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Amir to attend Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh today

Summit to address Israeli aggression in Palestine, Lebanon

In line with Qatar's steadfast and continuous support for the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will participate in the extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit scheduled to take place today in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The summit comes in response to the recent surge of Israeli aggression in Palestine and Lebanon, prompting Arab and Islamic leaders to convene and discuss measures to halt the attacks, protect civilians, and support the Palestinian and Lebanese people. The summit aims to unify positions and press the international community to take concrete action to end the ongoing hostilities and secure long-term peace and stability in the region.

Qatar has consistently voiced

its commitment to defending the Palestinian people against acts of ethnic cleansing and remains at the forefront of Arab, Islamic, and international efforts to prevent the erasure of the Palestinian cause and the forced displacement of Gaza residents.

In his speech at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September, His Highness the Amir emphasised that the aggression faced by the Palestinian people in Gaza is among the most brutal and egregious violations of human values, international covenants, and norms, stressing that this is not a war within the international relations well-known and common concept of war, but rather a crime of genocide by means of using the most sophisticated weapons against a people besieged in a detention camp where there is no escape from the barrage of aerial bombing.

The Amir added: "We oppose violence and the targeting of innocent civilians by any party, but after a year of the war, and with all that has been and is still being perpetrated in it, it is no longer tenable to talk about Israel's right to defend itself in this context without being complicit in justifying the crime."

"It is no longer plausible for any official to claim that he does not know, thanks to the well-known facts and reports issued by international organisations about the bombing of schools and hospitals and weaponising access to food and medicine, in addition to the published and publicly uttered intentions of Israeli leaders. Therefore, the failure to intervene to stop the aggression is a major scandal."

In his speech at the first GCC-EU Summit in Brussels in October, His Highness the Amir stressed



that the devastating ongoing war waged by Israel on Palestinian territories and Lebanon, where war crimes have become a horrifying routine amid a lack of international accountability, underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive resolution to the conflict based on a just solution to the Palestinian cause, grounded in international legitimacy resolutions, and should include a full withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, with the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, existing alongside the State of Israel.

To Page 10

Qatar Medicare show to kick off on Dec 3

Doha will host Qatar International Healthcare and Medical Trade Exhibition and Conference (Qatar Medicare) from December 3-5, 2024. Under the patronage of the Ministry of Public Health, the event will be organised in collaboration between Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and IFP Qatar at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). **Page 6**

38 killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon

At least 38 people were killed in Israeli strikes across Lebanon yesterday, including 23 in a raid north of the capital Beirut, the health ministry said. Israel, at war with Lebanon's Hezbollah since late September, has intensified its air campaign against the Iran-backed movement in recent days, especially in the country's south and the southern suburbs of Beirut. Further north, an "Israeli enemy strike on Almat in the Jbeil district killed 23 people including seven children," the health ministry said in a statement. The strike on the village of Almat, about 30km from Beirut, hit a house shortly after a Hezbollah member arrived there for a visit.

Russia and Ukraine launch drone attacks

Russia and Ukraine both launched record drone attacks on each other overnight, as the Kremlin said it saw "positive signals" from US president-elect Donald Trump over his desire to strike a deal to end the conflict. Russia fired 145 drones at Ukraine overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Russia also said it had downed 34 Ukrainian attack drones targeting Moscow yesterday. The Kremlin is widely believed to have actually wanted to see Trump return to the White House. **Page 11**

Grand finale for Qatar Boat Show 2024



A view of the fireworks on the last day of the inaugural Qatar Boat Show on Saturday. The four-day event at the Old Doha Port, brought together 495 companies and brands, presenting an impressive showcase of over 100 yachts and watercrafts, 80% of which were the latest 2024 models. The event eclipsed the opening editions of leading yacht exhibitions, becoming one of the most prominent in the region by utilising an area of over 250,000sq m. **Page 12**

US set to judge Israel's progress on Gaza aid

The United States this week will decide whether Israel has made progress toward improving the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and how Washington will respond, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said yesterday as Israel began to make its case.

President Joe Biden's administration told Israel in an Oct 13 letter signed by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin that the long-time US ally must take steps within 30 days on a series of measures or risk restrictions on American military aid.

"This week we will make our judgments about what kind of progress they have made," Sullivan told the CBS programme "Face the Nation". "And then Secretary Austin, Secretary Blinken, the president will make judgments about what we do in response, and I'm not going to get ahead of that." (Reuters)

Dozens of civilians killed in N Gaza

Dozens of people were killed and wounded in an Israeli strike on a house in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip at dawn yesterday, Palestinian medics said. Residents said the building that was hit had housed at least 30 people. The official Palestinian news agency Wafa and Hamas media put the number of people killed at 32. There was no immediate confirmation of the tally by the territory's health ministry. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service says its operations have been halted by an ongoing Israeli raid into two towns. **Page 8**

4th Arab Mathematics Olympiad starts in Doha

QNA
Doha

The Fourth Arab Mathematics Olympiad 2024 kicked off yesterday in Doha. The Olympiad, which will conclude on November 14, is organised by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar, in partnership with the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science.

HE Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, the Minister of Edu-

cation and Higher Education, and Chairperson of the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, said that organising the Fourth Arab Mathematics Olympiad falls under the umbrella of Alecsco and aims to enhance communication between Arab students, develop the spirit of excellence, creativity, talent and self-confidence, and pay attention to the sciences of mathematics and develop its curricula and improve its teaching methods.

She noted in her opening speech that mathematics is one of the basic sciences on which many applied sciences depend,

based on thinking, setting hypotheses, and mathematical proofs, stressing that working on developing curricula to improve the quality of education and develop students' skills has become an urgent need to keep pace with current developments and modern life, in a world characterised by rapid development and technological progress.

She explained that the Arab Mathematics Olympiad comes to crystallize the interest of Arab countries in developing the performance of their students in modern sciences as a basic requirement for sustainable devel-



HE Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi delivers the opening speech at the start of the Olympiad yesterday.

opment, noting that their continuous competition in mathematics constitutes a solid foundation for discovering and sponsoring distinguished students to increase their scientific capabilities and creativity in all Arab countries, which undoubtedly contributes to raising the scientific level of students and teachers, and instils the values of co-operation and exchange of experiences and expertise among participants in an enjoyable environment outside the classroom, in addition to qualifying them for the advanced level by entering the International Mathematics Olympiad. **To Page 5**

Today's **GULF TIMES** includes a 28-page supplement on **ANGOLA**



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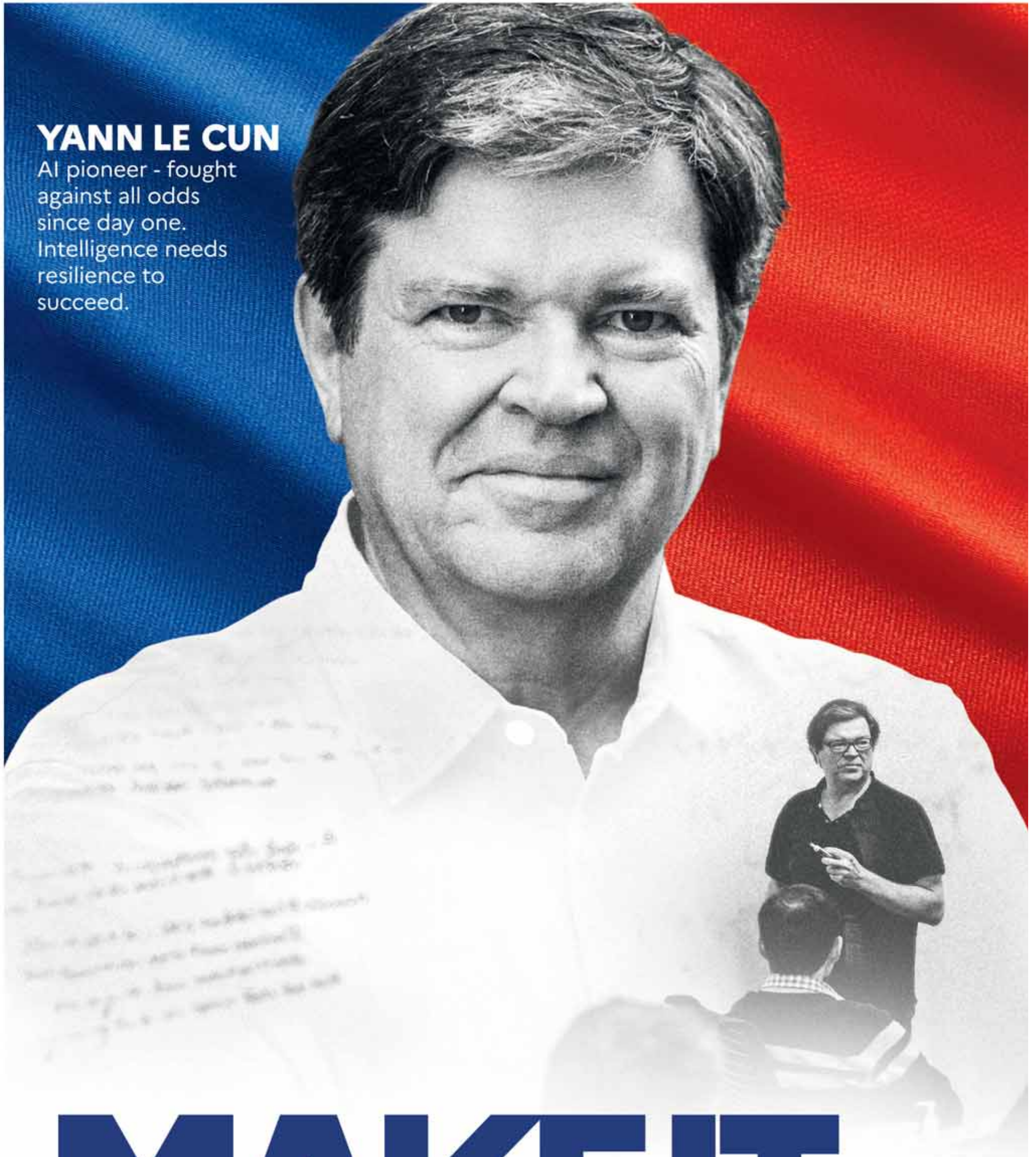
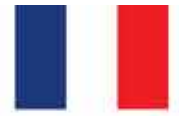
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Labour minister chairs Workforce Planning Committee meeting



HE the Minister of Labour and Chairman of the Workforce Planning Committee Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri chaired yesterday the committee's regular meeting. The meeting discussed the recent national workforce sector developments and assessed key initiatives and projects outlined in the National Strategy for an Effective and Highly Productive Workforce. Discussions focused on enhancing national skills, attracting highly skilled expatriate professionals, and increasing the representation of the national workforce in the private sector. (QNA)

First VP of Iran meets Qatar's envoy



First Vice-President of Iran Dr Mohammad Reza Aref met with Qatar's ambassador in Tehran Saad bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud. The meeting discussed co-operation between the two countries. (QNA)

Qatar supports child protection worldwide

Qatar has affirmed its support to all regional and international efforts to enhance the protection of children, noting its strong partnerships with the UN and its specialised agencies, regional and international organisations as well as its support for all initiatives to ensure the most comprehensive protection for this group worldwide.

This came in a speech delivered by Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Fahad Mohammed al-Khayarin at the first ministerial conference on ending all forms of violence against children that was recently held in Bogota, Colombia, with the participation of many figures, ministers, officials of UN agencies, and non-governmental organisations from different countries around the world.

Al-Khayarin noted Qatar's commitment to protecting children from violence in all its forms, especially since it is one of

the first countries to fulfil all its obligations related to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which include ensuring and protecting children's rights.

Protecting children from all forms of violence is primarily a precautionary measure based on developing and implementing strategic preventive measures aimed at creating safe environments for children to live in their small families, communities and homelands free from conflict, violence and humanitarian crises and considering the direct and indirect effects of the challenges facing the family in today's world, poor families, conflict and war zones and places of refuge, he added.

He touched on government policies in the field of child protection, stressing Qatar's success through co-ordination between governmental and non-governmental sectors to protect children, which contributed to creating a safe environment for children by adopting a comprehensive protection system

for this category, including co-ordination between the fields of education, health, social affairs, police and justice.

He added that the Ministry of Social Development and Family provides child protection services through its departments and institutions at the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, which supervises a number of programmes and initiatives to protect children and provide them with a safe environment, such as the Shafallah Center that offers care and protection for children with disabilities, and the Protection and Social Rehabilitation Centre (AMAN) that works to protect children from violence and neglect.

In the context of his speech, al-Khayarin referred to the role of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the National Human Rights Committee in protecting children and ensuring their rights in line with international developments and standards. (QNA)

Chief of Staff meets US general



HE the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nabit met with the visiting US Task Force Spartan Deputy Commanding General Brigadier General Joe Sharkey. They discussed topics of common interest along with co-operation between the sides and ways to boost them. During the meeting, Brigadier General Sharkey awarded Commander of the Military Police Forces Staff Brigadier General Rashid Mohammed al-Hajri the Order of the Marechausee, Friend of the Regiment, in appreciation of his efforts to support and strengthen military relations between the two sides. The meeting was attended by several senior officers from both sides. (QNA)

Shura Council attends GCC parliamentary panel meeting

QNA
Abu Dhabi

The Shura Council participated yesterday in the 19th meeting of the Parliamentary Co-ordination and Foreign Relations Committee of the Legislative Councils of the GCC countries that was held in Abu Dhabi, in preparation for the 18th regular meeting of Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils in the GCC countries scheduled for tomorrow.

The Shura Council was represented in the meeting by its members Nasser bin Mohammed al-Nuaimi and Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaie, and HE the Secretary-General of the Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud, members of the Parliamentary Co-ordination Committee.

At the beginning of the meeting, the attendees praised Qatar's efforts during its presidency of the 17th regular meeting, expressing their thanks and appreciation for the efforts of the Shura



Council which contributed to strengthening the Gulf parliamentary work and supporting co-operation between the GCC countries.

The attendees discussed a number of topics on the agenda, including the recommendations of the panel discussion on 'Cultural Diversity and the Challenges of Change: The Role of the Gulf Legislative Councils in Preserving the Gulf Identity' that was held in Doha last May.

They also discussed a range of topics related to joint Gulf co-operation, the outcomes of the Gulf-European Parli-

mentary Committee meetings and the results of co-operation with the parliaments of Latin American countries, in addition to the recommendations of the previous meeting of the presidents regarding holding co-ordination meetings in international parliamentary forums, and increasing the momentum of Gulf parliamentary meetings at various levels.

The attendees approved the agenda of the 18th regular meeting of Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils in the GCC countries.

MSDF gets ISO 27001 certificate for information security

The Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) has received the ISO 27001 certificate in Information Security Management for the third consecutive time, following its implementation of the latest international standards in information management, security, and risk assessment. Director of Information Systems Department at MSDF Ahmed Khalil Abdullah highlighted that the ministry has been complying with ISO 27001 information security management for the third year as the best global practice for protecting information assets, with the aim of ensuring the security and safety of data and systems given the evolving and emerging technologies leveraged within the ministry. He added that this will subsequently avoid anticipated security risks and effectively manage, implement the controls of the cybersecurity framework

to commensurate with national standards and regulations. Compliance with this standard ensures that MSDF pursues a policy of raising comprehensive awareness and understanding of information security. It serves as a safeguard for the personal data of beneficiaries through the services it provides, in addition to demonstrating the existence of continuous mechanisms in place to assess the information security status to reduce the impact of any potential security risks and to ensure the continued quality and performance of the systems, Abdullah pointed out. He underlined that the MSDF's compliance with the Information Security Standard (ISO) contributes to establishing mechanisms for documentation and auditing to ensure adherence to local, global regulations and laws. (QNA)

Ministry holds awareness workshop on road safety, occupational health

The Ministry of Labour, represented by the Occupational Safety and Health Department, organised an awareness workshop yesterday in collaboration with the ministries of the interior, public health, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for delivery riders.

The workshop, under the theme "Safe Driving, a Calm Mind: Road Safety and Mental Health for Better Performance," is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of road safety and providing participants with essential guidelines on occupational, mental health.

The workshop is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance awareness among motorbike riders regarding road safety and occupational health standards.

It also seeks to ensure that delivery companies maintain a safe working environment and comply with safety regulations for riders operating on public roads.

Representatives from the ministries of the interior, public health, and the ILO delivered presentations on key topics, including traffic laws, road safety




requirements, safe driving practices, the importance of using the correct lanes, and adopting a healthy lifestyle. They also highlighted the importance of maintaining both occupational and mental well-being.

The riders were briefed on the importance of performing their duties safely to prevent work-related injuries. Special attention was given to the need for caution while driving and adherence to speed limits, ensuring the safety of both riders and other road users.

Additionally, the workshop provided a thorough overview of common traf-

fic violations among delivery riders and shared strategies for avoiding them. Attendees were educated on how to prevent accidents by following traffic regulations, observing safety guidelines, and staying alert to road signs and signals.

On the sidelines of the workshop, the Ministry of Labour also hosted a discussion session with delivery company owners. This session emphasised the importance of adhering to technical requirements for motorbikes and providing the necessary safety equipment to ensure the well-being of riders while carrying out deliveries. (QNA)



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Global content creators take to track at LIC



Regional and international content creators took to the track yesterday at Lusail International Circuit (LIC), for an exclusive Fast Lap Challenge, building excitement for the upcoming Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024.

The Lusail Stars welcomed influencers from across the globe to test their skills on one of Formula 1's most challenging circuits, ahead of the highly anticipated race weekend from November 29-December 1. From the UK, entertainment creator WillNE (@

willne) and Formula 1 specialist Aarav Amin (@aarava) of Team Quadrant brought their racing enthusiasm to Lusail.

The Middle East was represented by award-winning Saudi race car driver Abdulaziz Alfudhaili (@saudistig), automotive expert Ahmed Mansour (@ahmed.amwell), Qatari TV presenter Asma Alhamadi (@asmaal7amadi), Qatar-based travel creator Anas Abouqamer (@tripleofqatar), automotive specialist Khaled al-Remithi (@thekhaledtr), and Kuwaiti travel and photography

creator Yousef Alseddeeqi (@yalseddeeqi).

"It is a pleasure to welcome these talented creators to the home of motorsport in Qatar. Their excitement and diversity help us showcase the unique features of our world-class facility," said Fatima al-Qaedi, marketing and communications manager at LIC. The Fast Lap Challenge was made possible through Q Auto's support by providing three Audi sports cars, as they are the event supporter for Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024.

Renowned Lebanese singer Myriam Fares to perform at Lusail

As excitement ahead of this month's Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024 reaches fever pitch, organisers at Lusail International Circuit (LIC) have announced that renowned Lebanese singer, performer and songwriter, Myriam Fares, will headline the circuit's main stage on November 29.

Described as 'Queen of Stage', Fares is set to bring the first day of racing to an electrifying close, delighting audiences with her unique art form which effortlessly fuses Arabian heritage with that of fresh, modern beats, a statement said yesterday.

Fares shot to global prominence in 2022 when she recorded the official FIFA Fan Festival anthem 'Tukoh Taka' of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and her song 'Goumi' which took the world by storm with over 10.3bn views. In 2021, Netflix chose Myriam to be the first Arab star and public figure to have a documentary about her life titled 'Myriam Fares - The Journey'. The documentary topped the charts for both Arabic and international films, and remained within the top ten for two full months on Netflix.

In 2024, Krafton Inc, the company behind the famous electronic game 'PUBG Mobile', chose Myriam as the first playable Arab star worldwide, with an exclusive voice pack in both Arabic and English. Fans



attending the Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024 can catch Myriam Fares live on November 29 night with either a single-day Friday ticket or a three-day event ticket. For those enjoying the racing through LIC's hospitality packages, VIP access to the concert is included on the same basis, offering an exclusive concert experience.

The weekend's musical programme will come to a stunning finale on December 1 night when global pop rock icons Maroon 5 take to stage bringing the penultimate date in this year's Formula 1 calendar to a close, the statement added.

AlKhatir meets UNRWA commissioner-general

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir met yesterday via video-conference with Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini.



The meeting discussed co-operation between Qatar and the UNRWA, as well as the serious humanitarian and political repercussions of the Israeli Knesset's approval of draft laws banning the

UNRWA's activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, after it had previously approved a draft law classifying the agency as a terrorist organisation.

The two sides also discussed the impact of the Israeli obstacles on the delivery of humanitarian and relief aid to the Gaza Strip, in addition to a number of topics of common interest.

HE AlKhatir reiterated Qatar's support for UNRWA, based on its firm stance toward the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. (QNA)

4th Arab Mathematics Olympiad starts in Doha

From Page 1

HE the minister expressed her thanks and appreciation to all those who co-operated in organising this edition of the Olympiad, headed by Alecco and the members of the organising committees, for their tireless efforts in this regard.

Alecco Director-General Dr Mohamed Ould Amar extended sincere thanks to the leadership, government and people of Qatar for its leading role in bolstering joint Arab action, unwavering support for sustainable development for all Arabs, and

its regional and global advocacy for Arab causes. He hailed Qatar's hosting of the Fourth Arab Mathematics Olympiad, its support for the Alecco, and the good co-operation and distinguished co-ordination of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education with Alecco in preparing well for the Olympiad.

Meanwhile, International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) President Dr Gregor Dolinar extended his thanks to the MoEHE and Alecco for organising the event, highlighting the importance of providing smart Arab students the opportunity to

showcase their talents in an AI-dominated era. MoEHE's Director of Educational Guidance Department Maryam Noman al-Emadi said 80-100 male and female students would be contesting in the Olympiad.

She added there will be associated events that gather Arab mathematicians and a closing award ceremony. The biennial event is part of the MoEHE's efforts to raise the students' scientific levels, develop their performance for the upcoming regional and international competitions and to boost communication and positive competency among Arab students.



Free diabetes checks held at Safari Mall, Hypermarket

Close to 1,000 people benefitted from a free diabetes health check organised by RAF Healthcare at Safari Mall and Safari Hypermarket along with Imara Medical Centre on November 7-8, to observe World Diabetes Week, a statement said.

The theme was Diabetes #perfectdietperfecttime. The chief guests were, Dr

Ahmed Elasyouti (diabetes educator from Qatar Diabetes Association), Shaheen Backer (managing director, Safari Group of Companies) and Aathif Ashraf (executive director, RAF Healthcare). Dr Elasyouti spoke on effective management of diabetes and improving quality of life.

RAF Healthcare announced 500 free Dr Morepen's blood

sugar testing machines for people who were diagnosed as diabetic. The machines were given at subsidised rate for Safari customers on both days. The camp was organised under the co-ordination of Dandabany Devarajan and his team from RAF Healthcare with exclusive support of Safari staff, the statement added.

QU college's innovative curricula keep pace with labour market

Qatar University (QU)'s College of Business and Economics has introduced a host of innovative curricula and restructured some curricula to keep pace with the labour market and the rapid changes in the business world.


Dr Rana Sobh, Dean of the College of Business and Economics, told Arabic daily *Arrayah* that it was part of the college's ongoing plans to review, evaluate and develop programmes, curricula and teaching methods to raise the efficiency of graduates and provide them with the best ways to meet the requirements of the labour market and then respond in the best possible way to the challenges and needs of society.

Dr Sobh said: "We currently live in a very dynamic and constantly turbulent environment, and the business world is changing very rapidly, which is reflected in business administration education and curricula in our college. At the College of Business and Economics, we seek to enhance students' capabilities for innovation and creativity and teach them how to transform their ideas into successful projects for sustainable institutions. We also teach them sustainable business practices and provide them with the skills and competencies they need for effective management and ethical leadership in any field or organisation."

Regarding the "Chat with the Dean" event, Dr Sobh stressed that the goal of holding the event is to open

a new channel with students and listen to their suggestions for development and open the door to any complaints or opportunities to modify or develop explanation methods as well as at the level of informing students of their rights and breaking any barriers with students. She said: "The 'Chat with the Dean' event was launched two years ago and has achieved great success, for the response of male and female students to express their suggestions and to take them into consideration in implementing them if they achieve the desired benefit from them, and in a way that provides the student with a university environment that is capable of development and responsiveness to all their suggestions."

She explained that the event is held periodically at least once every semester. It is worth noting that the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree is available, as the college provides the opportunity to choose from six main specialisations: accounting, economics, finance, marketing, management, and management information systems, and it also provides a variety of sub-specialisations. The graduate programmes at our college also include PhD in Business Administration, Master of Business Administration, Master of Accounting, Master of Science in Marketing, Master of Science in Finance, and Executive Master in Leadership.



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BARWA TENDER

BARWA REAL ESTATE COMPANY WISHES TO INVITE CAPABLE AND COMPETENT COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENDER DESCRIBED BELOW:

TENDER REFERENCE	TENDER DESCRIPTION	TENDER BOND	NON-REFUNDABLE TENDER FEES	CLOSING DATE
BRE/RFP/GAM/020/2024	LEASE AND OPERATION OF SCHOOL IN "MADINATNA" PROJECT	QAR 100,000	QAR 500	31 DECEMBER 2024 12.00 P.M.

TO RECEIVE THE TENDER DOCUMENTS, A COPY OF THE TENDER FEE DEPOSIT SLIP AND VALID COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION OF THE BIDDER MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: TENDER@BARWA.COM.QA


TO PAY THE TENDER FEE, IT SHOULD BE DEPOSITED INTO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:

BENEFICIARY : BARWA REAL ESTATE COMPANY
BANK NAME : DUKHAN BANK, MAIN BRANCH, DOHA - QATAR
ACCOUNT NO. : 200000008022
IBAN NUMBER : QA04BRWA00000000200000008022

NO OFFERS SUBMITTED BEYOND THE CLOSING DATE WILL BE CONSIDERED

TENDER BIDS TO BE SUBMITTED TO:

TENDER COMMITTEE SECRETARY
BARWA REAL ESTATE COMPANY
BARWA AL-SADD TOWERS - TOWER 1 - 16TH FLOOR
P.O BOX: 27777 DOHA-QATAR



BUILDING THE FUTURE

Qatar Medicare Exhibition in December

A wide pool of stakeholders such as health companies, medical tourism facilitators, medical service providers, hospitals, trade associations, multinational entities and associated partners across the globe will convene in Doha for the first edition of Qatar Medicare Exhibition 2024, from December 3 to 5.

Organised by IFP Qatar, in collaboration with Qatar Chamber, the event will be held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC).

"We are confident that Qatar's healthcare sector is on an accelerated growth trajectory, poised to attract even greater investments and foster international partnerships, fuelled by the remarkable developments across all sectors," Ali Bu Sharbak al-Mansouri, the acting general manager of the Qatar Chamber yesterday told media



Qatar Chamber and IFP Qatar, along with other sponsors, announce Qatar Medicare Exhibition 2024

outlining the agenda.

The event will showcase cutting-edge medical equipment and technology, alongside B2B meetings to support business collaborations and expand the scope of future partnerships in the healthcare sector, he added.

Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, director of the Department of NCDs Preventive Programmes at the Ministry of Public Health, said the exhibition serves as a platform to establish communication channels among all healthcare professionals, which

"positively impacts" the sector's overall performance, helps identify available opportunities, and strengthening the collaborative efforts between key stakeholders.

"The exhibition provides a platform for building strategic partnerships and showcasing the

latest healthcare technologies and innovations. The conference sessions will also delve into current medical trends, groundbreaking healthcare innovations, and explore both the challenges and the exciting opportunities awaiting the sector," said Haidar Mshaimesh, general manager of IFP Qatar.

Dr Hassan Kassem, chief medical officer of Qatar Red Crescent Society's (QRCS) Medical Affairs Division, the event's gold sponsor, said it is dedicated to educating the public about the QRCS's various activities and departments, while showcasing its role in raising health awareness for workers and providing them with essential healthcare services.

Sheikh Mansour bin Hamad al-Thani, chairman of M.H.M Group, the event's silver spon-

sor, said Qatar has become home to a large number of companies operating in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors and they are focused on expanding their market share and strengthening their presence in the rapidly growing healthcare landscape of the country.

Others who spoke on the occasion include Dr Abdulelah al-Adimi, CEO and medical director of Al Emadi Hospital Group; Dr Waleed Mohammed, director of Medical Network and Healthcare Services at Al-Koot Insurance and Reinsurance; Hazem Hamdan, CEO of Metco Care Health Services; Dr Abdulkarim Khattab, general manager of HeliumDoc, and Dr Thurayya Arayssi, Professor of Clinical Medicine and vice dean for Academic and Curricular Affairs at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar.

QRCS deploys 15 relief aid trucks for Gaza



A humanitarian convoy of 15 trucks was deployed by Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) with food and non-food aid to be delivered to displaced Palestinian families stranded in northern Gaza. In a statement yesterday, QRCS indicated that this relief convoy, which comes in co-operation with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO), is the latest of successive humanitarian convoys jointly deployed by QRCS and JHCO. Together, they deployed 38 relief trucks earlier

this year to meet the key humanitarian needs and enhance the resilience of the fraternal Palestinian people in northern Gaza. Since the beginning of the war on Gaza, QRCS has contributed 116 plane-loads of diverse relief aid and part of the cargo of one Qatari aid ship, providing up to 4,766 tonnes of relief items for Gaza. Its field personnel have implemented 32 emergency interventions for some 1.7mn beneficiaries. (QNA)

QFFD-QRCS food support project for Niger flood victims

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has partnered with Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) to implement the 'Emergency Food Support for Flood Victims in Niger' project.

The initiative involved the distribution of food assistance, including 3,600 food baskets and 750 tonnes of livestock feed, to support animal husbandry in six affected regions. The aid aimed to improve food security for over 6,600 families impacted by the floods.

Each family received a comprehensive food basket containing 120kg of essential items such as millet, rice, sugar, and cooking oil, while families that suffered livestock losses due to the floods were provided with 250kg of feed.

This assistance was part of a wider response to the disaster, as recent floods claimed the lives of 373 individuals, resulted in the loss of 24,955 livestock, destroyed 136,273 homes and 710 water sources, and affected 174,438 families comprising 1,296,618 people.

This collaboration reflects Qatar's commitment to acting swiftly and effectively to support communities impacted by natural disasters. It also highlights the importance of partnerships in delivering urgent humanitarian aid, thereby enhancing efforts to meet the needs of those affected.

Through this partnership, the QFFD aims to provide essential



support to improve the living conditions of beneficiaries, demonstrating the values of humanity

and solidarity as a key part of Qatar's vision to promote sustainable development. (QNA)

Ministry of Culture participates in Sharjah book fair

The Ministry of Culture is participating in the 43rd edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair, showcasing Qatari intellectual production, promoting the ministry's E-library and enhancing the cultural and intellectual communication. The event, being held at Expo Centre Sharjah, UAE, brings together a host of publishing houses, such as the Doha-based Hamad bin Khalifa University Press and Dar Al Watad for Publishing and Distribution to showcase a wide diversity of books in diverse genres. Director of the Doha International Book Fair Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain said the ministry participates in this fair to highlight aspects of Qatari literature and culture through showcasing diverse and new publications in multiple knowledge sciences that range from novels, law, to social and humanitarian sciences, in addition to showcasing the outstanding releases of children and young adult books. He highlighted that the ministry's participation aims to forge new relationships with those working in the field of culture and the publishing industry. (QNA)

Culture ministry holds seminar at Algiers book fair

QNA
Algiers

The Ministry of Culture organised has a seminar titled "sustainability in the cultural sector, an overview of the experience of supporting cultural diversity in Qatar", within the framework of Qatar's participation in the International Book Fair of Algiers as a guest of honour.

During the seminar, Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture, Maryam Yassin al-Hammadi, discussed Qatar's experience in cultural sustainability, affirming that culture garners a significant interest from the wise leadership of the State to achieve the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Al-Hammadi said the Ministry of Culture has used the opportunity of its participation as a guest of honour to help the pub-



lic internalise Qatari culture and highlight Qatar's diligent efforts to prioritise the preservation of both tangible and intangible heritage, as well as how to mobilise material and human resources to achieve this.

Qatar has set a vision to be a

pioneering and advanced country for generations to come, especially in the cultural realm, said al-Hammadi, highlighting the nation's past, present, and future, while outlining the Qatari policies and plans to achieve this objective.

She emphasised that the ministry intends to deepen cultural relationship between Qatar and Algeria through imparting the Qatari culture to the people of Algeria via direct interaction with the public.

Cultural studies researcher at the Culture and Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture, Al-Maha al-Ali, said her lecture focused on the notion of culture and cultural diversity of Qatar, along with the State's efforts to reinforce this co-operation, the effective role Qatar performs in Unesco, the ministry's role in consolidating the culture through cultural weeks and diversity events.

The ministry's pavilion at the fair received a record turnout from visitors who reviewed the most prominent literary and intellectual genres of a contingent of writers and innovators in Qatar. (QNA)

Arabic Book Club offers insight on publications about Gaza

The Arabic Book Club at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) has diverged from its typical single-book discussion format to analyse publications about Israel and Palestine in the previous year.

Panelists at the recent Arabic-language event included Dr Khaled al-Hroub, professor in residence at Northwestern University in Qatar, Dr Ayat Hamdan, and Dr Hani Awad, both researchers at Doha Institute's Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies.

"It's important to look at what narratives are being produced from a scholarly lens," said event moderator Dr Yehia Mohamed, GU-Q associate professor of Arabic and club founder. He noted an increase in Palestinian think tank publications over the previous year, and the response of publishing houses which have focused on reprinting old volumes with updates in light of developments in the region, rather than putting out new literature.

The panelists talked about the differences between scholarly material, which tended to be more descriptive of events, and commercial publications which aim to capitalise on the polemic on both sides in order to sell more books.

"The battles in the field have

moved to publishing houses," said Dr al-Hroub adding: "You find the same trends that exist politically, extending to the academic and research fields."

Several Arabic literature trends over the previous year were discussed, including, as Dr Hamadan pointed out, influential texts like Azmi Bishara's book *The Flood*, which gave voice to concerns that Israel and its supporters have crafted a narrative about the events of October 7 which has enabled them to pursue their agenda more aggressively.

Dr Awad compared Arab and Israeli reactions to the media broadcasting of October 7, 2023 footage shot by Hamas fighters.

The ensuing discussion focused on the diversity of interpretations of these events by Arab intellectuals and media outlets, and the galvanising effects it had on the Israeli side, who used the footage to garner support for waging war on Palestine.

What emerged from this analysis was a picture of the role that academic and media publications have played in political storytelling this year, and the important role that research and publishing can play in contributing to either resolving or escalating violence in the future.



New clinics at Al Sadd Health Centre

Al Sadd Primary Health Centre has added a new clinic for breast cancer survivors, director Dr Muna al-Hail told local Arabic daily Arrayah. The clinic aims to provide follow-up after the treatment and recovery phase to monitor and intervene promptly if any changes are detected.

She also announced the launch of a minor surgical procedures clinic at the Centre and said several new services are expected to be introduced in the future, including a cupping therapy clinic and expanded radiology services, such as bone density scans for osteoporosis diagnosis.

Al Sadd Primary Health Centre, one of the newest under the Primary Health Care Corporation, operates at full capacity, serving around 400 patients daily across all special-



ties, and a total of 12,000 patients monthly. These patients are primarily Qatari citizens and specific exempted groups, including elderly individuals, employees affiliated with Qatari citizens, people with disabilities, and others.

Dr al-Hail said that, as of October, the number of registered individuals at Al Sadd Primary Health Centre reached 7,652, with 5,404 Qataris and 2,248 non-Qataris. The number of visitors to the centre has been steadily increasing since its opening.

Besides registered Qatari citizens, the centre serves Qataris registered at other centres, allowing them to benefit from its services at any time. The various specialised clinics, include ophthalmology and optometry, audiology, dermatology, ENT, physical therapy, nutrition, psychological support and mental health, memory clinics for the elderly, and general and specialised dental clinics.

Further, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, and ultrasound (sonography) services are provided.

Katara announces 6th Qatar International Arts Festival

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The sixth edition of the Qatar International Arts Festival will take place from November 25-30 at Katara - the Cultural Village, bringing together 1,000 exhibitors in the painting and sculpture exhibitions, along with 350 artists from 70 countries, showcasing diverse styles of visual and plastic arts.

The six-day event, organised by Katara in collaboration with Maps International, the International Council of Museums, and the British Council, will host workshops, seminars, cultural dialogues, musical evenings, live drawing sessions, fashion shows inspired by the artwork on display, and underwater drawing demonstrations.

Organisers noted that 16 national pavilions will include Qatar, Armenia, Argentina, Colombia, China, France, Iran, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Spain, Slovakia, the UK, the US and Uruguay. The festival will conclude on November 30 with an awards ceremony.

Expressing her excitement about the festival's continued success in promoting Qatar's cultural and artistic stature on both



regional and global levels, Katara's Research and Studies Department manager Dr Nadia al-Mudahka highlighted the event's distinctive lineup of interactive activities, artworks, and the remarkable diversity of artistic expressions.

She said bringing together a vast number of visual artists from around the world not only strengthens cultural diversity but also fosters the exchange of ideas, experiences, and perspectives, creating a space for cross-cultural artistic dialogue.

Dr al-Mudahka underscored that the festival embodies the fruitful partnership between

Katara and Maps International, driven by a shared commitment to spreading culture and enhancing artistic engagement.

She emphasised Katara's dedication to deepening international co-operation and creating a platform for intercultural communication through the presence of artists from various creative backgrounds.

Rashmi Agarwal, founder and president of Maps International, said the 2024 festival, set to be held at Katara's Hall 12, embodies creativity, diversity, and artistic exchange.

QNB organises cybersecurity awareness workshop

QNB has organised a cybersecurity awareness workshop for the children of its staff, in collaboration with KidZania Doha as part of efforts to its continued commitment to promote digital safety and awareness.

This initiative is part of QNB's dedication to fostering a secure digital environment and educating the next generation on the importance of cybersecurity.

The workshop, hosted by QNB's Social Media team, introduced the young participants to essential online safety practices, including recognising phishing attempts, protecting personal information, and understanding the importance of secure passwords.

With interactive activities and real-life scenarios, the children learned how to identify and avoid potential cyber threats, equipping them with the tools needed to navigate the digital world safely.

"Empowering our staff's children with cybersecurity skills ensures they can navigate the digital space with confidence and awareness. Our collaboration with KidZania Doha was essential in delivering a workshop that



was both educational and fun," said Heba al-Tamimi, senior executive vice president at QNB Group Communications. QNB remains committed to

promoting digital awareness and security across all ages, supporting Qatar's vision of a digitally secure future, a statement added.

CRA issues updated version of Class Licence for Short-Range Devices

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has issued the fifth version of the Class Licence for Short-Range Devices after reviewing feedback received from stakeholders and interested parties on the public consultation document published on CRA's website in the second quarter of this year.

This step emphasises CRA's commitment to keeping pace with the rapid technological developments in radiocommunication devices and their applications, and to ensure alignment of technological applications and frequency bands for short-range devices intended for import and use in Qatar with rules, international standards and

technical specifications for such devices.

The fifth version of the Class Licence for Short-Range Devices includes additional frequency bands with new values and greater flexibility related to permitted transmit power values in response to recent developments in radiocommunication devices and their applications.

These additional frequencies will allow the use and sale of a wider and more diverse range of short-range devices and their applications throughout Qatar. These devices and applications serve various sectors and a broad segment of consumers in the country. This update supports Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third

National Development Strategy 2024-2030, which prioritises improving residents' quality of life and delivering services that meet global standards.

The draft of the Class Licence previously published by CRA for public consultation included several important proposals aimed at updating the fourth version (previous version), allowing stakeholders and interested parties to submit their views and feedback to CRA. This process helped CRA to understand the needs of this important sector and consider them in an organised and transparent manner. Consequently, CRA has published the fifth version, which replaces the fourth version issued in June 2021. (QNA)

Ajyal Talks to discuss creativity in social change



Ghada al-Khater



Khalid Albaih



Sylvia Zakhary



Anees

Doha Film Institute (DFI) is presenting the Ajyal Talks programme at Ajyal Film Festival, scheduled from November 16-23, featuring noted artists who use their craft to enact positive social change and foster cultural understanding. In a press statement, DFI CEO and festival director Fatma Hassan Alremailhi said: "The sessions are unique opportunities to gain intimate insights from creative leaders who are reshaping their

industries and are behind some of the most impactful creative work today". The first Ajyal Talk, 'Voices Through Art: Creating Change and Inspiring Action' brings together Ghada al-Khater, a Qatari multidisciplinary artist, and Khalid Albaih, a renowned Sudanese artist and activist. Moderated by cultural storyteller Nadir Nahdi, the discussion will explore how artists like Albaih and al-Khater harness creative

expression to drive social awareness that empower audiences. The second session, 'Trailblazing in Music: A Journey of Unconventional Paths' will feature Egyptian American creative entrepreneur Sylvia M Zakhary and Anees, an independent artist and genre-bending musician. The discussion will explore the diverse journeys of two creative figures who have forged their own unique paths in the music industry.

THE BIO CERAMIC MOONSWATCH MISSION TO EARTH PHASE CELEBRATES THE SPLENDOR OF THE EARTH AS SEEN FROM THE MOON.

For the first time in watchmaking history, an earth phase is being paired with a moon phase.

The Bioceramic MoonSwatch MISSION TO EARTH PHASE celebrates our two nearest celestial bodies, the Earth and the Moon. Swatch's new non-limited creation not only comes with a moon phase, but more importantly—and for the first time in watchmaking history—an earth phase. Never before have these two poetic complications been combined in the same watch. In so doing, Swatch puts a different spin on Galileo's famous quote "And yet it moves!" and playfully declares "And yet they move!"

Just like the Bioceramic MoonSwatch MISSION TO THE MOONPHASE watches, the MISSION TO EARTH PHASE sports a moon phase on the subdial at two o'clock. The celestial body changes based on its cycles, which can be observed using the two-Moon disc and mask (northern and southern hemispheres).

As for the earth phase, looking at the dial at ten o'clock, we can admire the movements of our planet as seen from the Moon. The patented earth phase is colored to pay tribute to the diversity and beauty of the blue planet. Clouds are also visible, along with the contrast between oceans, forests and deserts. Adding an otherworldly touch, the oceans are coated with UV ink (blue emission) visible only in UV light.

To emphasize this enchanting view of the Moon facing the Earth, the craters of the moon have been created using digital printing. The watch's dial also features a unique graining that resembles lunar dust, further enhancing its resemblance to the Moon.

How do these two elements, lunar and terrestrial, fit together? The moon phase shows how the Moon appears when seen from Earth. The earth phase shows how the Earth appears when seen from the Moon. The length of a moon phase and an earth phase are the same, 29.5



days. But the cycles are inversely related. So, when there's a Full Moon, we have a New Earth. And when there's a New Moon, we have a Full Earth. This is why the earth phase turns counterclockwise and in the opposite direction to the Moon. This is a kind of poetic reinterpretation of the retrograde function featured in some high-end watches.

For the creation of this beautiful watch with its earth phase, Swatch was inspired by Earth as seen from the Moon, a mesmerizing view that has been captured in iconic images during various Apollo missions.

But the earth phase and moon phase are not the only notable features on the Bioceramic MoonSwatch MISSION TO EARTH PHASE.

Like all the models in the Bioceramic MoonSwatch Collection, MISSION TO EARTH PHASE is made from the brand's patented Bioceramic, a unique mix of two-thirds ceramic and one-third biosourced materials produced from castor oil. The Bioceramic bezel features a black tachymeter scale and striking light gray markers, a newly created color. The watch also has a chronograph function.

This new watch, a non-limited edition, sports its mission statement on the back of the case, as well as OMEGA X SWATCH logos on the dial and crown. The Moon appears on the battery cover, bearing the footprint of Neil Armstrong—the first man to set foot there.

This new model will please fans with its various characteristic features of OMEGA's legendary Speedmaster Moonwatch, the first watch to go to the Moon, such as the asymmetrical case or the famous dot over ninety on the tachymeter scale.

The Bioceramic MoonSwatch MISSION TO EARTH PHASE will be available at selected Swatch stores worldwide from November 2. As with the whole Bioceramic MoonSwatch Collection, only one watch can be purchased per person, per day and per store.



Earth photographed from the surface of the Moon by Apollo 17 Astronaut Jack Schmitt



Palestinians walk amid the destruction following an Israeli strike in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Air strike on Gaza home leaves bodies 'torn apart'

AFP
Jabalia

The Alloush family would have been getting ready for breakfast yesterday morning when an Israeli strike hit their home in northern Gaza, according to a distraught relative.

The blast blew dozens of Palestinians into pieces, Abdullah al-Najjar said from the scene of the attack in Jabalia.

Many children were among them, according to rescuers.

At around six o'clock, "there was a very huge explosion... When we arrived here, all the bodies were torn apart," Najjar said.

"This is the loaf of bread that they wanted to eat for breakfast. What's the benefit of a loaf of bread if there is no safety and peace?" he asked, holding up pieces of pita.

Many others had also been in the Alloush family home, which was being used as "a shelter for people during intensified bombing", Najjar said. "But they all died."

The civil defence agency in the Gaza Strip said "at least 25" people – 13 children among them – were killed in the house, and more than 30 were injured.

It said another strike, on Gaza City's Sabra district, killed five people, and "a number of civilians are still under the rubble".

At the Jabalia house, people searched through the debris, finding personal items including a child's stuffed animal.

Five people carried a white-bearded elderly man on a wheelchair across the rubble beside the remains of the house.

AFP footage showed Palestinians unloading bodies in blood-stained white shrouds from a van at a Jabalia cemetery, before praying and burying them.

Since October 6, Israel's military has engaged in a withering air and ground assault on parts of northern Gaza including Jabalia, saying their aim is to stop Hamas fighters from regrouping.

Contacted about yesterday's strike, Israel's military said it hit a site "in the area of Jabalia in which fighters were operating".

But Najjar, a relative of many of the victims, denied they belonged "to any organisation" and said they were innocent.

Neighbour Mohammed al-Barsh charged that "children, women and innocents" are "targets for the Israeli enemy".

A Hamas statement condemned what it called the Jabalia "massacre", saying the Alloush family home "was crowded with over 50 innocent civilians".

It said most were women and children, including people "who had been forcibly displaced by the occupation (Israel) from the Jabalia refugee camp".

The Gaza war erupted when Hamas stormed southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed 43,603 people in Gaza, a majority of them civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry that the

United Nations considers reliable.

The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) on Friday condemned the number of civilians killed in the war, saying women and children comprised nearly 70% of the thousands of fatalities it had been able to verify.

"Civilians in Gaza have borne the brunt of the attacks, including through the initial 'complete siege' of Gaza by Israeli forces," the OHCHR said.

"Conduct by Israeli forces has caused unprecedented levels of killings, death, injury, starvation, illness and disease."

The heads of UN agencies early this month described northern Gaza as "under siege" and denied "basic aid and life-saving supplies".

Israel's main military backer the United States on October 15 warned it could withhold some of its billions of dollars in military assistance unless Israel improves aid delivery to Gaza within 30 days.

With that deadline fast approaching, there has been little sign of improvement. A UN-backed assessment on Saturday warned that famine is imminent in northern Gaza. Fewer aid shipments are allowed in than at any time since October 2023, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report.

An alert Saturday from the Famine Review Committee warned of "an imminent and substantial likelihood of famine occurring, due to the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip".

Arab leaders fly to Saudi for talks on Mideast wars

AFP
Riyadh

Arab and Muslim leaders have begun arriving in Saudi Arabia for a summit scheduled for today that will focus on Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon, Saudi state media said.

The Saudi foreign ministry announced the summit in late October during the first meeting of an "international alliance" pushing for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Attendees will "discuss the continued Israeli aggression on the Palestinian territories and the Lebanese Republic, and the current developments in the region," the official Saudi Press Agency said yesterday.

It comes one year after a simi-

lar gathering in Riyadh of the Cairo-based Arab League and the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) during which leaders condemned Israeli forces' actions in Gaza as "barbaric".

The Saudi state-affiliated Al-Ekhabriya news channel broadcast footage yesterday of Nigerian President Bola Tinubu and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati landing in Riyadh.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also scheduled to attend, the Pakistani foreign ministry said last week, adding that he planned to call for "an immediate end to the genocide in Gaza" and the "immediate cessation of the ongoing Israeli adventurism in the region".

The 57-member OIC and 22-member Arab League include

countries which recognise Israel and those firmly opposed to its regional integration.

The war in Gaza erupted with Hamas' unprecedented storming of southern Israel in October 2023. Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed more than 43,600 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to data from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry that the United Nations considers reliable.

Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which like Hamas is backed by Iran, began firing on Israel after the October first week storming last year.

The regular cross-border exchanges escalated in late September when Israel intensified its air strikes before sending ground troops into southern Lebanon against Hezbollah.

US warplanes attack Houthi targets in Yemen: Pentagon

US warplanes staged multiple strikes Saturday night on Houthi advanced weapons storage facilities in Yemen, the Pentagon said, AFP reported from Washington. The facilities contained various weapons used to target military and civilian vessels navigating international waters throughout the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, according to information provided to AFP by the Pentagon. The Houthi-run Al Masirah television network reported three American and British raids that targeted the capital Sanaa's southern Al Sabeen district. "Eyewitnesses said they heard intense

flying, along with explosions in different parts of the capital Sanaa," Al Masirah said. The US and Britain have repeatedly struck Houthi targets in Yemen since January in response to attacks by the fighters on shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The fighters say the strikes, which have disrupted maritime traffic in a globally important waterway, target vessels linked to Israel and are intended to signal solidarity with Palestinians during the Gaza war. The attacks have seriously disrupted the Red Sea route which carries 12% of global trade.

Mauritius votes in poll clouded by phone-tapping scandal

AFP
Port Louis

Mauritius voted yesterday in a close-fought parliamentary election focused on economic and political stability in one of Africa's most prosperous democracies.

The vote in the Indian Ocean archipelago came on the heels of a historic agreement last month that saw Britain cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius following a long-running dispute.

But incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth's hopes of an easy re-election on the back of the deal were dealt a blow when secretly recorded phone calls of politicians, diplomats and journalists began to be leaked online last month.

Seeking to keep a lid on the explosive scandal, the authorities announced a social media ban until after the election, before making an embarrassing climb-down in the face of opposition and media outrage.

The move nevertheless added to concerns that Mauritius's much-vaunted democracy and civil liberties were being gradually eroded.

The battle for control of the 70-seat National Assembly played out between two main blocs – Jugnauth's Militant Socialist Movement and its allies, which currently enjoy a majority, and the Alliance of Change led by former prime minister Navin Ramgoolam. Both camps said they were confident of victory, promising voters they would act to reduce poverty and the cost of living. One hour before



Voters queue to cast their votes at a polling station during the 2024 Mauritian general election at Beau Vallon, in Mahebourg, yesterday.

polls closed at 6pm (1400 GMT), turnout was 70%, according to the electoral commission, without giving a comparison with the 2019 vote.

Results are expected today. Police had been stationed in polling stations across the country to ensure the security of the vote, while observers from regional groupings including the African Union monitored the process. Ramgoolam had warned shortly after polls opened about the risk of fraud, while later saying that voting went off largely without incident. "We are heading towards a big victory tomorrow. The people are waiting for this liberation," the 77-year-old told reporters.

Jugnauth, 62, issued a similar declaration. "We are confident of winning because the people appreciate our record," he said, accusing the opposition of trying to hinder the smooth running of the vote.

Bodies exhumed as cemetery partially razed for urban expansion in Egypt

AFP
Cairo

Twenty years after burying him, Egyptian architect Ahmed el-Meligui was forced to exhume his grandfather's remains from a historic Cairo cemetery that is being partially razed to accommodate the growing mega-city.

"Death itself is a tragedy. Here, you are reliving that tragedy all over again," said the 43-year-old, who had 23 other relatives also removed from their family tomb, located in a sprawling cemetery known as the City of the Dead in Old Cairo.

Since 2020, thousands of graves have been demolished at the Unesco-listed World Heritage site, one of the oldest necropolises in the Muslim world.

It is the latest piece of Cairo's history to be torn apart as authorities aggressively remake parts of the city, a longtime cultural beacon of the Arab world.

The Egyptian government says the cemetery's destruction is necessary to build new roads and bridges that they hope will improve traffic in the congested, densely populated capital, home

to around 22mn people. But it is a painful ordeal for families like Meligui's, whose 105-year-old family tomb, built in traditional Islamic style with grand wooden doors and a spacious courtyard, is slated for demolition.

"The most heartbreaking moment was when I found the shroud of my grandfather, who raised me, torn and tattered. The bones fell down and I had to gather them up from the ground," said the father of three, holding a photo of his maternal grandparents and their four children taken more than 50 years ago. Speaking from his luxury home in west Cairo, Meligui said he had the remains transported in a hearse to be reinterred at a new cemetery in Fayoum province, around 100 kilometres away.

The Egyptian government has offered alternative burial sites outside Cairo to families, but these cemeteries are smaller and more remote, according to several people whose families have tombs there.

An official at Egypt's planning ministry told AFP the government "understands the grief of citizens" but said the process is ultimately for "the public interest". A massive concrete bridge now cuts through the cemetery, connecting Cairo's eastern district of Mokattam with



Sayyed al-Arabi, 71, who has lived and guarded the Ain Al-Sira cemetery in Old Cairo for decades, speaks to AFP, before the demolition of the graveyard.

the central and western part of the capital – cutting the previous hour-long commute in half.

"The whole area has changed dramatically," said Meligui, who owns a construction company.

Not far from his family's burial ground, the Khayalah cemetery was completely razed in April 2020 and replaced with a bustling new multi-lane highway.

Mokhtar, a 63-year-old jewellery maker who asked to use a pseudonym to speak freely, said he felt "indescribable pain" when

exhuming his family members, including his sister, just five months after her burial. "Imagine digging up your family's graves with your own hands and gathering their bones into bags," he said.

Mokhtar, who used to visit the cemetery monthly, arranged for new shrouds and a hearse to rebury his maternal family's remains in a government-provided lot.

"I moved my sister as she was, the body was completely intact with... blood," he said.

Mokhtar said the new fast road

that cuts through his family's tomb is not worth the price. "Easier or not. My loss cannot be replaced," he said. The destruction of Cairo's cemeteries has taken a toll not only on the deceased and their families but also the thousands of people who have made the sacred grounds their home.

Since the 1980s, thousands of Egyptians have been living in cemeteries due to a severe housing crisis in the country of 107mn.

One such resident is Sayyed al-Arabi, 71, who has lived and guarded a cemetery in Old Cairo for decades.

His one-room home, where his three children were born, is now surrounded by piles of rubble from demolished tombs. Outside, a bulldozer levels the unpaved ground, puddled with water.

"They told us they would remove the bodies and demolish the cemetery," he said, a television hanging on the wall next to two dilapidated beds and a rusty fan.

In the spacious courtyard of the cemetery built in 1925, Arabi's granddaughters played under the watchful eyes of their mother as she washed clothes.

"The owners of the graves will receive a replacement, but what about me? Where should I go?"

Chad troops killed in clashes with militants

Numerous Chad troops have been killed in a clash with militants in the Lake Chad region, the latest such incident in the central African nation, officials said yesterday, AFP reported from N'Djamena. "I present my sincere condolences to the families of the martyrs who fell defending the homeland during this clash and I wish a speedy recovery to the wounded", President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno said in a post on Facebook, without providing any other details. The clash was the latest since late October, when an attack by Boko Haram militants on a Chadian military base killed at least 40 people. In response, the army launched an operation against the militants. In a statement, the army chief of staff said on Saturday that there was a clash during the day and after several hours "numerous terrorist elements were neutralised" and that a toll would be published later. According to military sources, the fighting took place in the afternoon on the Karia island, in the northwest of the Lake Chad region. Several local media published what they said were lists of the troops killed and wounded. "Numerous high-ranking officers fell", an officer at the chief of staff office told AFP on condition of anonymity. In a vast expanse of water and swamps, the Lake Chad region's countless islets serve as hideouts for militant groups, such as Boko Haram and its offshoot Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP).

DECISION

Dhaka to seek Interpol alert for fugitive Hasina loyalists

Bangladesh yesterday said it would request an Interpol "red notice" alert for fugitive leaders of the ousted regime of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was toppled in a revolution in August. "Those responsible for the indiscriminate killings during the mass uprising in July and August will be brought back from wherever they have taken refuge," Asif Nazrul, the interim government's law adviser, told reporters yesterday. Dozens of Hasina's allies have been taken into custody since her regime collapsed, accused of involvement in a police crackdown that killed more than 700 people during the unrest that led to her ouster.

WEATHER

Philippines to evacuate 2,500 villages ahead of storm

The residents of 2,500 villages were ordered to evacuate their homes as severe tropical storm Toraji approached the northern Philippines, the government said yesterday, after three massive cyclones battered the country in less than a month. Nearly 700,000 people are still sheltering at evacuation centres or with relatives after their homes were destroyed by tropical cyclones Trami, Kong-rey and Yinxing. The previous trio of storms killed 159 people and with Toraji due to make landfall today, people living in 2,500 villages across the northern regions of Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera have been ordered to evacuate.

PEOPLE

British chef Jamie Oliver pulls book after criticism

British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has announced he will no longer sell his children's book, after coming under fire for what Indigenous critics called "erasure, trivialisation and stereotyping". Oliver's book, *Billy and the Epic Escape*, tells a fictional account of a group of friends on a summer adventure when an Indigenous girl living in foster care is abducted. The story sparked outrage among Indigenous authors and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Corporation called for the book to be withdrawn, *The Guardian* reported. The corporation said the book was "disrespectful".

BLAZE

Fire breaks out on Japan navy ship

Fire broke out on a Japanese warship sailing near the western part of the country, causing one crew member to be hospitalised due to smoke inhalation, while another was missing, Japan's navy said yesterday. The Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) said the minesweeper *Ukushima* was sailing off the coast north of Fukuoka in the island of Kyushu when the fire occurred at around 9.40am local time. Admiral Akira Saito later said firefighting efforts were ongoing as of 8.30pm. The fire broke out in *Ukushima's* engine room and multiple explosive sounds had been heard, but the cause was being investigated, Saito said.

China reaffirms boundaries of sea near flashpoint reef

AFP
Beijing

China reasserted its territories around a flashpoint reef in the South China Sea yesterday, two days after the Philippines defined its own sea boundaries in the contested waters.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos on Friday signed two laws defining the country's sea waters and imposing fixed lanes for foreign ships, sparking a sharp riposte by China which summoned Manila's envoy.

Beijing's foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday that the government had "delimited and announced the baselines of the territorial sea adjacent to Huangyan Dao".

"This is a natural step by the Chinese government to lawfully strengthen marine management and is consistent with international law and common practices," it added. It took control of Huangyan Dao, the Chinese name for Scarborough Shoal, in 2012 - a strategic feature in the South China Sea closest to the Philippines.

Beijing has brushed aside an international ruling that its claims to most of the South China Sea has no legal basis. The Philippines' Maritime Zones Act marks out waters that fall within Manila's territory as well as areas outside of it to which it has maritime entitlements, as agreed by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

They include some waters con-

tested by China which claims almost the entire South China Sea and has brushed off rival claims of several Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines among them.

A second law, the Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act, authorises the president to impose fixed sea and air routes through which foreign ships or planes may pass "without compromising our national security", Marcos said at the signing ceremony.

Beijing's foreign ministry said that it "firmly opposes" the Philippines' actions which "severely violates China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea".

It summoned the Philippine ambassador to Beijing "to lodge solemn representations" over the passage of the laws. The Philippines has "frequently sent military and coast guard vessels and aircraft...to intrude into the sea and airspace near Huangyan Dao, causing disturbances and provocations", China's coast guard said in a statement yesterday.

It vowed to "continue to strengthen patrols and law enforcement in the territorial sea of Scarborough Shoal and relevant waters".

China has in recent months deployed navy and coast guard vessels to bar the Philippines from reefs and islands that Manila says are located within its exclusive economic zone in the sea.

Chinese sailors have rammed, blocked, used water cannons and even boarded Philippine vessels, causing damage and injuries.

Anger over attack



Activists and supporters of the Hindu Sikh Global Forum hold placards as they take part in a protest near the Canadian embassy in New Delhi yesterday, against the recent attack on a temple in the city of Brampton, near Toronto in Canada. The Hindu Sikh Global Forum, representing a coalition of Hindu and Sikh communities, organised the march to demonstrate their collective demand for action against the Khalistani attack.

India's rice inventories hit record high, triples govt target

Reuters
New Delhi

India's rice inventories surged to an all-time high of 29.7mn metric tonnes in November, sources said, nearly three times the government's target, as export curbs imposed over the past two years bumped up local supplies.

Higher stocks would allow the world's biggest rice exporter to boost shipments without worrying about domestic supplies, which were limited last year and led New Delhi to restrict exports of all grades.

Rice reserves in state granaries totalled 29.7mn tonnes at the start of this month, up 48.5% from a year ago, said the sources who did not wish to be named in line with official rules.

In the middle of overflowing grain bins, Indian farmers have gathered a record rice crop of 120mn tonnes from this year's summer season, which accounts for nearly 85% of total rice output.

As the new crop rolls in, stocks at the Food Corporation of India (FCI) - the state stockpiler - are set to increase further in the months to come, raising storage concerns in the world's second-biggest rice producer.

The FCI is expected to buy 48.5mn tonnes of the new summer-sown rice in the market-ing year that began on October 1, up from 46.3mn tonnes bought from farmers in 2023-24.

"Rice stocks are substantially higher, and stock levels will go up only because of bumper production in the new season," a senior government official said.

This year's copious monsoon rains also prompted farmers to expand planting areas.

Concerned over patchy monsoon rains, India imposed export curbs last year. However, New Delhi allowed exports of all grades except 100% broken rice this year.

Indian soldier, militant killed in Kashmir

An Indian soldier was killed in Kashmir yesterday, the army said, as troops battled gunmen in the latest violence in the region.

The army said an operation had been mounted "based on specific intelligence" about the presence of militants in remote southern Kishtwar where gunmen last week shot dead two village defence guards.

The village defence guards are a force tasked with fighting off militant attacks.

The gunmen were from "the same group" behind the killing of the guards, the army said in a post on X. On Saturday evening the army reported killing a militant in a separate gunfight.

Police said another two gunfights were taking place in the Himalayan region yesterday with fighting reported in both the Zabarwan and Baramulla areas.

Last week, an attacker hurled a grenade at a busy market in the main city of Srinagar, wounding 12 people. Attacks since October have included gunmen launching an ambush on an army convoy, as well as firing on a construction camp, killing seven people.



Security personnel patrol near the site of a gunfight between militants and Indian security forces at Ishber Nishat in Srinagar yesterday.

India should join Asian trade bloc: official

Reuters
New Delhi

India should join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a top official at a government think-tank said, years after the country decided to walk out of the China-backed Asian trade bloc.

The RCEP is the world's largest trade bloc backed by China and groups 15 Asia-Pacific economies, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

In 2019, India decided to not join the bloc, on the grounds that the deal would hurt its farmers, businesses, workers and consumers.

"India should be a part of RCEP and CPTPP and become a member," said B V R Subrahmanyam, the CEO of NITI Aayog, a public policy think

tank for the government. He said that joining the trade blocs will help India boost its manufacturing base and exports by small and medium firms that constitute 40% of the country's exports.

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is a free trade agreement between 11 countries including Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand and Singapore.

The CPTPP was signed by the countries in March 2018 and went into effect in December that year.

He also said India has not benefited much from global companies' efforts to build factories outside China because of India's high tariffs.

In recent years, many companies have adopted a "China Plus One" strategy to build new manufacturing units outside the People's Republic.

King Charles leads silence for UK war dead

AFP
London

King Charles III led Britain in two minutes of silence yesterday to honour the country's war dead at a remembrance service also attended by Catherine, Princess of Wales, as she returns to royal duties after cancer treatment.

The king, who was also diagnosed with cancer this year, was among the dignitaries laying wreaths at the Cenotaph memo-

rial in central London after the nation fell silent at 11am (1100 GMT).

Crowds lined the Whitehall area of the capital as political leaders including Prime Minister Keir Starmer, current and former members of the armed forces, and war veterans paid their respects to Britons killed in the world wars and other conflicts.

Catherine, wife of heir to the throne Prince William, watched the ceremony from a government building balcony as she stepped

up her return to royal duties since ending chemotherapy in September.

The event came after she smiled and clapped alongside William at the Festival of Remembrance commemorative concert on Saturday night, the first major royal occasion she had attended since her treatment.

The events, two of the most important dates in the royal calendar, marked the first time the princess had carried out two consecutive days of public official engagements this year.

Buckingham Palace announced in February that Charles, 75, had been diagnosed with an undisclosed cancer and would withdraw from public life to undergo treatment.

The following month Kate, 42, revealed that she also had been diagnosed with cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy.

Both have since made limited returns to public duties, with Charles recently pausing his treatment while on tour in Australia and Samoa.

William said this week that the

past year had been "brutal" and probably the "hardest" of his life because of the twin diagnoses.

"Honestly, it's been dreadful," he told reporters on Thursday at the end of a four-day visit to South Africa for his Earthshot prize initiative.

"So, trying to get through everything else and keep everything on track has been really difficult," Queen Camilla, Charles's wife, missed the remembrance events due to a chest infection.

Services took place across the United Kingdom, including in

Belfast where Northern Ireland leader Michelle O'Neill became the first senior figure from the pro-Irish unity party Sinn Fein to attend a Remembrance Sunday service in the province.

O'Neill said her attendance backed her commitment to "moving beyond old limits and building bridges".

Sinn Fein was the political wing of the paramilitary IRA during the Troubles - the three-decade sectarian conflict over British rule in Northern Ireland.



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Rethinking night shift eating: A path to healthier lives

Over the years, multiple studies have revealed the health hazards faced by night shift workers. A latest Australian study has found that night shift workers who eat full meals or snacks overnight have worse glucose tolerance, increasing their risk of chronic health issues like diabetes and heart disease. Conducted over six days with 55 participants, the study showed that fasting at night helps maintain balanced blood sugar levels, while eating overnight disrupts insulin sensitivity.

Led by researchers from the University of South Australia (UniSA), University of Adelaide, and South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), the study involved a six-day trial with 55 adults in the healthy BMI range, who don't usually work night shifts. Participants stayed at the University of South Australia's Behaviour-Brain-Body Sleep Research Centre and were divided into three groups: those who fasted at night, those who had snacks, and those who ate full meals. All participants stayed awake for four nights and slept during the day, with a recovery day on day five to re-establish normal sleeping and eating cycles, and blood glucose testing on day six.

Night shift meals disrupt glucose tolerance, raising health risks

Leonie Heilbronn, PhD, from SAHMRI and the University of Adelaide, said results showed participants who ate meals or snacks during the night shift had significantly worse glucose tolerance compared to those who fasted. "We found that blood glucose

skyrocketed for those who ate full meals at night and those who snacked, while the people who fasted at night showed an increase in insulin secretion which kept blood sugar levels balanced," Heilbronn said in a news release. "We know shift workers are more likely to have diabetes. They're more likely to have heart disease, and they're more likely to be overweight. Our research suggests that meal timing could be a major contributor to those issues."

Insulin sensitivity was disrupted among all participants, regardless of their eating habits, adding to the body of evidence that night shifts cause circadian misalignment and impair glucose metabolism. "When you eat a meal, your body secretes insulin, and that insulin helps your muscles and other tissues to take up glucose. If you become resistant to insulin, then you can't take up that glucose as effectively into your muscles, and if it continues, that potentially puts you at risk of diabetes," she said in a release.

According to lead investigator UniSA professor Siobhan Banks, PhD, not eating large meals while working night shift and instead eating primarily during the day could be a straightforward intervention to manage health outcomes for many workers. "This could be easier for people to follow than other, more complex diets," Banks said in a release. Researchers say future trials will investigate whether eating only protein snacks on night shift is a potential solution to satiating hunger without predisposing workers to negative health consequences.

Despite the scientific evidence, night shifts are prevalent in many sectors across various industries. As night shift workers have experienced, it is nearly impossible to work on an empty stomach. So, the only way out is to create awareness among the target group about the urgent need to eat healthy to minimise the ill effects of night shift and thereby strike a balance between work requirements and health.

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"How many more fossil-fueled summits will it take to realize we're burning the planet?"



Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh builds on previous resolutions

From Page 1

His Highness the Amir called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as an end to settler provocations backed by the Israeli military in the occupied West Bank.

His Highness praised the role of European nations that have taken a stance against the crimes committed by Israel against civilians and have supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state, expressing hope for an even greater European role in fostering international consensus on the two-state solution, transitioning from words to action through a reliable and irreversible path toward establishing an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders.

The Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh today builds on the resolutions from the previous summit, held in Riyadh on Nov 11, 2023. Those resolutions included condemnation of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the war crimes, and the barbaric, savage, and inhuman massacres committed by the colonial occupation government, demanding halting them immediately, and categorically rejecting the characterisation of these retaliatory war as acts of self-defence or justification under any pretext. The summit called for breaking the siege on Gaza, imposing the entry of humanitarian aid convoys, and supporting the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The Joint Arab-Islamic Summit also urged the Security Council to take a decisive and binding decision to impose a halt to the aggression and curb its escalation, in addition to urging all countries to stop exporting weapons and ammunition to the occupation authorities and denouncing the double standards in the application of international law.

The Summit decided to assign the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as the presidency of the 32nd Arab and Islamic Summit, along with counterparts from Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Palestine, and any other interested countries, and the Secretary-General of both organisations to initiate immediate international action on behalf of all member

states of the OIC and the Arab League to formulate an international move to halt the war in Gaza and to pressure for a real and serious political process to achieve permanent and comprehensive peace in accordance with established international references.

In the implementation of the decisions of the Extraordinary Joint Arab-Islamic Summit, the ministerial committee assigned by the summit began its meetings with a number of leaders and officials from countries around the world. During their meetings and tours, the committee members stressed the importance of immediately halting the military escalation and the forced displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, securing safe corridors for the entry of urgent humanitarian, food, and medical aid, and reviving the peace process in accordance with international resolutions, in a way that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their independent state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In its meetings, the ministerial committee completely rejected the war waged by the Israeli occupation authorities against the concept of the two-state solution, against self-determination, freedom, independence, and the Palestinian presence on the land of the State of Palestine. The committee stressed that the Israeli occupation has committed all kinds of crimes against the Palestinian people, including cutting off water and electricity and preventing freedom of movement, travel, and decent living.

The committee stressed the need to revive the peace process and the importance of ensuring a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace by implementing international resolutions related to the two-state solution and enabling the Palestinian people to obtain their legitimate rights to establish an independent and sovereign Palestinian state on the lines of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Over the past 78 years, the Arab League has held 45 summits, 33 of which were regular and 12 were emergency, in addition to 4 economic development summits, in which the Palestinian issue was an important focus of their meetings. The Qatari capital, Doha, hosted three Arab summits that took

several important stances on the Palestinian issue, including an emergency summit held in January 2009, called the "Gaza Summit," which called for the establishment of a fund to rebuild Gaza and to stop all forms of normalisation with the Israeli entity.

On the Islamic level, Palestine and Jerusalem have always been the central issue of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), and the source of its unity, strength, and joint action. It is the subject of consensus among the member states, which are striving to end the Israeli occupation and obtain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in addition to the OIC's undertaking of the mission of defending the issues of the Islamic nation in general and protecting the vital issues and interests that concern Muslims worldwide.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference was established by a decision of the Islamic Summit Conference, which was held for the first time in Rabat from Sept 22-25, 1969, following the reactions raised in the Islamic world after the burning of Al-Aqsa Mosque on Aug 21, 1969, by an extremist Australian Jew. The name of the organisation was changed to the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation at the 38th meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Kazakhstan from June 28-30, 2011.

Since its establishment, the OIC has held 14 ordinary summits and 7 extraordinary summit meetings, hosted by various member states.

Qatar has hosted two Islamic summits. The first was the 9th Ordinary Islamic Summit, held in November 2000 under the theme "Peace and Development". The issue of Jerusalem and the events in the occupied Palestinian territories dominated its deliberations. At the conclusion of the summit, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani proposed sending a delegation of foreign ministers of the OIC member states to the UN and the permanent member states of the UN Security Council to make the necessary contacts to immediately stop the Israeli bombing and aggression against the Palestinian people and to secure the necessary international protection for them. The second summit was extraordinary, held in Doha in March 2003, and focused on the Iraqi and Palestinian issues. (QNA)

2024 'virtually certain' to be hottest year ever

This year is "virtually certain" to be the hottest in recorded history with warming above 1.5C, EU climate monitor Copernicus said, days before nations are due to gather for crunch UN climate talks.

The European agency said the world was passing a "new milestone" of temperature records that should be a call to accelerate action to cut planet-heating emissions at the UN negotiations in Azerbaijan next week.

Last month, marked by deadly flooding in Spain and Hurricane Milton in the United States, was the second hottest October on record, with average global temperatures second only to the same period in 2023.

"Humanity's torching the planet and paying the price," said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a speech on Thursday, listing a string of calamitous floods, fires, heatwaves and hurricanes across the world this year so far.

"Behind each of these headlines is human tragedy, economic and ecological destruction, and political failure."

Copernicus said 2024 would likely be more than 1.55 degrees Celsius (2.8 degrees Fahrenheit) above the 1850-1900 average — the period before the industrial-scale burning of fossil fuels.

This does not amount to a breach of the Paris deal, which strives to limit global warming to below 2C and preferably 1.5C, because that is measured over decades and not individual years.

"It is now virtually certain that 2024 will be the warmest year on record and the first year of more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels," said Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Deputy Director Samantha Burgess.

"This marks a new milestone in global temperature records and should serve as a catalyst to raise ambition for the upcoming Climate Change Conference, COP29."

The UN climate negotiations in Azerbaijan, taking place in the wake of the United States election victory by Donald Trump, will set the stage for a new round of crucial carbon-cutting targets.

Trump, who has repeatedly called climate change a "hoax", pulled the United States out of the Paris Agreement during his first presidency. While President Joe Biden took the United States back in, Trump has threatened to withdraw again.

Meanwhile, average global temperatures have reached new peaks, as have concentrations of planet-heating gases in the atmosphere.

Scientists say the safer 1.5C limit is rapidly slipping out of reach, while stressing that every tenth of a degree in temperature rises heralds progressively more damaging impacts.

Last month the UN said the current course of action would result in a catastrophic 3.1C of warming this century, while all existing climate pledges taken in full would still amount to a devastating 2.6C temperature rise. And in a report on Thursday, the UN warned

that the amount of money going to poorer countries for adaptation measures was barely one-tenth of what they needed to spend on disaster preparedness.

In a month of weather extremes, October saw above-average rainfall across swathes of Europe, as well as parts of China, the United States, Brazil and Australia, Copernicus said.

The United States is also experiencing ongoing drought, which affected record numbers of people, the EU monitor added.

Global warming is not just about rising temperatures, but the knock-on effect of all the extra heat in the atmosphere and seas.

Warmer air can hold more water vapour, and warmer oceans mean greater evaporation, resulting in more intense downpours and storms.

Copernicus said average sea surface temperatures in the area it monitors were the second highest on record for the month of October.

C3S uses billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations to aid its calculations.

Copernicus records go back to 1940. But other sources of climate data such as ice cores, tree rings and coral skeletons allow scientists to expand their conclusions using evidence from much further in the past.

Climate scientists say the period being lived through right now is likely the warmest the Earth has been for the last 100,000 years. - AFP

Swinging success: Trump snares Arizona, too

AFP
Washington

Donald Trump won the state of Arizona in this week's US presidential election, US TV networks projected, completing the Republican's sweep of all seven swing states.

After four days of counting in the southwest state with a large Hispanic population, CNN and NBC projected Trump had obtained its 11 electoral votes as he defeated Vice-President Kamala Harris.

Outgoing President Joe Biden scored a narrow but crucial victory in Arizona in 2020 that condemned Trump to defeat after his first term in office.

The scale and strength of Trump's comeback, which also saw the real estate tycoon win the popular vote by a margin of around four million votes, has sent shockwaves through the defeated Democratic Party.

The Republicans have already regained control of the Senate and look well set to retain a majority in the House of Representatives thanks to support from white working class voters and a large share of Hispanics.

CNN has called Republican victories for 213 seats in the House, with 218 needed for a majority in the lower chamber.

The networks' figures show Democrats on 205 seats, although senior party figures are still hoping they can pull off a slim victory that would significantly curtail Trump's powers.

NBC sees the Republicans with 212 seats so far, and 204 for the Democrats.

The other six swing states won by Trump in the presidential race are Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada and Georgia.

The latest good news for Trump came as the White House said Biden would meet with the president-elect at the White House on Wednesday.

Trump — who never conceded

Vote tally: Trump 312, Harris 226

Arizona swung red in the final result of the US presidential election, bringing president-elect Donald Trump to 312 electoral votes, well past the 270 needed for victory, while Democratic Vice-President Kamala Harris lagged behind at 226, US networks said. US media have declared Trump the winner in more than half of the 50 states, including key battlegrounds Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, all of which voted Democratic in the last election.

his 2020 loss — sealed a remarkable comeback to the presidency in the November 5 vote, cementing what is set to be more than a decade of US politics dominated by his hard-line right-wing stance.

This type of meeting between the outgoing and incoming presidents was considered customary, but Trump did not invite Biden for one after making unsubstantiated election fraud claims that culminated in the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot.

Trump also broke with precedent by skipping Biden's inauguration, but the White House has said the Democratic president will attend the upcoming ceremony.

Biden's meeting with Trump will take place in the Oval Office, the White House said Saturday, with the clock ticking down to the ex-president's return to power.

Trump, the 78-year-old ex-reality TV star, won wider margins than before, despite a criminal conviction, two impeachments while in office and warnings from his former chief of staff that he is a fascist.

Exit polls showed that voters' top concerns remained the economy and inflation that spiked under Biden in the wake of the



President-elect Donald Trump waves as he leaves after speaking during a campaign event at the Tucson Music Hall in Tucson, Arizona, in September. (AFP)

Republicans on brink of clinching US House

Republicans were close to clinching control of the US House of Representatives, a critical element for President-elect Donald Trump to advance his agenda when he returns to the White House in January.

With votes still being counted from the November 5 general election, Republicans had won 213 seats in the 435-member House, according to Edison Research, which projected on Saturday night that Representative Jeff Hurd had enough votes to keep Republican control of Colorado's 3rd congressional district.

Republicans need to win five more seats to keep control of the House and they already have enough victories to wrest control of the US Senate from Democrats, though Edison Research projected late on Friday that Democratic US Senator Jacky Rosen won re-election in Nevada. Edison Research said Democrats have won 205 seats so far, including projecting on Saturday that Representative Greg Stanton in Arizona had won re-election. Democrats would need to win 13 of the remaining 17 seats to take control.

With Trump's victory in the presidential election and Republican winning control of the Senate,

keeping hold of the House would give Republicans sweeping powers to potentially ram through a broad agenda of tax and spending cuts, energy deregulation and border security controls. Most of the remaining 17 House races are in competitive districts in Western states where the pace of vote counting is typically slower than in the rest of the country.

Nine of the seats are currently held by Republicans and eight by Democrats. Fourteen seats were widely seen as competitive ahead of the election. Republican senators will decide next week who will serve as the party's leader in the Senate in 2025 with John Thune, John Cornyn and Rick Scott vying for the job. On Saturday, Senators Bill Hagerty and Rand Paul endorsed Scott over the more senior Thune and Cornyn, who have been viewed as favourites. Cornyn vowed late on Saturday that if he wins he will keep the Senate in session until Trump's cabinet is confirmed.

"No weekends, no breaks. Democrats can cooperate in the best interest of the country, or continue the resistance, which will eventually be ground down," he wrote on X.

Covid pandemic. The 81-year-old president, who dropped out of the White House race in July over concerns about his age, health and mental acuity, called Trump on Wednesday to congratulate him on the election win.

Democrats have been pointing fingers over who is to blame for Harris' decisive loss after she replaced Biden at the top of the ticket roughly 100 days before the election.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi took aim at Biden, telling *The New York Times* that "had the president gotten out sooner, there may have been other candidates in the race."

As the Democrats weigh what went wrong, Trump has begun to assemble his second administration by naming campaign manager Susie Wiles to serve as his White House chief of staff.

She is the first woman to be named to the high-profile role and the Republican's first appointment to his incoming administration.

Trump on Saturday ruled out re-appointing two senior figures from his first administration, secretary of state Mike Pompeo and UN ambassador Nikki Haley.

Abrasive former ambassador to Germany Ric Grenell is seen as a frontrunner for the secretary of state position, as is Florida Senator Marco Rubio who called Trump a "con artist" and the "most vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency" in 2016.

The other frontrunners for a place in the Trump 2.0 administration reflect the significant changes it is likely to implement.

Robert F Kennedy Jr, a leading figure in the anti-vaccine movement for whom Trump has pledged a "big role" in health care, told NBC News on Wednesday that "I'm not going to take away anybody's vaccines."

The world's richest man, Elon Musk, could also be in line for a job auditing government waste after the right-wing SpaceX, Tesla and X boss enthusiastically backed Trump.

Biden to lobby Trump on Ukraine, spend \$6bn before leaving office

AFP
Washington

The White House will spend its remaining \$6bn of Ukraine funding before Donald Trump's presidential inauguration in January, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said yesterday, warning of the global risks of ending US support for Kyiv.

Sullivan said President Joe Biden is expected to go over top foreign policy issues when he meets with President-elect Trump Wednesday in the Oval Of-

fice. "The president will have the chance to explain to President Trump how he sees things, where they stand, and talk to President Trump about how President Trump is thinking about taking on these issues when he takes office," Sullivan said on CBS's *Face the Nation*.

Biden has led an international coalition in support of Ukraine as it fights off invasion by Moscow, an effort at a crucial point following Russian military gains and an increasingly dire shortage of Ukrainian manpower.

Trump meantime has insisted that he could end the war in "a day," possibly

even before taking office, presumably as part of a deal that would require Kyiv to cede some of its lost territory to Moscow.

The Ukrainians and European Nato members have been scrambling to reach out to Trump while making their own plans for a world in which the US president appears far less supportive of Kyiv and of Nato, and more friendly to Russia.

Sullivan said a prime goal of the Biden administration in its remaining months, will be "to put Ukraine in the strongest possible position on the battlefield so that it is ultimately in the strongest pos-

sible position at the negotiating table."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded that Ukraine cede large swaths of territory as a precondition to peace talks, while Kyiv has adamantly refused to do so.

Sullivan also said he expected progress on efforts to end the fighting in Gaza and southern Lebanon, and to free the Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

"At some point, the Israeli government wants to do a deal that gets its citizens back home," he said. "I don't think it's doing that deal for American politics but to try to secure Israel, and I expect

in the coming weeks we'll see progress."

Asked about Israel's response to a joint letter from the US secretaries of state and defence demanding that Israel improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza, Sullivan said, "This week, we'll make our judgments about what kind of progress they have made, and ... what we will do in response."

Trump has had a close relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who called the Republican's electoral win "a huge victory" and said he had spoken to Trump three times in recent days.

Russia, Ukraine in biggest drone attacks of the conflict

AFP
Moscow

Russia and Ukraine both launched record drone attacks on each other overnight, as the Kremlin said it saw "positive signals" from US president-elect Donald Trump over his desire to strike a deal to end the conflict.

Trump's election to the White House has the potential to upend the almost three-year conflict and has thrown into question Washington's multi-billion dollar support for Kyiv, crucial to its defence.

Russia fired 145 drones at Ukraine overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said — more than in any single night-time attack of the conflict so far.

"Last night, Russia launched a record 145 Shaheds and other strike drones against Ukraine," Zelensky said on social media, urging Kyiv's Western allies to do more to help Ukraine's defence.

Russia also said it had downed 34 Ukrainian attack drones targeting Moscow yesterday, the largest attempted attack on the capital since the start of the offensive in 2022.

While having publicly claimed to be backing Kamala Harris in the US election, the Kremlin is widely believed to have actually wanted to see Trump return to the White House, welcoming his scepticism over American aid to Ukraine and his chaotic leadership style.

"The signals are positive. Trump during his election campaign talked about how he perceives everything through deals, that he can make a deal that can lead to peace," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with state media published yesterday.

"At least he's talking about peace, and not about confrontation. He isn't talking



Russian law enforcement officers inspect the wreckage of a drone following a drone attack in the village of Sofyino, Moscow region, yesterday. (AFP)

about his wish to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia — that distinguishes him from the current administration," Peskov added.

But he warned about Trump's unpredictability, and said time would tell whether his victory could bring about an end to the Ukraine conflict.

"What will happen next, it's hard to say," Peskov said, adding that Trump was "less predictable" than Harris and Biden.

"It's also less predictable to what extent he will stick to the statements that he made on the campaign trail," Peskov added.

Trump has not said how he intends to strike a peace deal or what terms he is proposing.

Russia's president Putin has demanded Ukraine withdraw from swathes of its eastern and southern territory as a precondition to peace talks.

Following Trump's election, Zelensky

warned there should be "no concessions" to Putin, saying ceding land or giving in to any of his other hardline demands would only embolden the Kremlin and lead to more aggression.

Zelensky has also previously warned that without US aid Kyiv would lose the conflict.

Talk of a US-brokered deal comes with Russia advancing on the battlefield.

Moscow's troops made their largest territorial gains in October since March 2022, according to AFP analysis of data from the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

Moscow's defence ministry claimed yesterday to have captured another village in Ukraine's east.

Kyiv's attempted drone strike on Moscow was its largest attack on the Russian capital of the conflict, with Moscow region governor Andrei Vorobyov calling it "massive".

What would North Korean soldiers do in Ukraine?

AFP
Paris

The presence of North Korean soldiers alongside Russians fighting Ukraine raises many tactical and military questions, leading some analysts to wonder about their effectiveness and ultimate objectives.

North Korea had never sent troops into combat abroad before, primarily out of fear that they might defect or make unflattering comparisons between foreign armies and their own.

"The regime is worried that soldiers from the isolated country might pick up 'incorrect' ideas," wrote Fyodor Tertitskiy, a researcher at Seoul's Kookmin University.

Citing US intelligence, Secretary of State Antony Blinken had already previously mentioned a North Korean deployment in the Russian region of Kursk, which was attacked by Ukraine in August.

According to Blinken, they are equipped with Russian uniforms and trained in artillery, drones, and infantry operations, including trench clearing.

This, he said, showed that Moscow intends to use them in frontline operations. But are they cannon fodder or special forces? South Korean analysts lean towards the latter option.

"While casualties are an inevitable part of war, what's the point of sending inexperienced and or incompetent soldiers to gain combat experience?" said Yang Moo-jin, president of the University of North Korea Studies in Seoul.

"North Korea must showcase the combat effectiveness and operational capabilities of its soldiers to maximise the outcomes of its deployments," added Lim Eul-chul at Kyungnam University.

Reliable figures are hard to come by, but Western sources say there are around 10,000 North Korean soldiers deployed, while Kyiv says there are 11,000.

This is the equivalent of current Russian losses in about 10 days of fighting.

"If Russia is having manpower issues, it will require far more North Koreans to address these challenges," observed Mick Ryan, a retired Australian general.

Others, however, argue that the contingent is non-negligible so long as the soldiers remain in the Kursk region.

"The strength of North Korean special operations forces lies in their ability to endure harsh conditions, even when food and other resources are in short supply," said Lim. "They have strong mental resilience."

Can Russians and North Koreans jointly wage a war that depends on translators?

"While translators will be helpful, this kind of communication gap can, and will, be a problem during combat operations," said Ryan. Meanwhile, there remains a plethora of organisational questions: will the North Koreans deploy rank- and-file soldiers as well as command structures? Will they be autonomous or integrated into Russian units? For what tasks?

"Ukrainian intelligence has stated that the North Koreans arrived in Russia with 500 officers and three generals," said Ivan Klyszcz, a research fellow at the International Centre for Defence and Security in Estonia.

"This could facilitate communication if the Russian and North Korean generals manage to work together, but there are too many unknowns at this stage to be conclusive," he said.

Pyongyang's special forces are primarily trained to prevent a coup d'etat at home.

"Their complicated chain of command emerged from a system in which political commissars signed off on every military decision," wrote Tertitskiy.

"It's an open question whether this cumbersome system will be modified for the purposes of the war in Ukraine. Either way, such a change would be impossible without the personal agreement of Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader," he said.

Moreover, North Korean troops who have not fought since 1953 would likely struggle against Ukrainians who have been at war for two-and-a-half years.

Qatar Boat Show 2024 concludes on a high note



Yachts docked at Old Doha Port during Qatar Boat Show 2024.

The inaugural Qatar Boat Show, which concluded Saturday, brought together 495 companies and brands, presenting an impressive showcase of over 100 yachts and watercrafts, 80% of which were the latest 2024 models.

The event eclipsed the opening editions of leading yacht exhibitions, becoming one of the most prominent in the region by utilising an area of over 250,000sq m, a statement said yesterday.

The show featured an array of boats and yachts valued at over QR1bn and included participation from seven prominent members of the Super Yacht Builders Association - Benetti, Feadship, Oceanco, Sanlorenzo, Gulf Craft, Heesen, and Turquoise.

Exhibitors reported strong lead generation and sales throughout the four-day event, reinforcing Qatar's position as a leader in marine tourism and world-class event hosting. The event also

fostered networking opportunities and laid the groundwork for new partnerships between global brands and local entities.

Old Doha Port organised and hosted the event, uniting marine industry leaders from across the globe for experience that bolstered Qatar's commitment to advancing marine tourism and solidifying its status as a regional maritime powerhouse.

The event's success was also underscored by tickets selling out by the third day. By honouring Qatar's rich seafaring heritage and promoting innovation, the Qatar Boat Show 2024 reinforced the country's growing prominence as a prime destination for world-class events and a key player in the maritime industry.

Throughout the event, a series of signing ceremonies took place, highlighting strategic alliances that reinforce Qatar's dedication to bolstering its maritime sector.

Old Doha Port CEO and Chairman of the Qatar Boat Show 2024 Organising Committee, Mohamed Abdulla al-Mulla, stated: "We are pleased with the success of the inaugural Qatar Boat Show, which reinforced the historical legacy and promising future of the maritime sector in Qatar. This achievement was made possible through the significant contributions of our partners, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their collaboration in making this event a resounding success."

"Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans for the 2025 edition. Each new show will build upon this year's achievements by expanding our lineup of marine brands, enhancing entertainment and festivities, and integrating more cutting-edge innovation and technology. We are committed to creating even more engaging and memorable experiences at future Qatar Boat Shows," he added.



Excitement continues at Falcons Championship

The pre-finals of Al Tala'a (release of falcons to hunt) competitions concluded yesterday at the 6th Ras Laffan Falcons Championship, organised by Al Gannas Qatari Society and sponsored by Ras Laffan Community outreach Programme and the supporting companies.

The competitions will continue until November 13. The pre-finals of Al Da'aw (falcons speeding) competitions resulted in 10 falconers in each category being selected for the finals. Today, part of the finals of Al Da'aw competitions will be held.

The activities of the championship has been progressing well as Al Gannas Qatari Society has been very keen to provide the participating falconers with all the necessary services, in addition to providing their falcons the due care.

The festival takes place at Marmi, the Sealine Area.





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