for oil change is not correctly printed in the owner’s manual. The MoCI, in co-operation with Skyline Automotive, also announced the recall of Hyundai Santa Fe, 2024 model, as some 5-seat/7-seat vehicles might experience wiring damage due to floor wiring and

seat dive hinge interference during second row seat folding. The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries 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.

Qatar Rail to promote tourism via metro, tram

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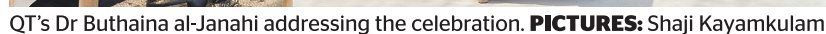
Qatar Rail also announced its collaboration with Hamad International Airport (HIA) to launch Complimentary Day Passes to visitors. This three-day offer from today (Thursday), aims to encourage visitors to experience the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram and easily travel between various tourist destinations. In co-ordination with Qatar Tourism, Qatar Rail will jointly promote events and activities across the country that can be accessed via the metro and tram networks. Additionally, the metro will be highlighted as the preferred mode of transport for visitors during their stay in Doha, through Qatar Tourism’s various platforms. The Doha Metro links an extensive range of destinations, including major landmarks and tourist attractions in and around the city while the Lusail Tram serves Lusail City and its surrounding areas. Together, they provide convenient access to Qatar’s key tourist spots such as HIA, the National Museum of Qatar, Souq Waqif, Katara - Cultural Village, and other cultural and heritage sites.

Lifesaving treatment for baby Malkha Rouhi

From Page 1

Sidra Medicine is the only hospital in Qatar equipped to provide groundbreaking gene therapy for SMA, an inherited neuromuscular disorder that affects nerves and muscles, causing muscles weakness, breathing and swallowing difficulties. The treatment has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life for SMA patients. Dr Khalid Ibrahim, senior attending paediatric neurologist at Sidra Medicine said: “This treatment highlights the incredible advancements in precision medicine. We have successfully administered the medication to nearly 50 babies with SMA at our hospital. These patients have come to us from across the Middle East and have been part of a comprehensive SMA management programme that Sidra Medicine established in 2022.” Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, CEO’s assistant for the Resources Development and Communication sector at QC, said: “We are deeply honoured to have contributed to providing baby Malkha Rouhi with a life-saving treatment to combat SMA, thanks to the overwhelming support from our community and partners. This successful treatment exemplifies the incredible impact we can achieve when we come together for a common cause.”

Malkha’s parents Risal Abdul Rasheed and Nihala Nizam, said: “Words cannot express the generosity and kindness of the people in Qatar, Qatar Charity and the wonderful medical team at Sidra Medicine. Alhamdulillah, that we were able to have this life-saving treatment for our baby. “Thanks to the support of Qatar Charity, we were able to raise the funds in such a short amount of time. We want to acknowledge the community, for supporting us financially and emotionally, in this journey. We feel incredibly blessed and fortunate to have access to such amazing care in Qatar. Thank you for giving Malkha a chance. We look forward to sharing this beautiful story with Malkha and how everyone came together to save her life. You have our deepest love and gratitude.” Malkha was administered Zolgensma, a lifesaving drug made by Novartis for treating SMA. Sidra Medicine has been appointed as the lead treatment centre in the Mena region to administer the medication by Novartis. Fakhroo concluded: “Qatar Charity remains committed to its mission of providing life-saving support and bringing hope and healing to families in need. We thank everyone who contributed to providing the life-saving treatment to Malkha Rouhi. And we hope for their continued support for humanitarian causes in the future.”



By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

“Qatar has been considered as home for people from more than 100 nationalities from around the world. It is also one of the safest countries in the world and very suitable destination for families.



"Qatar encourages culture exchange as it is known to be a suitable place to enhance international understanding and peace and cultural cooperation," added Dr al-Janahi.

 www.instagram.com/safarimallqatar