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Minister launches Qatar Digital Identity app

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani launched yesterday the "Qatar Digital Identity" application during his visit to the Ministry of Interior's pavilion at Milipol Qatar 2024. The "Qatar Digital Identity" app is a smart application that provides digital versions of ID cards and documents, allowing users to access various electronic services without the need for physical documents. It facilitates numerous services within the country, enabling access and activation through biometric data. The app also simplifies obtaining electronic services on the Ministry of Interior's website. (QNA) **Page 6**

Qatar condemns Israeli ban on UNRWA activities

Qatar condemned, in the strongest terms, the Israeli Knesset's approval of draft laws banning the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the occupied Palestinian territories, considering it a dangerous precedent for the United Nations and multilateral action, and a terrifying development in the war of genocide waged by the occupation against the defenceless Palestinian people. **Page 4**

Afif wins Best AFC Player award

Qatari Akram Afif won the AFC Player of the Year award presented by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), during the 2023 annual awards ceremony held yesterday at the Grand Peace Palace of the Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea. Afif became the 26th winner of the award since its launch in 1994, and he is also the first Qatari player to win the award for the second time. **Sport Page 1**



Constitutional amendment referendum on November 5

Amir issues decree inviting citizens to vote

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Decree No 87 of 2024, inviting all citizens aged 18 and above to participate in a general referendum on the constitutional amendments to the Permanent Constitution of the State of Qatar on Tuesday, 3rd Jumada Al-Awwal 1446, corresponding to Nov 5, 2024.

The decree stipulated that the referendum would begin at 7am and end at 7pm, and that the referendum results would be announced within 24 hours of its conclusion. The decree also stipulated the establishment of a general referendum

committee at the Ministry of Interior to organise and manage the referendum and announce its results.

The decree stipulated that the "general referendum committee" would be formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of Interior, with the membership of the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, the Minister of State for Interior Affairs, a member of the Shura Council chosen by the Speaker of the Shura Council, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, a judge chosen by the president of Supreme Judiciary Council, and the director of Elections Department of the Ministry of Interior.

The decree is effective from its date of issuance, and is to be published in the Official Gazette.

During the Shura Council's regular weekly session on Monday, the Council unanimously approved the draft constitutional amendments after reviewing the report of the special committee studying the amendment of some articles of the constitution.

The session was chaired by HE Speaker of the Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem.

Constructive and in-depth discussions took place at the session, with the esteemed members of the Shura Council showing great commitment for enhancing national unity, upholding the principle of justice and the rule of law, and ensuring the country's supreme interest in accordance with the directives of His Highness the Amir.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani

On this occasion, HE the Speaker extended his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani for his wise directives and insightful vision, which he expressed in his historic speech at the opening of the fourth session of the first legislative term. This speech laid out a comprehensive plan to enhance Qatar's development and prosperity.

Milipol Qatar 2024 opens



HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and other dignitaries at the opening of Milipol Qatar 2024 yesterday.

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani yesterday opened the 15th edition of the Milipol Qatar at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The three-day event features an array of innovations, solutions and trends in security and safety sectors. The inaugural ceremony was attended by dignitaries including Iraq's Minister of Interior

Gen Abdul Amir Kamel al-Shammari and Malaysia's Minister of Home Affairs Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail, senior officials of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and diplomats.

Milipol Qatar 2024 features the latest equipment and devices, innovative services and systems in internal security and civil defence. Speaking to Qatar News Agency on the sidelines of the event, Lt Gen al-Shammari hailed the event noting that the participation of international firms specialising in security underscores the interest of Qatar and the Ministry of Interior in cutting-edge technologies for security development.

Malaysia's minister of Home

Affairs noted the event assumes importance as it brings together the most prominent international firms operating in the field of homeland security.

The global event for homeland security and safety is witnessing the participation of 250 international and national companies specialising in internal security and safety along with six major international pavilions at an area of 23,000sqm.

There is an additional outdoor space showcasing MoI's fleet of vehicles and innovation in its services. The event has lined up seminars on cybersecurity, civil defence and airport and border security with 15 presentations. **To Page 7**

'Israeli massacres proof of disregard for int'l law'

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Dr Majid bin Mohammed al-Ansari, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), expressed his regret that the situation in Gaza has reached a stage where Israeli massacres on a daily basis have outnumbered condemnations, noting that the international community should be ashamed of itself in light of the continuation of the horrific war which has been going on for more than a year.

Dr al-Ansari reiterated, in a media briefing yesterday, Qatar's clear position on the ongoing crimes of the occupation, whether targeting civilian objects, hospitals, and schools, or targeting the displaced, or starvation and siege imposed on northern Gaza, and at the same time targeting brotherly Lebanon, where more than 2,700 people have so far been martyred, and which is suffering systematic destruction of villages and towns.

He stressed that this is a clear indication of the lack of respect for international human rights law.

He said that Qatar will not fail to play its role in ending this crisis by keeping its mediation and communication channels open, and supporting all regional and international efforts aimed at ending this crisis and stopping the bloodshed despite all the challenges and the ground reality that casts its



Dr Majid bin Mohammed al-Ansari

dark shadows on negotiations.

Regarding the extent of the impact of the assassinations carried out by the Israeli entity and its targeting of UN offices on the efforts of the negotiation process, Dr al-Ansari stressed that every escalation on the ground is accompanied by "complicating" the success of the mediation. "It is not possible to negotiate successfully with a party, while the other party is targeted and assassinated at every opportunity."

He praised the important role played by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in helping millions not only in Gaza, but also in the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Dr al-Ansari warned that stopping support for UNRWA would have disastrous consequences, as well as preventing it from operating in the Palestinian territories, in light of the presence of more than 6mn Palestinians who benefit from the relief services of this agency. **To Page 7**

93 Gazans killed in Israeli strike on residential block

AFP
Gaza City

A single Israeli air strike on a residential block left nearly 100 dead yesterday, Gaza's civil defence agency said, as Israel faced criticism after its parliament voted to ban the key UN aid agency working in the Palestinian territory.

Palestinian rescuers and family members were scouring through the rubble of the demolished five-storey block in Beit Lahia in the north of Gaza, near the Jabalia area where an Israeli operation is underway.

"The number of martyrs in the



An injured man reacts while sitting on the rubble of a building hit by an Israeli strike in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

massacre of the Abu Nasr family home in Beit Lahia has risen to 93 martyrs, and about 40 are still missing under the rubble," Gaza civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

US voices concern

The United States voiced concern about a "horrifying" Israeli strike in Gaza that killed a large number of children and said it was asking its ally for answers.

"We are deeply concerned by the loss of civilian life in this incident. This was a horrifying incident with a horrifying result," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters.



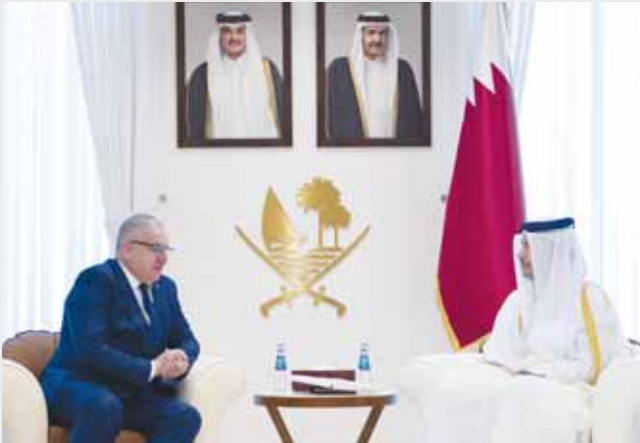
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Amir receives message from Algerian president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a written message from Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, pertaining to bilateral relations. The message was handed over to HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani during his meeting yesterday with Secretary-General of Algeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad Lounes Magramane. **(QNA)**



Official

Amir congratulates Turkish president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the anniversary of his country's Republic Day. **(QNA)**

Qatar condemns Israeli's draft law banning UNRWA activities

Qatar condemned, in the strongest terms, the Israeli Knesset's approval of draft laws banning the activities of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the occupied Palestinian territories, considering it a dangerous precedent for the UN and multilateral action, and a terrifying development in the war of genocide waged by the occupation against the defenceless Palestinian people, and a continuation of its systematic targeting of the UN agency and its vital humanitarian activities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed, in a statement yesterday, that the Palestinian people besieged in the Gaza Strip have been facing catastrophic humanitarian conditions due to the brutal ag-

gression targeting them for more than a year, the obstruction of the delivery of necessary aid to the areas of the Strip, and the use of food and medicine as a weapon against them, warning in this context that banning UNRWA activities will lead to serious humanitarian and political consequences, especially depriving millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria of its necessary services, in addition to liquidating the issue of Palestinian refugees and their right to return to their areas and homes, which is guaranteed by international law and relevant UN resolutions, specifically UN General Assembly resolutions 194 and 237.

The ministry also stressed that the Israeli occupation's disdain for international laws, agreements and

resolutions, its disregard for the activities and goals of international organisations, and its persistence in committing horrific crimes of murder and forced displacement against children, women and the elderly in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories, requires international solidarity to end the barbaric war on the Strip immediately, and to exert all efforts to compel Israel to comply with the efforts aimed at achieving a just and sustainable peace in the region.

The ministry renewed Qatar's full support for UNRWA, based on its firm and supportive position towards the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. **(QNA)**

Deputy Amir meets GCC attorneys general



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani met in his office at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with attorneys general and public prosecutors of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states on the occasion of their visit to the country to participate in their 16th meeting currently convened in Doha. During the meeting, they discussed areas of joint co-operation to enhance the Gulf action. **(QNA)**

PM, Egyptian FM discuss Gaza developments

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received a phone call from Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs Dr Badr Abdelaty. The call dealt with discussing bilateral relations and the means to enhance it, developments of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the mediation efforts aimed to reach an immediate ceasefire, the unimpeded access of humanitarian aid to all of the Strip's areas, in addition to developments in Lebanon, particularly ceasefire efforts and providing humanitarian and aid assistance to the brotherly Palestinian people. **(QNA)**

Transport minister meets UAE Civil Aviation Authority official

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti met with Director-General of the General Civil Aviation Authority of the UAE Saif Mohammed al-Suwaidi. The meeting dealt with discussing bilateral co-operation in civil aviation and the means to enhance it, particularly smart and environmentally-friendly technology related to air transport. The meeting was attended by Acting President of the General Civil Aviation Authority Mohamed Faleh al-Hajri. **(QNA)**



Qatar chairs 16th meeting of GCC attorneys general

Qatar chaired the 16th meeting of the GCC Attorneys General and Public Prosecutors in Doha yesterday. HE the Attorney General Dr Issa Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi chaired the meeting. Also present was GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi.

At the beginning of the meeting, HE al-Nuaimi praised GCC Public Prosecution officials and the GCC General Secretariat for their keenness to enhance co-operation and follow up on the implementation of the decisions of previous meetings.

He added that the meeting contributes to the development and strengthening of joint Gulf action, which positively reflects on the GCC interests, enhances the GCC position regionally and internationally, and leads to the achievement of prompt justice, which is considered the lofty goal.

The meeting includes several topics that support the path of co-operation among the GCC public prosecutions, he added.

Meanwhile, Albudaiwi commended the successive achievements of the GCC Public Pros-

ecution Committee since its first meeting in 2007, primarily the rules of co-operation between GCC public prosecutions and attorneys general, the Muscat document on the rules for child protection during investigation, and the ethics document for artificial intelligence (AI) in the work of the public prosecution issued in 2023, with the aim of improving the quality of performance, accelerating decision-making mechanisms, and ensuring the accuracy and efficiency of outputs in a way that enhances justice.

The document is also keen to respect and protect rights and freedoms without prejudice or derogation, in addition to achievements represented in unifying systems and laws, enhancing co-operation in confronting crimes, prosecuting perpetrators, exchanging information and transferring expertise, and co-ordinating positions between the GCC countries on common issues in a way that strengthens joint Gulf parliamentary co-operation, he added.

He added that the topics included in the 16th meeting in Doha

are important and evidence keenness to advance the joint Gulf action process in a way that achieves more integration among the GCC countries in the judicial field in general and the penal field in particular.

The agenda included developing controls and mechanisms for holding interactive seminars, honouring the former public prosecutors and attorneys general, and the mechanism for exchanging visits between members of the inspection departments in the public prosecutions.

The meeting presented the experiences of GCC public prosecutions, including the experience of Qatar's Public Prosecution in the field of AI technology, enhancing electronic services, and facilitating access to legal information. At the end of the meeting, the Qatar Public Prosecution's First Chief Prosecutor Mohammed Rashid al-Binali, along with several GCC public prosecution members, was awarded the Hamed Al Othman Award – a GCC distinction prize for attorneys general, public prosecutors and heads of investigation departments. **(QNA)**



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DOHA GOLF CLUB
West Bay Lagoon
P.O. Box 13530
Doha, Qatar

- Upon Receipt of a conformant CA and proof of payment of the tender fee, the applicant will be issued a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) through the appointed broker; Chedid & Associates Qatar.
- Requests for RFP documents after **10 November 2024** will be rejected.
- The decision to issue RFP documents to an applicant rests solely with DGC.
- Technical and Commercial Offers should be submitted by hand in separate sealed envelopes with two (2) copies of each to Doha Golf Club as per the above mail address.
- Tender Bond must be submitted in a separate envelope, otherwise Doha Golf Club will not consider documents for further review.
- Any queries in relation to this tender should be addressed in writing to the email addresses above.

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Interior minister meets counterparts participating in Milipol Qatar



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met yesterday with a number of interior ministers from brotherly and friendly countries in Doha to participate in the opening of the 15th edition of the “Milipol Qatar 2024” Exhibition and Conference. HE Sheikh Khalifa met separately with Iraqi Interior Minister Lt Gen Abdul Amir Kamel al-Shammari, Kazakhstan’s Minister of Internal Affairs Yerzhan Sadenov, Rwandan Interior Minister Dr Vincent Biruta and Minister Delegate for Everyday Security at the French Interior Ministry Nicolas Daragon. During the meetings, several topics of mutual interest were discussed, along with a review of relations between Qatar and these countries, particularly in the security fields, and ways to support and enhance them. (QNA)

‘Milipol Qatar a landmark on global exhibitions map’



Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani, Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson, and Swedish ambassador Gautam Bhattacharyya.

Qatar Chamber is participating in the 15th edition of ‘Milipol Qatar’, which will run until October 31 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), under the theme ‘Technology in the Service of Security’.

Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani and first Vice-Chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari attended the exhibition’s opening ceremony alongside ministers of interior from other countries, senior security officials, experts, and representatives from leading global security companies.

Following the inauguration, Sheikh Khalifa toured the exhibition pavilions and was briefed on the products and innovations presented by the exhibiting companies. He underscored the significance of the exhibition, noting that it is one of the largest fairs specialising in internal security and civil defence at the regional level.

Sheikh Khalifa noted that the exhibition has witnessed significant development over the years



Qatar Chamber first Vice-Chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari during a tour of the exhibition area.

in terms of its space, the number of exhibitors and participating countries, and the range of items showcased by international participants. He emphasised that Milipol Qatar has become a prominent landmark on the global map of exhibitions for security, safety, and innovative security solutions.

Sheikh Khalifa also highlighted that the exhibition focuses on various aspects of cybersecurity and

AI, noting their major role in driving the development and growth of private sector companies and the national economy in general.

Through its booth at the expo, the chamber will highlight the services it offers for the business community, companies, and its members and will also offer information about doing business in Qatar, the investment climate, and other issues related to the Qatari private sector.

Qatar Digital Identity app launched



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani launched yesterday the “Qatar Digital Identity” application during his visit to the Ministry of Interior’s pavilion at Milipol Qatar 2024. (QNA)

Ministry signs security co-operation deals with Kazakhstan, Germany



On the sidelines of Milipol Qatar 2024, HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani witnessed the signing of a security co-operation agreement in crime prevention between the interior ministries of Qatar and Kazakhstan. The agreement was signed by HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed al-Thani and Kazakh Minister of Internal Affairs Yerzhan Sadenov.

HE Sheikh Khalifa also witnessed the signing of a Letter of Intent for security co-operation in training and knowledge exchange between the Ministry of Interior of Qatar and the Ministry of Interior and Community of Germany. The Letter of Intent was signed on behalf of Qatar by HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed al-Thani, and on behalf of Germany by State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Interior and Community Bernd Krossner. (QNA)

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Major int’l homeland security exhibition: ministry official

HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab al-Kaabi has affirmed that Milipol Qatar is one of the most significant international exhibitions in the area of homeland security devices and systems, as well as safety, pointing out that there is a qualitative evolution in the cutting-edge equipment and devices being showcased at the exhibition.

In press remarks on the sidelines of the exhibition, His Excellency highlighted that Milipol Qatar 2024 has succeeded in drawing the largest global firms that participate with extraordinary pavilions showcasing advanced equipment in the field of homeland security, protection and cutting-edge technological systems.

He stated that the exhibition has become a key platform and a Qatari footprint in the areas of security industries and exhibitions at the Middle East and North Africa level, as well as an opportunity for national, international firms to meet decision makers who operate in security protection in many



HE Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab al-Kaabi

level for the Qatari firms and global firms at the regional and international levels.

Assistant Undersecretary for Technical and Specialised Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, Staff Major General Abdullah Mohammed al-Suwaidi emphasised that the 15th edition of Milipol Qatar attracts a powerful participation on the part of largest global firms operating in advancing security technologies, pointing out that the exhibition showcases new debuted technologies given the desire of exhibitors to showcase their best products at this premium platform at the regional and global levels. (QNA)

world countries.

HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior hailed the level of attendance and the advanced level exhibitors have attained to showcase the best and state-of-the-art products at the local

Iraqi, Malaysian ministers commend innovative advancements at event

Iraqi Interior Minister Lt Gen Abdul Amir Kamel al-Shammari and Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail have hailed the global participation and advanced level of the 15th edition of Milipol Qatar 2024 Exhibition and Conference.

Speaking on the sidelines of the exhibition, the Iraqi minister said that the participation of international firms specialising in security underscores the interest of Qatar and its Ministry of Interior in cutting-edge technologies for security development.

He added that he observed firms focused on artificial intelligence (AI) for detecting drugs and other crimes. The Malaysian minister noted the extraordinary evolution this edition has witnessed, affirm-

ing that he led a high-level delegation due to the significance of the Milipol Qatar Exhibition.

He underscored the importance of this mammoth exhibition, which brings together the most prominent international firms operating in the field of homeland security. He added that he visited a substantial number of participating pavilions, some of which spotlight cutting-edge applications of AI.

He said that he was impressed by the pavilions, which elevate the standards in various security fields. He noted their incredible capabilities to enhance productivity, reduce costs, accelerate processes, and to minimise human errors by collecting and analysing data to achieve the best results utilising AI tools. (QNA)

Milipol Qatar 2024 opens

From Page 1

A key highlight is the special international conference on artificial intelligence (AI) for homeland security and safety technology, discussing AI innovations and ethics focusing on four main themes: AI and smart technologies, AI in security operations, ethics of AI and security challenges and opportunities in AI.

Milipol Qatar 2024 is expected to see a record attendance of over 350 official delegations, demonstrating the global importance of the event which provides opportunities for direct interaction with high-level delegations, military and security leaders, and representatives from government bodies, facilitating contracts and agreements with companies.

The event also witnesses the launching of new systems and solutions, providing manufacturers of internal security and safety equipment an opportunity to engage with decision-makers and security experts.



HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani touring Milipol Qatar 2024 yesterday.



A view of the Ministry of Interior pavilion at Milipol Qatar 2024.

PICTURES: Thajudheen and supplied



Ooredoo showcases advanced ICT solutions at Milipol Qatar

Ooredoo is demonstrating at Milipol Qatar 2024 its expertise in providing secure and reliable network connectivity and advanced ICT solutions, which are critical for both national security and business continuity, a statement said.

Milipol Qatar, the region's foremost international exhibition dedicated to homeland security and civil defence, will run until Thursday (October 31) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Ooredoo will focus on its capabilities in two key areas - managed security and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions. The company will showcase its comprehensive portfolio of security services, which include DDoS Protection, Threat Monitoring, Cloud Security, and its industry-leading Managed Security Operations Centre. These solutions are designed to protect businesses and national infrastructure from evolving cyber threats.

Ooredoo will also highlight its IoT and Cloud services, offering advanced platforms like IoT Connect, which allows organisations to monitor, manage, and secure their devices and networks with ease. Ooredoo's state-of-the-art Data Centre and Cloud Services provide unparalleled reliability and scalability to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving digital world.

The company will showcase its ability to provide critical communication and connectivity solutions in emergency and disaster scenarios, contributing to the security and advancement of Qatar's digital goals.

Thani al-Malki, chief business officer at Ooredoo



Qatar, said: "As the digital transformation leader in Qatar, we are dedicated to supporting national security efforts and providing innovative services that empower businesses and safeguard our nation's infrastructure."

Visitors to Ooredoo's booth will have the opportunity to experience live demonstrations of its Managed Security and IoT solutions, interact with product experts, and explore how Ooredoo's advanced technologies can help protect their organisations and ensure business continuity.

Shura Council Speaker meets with envoys of Malta, Peru



HE the Shura Council Speaker, Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, held separate meetings yesterday with Malta's ambassador Simon Pullicino and Peru's ambassador Gonzalo Voto Bernales Gatica. The meetings discussed Qatar's bilateral relations with Malta and Peru, especially pertaining to joint parliamentary co-operation and ways to enhance it. Shura Council members Dr Sultan bin Hassan al-Dosari and Mohammed bin Fahd al-Muslim attended the two meetings. (QNA)



AlKhater meets French parliamentary team



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met with the visiting French parliamentary delegation. The meeting discussed relations, enhancing partnerships between the two countries, and developmental co-operation between them in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Afghanistan. HE AlKhater stressed Qatar's keenness to advance its distinguished relations with France to broader horizons of co-operation and partnership. In turn, the French delegation commended Qatar's successful mediation in a number of regional and international files and its humanitarian support for those affected by conflicts and natural disasters around the world. (QNA)

Education ministry undersecretary meets Bosnia minister

HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi met yesterday with Minister of Human Rights and Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina Dr Sevlid Hurtic and his accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed activating bilateral co-operation in education and scientific research. (QNA)



Al-Muraikhi bids farewell to Cuban, Japanese envoys

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met separately yesterday with Cuban ambassador Alain Perez Torres and Japanese ambassador Satoshi Maeda, on the occasion of the end of their tenure. HE al-Muraikhi thanked the ambassadors for their efforts in supporting and strengthening the relations, wishing them success in their future duties. (QNA)



Israeli massacres proof of disregard for int'l law: MoFA

From Page 1

Qatar has pledged \$100mn to provide humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip. He stressed the need for the international community to act and not remain silent in the

face of this disregard for its international institutions and the attack on UN personnel.

Regarding the reports accusing Qatar of mediating the war on Gaza, the MoFA official spokesman explained that these reports have not

stopped since the first day. "We in Qatar have thick skin in dealing with such baseless accusations, and the negative treatment of the important role played by the state within the framework of mediation. We are not concerned with any reports that

contradict reality and do not communicate directly with the mediators, whether in Qatar or Egypt and the United States."

Stressing that "the Qatari role has been ongoing since the first day, and the mediator's role in the end is to

bring the viewpoints of the parties to the conflict closer together, he pointed out that Qatari diplomacy works along parallel lines with regard to reducing the escalation in Lebanon and ending the war in the Gaza Strip. Qatar will spare no ef-

fort to reach a permanent solution to this issue, which is a permanent ceasefire and justice for the Palestinian brothers, by bringing the viewpoints closer together and reaching a common language between the negotiators, he added.



UDC to present Sirah exhibit by Masraf Al Rayan

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, is gearing up for the Sirah exhibit by Masraf Al Rayan. The outdoor religious exposition will be held at The Pearl Island, welcoming visitors daily from October 31 through December 31, from 5pm to 10pm, a statement said.

Located along the scenic boardwalk at Porto Arabia's 31 La Croisette, the exhibit spans 75m, offering a series of immersive experiences that celebrate the remarkable life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). From his blessed birth to the historic opening of Makkah, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with key moments and teachings that have shaped his legacy and continue to inspire millions around the world.

The Sirah exhibit is supported by Masraf Al Rayan as the title sponsor, with Al Seal Contracting as platinum sponsor, and Qatar Cool as gold sponsor. Al Sharqi Holding has also contributed as a supporting sponsor, highlighting the col-



Fahad bin Abdullah al-Khalifa

lective effort to promote this significant cultural initiative.

Ibrahim Jassim al-Othman, UDC president, CEO, and member of the board, said: "Organising Sirah by Masraf Al Rayan highlights UDC's commitment to providing enriching experiences for residents, visitors, and tourists at The Pearl Island. Our events not only entertain but also celebrate Qatari culture and values.

"We are proud of the strong support from our local partners, which allows us to deliver a meaningful message while crafting memorable



Located along the scenic boardwalk at Porto Arabia's 31 La Croisette, the exhibit spans 75m, offering a series of immersive experiences that celebrate the remarkable life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

experiences at The Pearl Island. This exhibit is part of a rich calendar of events that contributes to the allure of The Pearl Island as a premier visitor destination."

Fahad bin Abdullah al-Khalifa, Group CEO of Masraf Al Rayan, said: "We are honoured to be the title sponsor for the 'Sirah by Masraf Al-Rayana' exhibit, which highlights the life of the Prophet Muhammad,

peace and blessings be upon him. As an Islamic bank grounded in the values and teachings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) in all of our operations, we view this exhibit as an exceptional opportunity to support an initiative that promotes understanding, unity, and the rich heritage of our Islamic culture."

He added: "This is more than an educational experience; it is



Ibrahim Jassim al-Othman

a platform for fostering cultural appreciation and tolerance. We look forward to being part of this unique event at The Pearl Island."

The exhibit features a winding path that leads visitors through pivotal moments in the life of the Prophet, offering a deeply engaging historical experience. Additionally, prayer facilities, interactive workshops, a traditional food stall by Yasmine Palace, and a souvenir booth by The Pearl Souvenirs will further enrich the visitor experience. A highlight of Sirah by Masraf Al Rayan will be the partic-

ipation of renowned reciter Uveys Hadzi, whose beautiful recitations and deep understanding of the Holy Qur'an are expected to draw many eager attendees seeking a spiritual experience.

The exhibit will also host various workshops, offering insights into Islamic art and culture. Activities include an Arabic calligraphy workshop, a session on making prayer beads, and a workshop to create custom Qur'anic bookmarks. Children can enjoy activities like creating mosque-shaped stickers, colouring of mosque drawings and Qur'anic verses, and participating in Qur'an Tahfeez or memorisation sessions on stage, providing them with a creative and immersive introduction to Islamic culture.

Through Sirah exhibit by Masraf Al Rayan, UDC aims to enrich The Pearl Island's cultural calendar, providing a platform for intercultural engagement and a celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) teachings and values that continue to inspire unity and compassion that continue to resonate today.



Dignitaries at the forum.

HBKU co-hosts Rule of Law Forum

The Unesco Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) recently partnered with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Rule of Law Programme Middle East and North Africa and Youssef SADER Foundation for Legal Culture to hold the Rule of Law Forum - 2nd Edition.

The event convened legal minds, scholars, and decision-makers operating across the Arab world to discuss pressing contemporary issues throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The two-day agenda featured panel discussions on topics including judicial transparency, business accountability for human rights, legal frameworks governing startups in the region, implementation of international environmental treaties in Arab states, and use of artificial intelligence in legal practice.

HE Ibrahim bin Ali al-Morhannadi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, presented the opening address. The Lady Justice Imani Daud Aboud, president, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, presented the forum's keynote, which highlighted the evolving role of international courts, such as the African Court, in advancing the rule of law, including human rights, and sustainable development. President Aboud also participated on a forum panel that focused on judicial transparency in which she addressed the role of courts in society and their engagement with the public.

Dr Damilola S Olawuyi, professor and Unesco chairholder on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, HBKU, and Lothar Freischlager, ambassador of Germany also provided opening remarks, stressing the im-

portance of the rule of law to the areas to be discussed during the Forum.

Susan L Karamanian, dean, HBKU College of Law, said: "The rule of law is under stress, particularly at the international level in which decisions of international courts and tribunals are being challenged. Yet even in national systems uncertainty abounds due to contemporary developments, such as digitisation, social media, and climate change."

Each session featured panels composed of renowned experts hailing from the UN Development Programme, German Federal Ministry of Justice, Egyptian Constitutional Court, Supreme Judicial Council in Jordan, and other legal authorities. Panelists exchanged insights with peers from the private sector, including Siemens Energy, and Ooredoo, along with practicing lawyers and academic experts.

QT updates regulations for marine tourism transport

Qatar Tourism (QT) has announced updates to the regulations governing marine tourism transport, including the licensing of marine tourism offices and all categories (A, B, C) of marine transport vessels.

In line with international best practices, QT has issued a new classification guide for marine tourism transport vehicles owners and operators and outlined the technical requirements and specifications necessary for operating these vessels. These updates are in accordance with the Tourism Regulation Law No. (20) of 2018.

Category (A) vessels that do not meet the classification standards and technical requirements outlined in Version 1.1 of the 2024 Classification Guide will not be permitted to operate, be present, or dock at the Doha Corniche area until all specified requirements are fulfilled. The categories of maritime transportation means: Category (A) - refers to boats used for short trips only; they operate within the Corniche area; Category (B) - refers to boats used for long trips and operate beyond the Corniche area; Category (C) - refers to boats used for long trips offering accommodation and meals (premium and luxury boats such as yachts).

Individuals can only operate Category (A) while both Categories (B) and (C) should be operated by licensed tourism companies. Owners and managers of marine



Individuals can only operate Category (A) while both Categories (B) and (C) should be operated by licensed tourism companies.

tourism transport offices, as well as vessel owners and operators, were required to ensure compliance with the new regulations within the allocated timeframe (August 25th, 2024), and a grace period of three months has been extended across the different categories. QT regulates and develops the tourism industry, fostering private sector investment and setting the strategic direction for the sector.

In a press statement, QT's Tourism licensing director Fahad Hassan al-Abdelmalek said: "In co-ordination with the relevant authorities, including the Private Engineering Office, the Ministry of Transport, the General Directorate of Coasts and Borders Security, and the Ministry of Municipality, it has been decided to adopt procedures and standards for practicing

tourist maritime transport.

"These standards are designed for marine means of transport designated for carrying tourists on sea trips and have been developed in accordance with the best global principles and standards. This initiative aims to enhance transparency, unify the sector, support Qatar's maritime strategy, and advance service excellence across the country, ultimately providing an exceptional and safe experience for users of these services."

As part of its mandate, QT oversees the implementation of its tourism strategy 2030 with the goal of diversifying the country's tourism offerings and increasing visitor spending. Through these efforts, QT is strengthening Qatar's global presence and enhancing the overall tourism sector.

Sidra Medicine initiative empowers parents of children with autism

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has launched the latest iteration of its 'Teach Me How' programme on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is designed to empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to effectively support their neurodiverse children.

'Teach Me How' includes interactive sessions with experts from Sidra Medicine, to deepen parent's understanding of ASD, along with access to a supportive network to share experiences and resources.

The programme, available in English and Arabic, is offered by a multi-disciplinary Developmental Paediatrics team, consisting of speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, and physicians specialising in neurodevelopment.

Dr Alia Satti, senior attending physician in Developmental Paediatrics at Sidra Medicine said: "One of the strengths of the programme is its focus on practicality. We go beyond theory, using real-world examples and proven techniques which empowers parents with the knowledge and skills needed to support their child's unique needs."

The 'Teach Me How' team are trained in programmes such as EarlyBird, Cygnet, DIRFloortime,



Dr Alia Satti

Hanen's More Than Words, and Elklan. Participants learn to address common ASD misconceptions, identify core characteristics, and understand the range of presentations within the autism spectrum.

The programme covers additional topics of interest such as supporting children with communication and social interaction challenges, sensory processing differences, and behaviour management strategies.

Dr Christin Helen Vlahos, clinical psychologist at Sidra Medicine said: "Parent education is crucial for parents of autistic children as it helps them understand their child's behaviours, strengths, and challenges,



Dr Christin Helen Vlahos

fostering empathy and effective communication. By learning evidence-based strategies for behaviour management and communication, with an experienced team such as ours, parents can create supportive environments that enhance their child's development."

To accommodate diverse schedules, 'Teach Me How' has two cycles in November 2024. A four-session programme in English will be held in-person at Sidra Medicine in the evenings, while the Arabic four-session programme, will be offered online in the mornings. Each session will run for 3-hours, providing a comprehensive learning experience. Programme fees are applicable.

Place Vendome wins at QT Awards



Place Vendome Qatar has been awarded the 'Premier Shopping Mall Experience' at the recently held Qatar Tourism Awards. The award was the only recognition given to shopping malls. The latest honour adds to Place Vendome's growing list of accolades, which includes: Unesco Prix Versailles - World's Most Beautiful Shopping Mall 2023, Qatar Museums' Bronze Key, RLI MENA 'Shopping Centre - New Build' Award, 2024 Shop Qatar's 'Best Mall Award', 2024 Shop Qatar's 'Highest Participation Award.' In a press statement, Shane Eldstrom, CEO of United Developers, Owners of Place Vendome, said: "This award is a testament to the dedication, passion, and commitment of our entire team at Place Vendome. We strive to offer an exceptional shopping experience that embodies the essence of luxury and world-class service, and this recognition underscores those efforts."

Cancer awareness event held



In a tribute to Pink October, the media arm of Turiqa hosted an event to raise breast cancer awareness. The high tea celebrated the launch of Ruby Kapoor's book, which focuses on life, resilience, and the crucial message of cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection. The event brought together a diverse group of guests, including health professionals, cancer survivors, and community members and showcased exclusive collections from prominent local brands. "We are proud to have brought together such powerful voices and brands to support this cause," said Ruby Kapoor. Among the sponsors of the event were Nassem Health Care, Kiko, Wellcare Pharmacy, Lle Da Re, Plaza Hollandi, Favori, Snoonu, and Pearl Dermatology.

QNB organises cybersecurity awareness workshop

QNB, in co-operation with the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), organised an awareness workshop for its staff, aimed at enhancing cybersecurity awareness to protect the bank's information and systems from hacking and fraud operations.

The workshop comes as part of the 'Stay Protected' campaign, an initiative launched by QNB to actively support efforts to build an information security culture within the society.

QNB is committed to enhance security awareness among its employees and build their capabilities to face cybersecurity challenges while encouraging vigilance and proactive behaviour, in line with the national cybersecurity strategy 2024-30. "Cybersecurity is a shared



responsibility, and through initiatives like the 'Stay Protected' campaign, we aim to equip our team with the knowledge and tools necessary to combat potential threats," said Heba al-Tamimi, senior executive vice-president

at QNB Group Communications. This workshop represents an important step in the framework of the partnership with the NCSA to present several joint initiatives to spread awareness about the importance of applying data privacy and the danger of financial fraud.

Through the "Don't Cheat You" campaign, the bank has succeeded in implementing its proactive strategy and providing employees with the necessary tools to combat potential threats in the field of cybersecurity, in support of the country's efforts to enhance confidence in cyberspace, which contributes to building a prosperous, innovative, and data-based economy.

The workshop not only provided valuable insights but also encouraged open discussions among staff about their

experiences and concerns related to cybersecurity.

This collaborative environment fosters a proactive approach to security, reinforcing QNB's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety for its customers and stakeholders.

QNB Group remains dedicated to continuously enhancing its cybersecurity measures and ensuring that the bank's staff is well-prepared to navigate the challenges posed by the digital age.

QNB Group stands as the leading financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, recognised as one of the most valuable banking brands in the region.

With a robust presence in over 28 countries across three continents, Asia, Europe, and Africa – QNB offers comprehensive financial service.



QRCS delegation in Lebanon with a new shipment of humanitarian aid.

QRCS delegation in Lebanon to supervise aid distribution

A Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) delegation aboard the Qatari Amiri Air Force aircraft arrived in Beirut, carrying a new shipment of humanitarian aid to support people affected by the recent military escalation in Lebanon.

The delegation includes Dr Mohamed Salah Ibrahim, director of Relief and International Programmes Division; Mohamed Ahmed al-Bishri, director of Communication and Fundraising Division; and a specialist relief team to supervise aid processing.

They met Mohamed Kahil, acting head of QRCS' office in Lebanon; Nasser al-Qahtani, chargé d'affaires of the Lebanon embassy in Lebanon; Dr Nabil Itani from the Lebanese Red Cross; and Hisham Fawaz, adviser to Lebanon's Minister of Public Health (MoPH).

The meeting finalised all customs clearing procedures for the shipment, including 42 tonnes of medications, medical supplies, and equipment to be delivered to the hospitals of Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health and the Lebanese Red Cross, the two strategic partners in QRCS' relief and development activities for refugees and the host community.

Together with Kahil, the delegation visited Georges Kettaneh, secretary-general of the Lebanese Red Cross. They emphasised QRCS' full support for their bilateral strategic partnership, especially in relation to the ongoing emergency response.

Another meeting was held with Lebanon's Minister of Public Health Dr Firass Abiad, discussing



QRCS' current key emergency interventions, as well as the projects jointly implemented with Lebanon's MoPH.

The delegation visited Lebanon's Government Palace to meet Dr Nasser Yassin, co-ordinator of the Government Emergency Committee, tackling the most urgent needs to be met by QRCS and the Lebanese Red Cross.

From day one, QRCS responded to the critical humanitarian situation in Lebanon, by allocating QR1mn from its Disaster Response Fund for the initial emergency intervention, providing food and non-food items for 1,000 displaced families.

Together with Qatar ambassador to Lebanon Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and senior Lebanese government officials, QRCS' personnel in Lebanon received HE Lolwah bint Rashid Alkhater, Minister of State for International Co-operation, during her visit to Lebanon to inaugurate the Qatari humanitarian airlift.

In recent weeks, the team re-

ceived several Qatari relief shipments airlifted to Beirut. These shipments contained medical supplies, food, and shelter materials to urgently assist the Lebanese people facing a severe humanitarian crisis.

Under phase one of its emergency response in Lebanon, QRCS and the Lebanese Red Cross distributed blankets, mattresses, food, hygiene supplies, and drinking water to 5,675 displaced and affected people in Aley, Chouf, and other districts of Mount Lebanon.

At the same time, preparations are in progress to launch phase three of the emergency response, at a cost of QR5mn. It will involve distributing diverse food parcels and securing potable water for 27,500 affected families.

These interventions are in line with the essential needs identified in the emergency appeal issued by the Lebanese Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Qatar Charity distributes new food assistance to Yemen flood victims

As part of its ongoing efforts to aid those affected by floods in Yemen, Qatar Charity (QC), with support from the Start Fund, has distributed a new batch of aid including food baskets and personal hygiene kits.

This aid has benefitted about 1,100 individuals in the Hajjah and Al Hudaydah governorates, bringing the total number of beneficiaries from QC's assistance to around 23,000 people, a statement said.

QC is preparing to distribute further aid to flood victims in several areas, which will include 3,500 food baskets, each containing essential food supplies sufficient for one family for a month, and 3,500 personal hygiene kits.

This initiative comes amid the worsening humanitarian crisis that Yemen has been facing for several years, characterised by increasing food insecurity and the ongoing cholera outbreak since March of this year, especially following the recent floods.

Data from UN organisations has reported nearly 186,000 suspected cholera cases in the past six months, with 680 fatalities. An increase in cases is expected following the recent heavy rains across Yemen. Children suffering from malnutrition, pregnant women, and the elderly with chronic illnesses are particularly at risk for cholera.

The aid provided has been instrumental in addressing the urgent basic needs of those affected by the floods, particularly



in terms of food and personal hygiene, leaving a positive impact on the beneficiaries.

Zahra Abkar, 80 years old, said: "We thank Qatar Charity for their assistance, which we desperately need."

From August to the end of

September, QC distributed relief aid to flood victims in the Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, and Marib governorates, which included 3,250 food baskets, 2,100 personal hygiene kits, and 1,150 shelter kits, benefiting a total of 22,750 people, the statement added.

Mercedes-Benz, Maybach models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes-Benz E-Class, GLC, S-Class, Maybach, and CLE, 2024 model, as the 48-volt battery module (BMS) control unit software does not correspond to the current series production configuration. It is, therefore, possible that the battery's state is calculated incorrectly caus-

ing Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL) to incorrectly display in instrument cluster.

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

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that

the necessary repairs are carried out.

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

Qatar National Archives participates in Unesco's Paris conference

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Qatar National Archives participated with a high-level delegation in the international conference of the "Memory of the World" programme organised by Unesco in Paris on October 28 and 29, 2024 where it reviewed the pivotal role of documentary heritage in enhancing international understanding and co-operation.

This presence comes within the framework of the ongoing efforts of the National Archives to support and protect historical archives that record important stages of Qatar's history and contribute to documenting national and cultural identity on a global level. This comes within the framework of the Memory of the World project that was approved by the

Council of Ministers on May 15, 2024.

The delegation of the Qatar National Archives was headed by Dr Ahmed Abdullah al-Buainain, who stressed the importance of international co-operation in exchanging expertise to protect documentary heritage and raise awareness of the importance of preserving it from risks especially in light of the increasing technical challenges in the field of digital preservation.

Al-Buainain appraised the ongoing Qatari efforts to protect documentary archives, including audio and visual documents, which contributes to highlighting the Qatari identity and consolidating its position within the global human heritage system.

The participation of the Qatari delegation focused on searching for the experiences of pioneering countries in preserving historical



documents, while highlighting the best practices of digital archiving used in countries around the world.

During the conference, the Qa-

tar National Archives presented its plans to protect audio and visual heritage, which include developing digital projects aimed at facilitating access to archives

and protecting them from deterioration.

Representatives of the National Archives also participated in discussion sessions that addressed the importance of archives as educational and cognitive tools, as they contribute to spreading awareness of the value of documentary heritage and enhancing understanding between cultures, stressing the role of the archives in preserving Qatari history and promoting it on the global stage.

The Qatari participation coincided with the Fourth World Forum on Documentary Heritage Policies, which represents a dialogue platform for researching policies supporting the protection of global archives. As well as discussing ways to use these documents as educational resources and tools for understanding between cultures.

The conference was an op-

portunity to highlight the global challenges facing documentary archives, from the difficulties of digital preservation to involving new generations in the preservation process.

The Qatar National Archives continues its efforts to enhance Qatar's international standing through its participation in global events concerned with preserving documentary heritage, affirming its commitment to protecting historical archives that reflect Qatari identity. Believing in the importance of documenting national memory, the National Archives seeks to exchange expertise with specialised international institutions, which contributes to enhancing the efficiency of digital preservation and enhances communities' awareness of the importance of preserving documentary heritage as part of the shared human memory.

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GULF TIMES

Brics expansion gains ground with higher growth potential

The world economy is set to rely even more heavily on the Brics group of emerging economies to drive expansion, rather than their wealthier Western peers, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s latest forecasts.

Compared with its last round of predictions six months ago, the IMF now expects a bigger share of growth over the next five years to come from powerhouse Brics economies like China, India, Russia and Brazil, according to forecasts based on purchasing power parity.

By contrast, the expected contribution of Group of Seven members like the US, Germany and Japan was revised down.

The Brics group of emerging-market powers – the acronym stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – has gone from a slogan dreamed up at an investment bank two decades ago to a real-world club that controls a multilateral lender.

It almost doubled in size in 2024, to include Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Egypt. Saudi Arabia was also announced as a new member, though the kingdom has yet to take a final decision on whether to join.

Dozens more countries have expressed interest in joining its ranks.

The expansion push has been driven largely by China, now the world's pre-eminent industrial power, which is trying to boost its global clout by courting nations traditionally allied with the US. South Africa and Russia have backed the expansion.

India was initially hesitant because it was concerned that a bigger Brics would transform the group into a mouthpiece for China, while Brazil was worried about alienating the West – although both governments eventually agreed to an enlargement.

In a global context, the addition of major fossil-fuel producers may give the bloc more scope to challenge the dollar's dominance in oil and gas trading by switching to other currencies, a concept referred to as de-dollarisation.

The Brics grouping almost doubled in size in 2024, including Iran, the UAE, Ethiopia and Egypt

However, expansion is “more about politics and less about economics,” according to analysts at Bloomberg Economics.

The biggest achievements of the group have been financial. The countries agreed to pool \$100bn of foreign-currency reserves, which they can lend to each other during emergencies. That liquidity facility became operational in 2016.

They founded the New Development Bank – a World Bank-inspired institution that has approved almost \$33bn of loans – mainly for water, transport and other infrastructure projects – since it began operations in 2015. By comparison, the World Bank committed \$72.8bn to partner countries in fiscal 2023.

Trade among the bloc's first five members surged 56% to \$422bn between 2017 and 2022. The natural resources of Brazil, Russia and Iran make them natural partners for Chinese demand.

India and China have weaker trade connections with each other, partly due to their geopolitical rivalry and an acrimonious border dispute.

There's still interest in emerging markets. But Brics is largely irrelevant as an investment theme today due to geopolitical changes and the members' different economic trajectories.

US-led sanctions have put Russia off limits for most foreign investors, and some sectors in China – especially technology companies – have also been sanctioned or face potential investment bans. China also is a maturing economy, increasingly separated from other emerging markets and facing a structural slowdown.

Brazil's economy slowed markedly following the end of a global commodity boom about a decade ago. South Africa's economy has been hamstrung by rolling power blackouts and logistics snarls, although it's recently made some tentative progress in tackling those problems.

India is still a growth story that investment banks compare with China 10 or 15 years ago, though it's unclear if it can follow China's manufacturing-led model.

In a wider sense, Brics membership is also a way of signalling increasing frustration with the US-led international order and key institutions that remain firmly in the control of Western powers, like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

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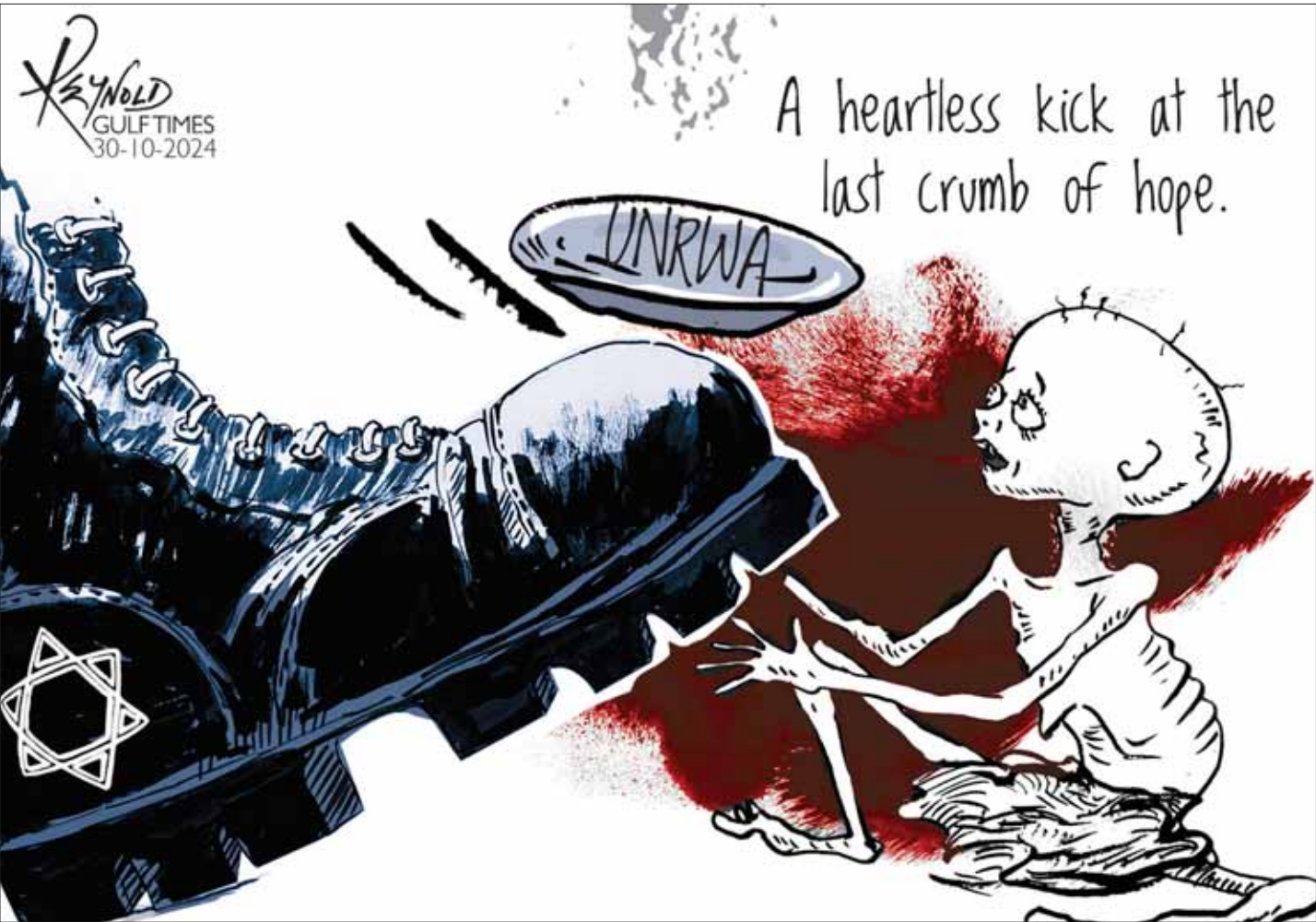
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Trump's relentless fraud about election fraud

By John Mark Hansen
Chicago

While speaking at a rally in Michigan on October 3, former US president Donald Trump insisted, as he has countless times since losing the 2020 election, “We won, we won. It was a rigged election.” And, just like every other time, Trump offered no evidence.

A few days before that, Trump's running mate, J D Vance, refused at the vice-presidential debate to say whether he thought Trump had lost, and then declined five opportunities to do so in an interview with the New York Times. Not long after, though, Vance fell in line, stating unequivocally that Trump did not lose in 2020. He, too, failed to provide any proof.

Precipitating this latest cycle of denial was the release of a brief by special prosecutor Jack Smith that reveals damning evidence of Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election in the weeks and months that followed. But whenever critics shine a spotlight on these misdeeds, Trump and his loyalists repeat their claims of fraud and omit the facts, and the US media and public move on to the next controversy.

Trump offers no proof that he was cheated of victory in 2020 for the simple reason that he has none. In fact, there is ample evidence that there was no election fraud that year.

In 2022, eight Republican lawyers and jurists, including Theodore Olson, the former US solicitor general who represented George W Bush in Bush v Gore in 2000, reviewed the 64 cases that Trump's lawyers filed in state and federal courts alleging violations of election laws. Fourteen were withdrawn, while the state and



Republican presidential nominee and former US president Donald Trump gestures, as he attends a press conference on “Trump Will Fix It”, at Mar-a-Lago, in Palm Beach, Florida, yesterday. (Reuters)

lower federal courts dismissed 18 more. Of the 30 cases decided on the merits, Trump's legal team prevailed in only one, on a minor matter. The US Supreme Court declined to hear two of Trump's appeals.

“There is absolutely no evidence of fraud in the 2020 presidential election on the magnitude necessary to shift the result in any state, let alone the nation as a whole,” the review concluded. “In fact, there was no fraud that changed the outcome in even a single precinct.” Tellingly, at least four of the Trump campaign's attorneys, including former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, have been disbarred or sanctioned for knowingly presenting false claims in a court of law.

In Georgia, the Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, courageously refused Trump's demand that he “find 11,780 votes” to reverse the outcome, even after a hand recount of the state's presidential ballots confirmed Joe Biden's victory. In five other battleground states – Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin – legislative and executive officials conducted reviews and audits of the

2020 balloting, finding no proof of fraud or tampering. In Arizona, the state senate turned the Maricopa County ballots over to Cyber Ninjas, a firm recommended by the Trump campaign, for review. These “ninjas” likewise failed to show a stolen election, instead finding 99 additional votes for Biden and 261 fewer votes for Trump.

In the years since Biden assumed the presidency (notwithstanding Trump supporters' violent attempt to derail the transition of power), private watchdogs and state and local prosecutors – many of them Republicans – have investigated allegations of voter fraud and found only a few cases of small-scale wrongdoing. In Arizona, only six people – of the nearly 3.4mn who voted in the 2020 election – were convicted of casting illegal ballots, two of whom submitted absentee ballots for relatives who had died before election day. In Pennsylvania, a man confessed to having applied for an absentee ballot on behalf of his deceased mother and casting “her” vote for Trump.

The day after the 2020 presidential election, I explained why there was almost no chance of large-scale fraud changing the outcome of the race, not least

because of the unrealistic level of planning, coordination, and secrecy it would require. In the nearly four years since then, Republican election officials and prosecutors have not unearthed any evidence of such fraud, even though doing so would make them heroes in Trumpworld.

There is likewise no evidence – nor any prospect – that fraud will prevent Trump from prevailing in this year's presidential election. Trump's claims to the contrary are aimed at intimidating his opponents by threatening to prosecute them for activities both legal and necessary – because of his prior actions – to ensure a free and fair election.

They may also be an attempt to suborn his supporters who hold positions in election administration into committing fraud, with the unspoken understanding that, like the wannabe insurrectionists who stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, they will be protected and rewarded if he wins. On October 3, the same day that Trump repeated his fact-free allegation of electoral fraud, a Colorado judge sentenced the former county clerk of Mesa County to nine years in prison for giving an associate of the Trump ally Mike Lindell access to the county's voting machines.

Trump has revived his complaints of massive voter fraud for a simple reason: to obscure his own malfeasance after he lost the 2020 election, the extent of which is now coming to light. – Project Syndicate

● John Mark Hansen, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, is a former coordinator of the research task force on the federal election system for the National Commission on Federal Election Reform, an independent, bipartisan commission which was co-chaired by former US presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

Japan's electoral stalemate

By Takatoshi Ito
Tokyo

Japan's general election has dealt a major blow to Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru, whose ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its coalition partner, Komei, lost their parliamentary majority for the first time since 2009, plunging the country into political uncertainty.

While the LDP and Komei won 215 seats in the Diet (the lower house of parliament) – down from 279 – the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP), led by former prime minister Yoshihiko Noda, secured 148 seats, up from 98. The remaining seats were divided among smaller opposition parties, most notably the Democratic Party for the People (DDP), which

made gains, and the Ishin Party, which lost six seats.

With the LDP and Komei falling well short of the 233 seats needed for a majority, Japan's ruling bloc faces an uphill battle to regain control, even if it manages to recruit former LDP members now serving as independents. Meanwhile, the left-leaning CDP is equally unlikely to achieve a majority by forging an alliance with the centre-right Ishin and DDP.

This adds a new layer of uncertainty to the upcoming prime ministerial election in the Diet, which will begin on November 11 in a session expected to last four days. Barring an unexpected coalition forming around one of the two largest parties, the LDP and Komei are set to back Ishiba, while the CDP and other opposition parties will probably support their respective leaders.

With no-one receiving a majority, the Diet will hold a

runoff between the two leading candidates – most likely Ishiba and Noda. Unless the CDP can reach a deal with smaller opposition parties, Ishiba will be re-elected, albeit as the head of a minority government.

Such a scenario would leave Ishiba's administration on shaky ground, reliant on ad hoc negotiations with Ishin and the DDP and continually forced to make policy concessions. By the next election of the House of Councilors (the upper house) next summer, Ishiba may already be on his way out.

Previous LDP losses triggered significant shifts in Japan's political landscape. In 1993, internal disputes drove some LDP members to break away and establish their own parties. In the subsequent election, the LDP lost its majority, and these splinter groups joined forces with other

opposition parties to form a non-LDP, non-Communist coalition, elevating Morihiro Hosokawa to the premiership and marking the first time that the LDP had lost power since its founding in 1955.

Hosokawa's coalition, however, lasted only one year, and the LDP eventually regained power in 1994 in partnership with the Socialist Party, its long-time rival, and allowing Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama to become prime minister. Though Murayama stepped down after less than two years, the alliance survived until 1998. – Project Syndicate

● Takatoshi Ito, a former Japanese deputy vice minister of finance, is a professor at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and a senior professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo.



16th Global Humanitarian Aviation Conference opens

The 16th Global Humanitarian Aviation Conference and Exhibition (GHACE) opened yesterday under the slogan *Journey of Hope*, under the patronage of HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti, and organised by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in association with organisations concerned with humanitarian aviation.

The opening ceremony was attended by Qatar Tourism chairman HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, high-profile aviation industry and air transportation officials from Qatar, several Arab and foreign civil aviation authority chiefs, representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EUSA), air opera-

tors, aircraft manufacturers, and aviation service providers. In his opening speech, HE al-Sulaiti highlighted Qatar's support for global and UN humanitarian agencies amid economic challenges and funding gaps that face the efforts of development in the least developed and neediest countries. He also highlighted the Qatar national carrier's continuous

work with the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through joint activities on advocacy, donations, shipping, and the delivery of relief items to refugees and the displaced in the UNHCR's areas of operation around the world. HE al-Sulaiti noted Qatar Air-

ways's contribution to evacuating thousands of civilians from the Kabul International Airport and its key role during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, transporting more than 3mn passengers safely amid global shutdowns. "Qatar believes in the lofty goals and efforts of the UN and international agencies in the humanitarian field, and never failed in extending a helping hand to humanitarian cases of wars, conflicts, natural disasters, and pandemics," he said. "The air bridges it operated to several countries in this regard is a testament to that." "The successful delivery of lifesaving aid by civil aviation to people in need, wherever they are, necessitates co-operation between all parties all the time,"

HE al-Sulaiti said, adding: "This international conference, which brings together multiple bodies concerned with civil aviation, is the best platform for collaboration and for paving the way to ushering in new initiatives and innovative pastorships that can help further improve the efficiency of humanitarian air operations by deepening partners' collaboration." The 3-day 16th GHACE discusses reinforcing civil aviation authority capabilities, aviation industries, and the national agencies working where humanitarian organisations are active, aiming to enhance the relation between aviation operators, support the all-out collaboration in the aviation industry, reduce the level of risks, and avoid aviation disasters.

Hospitality Qatar ready to showcase programme to enhance sector

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Hospitality Qatar 2024, set to run from November 12-14 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), will showcase a comprehensive programme designed to boost Qatar's thriving hospitality sector.

The event will kick off with a keynote address by Qatar Tourism (QT) and Visit Qatar chairman HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji.

Day one will also include the "Champions of Hospitality" awards ceremony, recognising outstanding achievements in the Hotelier Middle East Awards 2024.

Day two will present a Moroccan Business Forum 2024, featuring keynote addresses from senior representatives of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and the Moroccan delegation.

The final day will focus on professional development and celebration, including a training session on mastering food safety and hygiene standards aimed at providing participants with crucial knowledge for maintaining high standards.

The day will conclude with the "Restaurant Choice Award 2024", celebrating Qatar's exceptional dining establishments, and the "Hospitality Qatar Chef Awards 2024", honouring the culinary artistry of Qatar's top chefs.

Organisers noted that Hospitality Qatar 2024 offers a unique B2B (business to business) matchmaking programme, ensuring meetings with procurement teams from ministries, hotels, and airlines.

This, combined with the exhibition showcasing equipment, technology, and services tailored for the hospitality sector, provides networking and business expansion opportunities for participants.

Organisers have highlighted the event's importance in supporting Qatar's ambition to become a leading regional destination.

With backing from key stakeholders such as the QT and Qatar Airways, Hospitality Qatar 2024 aims to serve as a comprehensive procurement hub for hotels, restaurants, food and beverage outlets, interior design firms, entertainment venues, and travel agencies.

The previous edition of the event drew more than 12,000 visitors and over 150 exhibitors from 20 countries.

It featured the popular Salon Culinare live cooking competitions and showcased a wide range of culinary expertise from leading Doha chefs (from four- and five-star hotels) across more than 20 categories.



NHRC holds first 'Business and Human Rights Dialogue' in Arab region

National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) chairperson and Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) president Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah has said that Arab countries are witnessing tremendous and unique opportunities as well as major challenges, with accelerating economic transformations accompanied by pressing concerns about the environmental, social

and human rights impacts of business activities.

Migrant workers, women and other vulnerable groups, she said, often bear the brunt of irresponsible business practices, which requires consolidating collective efforts to protect their rights.

Addressing the opening session of the "Business and Human Rights Dialogue" on Monday, al-Attiyah said that this inaugural

dialogue is an important step in ensuring that the Arab region does not fall behind the global trend of implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which provide a basic framework for such efforts.

These principles, she said, also emphasise the need for states to protect human rights, the need for companies to respect those rights, and enabling victims to access

effective means of redress.

Al-Attiyah stated that by virtue of their unique and powerful mandate, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) are trailblazers in promoting and protecting human rights in the context of business activities, in addition to their role as bridges of communication between governments, companies, civil society and affected communities.

She said that this contributes to facilitating dialogue, promoting accountability and establishing the foundations of a human rights-based approach to business operations.

Al-Attiyah went on to say that NHRIs also play a key role in ensuring the effective implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles and translating them into concrete facts, by providing guidance to states and companies; contributing to the development of laws, policies and practices that are consistent with international human rights standards; monitoring and tracking the impacts of business activities on human rights; investigating and reporting violations; and holding states and companies accountable for human rights violations.

Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI) secretary-general Sultan bin Hassan al-Jamali has meanwhile emphasised the importance of dialogue, noting that it puts everyone on the path to protecting human rights in business in the Arab region.

He said that the dialogue on business and human rights is aimed at charting a course for responsible business practices in the Arab region, based on the principle of the universality, interconnectedness, interdependence, and indivisibility of human rights. - QNA



Not holding war crimes perpetrators accountable 'a betrayal to its victims'

National Human Rights Committee chairperson Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah, who is also the chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), has stressed that impunity and ignoring the accountability of perpetrators of war crimes is a betrayal of the victims, especially children.

During her meeting with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN on Violence against Children, Najat Maalla Mjidi, al-Attiyah pointed out that the GANHRI issued has a memorandum to end violence against children to prevent perpetrators of crimes against humanity from escaping punishment.

She expressed her deep sorrow for the situation of children in Gaza, stressing that what is happening in the Arab region, especially in Gaza, affects the success of human rights issues in general and the peoples of the Middle East in particular, especially since children are at the forefront of those affected by conflicts and wars.

Al-Attiyah also met Bahrain's Human Rights Institution chairman engineer Ali Ahmed Alderazi on the sidelines of the inaugural dialogue on Business and Human Rights in Arab Region.

They discussed ways to enhance co-operation on issues of common interest and exchange best experiences and best practices in human rights issues. - QNA

6 finalists announced for 2024-25 WISE Prize for Education

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), an initiative of Qatar Foundation, has announced the six finalists for the 2024-25 WISE Prize for Education.

This year's competition, focused on innovative solutions to global education challenges, received 427 applications. A committee of international experts evaluated the submissions to identify the six most promising solutions.

These finalists - AprendoEnCasa Connecta from Chile, Bonocle from Qatar, Darsel from the US, FastTrack+ from Nigeria, iqrili jo from Jordan, and TUMO Path from Armenia - stand out for their ability to address the competition's three key areas: accelerating foundational literacies, addressing challenges in artificial intelligence, and improving the teaching of Arabic language.

The WISE Prize attracted an array of applications, showcasing the breadth and innovation of education solutions globally.

With organisations representing government, non-profit, and private sectors, and a strong representation from countries including India, Nigeria, and Qatar, the competition attracted submissions addressing inclusive learning, artificial intelligence (AI)-powered tools, voice-generated learning, tailored approaches for neurodivergent learners, and teacher development.

Finalists demonstrated capability to solve the challenge through evidence-based innovation, coupled with a well-structured minimum viable product proposal and timeline, clear resource allocation, and considerate manpower planning.

AprendoEnCasa Connecta by Fundacion ReImagina supports effective teacher-student interactions by providing a range of digital resources and tools designed to bridge



educational and digital gaps, helping students thrive in a rapidly changing digital landscape.

AprendoEnCasa will pilot in Latin America, focusing on improving teacher engagement and learning outcomes in Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico.

Bonocle by Bonocle is an innovative solution leveraging technology to improve Braille literacy for visually impaired individuals.

Through tactile feedback and gamified learning, Bonocle makes education accessible, engaging, and enjoyable for the visually impaired globally.

Darsel by Darsel uses AI-powered personalised learning algorithms to improve numeracy for middle school students via accessible messaging platforms like SMS and WhatsApp.

The solution is aimed at students in low-resource settings, and plans to expand its reach to primary school learners in Africa and the Middle East.

FastTrack+ by AREAi addresses literacy and numeracy

challenges by leveraging offline, self-assisted technology.

The program, which utilises a digital pen, equipped with audio capabilities, and multilingual instructional materials, helps learners in refugee camps in Western and Central Africa to achieve higher literacy levels.

FastTrack+ has shown significant success in improving reading and numeracy skills in pilot studies, with more than 80% of learners gaining basic literacy.

Meanwhile, iqrili jo by Queen Rania Foundation, a Jordan-based initiative, focuses on parental behaviour change to improve early childhood literacy through shared reading practices.

The iqrili platform, currently in beta, provides resources and community support for parents of children aged under five, including refugee families.

TUMO Path automates the learning process for teenagers through hyper-personalised AI-driven learning journeys. Already operational in 10 countries, the programme will expand further with the integration of new AI modules in Armenia, targeting more than 80,000 users by 2027.

Over the next 12 months, WISE and its chosen programme partner Dalberg Advisors will offer a range of capacity building opportunities and personalised mentorship to the chosen finalists.

In addition, WISE offers a conditional grant of \$125,000 to each team to support the development of their MVP (minimum viable product) during this year-long commitment.

The winning solution(s), chosen by an external jury of international education experts, will be awarded the \$1mn WISE Prize for Education at the WISE12 Summit in 2025, where the winner will be announced live.

101st anniversary of Turkiye marked in Qatar



Dr Mustafa Goksu with Qatari dignitaries cutting a cake at the reception yesterday. **PICTURE:** Shemeer Rasheed

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Turkish embassy in Doha hosted a reception yesterday to mark the 101st anniversary of the Republic of Turkiye, during which ambassador Dr Mustafa Goksu hailed the exceptionally excellent Qatar-Turkish relationships.

HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, HE the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen bin Ghanem al-Ghanem, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani, HE the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Secretary-General Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Youssef Fakhroo, and other dignitaries were present.

Dr Goksu stressed that "the Turkish-Qatari relations have strengthened significantly in recent years, becoming a model for regional and international co-operation".

He expressed his pride and confidence that the "bilateral relations have reached new heights, characterised by strategic and

sustainable dimensions under the guidance of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his brother His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani".

The envoy pointed out that so far, more than 108 agreements have been signed between the two countries, covering various political, commercial, economic, military, and other sectors.

In addition, he said, the 10th meeting of the Supreme Strategic Committee of the two countries, established in 2014, will be held in Ankara before the end of this year, during which more agreements are expected to be signed.

Dr Goksu further stressed that "Turkiye and Qatar have been, and will always remain, an exemplary model of solidarity, standing side by side in both hardship and prosperity, for the sake of stability and security in the region and for humanity as a whole".

He highlighted the efforts of Turkiye to combat global terrorism and maintain world peace and security, in addition to the efforts to end the war on Gaza.

"We maintain constant and complete coordination with our brothers in Qatar in such issues," he said.

GU-Q hosts Model United Nations with record 863 participants

Georgetown University in Qatar's Model United Nations (GMUN) celebrated 20th anniversary last week, marking its biggest event yet, with a total of 863 participants from 55 local high schools.

The theme was *Achieving Global Solidarity and Peace in Conflict Zones: The Significance of Building Individual and Collective Agency*.

GMUN's 20-year journey has seen it grow from a single annual conference to three, reaching both local and international high school and university students.

As one of the GU-Q's oldest flagship initiatives, the programme remains Qatar's longest-running Model United Nations (MUN), with schools and faculty attending loyally, some for nearly two decades.

The conference began with welcomes by GMUN deputy secretary-general Nagla Abdelhady, followed by GU-Q chief operating officer Andrew Henley.

GU-Q alumna Al-Daana al-Mulla, an attorney and senior diplomat for the Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered a special keynote.

She spoke about the power of diplomacy and the pathways that the GMUN can create for aspiring changemakers.

"You are at the forefront of work to find new solutions to problems that seem intractable," al-Mulla said, adding a message of encouragement drawn from her own experience as a student interested in international issues.

"Seeing devastation around the world today, some of us might feel overwhelmed, but I hope these coming days may offer



invigoration," she said. "As young people committed to understanding the world around you, you have an opportunity to leave this conference better prepared to find solutions."

GU-Q dean Safwan Masri told the young diplomats: "Through this platform, you will step into the shoes of diplomats, negotiating solutions to some of the world's most complex problems."

"You will learn the importance of listening deeply, engaging respectfully, and standing firm in your values," he said, setting the tone for two days of rigorous debate and collaboration.



Al Daana al-Mulla delivered the keynote address.

Left: The event featured more than 860 participants from 55 local high schools.

The conference moved quickly into action, with delegates stepping into committee rooms to debate pressing global issues, from conflict resolution to climate change and humanitarian aid.

Led by GU-Q student chairs and 100 student volunteers, these young diplomats tackled complex scenarios, practiced their public speaking, and even negotiated crises, all while building skills that will serve them far beyond the conference.

The GU-Q's next MUN event will be offered for university students in the region on November 27-29, followed by an MUN for local and international high school students on February 13-15, 2025.

HMC unveils first neurovision rehabilitation programme

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC)'s Corporate Rehabilitation Therapy Services has introduced Qatar's first dedicated Neurovision Rehabilitation services to address the needs of both adult and paediatric patients with vision impairments caused by neurological conditions such as neurodevelopmental disorders, stroke, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

This initiative aligns with the HMC's strategic vision to provide excellence in service delivery and patient experience, as envisioned in Qatar's Third National Development Strategy.

Vision impairments are common in neurological disorders, with global research showing that approximately 73% of stroke survivors and 74% of TBI patients experience some form of neurovision deficit.

In children, cortical visual impairment is also prevalent, particularly among those with neurological conditions, occurring at a rate of 10 per 10,000 people.

Patients with neurovision impairments often report seeing double, experiencing blurry vision, difficulties perceiving one side of their visual field or frequently knocking over objects.

These symptoms are often overlooked due to limited understanding of neurovision rehabilitation.

This initiative was launched under Dr Hanadi al-Hamad, the deputy chief for Rehabilitation, Long-term, and Geriatric Care, and lead of Corporate Rehabilitation Therapy Services.

"Our aim is to establish a dedicated, evidence-based neurovision rehabilitation programme at the HMC that supports the overall recovery of our patients," Dr

al-Hamad explained.

To build the necessary skills and knowledge among health-care professionals, a three-day workshop on *Vision Rehabilitation in Neurorehabilitation Settings* was held at the HMC's Qatar Rehabilitation Institute.

Led by international expert Robert L Constantine, a registered occupational therapist from the US, the workshop provided intensive training for 23 allied health professionals, including optometrists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists from various HMC hospitals.

Dr Hanadi said that improving vision is critical to enhancing cognitive and physical function, particularly during the crucial six-month post-stroke or TBI recovery period.

"By equipping our interdisciplinary team with neurovision assessment and treatment techniques, we can significantly improve the functional outcomes of patients and offer the highest standard of care," she said.

Sultan Salim Hammam al-Abdulla, assistant executive director of Clinical Services for Occupational Therapy Services at the HMC, said: "This workshop is a major step forward in addressing neurorehabilitation. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, we can begin to fill the gap in neurovision rehabilitation services in Qatar."

The workshop concluded with the development of a process flow for implementing vision rehabilitation services across both paediatric and adult settings.

This strategic plan will serve as a roadmap for the successful integration of neurovision services into the HMC's rehabilitation framework.



Education City Tram marks 3mn passengers milestone



The Education City Tram at Qatar Foundation has marked a major milestone, reaching 3mn passenger journeys. The tram network commenced operations with the launch of the Blue Line in December 2019, followed by the Yellow Line in October 2020, and most recently the Green Line in July 2023. The Education City Tram is an integrated and sustainable public transportation system that connects key venues within the Education City community, including Al Shaqab, the Education City Stadium, Oxygen Park, Minaretin, and the Ceremonial Court.