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Allah accepts only the repentance of those who do
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afterwards; it is they whom Allah will forgive and Allah
is Ever All-Knower, All-Wise. (Qur'an 4:17)

Prayer times

Fajr...4.33; Zuhr...11.44; Asr...3.08;
Maghrib...5.43; Isha...7.13

Fasting times

Iftar today 5.43pm - Imsak tomorrow 4.22am

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MoPH launches plan to ensure food safety

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has prepared an integrated monitoring plan to ensure food safety in Qatar during the blessed month of Ramadan. This is part of its ongoing efforts to maintain food health and safety, promote public health, and protect consumers during the holy month. The plan is built on several key components, including the regulation of both imported and local food. **Page 5**

Starship explosion delays 240 flights

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that an explosion of the Starship spacecraft, owned by SpaceX, caused disruptions to approximately 240 flights. Due to concerns about falling debris, more than 24 aircraft had to alter their flight paths. The FAA ordered departures to Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and Palm Beach airports in Florida to be halted for nearly an hour. The incident led to delays for 171 flights, rerouted 28 others, and caused 40 flights to be paused for 22 minutes after passing through the debris response zone.

532 Alawites killed by Syrian security forces

A Syrian war monitor yesterday said security forces and allied groups killed 532 Alawite civilians over the past days, revising upwards a previous toll of 340. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that "532 Alawite civilians were killed in the Syrian coastal areas and the Latakia mountains at the hands of security forces and allied groups" since Thursday, when deadly clashes broke out between security forces and gunmen loyal to toppled president Bashar al-Assad.

Russian offensive to retake Kursk

Russian troops have launched a large-scale offensive to retake swaths of the western Kursk region from Ukrainian forces, war bloggers and a senior Russian commander said yesterday. "In all directions of the Kursk section of the front, all units have launched a large-scale offensive," Major General Apti Alaudinov, commander of a Chechen unit fighting for Russia in Kursk, said. Open source maps showed this week that Ukraine's positions in Kursk have deteriorated sharply. **Page 9**

Ramadan tradition comes alive



Qatari men play drums and sing traditional songs as part of the traditional activities carried out during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, at the Old Doha port area, late on March 7. During Ramadan, traditional dawn awakeners known as 'Musaharati' beat drums and chant religious songs to wake up Muslims before sunrise for the 'Suhoor' meal before the day's fast begins.

QF's 'BilAraby' inaugural summit to be held on April 19

QNA
Doha

'BilAraby', a Qatar Foundation's initiative that seeks to amplify the voices of Arabic speakers and highlight their creativity, will hold its inaugural summit on April 19, 2025.

The two-day summit will take place at Qatar Foundation's Multaqa (Education City Student Center) in Doha. Speakers from Qatar, Mauritania, Palestine, Sudan, India, Jordan, KSA, Egypt, Syria, Yemen and Iraq will come together to explore ideas in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship, philosophy, psychology, health and well-being, business and economics, and many others.

Over 500 influential figures from the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond will attend BilAraby's inaugural summit. The summit's programming will include more than 20 live lectures, exhibitions, and interactive activities, as well as 15 specialised workshops led by industry experts in the fields of Sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, Medicine, Programming, Animation, Recycling, Arabic Language, Space, Media Pro-

More than 500 influential figures from the Middle East, North Africa and beyond will attend the two-day event

duction, Social Initiatives and more.

There will also be exploratory sessions, panel discussions, and roundtables focused on the development of Arabic content and the promotion of innovation in the Arabic language.

Hisham Nourin, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs at Qatar Foundation, emphasised that the selection of speakers followed a rigorous process, with over 700 applicants from 25 Arab countries. The selection criteria focused on identifying inspiring ideas with the potential for meaningful, real-world impact.

"We aim to showcase innovative ideas and visions with the potential for broad application," said Nourin. "Our primary goal is to reinforce Arab identity and support innovators contributing to Arab thought and creativity. The ideas and nominations we have received reflect the im-

mense talent, creativity, and potential for positive change within our societies. These individuals deserve recognition, and their ideas should resonate globally in the Arabic language."

The inaugural BilAraby summit will also reveal the winning design of the initiative's logo competition, which attracted over 1,500 submissions from across the Arab world since its launch in September 2024.

Launched under the theme "Ideas Have a Voice and an Echo," BilAraby, inspired by the rich history of Arab identity, encourages creativity and intellectual dialogue, offering diverse content that reflects the richness of Arab societies.

Beyond the summit, the initiative also provides an interactive digital platform to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge, fostering a cultural experience that promotes communication and creativity across various disciplines.

OIC endorses Arab plan for Gaza recovery, reconstruction

Announces resumption of Syria's membership

QNA
Jeddah

The Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) yesterday announced the resumption of Syria's membership and the adoption of the Arab plan presented by Egypt, in full co-ordination with Palestine and Arab countries, aimed at early recovery and reconstruction of Gaza.

The plan was approved during the recent extraordinary Arab summit held in Cairo.

The decision was adopted by the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers following an extraordinary ministerial meeting held at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah.

The decision welcomed the convening of an international conference in Cairo at the earliest opportunity for Gaza's recovery and reconstruction, in co-operation with Palestine and the United Nations. It urged the international community to participate in the conference to expedite the rehabilitation of Gaza and called for the establishment of an international fund to care for Gaza's orphans in collaboration with the United Nations.

The OIC reaffirmed its commitment to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as a strategic option, based on the full withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from all Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

The decision emphasised the need to obligate Israeli occupation forces to implement the per-



Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs HE Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi attends the extraordinary OIC session in Jeddah on March 7.

manent and sustainable ceasefire agreement in Gaza, announced on January 15 with joint mediation from Qatar, Egypt, and the United States, aiming for a comprehensive and permanent end to Israeli aggression. It also called for facilitating the return of displaced persons to their homes, the withdrawal of occupation forces, the opening of all crossings, and ensuring sufficient humanitarian aid reaches all parts of Gaza.

The OIC firmly rejected and condemned plans aimed at the displacement of the Palestinian people, whether individually or collectively, within their land or outside, or any form of forced displacement, exile, or deportation under any circumstances or pretext.

The decision demanded a halt to all illegal annexation and settlement policies, house demolitions, land confiscations, infrastructure destruction, and Israeli military incursions into Palestinian camps and cities.

France, Germany, Italy, UK support plan

France, Germany, Italy, and the UK announced their support for the Arab plan for the reconstruction of Gaza. Those countries' foreign ministers said in a joint statement yesterday: "The plan shows a realistic path to the reconstruction of Gaza and promises if implemented swift and sustainable improvement of the catastrophic living conditions for the Palestinians living in Gaza." (QNA)

Positive signs for start of phase two Gaza talks: Hamas

Reuters/AFP
Cairo/Tel Aviv

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said yesterday that there were "positive" signs regarding the start of negotiations for the second phase of the fragile Gaza ceasefire, as a delegation from the Palestinian group met with mediators in Cairo.

"The efforts of the Egyptian and Qatari mediators are ongoing to complete the implementation of the ceasefire agreement," Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif al-Qanoua said in a statement, adding that "the indicators are positive regarding the start of negotiations for the second phase," without providing further details.



Supporters of the Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JI) party hold placards during a rally in support of women in Gaza, to mark International Women's Day in Lahore yesterday.

Families of Israeli hostages still held in Gaza, along with dozens of freed captives, urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday to fully implement the Gaza ceasefire deal and prevent a return to war.

"The war could resume in a week ... Only an agreement that brings them all at once will ensure their return," said Einav Zangauker, the mother of Matan Zangauker, a hostage still held in Gaza.

The first phase of the Gaza ceasefire ended on March 1 after six weeks of relative calm that included exchanges of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners, though hostilities have not resumed.

While Israel has said it wants to extend the first phase until mid-April, Hamas has insisted on a

transition to the second phase, which should lead to a permanent end to the war.

Several relatives of hostages still held in Gaza rallied in Tel Aviv yesterday evening, joining hundreds who took to the streets urging Netanyahu to implement the remaining parts of the Gaza ceasefire deal.

Omri Lifshitz, whose father's remains were returned last month in a hostage-prisoner swap under the ceasefire deal, also took aim at the prime minister.

"Netanyahu, if you restart the war, hostages will die because of you. Their blood will be on your hands," Lifshitz said.

This comes a day after a group of 56 captives freed from Gaza also urged Netanyahu to fully implement the ceasefire deal.



United Development Company enters Guinness World Records with three New Global Achievements on Gewan and The Pearl Islands

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl and Gewan Islands, has continued its global track record of accomplishments by securing three new Guinness World Records. This remarkable achievement further strengthens UDC's position as one of the leading real estate developers in the region.

During an official ceremony, Mr. Yasser Salah Al-Jaidah, CEO of United Development Company, received the Guinness World Record certificates in recognition of these milestones, which include the largest outdoor air-conditioned shopping mall, Largest outdoor interactive lighting canopy, located on Gewan Island, and Largest pneumatic waste management network on the Pearl Island.

Largest outdoor air-conditioned mall

The Crystal Walk not only establishes itself as the largest outdoor air-conditioned mall with 7,360 square meters (79222.41 sq ft) but also impresses visitors with its exceptional design and amenities. A standout feature is the breathtaking crystal display, featuring over 10 tons of crystals and a -1000 meter crystal path, the longest in the world, creating a visually stunning environment that enhances the shopping experience.

Thanks to its state-of-the-art cooling technology, The Crystal Walk maintains a comfortable environment by achieving temperatures as low as 23 -21 degrees Celsius during the summer season. This ensures shoppers enjoy a pleasant and refreshing experience, regardless of the outdoor weather. Maintaining a consistently pleasant atmosphere, even during Qatar's hot summers, is achieved through a cutting-edge district cooling system. This system offers significant advantages over traditional individual air conditioning units, Lower



energy consumption directly translates to a smaller carbon footprint. The reduced reliance on individual air conditioning units minimizes greenhouse gas emissions, promoting a more environmentally friendly approach to retail development and Centralized cooling systems offer greater reliability than individual units. A centralized system is easier to monitor, maintain, and repair, leading to fewer disruptions and improved overall efficiency.

The 10 Crystal buildings were positioned in an oriented maximizing shading, providing a flow stream of airflow improving cooling while deploying a high-tech energy-efficient cooling system that conserves energy by at least %20 compared with conventional systems and this system mobilized a chilled water district cooling system that future reduce carbon emissions and footprint by at lowest %50 - 20 of the crystal walk.

With over 100 unique retail experiences that cater to a luxurious lifestyle, The Crystal Walk offers a diverse range of brands along with exquisite dining options. This combination of luxury and innovation transforms the mall into a comprehensive lifestyle destination, attracting a distinguished clientele.

Recently, The Crystal Walk has registered for the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) under the Green Ozone Rating for Design (GORD) certification. This commitment to sustainable design and construction is evident in features such as optimized building designs for energy efficiency and the incorporation of native landscaping and tropical landscaping with more than 13,000 tropical plants. This recognition highlights the mall's dedication to environmental responsibility and efficiency.

The combination of luxurious offerings, innovative cooling solutions, and commitment to sustainability makes The Crystal Walk a pioneering destination for shoppers and a model for future developments in retail architecture.

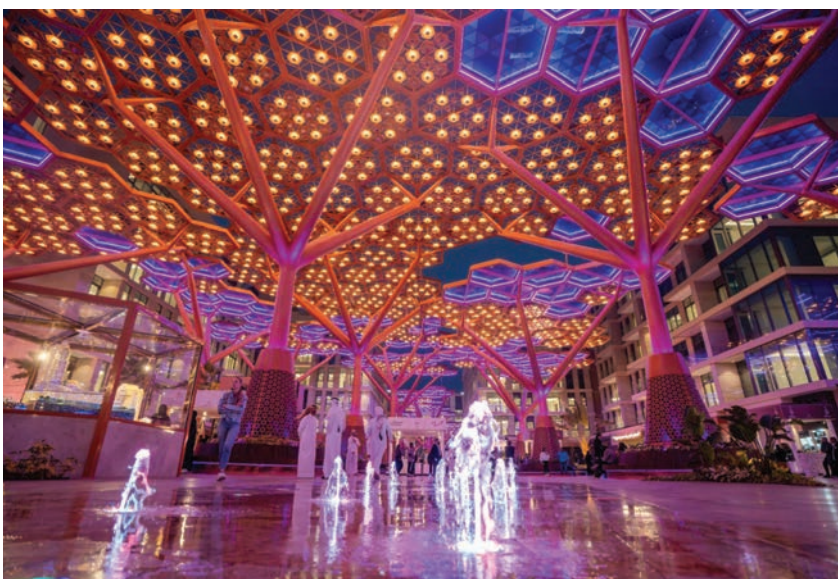
Largest outdoor interactive lighting canopy

Beyond the cooling system, the Crystal Walk also boasts the world's largest outdoor interactive lighting canopy, covering an impressive 3,689.55 square meters (39,713.98 square feet). This architectural marvel seamlessly blends art and technology, providing functional shade during the day and transforming into a mesmerizing light display at night, enhancing the already captivating ambience at night. This record-breaking canopy utilizes state-of-the-art LED lighting technology, offering significant advantages over traditional lighting

solutions:

- Energy Efficiency:** The LEDs boast an energy savings of %50 - %20 compared to conventional lighting, contributing substantially to the overall sustainability goals of Gewan Island. This reduction in energy consumption translates to lower operating costs and a significantly reduced carbon footprint.
- Longevity:** LEDs have a much longer lifespan than traditional lighting, minimizing maintenance requirements and reducing waste.
- Versatility and Control:** The advanced LED system allows for dynamic and customizable lighting displays, offering unparalleled versatility in creating captivating visual effects.

The lighting canopy is more than just illumination; it's an interactive spectacle. Over 1000 individual lighting points are meticulously coordinated, creating a



mesmerizing array of colors, patterns, and effects. This sophisticated system integrates seamlessly with a state-of-the-art music system, synchronizing the light displays with music to create a truly immersive and unforgettable experience for visitors. The lighting choreography can be programmed to adapt to different events, moods, and times of day and interact with live music, ensuring a constantly evolving and engaging visual feast.

During the day, the canopy provides much-needed shade, enhancing the comfort of shoppers exploring the Crystal Walk's unique retail experiences. This thoughtful design maximizes natural light while minimizing direct sunlight exposure. The combination of advanced cooling systems and intelligent shading strategies allows for a pleasant and comfortable outdoor shopping environment regardless of the climate.

This impressive interactive lighting canopy, alongside the other innovative features of the Crystal Walk, showcases UDC's commitment to creating exceptional spaces where luxury, technology, and sustainability converge. It's not just a retail destination, but a destination for experiencing technological innovation within a luxurious and environmentally responsible environment.

Largest pneumatic waste management network

Furthermore, the company achieved another global milestone with the largest pneumatic waste management network on The Pearl Island, utilizing an advanced Pneumatic system for efficient and sustainable waste collection. These innovative solutions reflect UDC's commitment to smart environmental practices and sustainability, this system achieves fully operational 66 kilometers (41.01 miles) and more than 500 chute inlets.

The advanced pneumatic waste management system also brings a number of environmental and community benefits. It reduces vehicular movement, leading to a decrease in direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions in the area. By minimizing traffic congestion around The Pearl Island, the system helps maintain better road service levels. The system is the first of its kind in the country since the island's inception,

with an expanded network and a recent extension to Gewan Island. Moreover, the system promotes a convenient, clean, and sustainable lifestyle, encouraging residents to maintain a clean community.

On Gewan Island, the new waste management system takes advantage of the opportunity to segregate waste at disposal sites through a dual chute system. This initiative engages the community in waste segregation and aims to increase participation in recycling efforts. Currently, the recycling rate stands at %36, highlighting the company's commitment to sustainable practices and its ongoing efforts to improve environmental impact.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Al-Jaidah said, "This accomplishment reflects our ambitious vision and commitment to developing world-class projects that incorporate advanced technologies and sustainability principles. We are incredibly proud to achieve these Guinness World Records and will continue to deliver exceptional developments that enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to The Pearl and Gewan Islands. We look forward to reaching new milestones that strengthen our leadership in the real estate sector."

This recognition adds to United Development Company's impressive track record of global achievements, having received numerous prestigious awards and certificates across various fields. Notable among these are the Crystal Residence GSAS 3 stars design and build certification, Green Organization Awards, Best CSR Awards, Golden Globe Tiger Awards, and Abu Dhabi Maritime Awards. These awards highlight the company's continuous commitment to innovation and sustainability, reinforcing its position as a leader in the real estate development sector.

UDC continues its pursuit of further global achievements by developing integrated real estate projects that adhere to the highest standards of quality and innovation. These projects further cement The Pearl and Gewan Islands as premier destinations in the region, attracting visitors and investors seeking exceptional residential and commercial environments.

Sak Holding, HE Sheikh Khalid bin Suhaim Ink Deal for Usoul Al Mansoura Compound

Under the patronage and presence of His Excellency Sheikh Thani bin Abdullah Al Thani, Chairman of Sak Holding Group, the Group announced the signing of a new partnership agreement with His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Suhaim Hamad Abdullah Al Thani to develop a premium real estate project in the Al Mansoura area of Doha, named «Usoul Al Mansoura Compound.»

This partnership aligns with Sak Holding Group's efforts to enhance Qatar's real estate sector through its innovative real estate partnership model, "Sharekna." The model aims to enable vacant landowners to transform their properties into income-generating real estate projects through smart investment solutions that ensure maximum returns with minimal costs and risks.

The "Usoul Al Mansoura Compound» project is a practical embodiment of the success of the «Sharekna" model. The project will be developed on a total area of approximately 8,000 square meters, featuring two residential towers with a structure of (3 basement floors + ground floor + 9 typical floors). Additionally, a fully integrated clubhouse will be constructed with (ground floor + first floor), creating a modern residential environment that combines comfort and luxury.

The project will offer 500 residential units with diverse sizes and designs, including studios, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom apartments, catering to various housing needs. The total built-up area of the project is 62,218 square meters, making it a valuable addition to Doha's real estate landscape.

Commenting on this strategic partnership, His Excellency Sheikh Thani bin Abdullah Al Thani emphasized that the agreement reflects Sak Holding Groups commitment to providing innovative real estate solutions that contribute



We are committed to developing high-quality projects that meet market needs and provide attractive investment opportunities for owners and investors.

His Excellency
Sheikh Thani bin Abdullah Al Thani

Usoul Al Mansoura Compound represents a successful model of effective partnerships that add value to the real estate sector.

His Excellency
Sheikh Khalid bin Suhaim Al Thani

- The project offers citizens a valuable investment chance in areas where usufruct rights are granted to residents.
 - "Sharekna" is more than a real estate partnership—it's a structured model that ensures optimal investment while driving sustainable development.
 - The development features two towers housing 500 residential units of varying sizes.
 - "Sharekna" provides versatile solutions to convert vacant lands into lucrative real estate ventures.
 - The project offers citizens a valuable investment chance in areas where usufruct rights are granted to residents.
- Eng. Hisham Al Sahtari



to sustainable development in Qatar's real estate sector. He added:

"We are committed to developing high-quality projects that meet market demands and provide attractive investment opportunities for both landowners and investors. The "Usoul Al Mansoura Compound" project embodies our vision of achieving a balance between quality, sustainability, and outstanding investment returns."

His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Suhaim Al Thani expressed his pride in this partnership with Sak Holding Group, highlighting that the "Usoul Al Mansoura Compound" is a successful model of effective partnerships that add value to the real estate sector.

He stated: "This project marks a significant step in developing modern

residential communities that align with the aspirations of Qatar's real estate market. We look forward to seeing this development enhance the quality of life in Al Mansoura by offering an integrated residential environment that meets the needs of families and individuals seeking excellence."

In a related context, Eng. Hisham Al Sahtari, CEO of Sak Holding Group, emphasized that "Sharekna" is a smart investment solution for landowners looking to maximize the potential of their assets without the need for costly traditional investments.

"Signing this new partnership with His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Suhaim Al Thani marks another step toward strengthening the role of the «Sharekna» model in developing

high-quality real estate projects in Qatar. We take pride in continuing to offer innovative investment solutions that enable landowners to maximize the potential of their properties through partnerships that generate the highest returns while minimizing risks and operational costs.", he stated.

Eng. Hisham Al Sahtari added that the new project in Al Mansoura reflects Sak Holding Groups vision of delivering real estate projects that meet the growing market demands. He highlighted the strategic importance of the location in the heart of Doha, making it an ideal choice for modern housing. He also noted that this project extends the successful track record of «Sharekna», which has led to the development of several landmark real estate projects, such as «Wyndham West Bay Beach Resort Tower» in the Diplomatic Area, "Wyndham Tower" in West Bay, and major residential and commercial complexes that have attracted significant interest from both investors and tenants.

Thanks to its prime location in Al Mansoura, the "Usoul Al Mansoura Compound" will offer a comprehensive residential experience, catering to those seeking a contemporary lifestyle that blends luxury with convenience and easy access to key facilities and services in the capital. The project will feature modern architectural designs that reflect global construction trends while adhering to the highest standards of quality and sustainability.

Eng. Hisham Al Sahtari explained that one of the key advantages of the planned compound is its strategic location in Al Mansoura, an area that holds a significant benefit—it is one of the zones where usufruct rights are permitted under Qatari law. This opens the door for non-Qatari investors to take advantage of long-term ownership opportunities under facilitated conditions. This feature enhances the project's attractiveness, drawing a broad segment of investors interested in owning residential or investment units in a prime location at the heart of Doha. Ultimately, this boosts the long-term investment value of "Usoul Al Mansoura Towers."

"Sharekna" - The Future of Smart Real Estate Investment.

The "Sharekna" model is one of the most prominent real estate solutions offered by Sak Holding Group, providing diverse investment options tailored to the needs of different landowners. Through the "Classic Partnership" model, landowners can develop their projects without the need for direct financing, as the group covers the costs in exchange for a share of the returns. Meanwhile, the "Smart Partnership" model enables investors to develop large-scale projects without requiring loans.

Eng. Hisham Al Sahtari emphasized that this investment model has significantly contributed to the development of Qatar's real estate sector by successfully reducing construction costs, providing flexible financing solutions, and implementing professional project management to

ensure the highest returns. He added:

"We see 'Sharekna' not just as a real estate partnership model but as a comprehensive system designed to strike a balance between optimal investment and sustainable development, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030."

Concluding his remarks, Al Sahtari expressed his eagerness to see the project come to life, stating:

"We are very excited to launch 'Usoul Al Mansoura Compound' and look forward to it becoming a high-value addition to our portfolio of successful projects in the Qatari market. This partnership reaffirms our continued commitment to developing innovative projects that reflect the aspirations of both investors and residents alike."

Highlights from "Sharekna's" Key Achievements

Wyndham West Bay Beach Resort Tower

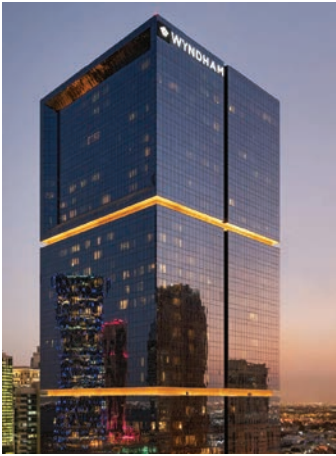
Located in the heart of the Diplomatic Area, "Wyndham West Bay Beach Resort Tower" is a distinguished addition to Sak Holding Groups portfolio, embodying the concept of successful real estate partnerships under the «Sharekna» model. The tower features a sophisticated architectural design that complements its prime location overlooking the Doha Corniche and the Arabian Gulf, making it an ideal destination for guests seeking a luxurious stay in Qatar.

Rising 35 floors, the tower comprises 200 hotel rooms and 78 hotel apartments, offering a comprehensive range of premium facilities and services. The three basement levels are dedicated to parking and operational services, while the ground floor features the hotel entrance, an elegant reception area, retail outlets, a restaurant, a café, and additional services.

The mezzanine and first floors provide dedicated spaces for meeting rooms, offices, fine dining restaurants, and a multi-purpose hall. Additionally, the second floor houses a state-of-the-art health and fitness club, an outdoor swimming pool, and fully equipped recreational facilities, ensuring an unparalleled guest experience and a memorable stay.

Wyndham West Bay Tower

The Wyndham West Bay Tower is an architectural and engineering masterpiece, strategically located in West Bay, behind The Gate Mall.



The -38story tower is a real estate partnership project that reflects a modern vision for the series of landmark towers that define this prestigious district in Doha.

The Wyndham West Bay Tower aligns with the integrated and upscale vision shaping this unique part of West Bay, which holds a special appeal for a diverse range of visitors to Qatar. Beyond its striking architectural design, the tower benefits from a prime location that provides it with a competitive edge in the hospitality industry.

The Curve Tower

The Curve Tower in Doha stands as one of the most prominent luxury hospitality landmarks in the Corniche area. Rising 30 floors, it features 600 hotel apartments designed in a modern style, offering comfort and luxury to guests. The tower enjoys a strategic location, just a short distance from key attractions such as Katara, making it an ideal accommodation choice for both business and leisure travelers.

The tower boasts breathtaking views of Doha Bay and offers a range of premium facilities, including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a fitness center, a spa, and a fine-dining restaurant with a direct sea

view, delivering a unique culinary experience.

Additionally, the tower provides 373 parking spaces to serve guests and residents.

Al Kuwari Tower

Al Kuwari Tower is one of Doha's distinguished hospitality projects, combining modern design with high-end services, making it a premier destination for luxury stays. The project spans an area of 794 square meters, with a total built-up area of 8,349 square meters. The structure comprises three basement floors, a ground floor, a mezzanine level, 10 typical floors, and a penthouse level.

The tower features 68 hotel units, including 49 hotel rooms and 19 suites. It also houses a high-end restaurant with an outdoor terrace, a multi-purpose hall, administrative offices, and a business center. In addition, the tower offers fully integrated leisure facilities, including a gym, spa, and a penthouse-level swimming pool, further enhancing its luxurious ambiance that blends comfort with sophistication.

Al Khayareen Tower

Al Khayareen Tower is a high-end modern tower consisting of 14 floors, representing another successful real estate partnership project. The tower is distinguished by its sophisticated architectural design, efficiency, and high-quality finishes, all of which reflect the premium benefits enjoyed by Sak Partnerships' collaborators. The project embodies over 55 years of real estate expertise, ensuring excellence in execution.

Al Wakra Hotel

Al Wakra Hotel is a serviced apartment project, featuring a basement, ground floor, mezzanine, three upper floors, and a penthouse, with a total of 40 hotel apartments. The project includes 26 parking spaces, along with restaurants, a gym, a swimming pool, and a game lounge, offering a fully integrated hospitality experience.

Al Rayyan Tower

Al Rayyan Tower is an ideal business destination in Doha, offering a modern workspace that seamlessly combines contemporary design with advanced amenities. The tower comprises 30 office spaces of varying sizes, catering to the needs of companies and institutions while adhering to the highest standards of quality and comfort.

With its strategic location, the tower provides easy access to major commercial and service hubs in the city. It also offers comprehensive facilities, including parking, meeting rooms, and shared workspaces, making it a preferred choice for businesses seeking a professional work environment.

The tower features administrative offices and consists of three basement floors, a ground floor, and seven additional floors.

Danat Al Sadd Tower

Danat Al Sadd Tower is a five-story hotel project that includes 165 diverse hotel units, among which 20 are luxury suites. The tower also features three restaurants and kitchens covering a total area of 1,215 square meters, a fully equipped gym with a sauna and steam room spanning 270 square meters, as well as a game and entertainment lounge, a swimming pool, and other essential amenities designed to provide guests with a premium hospitality experience.

The main entrance of the hotel boasts large glass facades and a spacious lobby connected to a -400square-meter lounge area.

Additionally, Dana Al Sadd includes two mezzanine levels, 500 square meters of office space, and an indoor seating area with a landscaped garden covering approximately 100 square meters. The tower also offers two basement levels for parking, accommodating up to 117 vehicles.

Al Thumama Villas Compound

The Al Thumama Villas Compound is a premium residential development featuring six spacious, elegantly designed villas, complemented by a range of high-end services. This project stands as a practical demonstration of «Sharekna's» capability to deliver profitable residential communities efficiently, ensuring strong financial returns in a short timeframe and with optimized costs.



Qatar condemns attack on UN helicopter in S Sudan

Qatar condemned in the strongest terms the attack on a UN helicopter in South Sudan, which resulted in fatalities. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considered this heinous attack a blatant violation of international law, offering Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims. The ministry emphasised the need to conduct an urgent investigation into the events surrounding the attack and to ensure that those involved are brought to justice. (QNA)

Al-Nuaimi in New York meetings

HE the Minister of Social Development and Family, Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi met separately with Rwandan Minister of State for Education Claudette Irere and Executive Director of UN Women Dr Sima Bahous on the sidelines of the annual ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends on Gender Parity, organised by the Permanent Delegation of Qatar to the UN in partnership with the Permanent Delegation of Rwanda. Discussions during the meetings focused on Qatar's bilateral co-operation with Rwanda and UN Women, and ways to enhance it. The meetings also discussed a host of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



Qatar chairs meeting of Group of Friends on Gender Parity

Qatar chaired the annual ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends on Gender Parity, organised by its Permanent Delegation to the UN in partnership with the Permanent Delegation of Rwanda. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. HE the Minister of Social Development and Family, Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi led the Qatari delegation to the meeting. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the meeting, alongside Rwandan Minister of State for Education Claudette Irere, who co-chaired the session. In her remarks, HE al-Nuaimi highlighted the significant progress made in advancing gender parity across the UN system. She underscored that women in Qatar hold leadership positions across various sectors and that the country leads the region in key empowerment indicators. These include the highest rate of women's participation in the workforce and the highest percentage of women enrolled in university pro-



grammes. Additionally, she emphasised that the policies and legislation adopted by Qatar support work-life balance, further strengthening women's participation in both the public and private sectors.

Qatar calls for bringing all Israeli nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards

QNA
Vienna

Qatar has called for intensified international efforts to bring all Israeli nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and for Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear state. This came in a statement delivered by HE Qatar's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Office and International Organisations in Vienna, Jassim Yacoub al-Hammadi, before the session of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna, which addressed the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel's nuclear capabilities. HE al-Hammadi underscored the need for the international community and its institutions to uphold their commitments under resolutions of the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the IAEA, and the 1995 Review Conference of the NPT, which called on Israel to subject all its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards. He noted that some



of these resolutions explicitly urged Israel to join the NPT as a non-nuclear state. He pointed out that all Middle Eastern countries, except Israel, are parties to the NPT and have effective safeguard agreements with the Agency. He further noted that Israel continues its aggressive policies, including increasing extremist calls for the forced displacement of the Palestinian people, intensifying military operations against cities and refugee camps in the West Bank, blocking humanitarian aid to Gaza, and maintaining restrictions on the operations of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). HE al-Hammadi also stated that Qatar submitted a written memorandum

last week to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding a request for an advisory opinion based on the UN General Assembly resolution of Dec 19, 2024. The request seeks clarification on Israel's obligations concerning the activities of the UN, other international organisations, and third-party states. He emphasised that Qatar's memorandum affirmed Israel's duty to allow the UN and other international organisations, particularly UNRWA and humanitarian agencies, to operate in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. The memorandum also called on Israel to respect and protect the property of the UN and other international organisations, including schools, medical facilities, transport infrastructure, and water resources, as well as their personnel. HE al-Hammadi stressed the urgency for the international community and its institutions to take decisive action to compel Israel to implement international resolutions, recognise the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state, restore security and stability in the Middle East, and avert further global risks.

Moscow roundtable highlights Qatar's role in global events

An international roundtable discussion held in the Russian capital, Moscow, stressed the importance of Qatar's role in global events, including the settlement of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The event, organised by the Russian Sputnik News Agency, with the participation of experts and officials, discussed the role of the Middle East in the Russian-Ukrainian settlement and the economic consequences of the conflict on the region, as well as the impact of the current international situation on issues of security, trade and co-operation between Arab countries and Russia. First Deputy Chairman of the Russia Muftis Council Rushan Abbasov said that Qatar and other countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have been playing an increasingly important role in international processes, including in terms of promoting a settlement in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Middle East plays a key role in resolving various issues, and has become a major actor in global politics and a proactive contributor to shaping a multipolar world order, he added. For his part, Amal Abou Zeid, adviser to former president of Lebanon, stressed that Russia-US relations have a major impact on the developments in the Arab region. "Russia and US representatives have been meeting in Turkiye and Saudi Arabia in an effort to find common ground not only on the Ukraine settlement, but also on several other major topics, including the Palestinian issue," he said. In her remarks, Head of the Demographics and Migration Policy Department at MGIMO University, Gylunara Gadzhimuradova said that "Russia has been consistent in providing humanitarian, military and diplomatic assistance to countries in the Middle East both in the Soviet period and in the years that followed by helping settle regional conflicts, including the Palestinian issue." In turn, Academic Director of the Russian International Affairs Council, Andrei Kortunov talked about what makes the Middle East interested in settling the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He noted that Gulf countries and the Arab world in general would benefit from any improvements in Russia-Ukraine and Russia-US relations. (QNA)



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ORYX GTL Limited

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

ORYX GTL Limited is pleased to announce the following tender(s):

S. No.	Tender Ref.	Tender Title:	Tender Bond QAR	Bid Closing Date & Tender Bond Validity Period
1	STC-MT-026-25-MT	Supply of Tube Bundle Assembly	N/A	09 Apr 2025 at 12.00 noon & 180 days

Companies wishing to register their interest and obtain Tender Document(s) for the above Tender(s) must pay a non-refundable registration fee and register with ORYX GTL as detailed below:

Tender Registration Fee	QAR 500/- (Non-refundable) per Tender
Payable to	ORYX GTL Limited
IBAN (29 Digits)	QA23QNBA00000000013010705001
Bank	Qatar National Bank – HQ or any branch (cash only)
Registration Dates	From 09 Mar to 13 Mar 2025 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Registration Process and Requirements:	Write an e-mail to oryxgtltenders@oryxgtl.qa with the following attachments: 1.Copy of Commercial Registration (CR) 2.Copy of bank deposit slip of the Tender Registration Fee. 3. Copy of ICV Certificate

COMPANIES WHO HAVE PAID THE NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE BUT FAILED TO FORMALLY REGISTER AT THE DATE AND TIME STATED ABOVE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ACCEPTABLE TENDERER.

TENDER BOND SHALL BE ISSUED BY A BANK REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF QATAR.

Effective from 1st July 2023, bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Tender Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that has been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal- <https://icv.qa>

For more information about ORYX GTL and its tenders, please visit our website: <http://www.oryxgtl.com.qa>

شبكة الجزيرة الإعلامية

ALJAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK

Al Jazeera Media Network announces the following tender:

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Description	Tender Bond (QAR)	Tender Fee Non-Refundable (QAR)	Bid Closing Date & Time
1	SOP027-2025	Sale of Used Electrical & Electronic Items	15,000/-	-	26Mar2025 (12:30PM)

- Tender documents can be collected from Al Jazeera Media Network, Procurement & Contracts Directorate, Warehouse Building, 1st Floor, behind Al Jazeera Media Institute Building, TV Intersection Area, Doha by submitting an authorization letter showing the tender number and ID number of collecting person under the company letterhead.
- Tender documents are to be collected from 09Mar2025 to 16Mar2025, between 07:00AM to 01:00PM (excluding Friday & Saturday).
- The Bid must be submitted with a Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee) issued by a Qatari Bank or by a bank operating in Qatar and should be valid for a period of 180 days from Bid Closing Date.
- The bid must be valid for a period of 180 days from the Bid Closing Date
- Bids should be submitted as per the instructions in the tender documents which shall bear the tender number and bid closing date.
- The last date for accepting the bids shall be 12:30PM of the bid closing date.
- For more information, please call 44897131.

www.aljazeera.net

www.aljazeera.com

QChem

Qatar Chemical Company Limited

Al Dafna – Anwal Tower – First Floor

P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695

Website: www.qchem.com.qa

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/MP/10/25	Q-Chem Buildings Modernisation Project	QR 1,137,500/-	12:00 hrs. on 4 th May 2025

Brief Scope:
COMPANY requires the services of a qualified & experienced CONTRACTOR to carry out the architectural, civil, electrical, plumbing and internal / external fitout works with an intention to renovate the Q-Chem buildings at Mesaieed Site safely, in a brownfield environment and without any obstruction to COMPANY personnel and their routine operations inside the building space.

For each tender pay a **non-refundable document fee of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) – Account Number 001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank) and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative via email to tadvertising@qchem.com.qa In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address**, office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents. **The Bank receipt must indicate the tender number and the tenderer name (company name).**

B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email
Tender documents issuance from **9th March 2025 to 13th March 2025, 8am-12noon**

C. Proposal details
Proposals should be valid for **240 days** from the tender closing date.

D. Submission of Proposals
Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils its gold rate protection offer

Malabar Gold & Diamond has unveiled the much-awaited gold rate protection offers, providing customers with the golden opportunity to block the prevailing gold rates by paying just 10% as an advance.

The gold rate protection offer enables customers to purchase their favourite jewellery without having to worry about gold rate fluctuations. This facility has been unveiled taking into account the jewellery purchase and the immense customer base expected to indulge in it during the upcoming season. Customers can block the gold rate till April 30, 2025 by paying just 10% as an advance. If gold rate increases at the time of purchase, customers can avail the blocked rate and if

it reduces they can still draw mileage of the reduced rate i.e. a customer intending to buy gold jewellery worth QR10,000 just needs to pay QR1,000 to avail the Gold Rate Protection offer and in turn get protected from the increasing gold rates. Customers can also avail a complimentary diamond voucher for first advance bookings made on or before April 13. The offer will be valid across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms. Customers can either pay the advance directly at the showroom or online, via Malabar Gold & Diamonds' mobile app.

"The Gold Rate Protection offer has always been one of our most sought-after promotions, providing customers with a sense of confidence amid fluctuating gold prices.

With market volatility over the past several months, this offer ensures that customers can purchase their favourite jewellery at the best possible rates, free from concerns about price hikes. So far, over 415,000 customers have taken advantage of this opportunity to own their cherished adornments with complete peace of mind," commented Shamal Ahamed, managing director, International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

In addition to the 10% advance option, customers can also pay 50% and 100% of the amount as advance to get gold rate protection for 90 days and 180 days respectively. This option will be available to customers throughout the year across all stores of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.



NLQ: A cultural, educational legacy to enhance knowledge



From left: Hanan al-Emadi, HE Dr Mohammed Abdul Rahim Kafoud, HE Dr Mohammed bin Saleh al-Sada, and a section of the audience.

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The National Library of Qatar (NLQ) organised a cultural seminar titled "The NLQ and its efforts in supporting education" as part of its cultural programme aimed at shedding light on its historical and pivotal role in enhancing the educational process.

It supports researchers and students, and provides sources of knowledge.

The seminar was attended by a group of prominent figures whose scientific and cultural journey was greatly influenced by NLQ. During the seminar, which was presented by media figure Hanan al-Emadi, HE Dr Mohammed Abdul Rahim Kafoud, former Minister of Education, and HE Dr Mohammed bin Saleh al-Sada, former Minister of Energy and Industry, spoke.

HE Dr Mohammed Kafoud, re-

called his memories with NLQ, referring to its great role when he was a graduate student during the seventies. He said: "I remember this house in the seventies when I was a student, and at that time there were no cameras. So the library was the only refuge for researchers and students who spent long hours browsing references and benefiting from the treasures of knowledge it contained."

HE Dr Mohammed bin Saleh al-Sada, emphasised the historical symbolism that the NLQ carries, not only for Qatar, but for the entire Gulf states. He said: "The NLQ has a historical symbolism linked to Qatar and the Gulf states, and the reopening of the house in a new guise will add a lot to everyone."

He added: "This house represents a special memory for every Qatari, as the area in which the house is located has always been an attractive educational environment. This is where students used to gather to study and research,

which enhanced the spirit of learning among different generations."

Researcher Ali Abdullah al-Fayyadh stressed that the NLQ has always been the first source for every student and researcher. He said: "It is the source for every reader and student, and it was the first national library in the Arabian Gulf. Its reopening reflects Qatar's commitment to developing the cultural scene and enhancing the role of libraries in society."

The NLQ was recently opened after a comprehensive development process, aiming to enhance its role as a modern cultural and knowledge centre. It is now equipped with the latest technologies and services that meet the needs of readers and researchers. The library will also focus in the coming period on expanding its educational and cultural programmes, to be a beacon of science and knowledge in Qatar and the region.

Local farmer's markets see growing demand

Assistant Director of the Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipality, Adel al-Yafei, has said that the growing demand for local products during Ramadan at local produce sale yards reflects consumers' high level of satisfaction and growing trust in these marketplaces, as key sources for fresh vegetables and local products.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Yafei said that these yards or farmer's markets have undergone significant development and gained traction since their establishment in 2012, especially as service and product quality has improved.

He said that local produce sale yards reduce the number of intermediaries, provide competitive prices, preserve produce's nutritional value, increase farmers' profitability by up to 40%, as well as enables a sustainable and flexible diet, supporting local production, and promoting local produce.

Al-Yafei said Ramadan this year is in month of March, the peak of agricultural production in Qatar, adding that local produce sale yards' opening hours during Ramadan are as follows:

Farmer's markets at Al Khor, Al Dhakira, Al Shamal, Al Wakrah, and Al Shahania are open from 19:00 to 23:00 on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, whereas Al Mazrouah farmer's market in Umm Salal central market is open daily from 06:00 to 23:00.

He noted a number of initiatives have been done to regulate prices during Ramadan to ensure that products are attainable at a reasonable price for all, with co-ordination with relevant authorities underway to ensure that farm owners adhere to the fixed price list while maintaining product quality, and thus, striking a balance between the interests of producers and consumers.

Al-Yafei also pointed to an initiative held in co-operation with Hifz Al Naema Center to distribute local vegetables to low-income families, in addition to providing marketing outlets for low-income, home-based businesses within these sale yards.


He said that these farmer's markets are currently located in areas of high agricultural output, indicating expansion plans to cover more areas, thus, benefiting both farmers and consumers.

Regarding the Ministry of Municipality's

support for farmers currently, he said that it is providing them with free sales outlets through the farmer's markets, along with technical and advisory support to help them improve product quality and marketing. In addition it also provides farmers with

free packaging in farmer's markets, and selling oversight to ensure efficiency.

He pointed out that these local produce sales yards play a key role in enhancing self-sufficiency by encouraging farmers to increase production. (QNA)



لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات
مشروع توسعة مطار حمد الدولي
Tenders and Auctions Committee
HIA Expansion Project

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR CONTRACTOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF CARGO TERMINAL 2 AT HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(PROJECT NO. HIAEP-0076)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

The HIAE Tender Committee wishes to secure a shortlist of competent Contractors for a forthcoming Invitation to Tender for the construction of Cargo Terminal 2 (hereinafter the "Project") at Hamad International Airport in Doha in the State of Qatar.

As part of this pre-qualification process, the Employer requires interested Contractors to demonstrate capability and experience in delivering similar material handling facilities and logistics facilities with a high-level of automation and interface management with materials handling systems. It is a necessary requirement that Contractors demonstrate relevant experience, capability, understanding and commitment to work with the Employer to achieve outstanding results in the delivery of the Project.

Accordingly, to successfully qualify, Contractors/Joint Ventures are required:

- To possess a Grade A Classification Certificate in Qatar, and
- To have executed a minimum of two (2) projects delivering material handling or logistics distribution facilities more than 100,000 square meters of built-up area in past eight (8) years, and
- To have executed a minimum of two (2) projects having supplied and erected a minimum of 15,000 tonnes of structural steel with a production/erection rate of 1,500 tonnes per month and a minimum of 150,000 cubic meters of concrete with a production/installation rate of 10,000 cubic meters per month in the past five (5) years, and
- To have executed and demonstrated strong capability for delivering a cool chain or similar refrigerated warehousing system within a material handling / logistic distribution facility, and
- To have executed a minimum of one (1) project in the last three (3) years, with a project value exceeding QAR 1.5 billion, and
- To demonstrate that the average workforce (direct employees) of the company exceeds 5,000 for at least three (3) of the previous five (5) years.

THE SCOPE OF THE REQUIREMENT:

Hamad International Airport is expanding its air cargo handling capacity by commissioning the construction of a new fully automated Air Cargo Terminal Facility with multiple levels of floor space totaling circa 260,000 square meters which will house a Material Handling System (by others) with overall handling capacity exceeding 3 million tons of transfer cargo per year. The Project also includes the provision of a 3,200 square meter/10,000ton cooling capacity expansion of the existing Central Utility Plant Facility, and all associated external infrastructure works within the Air Cargo Campus located within the midfield area of Hamad International Airport.

STEP 1 - PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS - COLLECTION

Interested Contractors are invited to collect the Pre-Qualification Application Documentation from MATAR - Major Projects Department located at Ras Abu Aboud Road, Hamad International Airport, Doha, State of Qatar between the dates noted below and during the working hours of 9am to 3pm (Sunday to Thursday). Documents will be available for collection upon receipt of a non-refundable cheque payment (cash will not be accepted) in the amount of QAR 30,000 (Qatari Riyals Thirty Thousand only) payable to Qatar Airways.

Start date for document collection: **9 March 2025**

Last date for document collection: **23 March 2025**

(the last date and time will be strictly enforced)

STEP 2 - PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATION - SUBMISSION

The **Closing Date** for submitting the Pre-Qualification Application Documentation is **27 March 2025**, not later than 12:00 noon (Local Doha Time), GMT (+3:00) to:

Chairman of Tender Committee
Hamad International Airport Expansion Tender Committee (HIAETC)
Qatar Airways Group Q.C.S.C.
HIAEP Project Office, Ras Abu Aboud Road, Doha, State of Qatar

All enquiries are to be directed to: HIAETC
Telephone No.: +974 4467 9816
E-mail: hiaetc@hiaproject.gov.qa



حبيب قطر العالمية للصرافة المحدودة
Habib Qatar International Exchange Ltd.

NOTIFICATION

We are Habib Qatar International Exchange Ltd, Commercial Registration No 6826 in accordance with the laws of Qatar Central Bank, the individuals listed below are to be informed that their transfers have been refunded/returned unpaid by the correspondent banks for the reason of incomplete/incorrect data provided. So we are asking these individuals to contact us within a period of 30 days. After the specified period expires, the funds will be disposed in accordance with prevailing laws of Qatar Central Bank and any claim comes will not be considered.

Sr No	SENDER NAME	TT Number	Sr No	SENDER NAME	TT Number	Sr No	SENDER NAME	TT Number	Sr No	SENDER NAME	TT Number
1	MOHD PARVEEZ	10258305	36	MRS NAFEEZA	10021716	70	FAREES ABU BAIQHA	10133341	104	LUIS LABARENTO	4811632290
2	AHMAD HASSAN AL OBAIDAN	10258307	37	MOHAMMED ALI PULICKAL	90000420	71	MOHAMMAD ARFAN SULTAN AHMED KHAN	50000848	105	ALFON R BRAVO	7176802025
3	FAISAL MEHMOOD	50541980	38	MUMTAZ AHMED	10002143	72	MOHAMMAD SAIED	20001554	106	SHABIR AHMED MOHAMMED	671848557
4	MUHAMMAD ASHRAF MARATAB ALI	50020155	39	MOHAMMAD ALAM	10002153	73	MOHAMMED MADIHI MOHAMMED RIZMI	10001278	107	DAVID KARANJA KINYUA	1705273950
5	SABZ ALI K Z KHAN	50020593	40	MOHAMMAD NAEEM	10033660	74	KONNAKOON MUDALIGE FDFC	50502513	108	NADARAJA WASANTH	8897198786
6	ASIF ALI	10059292	41	SARDAR NAWAZ	10033701	75	SELVARAJA SITTARGE	90000032	109	ABDUL MALIK SON OF ALI BAKHSH	8616482374
7	MUHAMMAD ALI SIDDIQI	30012125	42	SHEIKH SOHAIB	10002218	76	ERANGA MADUSANKA J A	50500738	110	ZAIN MOHAMMAD ZUBAIR	1528329815
8	MUHAMMED ANAS FAROOQUI	10061304	43	JANAKA RANIL ROSHAN J	50003130	77	HERATH MUDIYANSELAGE KAPILA HERATH	50032159	111	ALI OTHMAN M AL ESHAQ	8101567170
9	MASOOD AHMED KIANI	50023457	44	JANAKA RANIL ROSHAN J	50003230	78	NARELLE MELANIE KAUSHIL PIETERSZ	90000039	112	RUPERTO T MACAITAO	4150845397
10	SAJJAD HUSSAIN	10073739	45	RUJEEWASIRI GABBALAGE	50004052	79	M ZAKEER MOHAMED NAZIR	90000040	113	REYNAN SANTI T GUIEB	5991358730
11	MUBEEN GUL	20042242	46	R R BEERAN	30381527	80	H K S GUNAWARDANA	15003261	114	MOHAMMAD MUSLIM	3921575577
12	MOHAMMIE AYAZ	20043423	47	P M MATHEW	10201324	81	JOCEL ESTACIO ADAYA	90000076	115	CRISELDA MALACA CORPUZ	9059127728
13	MUSHTAQ AHMED	10072710	48	ROBIN CORREYA	10201361	82	CRESCENTE R RELACION	90000079	116	AZIM SHAH SON OF NOOR BADSHAH	2628715228
14	ALI HADAR ZARIN POOSH	50515817	49	MOHIT MADHAV NAREGALKAR	10201414	83	SOHAIL WAHID FAZI WAHID	30000821	117	ARNEL LEYSON	4641712125
15	KHANZADA MUSLIM	20041200	50	AZHAR BIN ISMAIL	30381604	84	AHMED KHAN QAIM KHAN	10004530	118	MANPREET SINGH JASWANT SINGH	8717354920
16	MAST ALI JAN RASOOL JAN	30022737	51	MOHAMED HANIF SHAIKH	90000003	85	MEHMOOB ELAHI	20001191	119	STEWART PAUL MALCOLM	2678698660
17	AMJAD ALI	20056237	52	SHAHCEL VAKKATYAIL	90381740	86	ZOHRA RABANAWA	30000829	120	YASSER MOHAMED MOUSTAFA MOHAMED	9275020636
18	INTIAZ HUSSAIN	20056246	53	MAHIN ABOOBACKER M HUSSAIN	50501679	87	NASEEMA GUL	20001194	121	JOJO S SAET	5411913295
19	KHAN BAHADUR NAWAB	20051860	54	JOSEPH FERNANDES	10201687	88	MOHAMMAD ZAHID KHAN	10004579	122	SURINDER PANESAR	7556452766
20	TARIO PERVAIZ	10000764	55	JASIL KUNNUMMAL ABDULLAH	10201692	89	HINA NASEERKHAN WAZEERKHAN	30000853	123	NORHANNA SALIK CASAN	6317057775
21	JEHANZEB KHAN KAMRAN	50543847	56	ABDUL NISHAR HYDEROSE	50051683	90	HASSAN SALEEM MALIK SALEEM	30000854	124	SAMIM MANSURI	3154348219
22	MOHAMMAD YASIN	20051676	57	AMEEN THANSEEL	30381759	91	ABDUL RASHID	10004607	125	MOHAMED ELADAWY IBRAHIM	3261994190
23	PIR MOHAMMAD KHAN	20052716	58	ZAHOOR HASAN SARDAR	50501690	92	TABREZ HUSSAIN	50000555	126	NOOR KHALID A BAGOOR	8735705289
24	MOHAMMAD ATIQUR R. M. KHAN	50505242	59	ANISH P VARUGHESE	20006147	93	WASEEM AKRAM M M HUSSAIN	10004645	127	MUNVARADZI ANTHONY GARA	1701340543
25	SHAHAB UDDIN FERAZ UDDIN	50540827	60	MOHAMED HANIF SHAIKH	50068696	94	TANVEER AHMED ZAHOOR AHMED	10004749	128	SRINIVAS SUNKARA	2812455870
26	ASHFAQ AHMED	50542289	61	RAGAM SHETTI MARUTHI	50068699	95	MUHAMMAD KHALID RAHMAN	20001305	129	ELVIERA MAUREN SJTUMORANG	6913221523
27	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN P HALEEM	30023511	62	MOHAMMED JAKIR TANWAR	10042858	96	AGHA FSAROOQ UL HASSAN	10004772	130	VINCENT A TUIPI JR	542311733
28	QAISAR MAHMOOD MUHAMMAD AKBAR	50542829	63	MIRHASAN ANSARI	10042932	97	AMIN AJAB KHAN	10004787	131	YAHIA MASOOD RAMDOUN	1040313482
29	RAHEEM CHAN MIAH	4011127450403	64	THILAK KUMAR S D MUDIYANSELAGE	90003299	98	SHAALAM	10041685	132	CELSO BUADO CORPUZ	9083267700
30	YOUSUF MASOOD MOHAMED	10066219	65	MOHAMED FARIS MOHAMED AMEEN	50576174	99	JABED RAFIQUE ISLAM	10041704	133	RAM CHANDRA PARIYAR	8371201320
31	RAAMEESRAJA MANDOTHUM	10066187	66	TONY PRANTHAN N P A	50584919	100	MDH WAKIL MIYAN	14021566775	134	RICHARD KENNETH HYDE	7364899272
32	SANJAYA KUMAR BHULAN PRASAD GAUND	10066010	67	M RIVAS M NIVAS	50575213	101	SUBASH KAMBANG	14026459083	135	CLIFF MOREBU CHARANA	9872580692
33	SANTOSH KUMAR	50510594	68	MUHAMMAD HIMAS MOHAMED ANSAR	10131738	102	JIT BAHADUR SUNAR	14097209692	136	KRIZITE ROZAINA Q FLORES	9660795603
34	NASEEM SHAH RASOOL SHAH	30023291	69	NADIR LALBAKHSH	10002186	103	SAJJAD PERVEZ	10034574	137	RKHAID MEHMOOD	20001273
35	TAJ MOHAMMAD KHAN SAMANDAR KHAN	50000602									

For More information Contact our Customer Service No. 40003838

Health ministry implements plan to ensure food safety during Ramadan

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has prepared an integrated monitoring plan to ensure food safety in Qatar during the blessed month of Ramadan. This is part of its ongoing efforts to maintain food health and safety, promote public health, and protect consumers during the holy month as the demand for foodstuff is increasing. The plan is built on several key components,

including the regulation of both imported and local food, the provision of food safety laboratory services, and the promotion of health awareness among consumers. It takes into account the unique characteristics of the fasting month, during which consumption patterns change and the demand for certain food items increase. The ministry has also initiated an awareness campaign to promote a culture of food

safety among all parties in the food chain, including consumers and food establishments. This campaign features awareness messages shared through social media to increase understanding of food safety rules and to prevent foodborne diseases. The ministry reported that a total of 8,914,053 tonnes of foodstuffs were imported in February. Of this, 6,969,738 tonnes were released after confirming their compliance with the necessary requirements. Some 52,550 tonnes were rejected, and 8,739 tonnes were destroyed due to violations of the relevant technical regulations and standards. The number of food inspectors at land, sea, and air ports has been increased to enhance the effectiveness of the inspection schedule. During the month, over 80 popular kitchens were visited, focusing on those that provide Iftar tables and Ramadan tents.

The Ministry of Public Health organised an awareness workshop attended by 150 officials from these kitchens. To ensure food safety and compliance with standards and regulations, samples of food products are collected from local food outlets and establishments for examination at the Food Safety Laboratory. During the blessed month, the laboratory operates in three shifts. (QNA)

The superiority of fasting

1.Ar-Rayyan Gate is for those who observe Saum (fast) (sincerely). Narrated Sahl ibn Sa'd (radiallah 'anhu) the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:

"There is a gate in Paradise called Ar-Rayyan, and those who observe Saum (fast) will enter through it on the Day of Resurrection and none except them will enter through it. It will be said: 'Where are those who observed Saum?' They will get up, and none except them will enter through it. After they have entered, the gate will be closed and nobody will enter it." (Bukhari and Muslim)

Narrated Abu Hurairah (radiallah 'anhu), Allah's Messenger (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:

"Whoever gives two kinds (of things or properties) in charity for Allah's Cause, and whoever was amongst those who used to observe Saum will be called from the gate of Ar-Rayyan." (Bukhari)

2.Observing Saum restricts sexual desire. Narrated Abdullah ibn Mas'ood (radiallah 'anhu), the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:

"O young men! He who can afford marriage expenses should get married, and he who cannot afford to marry is advised to observe Saum, as As-Saum will diminish his sexual power." (Bukhari and others)

3.There are two pleasures for the person observing Saum; when he breaks the fast and when he meets his Rabb (Lord).

4.The doubling for many times the rewards of the one who observes Saum to an extent not known except by Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala).

5.The smell coming out from the mouth of the person observing Saum is better in the sight of Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) than the smell of musk.

Narrated Abu Hurairah (radiallah 'anhu), the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said: "All the deeds of Adam's sons (people) are for them; the reward (of their good deeds) will be multiplied ten times to seven hundred times. Allah said: 'Except As-Saum which is for Me and I will reward for

it. He [ie the one who observes Saum] leaves his [sexual] desire and food for Me [ie My Pleasure]! There are two pleasures for the person observing Saum; one at the time of Iftar (breaking his fast) and the other at the time when he will meet his Rabb. Verily, the smell coming out from the mouth of the person observing Saum is better in Allah's sight than the smell of musk." (Bukhari, Muslim and others).

6.As-Saum is a shield. Narrated Abu Hurairah (radiallah 'anhu), the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:

"As-Saum is a shield (or a screen or a shelter from the Hell-fire). So, the person observing Saum should avoid sexual relation with his wife and should not behave foolishly and impudently. And if somebody fights with him or abuses him, he should say to him twice, 'I am observing Saum'. By Him in Whose Hand is my soul, the smell coming out from the mouth of the person observing Saum is better in Allah's sight than the smell of musk. [Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) says about the person observing Saum] 'He has left his food, drink and desires for My Sake. The Saum is for his food, drink and desires for My Sake. The Saum is for Me. So, I will reward (the person observing Saum) for it and the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times." (Bukhari)

Narrated Abu Sa'id (radiallah 'anhu), the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:

"No Muslim fasts one day for the sake of Allah but Allah will take his face far away from Hell-fire the distance of 70 autumns." (Bukhari and Muslim).

7.Saum expiates sins. Narrated Huthaifah (radiallah 'anhu), the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:"...sins one commits concerning his household (family), or wealth are expiated by performing Salah - prayers, observing Saum and giving charities." (Bukhari, Muslim and others. This is a part of a long hadith).

(Taken from Aqil ibn Zaid al-Maqtiri's book Fasting Rules)



Awqaf's Iftar tents initiative earns praise from beneficiaries

The Iftar tents by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs feed thousands across Qatar to reflect the true spirit of Ramadan and leave the messages of generosity and social solidarity. Many workers and people with low incomes benefit from the tents where Awqaf has made the dining arrangements as part of its 'Iftar Saem' project, one of the projects of the Endowment Fund for Righteousness and Piety, with contributions from benefactors and charitable donors. The tents have earned praise from the beneficiaries, who note that the ministry's efforts provide the fasting individuals good quality meals. "The gesture from

Awqaf is unparalleled. The dedication that Awqaf's officials and employees exude is commendable. The efforts deserve applause as the ministry is careful to make all the arrangements at the tents. The tents help the fasting individuals gently break their fast without any struggle," an Al Wakra resident told Gulf Times while hailing Awqaf. Awqaf has set up tents at Al Muraikh, Al Attiyah at Industrial Area, Thursday and Friday Market at Ain Khalid, New Central Market at Al Salliya, Eid Prayer Ground at Al Rayyan, opposite to Old Al Wakra Market at Al Wakra, Othman Mosque at Al Khor and Eid Prayer Grounds at Bin Omran and Al Aziziya. The locations

"The gesture from Awqaf is unparalleled. The dedication that Awqaf's officials and employees exude is commendable. The efforts deserve applause as the ministry is careful to make all the arrangements at the tents" were strategically selected in order to maximise the impact of the initiative. Awqaf ensures that the meals are delivered in good quality and quantity to the fasting persons. Located in labour-dense areas, these tents are expected to receive more than 300,000 fasting people throughout the holy month of Ramadan. Awqaf has said the 'Iftar Saem' initiative has seen a strong turn-

out across the country. Also, the tents act as the venues for advocacy, awareness and religious education.Awqaf, in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior, is carrying out a slew of awareness activities at Iftar tents where the participants are given tips by the officials from General Directorate for Drug Control, General Directorate of Civil Defence, General Directorate of Traffic and Community Police.

QNL provides rare treasures to celebrate Ramadan significance

Qatar National Library (QNL) has emerged as a guardian of Islamic and Arab heritage, housing treasures of rare manuscripts and Qur'ans that illuminate the intellectual and historical legacy of Islamic civilisation. During the holy month of Ramadan, these treasures take on a special spiritual significance, offering visitors and researchers the opportunity to view unique manuscripts documenting Muslim customs during this holy month, as well as copies of the Qur'an from various eras of Islamic history. Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr Mah-

moud Zaki, manuscripts specialist at QNL Heritage Library, described the Heritage Library as the "heart of Qatar National Library." Dr Zaki explained that the Heritage Library is dedicated to rare books and early publications, as well as non-traditional materials such as maps, documents, manuscripts, photographs, and more. These materials focus on Qatari, Gulf, Arab, Islamic, and broadly, human heritage in general. He emphasised that collecting, preserving, providing access to, studying, and presenting heritage across national, regional Arab and Islamic circles, and ultimately,

human heritage, are among the most important functions of Qatar National Library. Dr Zaki said that the Heritage Library is rich in manuscripts and other valuable collections, particularly rare books from the first Arabic and foreign publications. He noted that among the most valuable of these collections are handwritten Qur'an copies from regions such as China, the Malay Islands, and Southeast Asia, as well as those written by skilled calligraphers from the Ottoman Empire and other areas. Dr Zaki said that the written heritage of Muslims includes numerous letters, small books, and excerpts from

the Hadiths of the Prophet (peace be upon him) about the virtues of Ramadan, the last ten days, Laylat al-Qadr, and the jurisprudence of fasting, as well as the behaviour of Muslims during Ramadan in terms of worship. Some of these texts even address the topic of welcoming and bidding farewell to the month. Among the most famous of these works are the letters of Ibn al-Jawzi and excerpts from Ibn Asakir. Dr Zaki explained that these sources can be viewed in the reading room of the Heritage Library through prior arrangement during working hours in the month of Ramadan. Additionally, visitors can explore the Heritage Library's page under the "Explore the Library" menu on its website. Moreover, many manuscripts are available digitally for free access in the library's digital repository. Dr Zaki highlighted the library's permanent exhibition, bearing the slogan "Read," to view its original treasures and rarities directly. He added that Qatar National Library has acquired a printed book containing a collection of ancient heritage texts about the holy month. Dr Zaki emphasised the immense cultural and historical value of manuscripts during this holy month, adding that reading manuscripts requires a special skill, particularly during Ramadan when reading handwritten Qur'ans is recommended. The Qur'anic text is preserved and thus easily readable for those who have memorised it and for researchers. Viewing handwritten Qur'ans is beneficial and enjoyable for those who cherish the Qur'an and are keen on reciting and understanding its meanings. These manuscripts offer a connection to the origins of this sacred book, with a chain that begins with the Mushaf of Caliph Uthman ibn Affan and extends through the centuries, supported by the oral tradition of Qur'anic recitation. Regarding the preservation of rare manuscripts and Qur'ans, Dr Zaki revealed that Qatar National Library has a specialised preservation and conservation centre, the first-of-its-kind in the Arab region, accredited by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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QRCS launches heart catheterisations in Yemen

In partnership with Qatar Charity, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has started a project to perform 100 free-of-charge therapeutic catheterisations at the Cardiovascular Centre in Taiz, Yemen, for the vulnerable, displaced, low-income, and disabled patients with heart disease.

The \$100,000 project also involves the provision of medical solutions, consumables, and other supplies for the cardiac catheterisations. Dr Abu Zarr al-Gendi, director of the Cardiovascular Centre in Taiz, said, "QRCS and Qatar Charity continue to address the suffering of people. The patients with heart disease are among those who suffer most, especially those requiring cardiac catheterisations. We have many registered patients who experience difficult living conditions and cannot afford treatment."

Nabil Jamel, director-general of Taiz Planning and International Co-operation Office, praised the development programmes and plans supported by Qatar, through QRCS and Qatar Charity. Ahmed Hassan al-Sharaji, head of QRCS's office in Yemen, noted: "This project is part of the ongoing efforts made by QRCS and its partners to back the Cardiovascular Centre in Taiz, with the aim of improving the quality of diagnostic and therapeutic services provided for the patients with heart disease. I hope this support would make a real difference in the lives of patients in need of cardiac catheterisations and reduce their suffering and the suffering of their families."

Dr Abdullah al-Naim, head of Qatar Charity's office in Yemen, added: "These operations are part of our humanitarian initiatives in Yemen over the past few years, which are designed to ease the pain of vulnerable patients and upgrade the services of specialised medical facilities, amid a protracted crisis that caused economic failure and collapse of the health system."



Light exercises such as walking and jogging are more suitable during the fasting month.

Parks become popular Ramadan destinations

Walking and jogging are considered the best exercises for those fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, especially shortly before Iftar, a number of residents have pointed out, stressing that the various parks across the country are the best locations in this regard.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, a number of park visitors noted that public parks have become an important destination for fitness enthusiasts during Ramadan and throughout the year. The parks witness a large influx of people engaging in walking, jogging, and cycling daily.

The availability of dedicated walking tracks significantly facilitates walking and jogging, in addition to the availability of various service facilities, sports areas, and designated play areas.

While they stressed the great benefits of exercise during this period, they warned against excessive exercise for long hours before Iftar, as it may cause dehydration risks. Wahib al-Riyashi stressed the importance of maintaining a consistent exercise routine during Ramadan to maintain fitness and avoid weight gain, particularly due to the common unhealthy dietary habits adopted by many.

Mazen Barqawi said: "I make it a habit to exercise daily while fasting, as it helps prevent weight gain, improves blood circulation, and eliminates negative energy, besides it is a practical way to invest free time."

He noted that light exercises such as walking and jogging are more suitable during Ramadan and the parks offer ample space and good scenery to practice these.

Mansour al-Marri said that the walking track at Umm Al Seneem Park is ideal for various sports, especially with designated tracks for walking, jogging, and cycling. This makes the park an exemplary fitness destination. Further, he noted that Al Gharrafa Park features an air-conditioned walking track as well.

He said: "The parks have become gathering places for young fitness enthusiasts, especially during Ramadan, as many prefer walking and jogging while fasting. Thanks to the park's facilities, it has become the number one destination for all sports lovers." Saeed al-Rashidi lauded the sports facilities in the parks and cited the large number of visitors.



Qatar showcases its expertise in securing sporting events at UN HQ

QNA
New York

Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN HE Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Sam al-Thani participated in the opening session of a meeting organised by the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in partnership with the French Permanent Mission to the UN, titled "Securing the Legacy: Debriefing from Paris 2024 for Future Major Sporting Events." The event marked the fifth anniversary of the UNOCT Global Sports Programme and was held at the UN headquarters in New York.

In her opening remarks, HE Sheikha Alya highlighted Qatar's pioneering efforts in supporting the Global Sports Programme to combat terrorism through capacity-building initiatives aimed at helping member states secure major sporting events. She praised Qatar's successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup 2022, where the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy implemented comprehensive security measures to ensure a safe event for both spectators and athletes. She pointed out that a holistic strategy, which included advanced technology and international co-operation, was executed, making the tournament a global model for sports security and safety.

The meeting also featured a session where Director of the Arab and International Police Communication Department at the Ministry of Interior, Lt Col Ali Mohammed al-Ali, highlighted Qatar's leading role in securing major events. He presented Qatar's experience in securing the FIFA World Cup 2022, focusing on the security and preventive measures implemented by the Safety and Security Operations Committee (SSOC) in preparation for the tournament.

This included recommendations during the stadium design phase to meet the highest safety and security standards to ensure the safety of spectators. Lt Col al-Ali emphasised the Safety and Security Operations Committee's keenness to share its expertise with countries preparing to host major sporting events. He also stressed Qatar's continued commitment to strengthening security controls as part of its strategies for enhancing safety systems in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.



QC delivers Ramadan parcels to orphans' families in Sri Lanka

Qatar Charity (QC), through its Sri Lanka office, has started implementing projects under its Ramadan Campaign "Giving Lives On". As part of its "Feeding" project, Qatar Charity distributed food parcels to nearly 3,400 individuals belonging to the families of sponsored orphans in the Ampara District, Eastern Sri Lanka.



The food parcel contained essential items sufficient to meet the needs of the beneficiary families for over 20 days. The teams at Qatar Charity's office in Sri Lanka ensured that some food parcels were delivered to remote households, particularly those with the elderly and the sick, while the remaining parcels will be distributed through the distribution centre.

Beneficiaries expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the assistance. Rahma Biwi said, "We thank Qatar Charity and the people of Qatar for their continuous support, especially during Ramadan, as these efforts ease our suffering."

Fatima Mahja, one of the sponsored orphans, shared her joy in receiving the food parcel, saying that she had been eagerly awaiting it. To help underprivileged families live with dignity, Qatar Charity's Sri Lanka office is preparing to distribute Zakat al-Fitr to around 250 families, benefiting 1,250 individuals. Through the Eid Clothing Project, the Sri Lanka office will provide approximately 200 orphans with Eid clothing, allowing them to select outfits that meet their individual needs. With support from the people of Qatar, Qatar Charity's Ramadan campaign "Giving Lives On" aim to benefit 4.5mn people in 40 countries globally.

Over 234,000 Rohingya refugees benefit from QC interventions

Qatar Charity (QC) provided a wide range of humanitarian aid to Rohingya refugees in the camps of Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island in Bangladesh in 2024, benefiting more than 234,313 refugees in health, education, shelter, and food.

In the field of health, the aid included free emergency medical tests and essential medicines, benefiting 11,887 refugees. This helped alleviate the burden on the refugee community in an area with scarce health resources. In the education sector, refugee children received essential school supplies, including bags, uniforms, toys, and benches, benefiting 13,515 children. This helped create a more stable educational environment.

As the number of refugees in the camps increased, shelter remained one of the most urgent needs. Qatar Charity built 326 shelters in Cox's Bazar, providing housing for 1,388 refugees. This contributed to offering protection to displaced families in a challenging environment.

Qatar Charity also distributed refilled cooking gas cylinders to 82,818 refugees, helping to reduce the environmental damage caused by traditional cooking methods, such as firewood. As part of its efforts to combat hunger, Qatar Charity provided food aid benefiting 30,000 refugees, ensuring that the most vulnerable individuals did not go hungry during difficult times. In 2025, it aims to reach new areas to ensure a safer and more stable life for these persecuted communities.



McDonald's Qatar hosts a special Iftar Night honoring the dedication of Qatar's Delivery Riders



In the spirit of Ramadan and as part of its unwavering commitment to giving back and fostering its community, McDonald's Qatar hosted a special Iftar Night for over 120 delivery riders from leading delivery platforms in Qatar, including Snoonu, Rafeeq, Deliveroo, and McDelivery. The event, held on March 2025 .5, at McDonald's Al Bayt restaurant in Al Khor, brought together riders, supervisors, and representatives from partner platforms to celebrate their tireless efforts and dedication.

The Iftar Night, organized under McDonald's Qatar's corporate social responsibility (CSR) platform, *Rahlatuna - Our Journey*, aimed to strengthen community ties and express gratitude to the delivery frontliners who play a vital role in serving customers. Attendees enjoyed a warm Iftar meal and engaging activities and games, with exciting prizes to honor the riders' contributions.

Mithqal Abu Nasser, Executive General Manager of McDonald's Qatar, emphasized the significance of the event, stating, "We deeply value the dedication of our delivery riders, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. This Iftar Night is a heartfelt gesture to recognize their efforts and foster a sense of community. Through initiatives like these, we aim to strengthen our relationships and reaffirm our commitment to supporting those who help us deliver happiness and feel-good moments to our customers."

McDonald's Qatar is 100% owned, managed, and operated by Al Mana Restaurants & Food Company áconnections. This Ramadan, the brand is extending its generosity beyond the cherished Iftar Night through a partnership with Education Above All, pledging to match every donation made across all channels to double its support for children's education.

Whether customers visit the Drive-Thru, use self-order kiosks, dine in, or order through the McDonald's app, every donation will be matched to maximize the impact. Customers can even donate their loyalty points through the app. Additionally, McDonald's Qatar continues its tradition of offering free soup and dates with every dine-in meal during Iftar, spreading the warmth and generosity of the holy month to all.



Podar Pearl School joins Round Square Foundation

Podar Pearl School has announced its official membership in the prestigious Round Square Foundation, marking a historic milestone as the first institution in Qatar to join the global network.

The affiliation underscores the school's commitment to delivering a holistic, experiential education that prepares students with the skills and perspectives needed to thrive in an interconnected world.

Round Square is a global organisation dedicated to fostering six key IDEALS – Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, and Service – through innovative educational practices.

As a member, Podar Pearl School now stands alongside over 250 institutions worldwide, including The Doon School (India), The Lawrence School, Lovedale (India), Dhirubhai Ambani International School (India), Aiglon College (Switzerland), and Silicon Valley International School (US).

“We are excited to join the prestigious Round Square Foundation, as its values and principles align seamlessly with our vision of delivering a transformative educational experience,” said Podar Pearl School president C Muhamed Nizar.

“This affiliation empowers us to enrich our curriculum with innovative learning opportunities, fostering global citizenship, leadership, and personal growth among our students,” he said. “Through this partnership, we aim to cultivate well-rounded individuals who are equipped

with the skills, knowledge, and mindset to thrive in an ever-evolving world.”

“Through this partnership, our curriculum will be enriched with a diverse range of international programmes, leadership camps, student enrichment initiatives, community service projects, and an exciting Student Exchange Programme,” said Podar Pearl School principal Dr Maneesh Mangal. “These opportunities will associate our students with a global network of like-minded peers, educators, and institutions, fostering cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.”

“By connecting our students with the real-world experiences beyond the classroom, we aim to nurture responsible, compassionate, and globally aware leaders who are equipped to make a meaningful impact on society,” he said.

The achievement comes at a time when Podar Pearl School continues to actively expand its mission of delivering world-class education at an affordable cost to new areas in Qatar, including Al Khor.

In addition to the international affiliation, Podar Pearl School has recently been honoured as the top Indian School in Qatar under the Education Unites World Initiative by EW India School Rankings (2024-25) – the world's largest and most comprehensive survey evaluating over 4,000 Indian schools, which recognises the school's relentless pursuit of academic excellence and its nurturing, innovative learning environment.

Playwriting training workshop concludes

The Centre for Theatre Affairs, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, has concluded the Playwriting Training Workshop, presented by writer Taleb al-Dous.

The workshop took place from December 8, 2024 to March 5.

The workshop was geared towards both amateurs and professionals in playwriting, with the aim of providing them with dramatic writing skills and tools, helping them to create new plays that enrich the local theatrical scene.

The workshop witnessed great interaction from the participants, who had practical and theoretical experiences in writing theatrical texts, with a focus on character building, plot development, theatrical dialogue, and narrative techniques.



File photo of a previous event held at Darb Al Saai.

Ministry of Culture launches ‘Al Razji’ event at Daab Al Saai

The Ministry of Culture is organising the “Al Razji” event today at the headquarters of “Darb Al Saai”.

“Al Razji”, which continues until March 14 from 7.30pm until midnight, is aimed at emphasising cultural heritage and enhancing the Ramadan atmosphere through entertainment and cultural experiences.

“Al Razji” is expected to witness

wide attendance from people of different nationalities, contributing to social interaction and interest in national heritage.

There would be displays of folk art and traditional craft, interactive workshops and spaces dedicated to children and families, making it an ideal destination for all to enjoy the Ramadan atmosphere.

Tests for Qur’an competition begin

Tests for citizens' children began yesterday in the 30th Sheikh Jassim bin Muhammad bin Thani Noble Qur'an competition, organised by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs.

In a statement, the ministry said the number of registered contenders reached 925 from both genders – 501 males and 424 females – to memorise one part from the last five sections of the Holy Qur'an.

The tests for males are held on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays at the Imam Muhammad ibn Abd Al Wahhab Mosque.

Tests for females are being held at the Women's Activity Centre in Al Wa'ab. – **QNA**

WCM-Q students present projects at annual poster event

First-year pre-medical students at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) showcased their biology laboratory research findings on the antimicrobial effect of herbs, spices and other natural substances at the annual poster presentation event.

The event was the culmination of two semesters of research where the students were provided with a choice of four different species of bacteria, and were required to investigate the effect based on bacteria's response, and determine the possible mechanism at play in these extracts that inhibits the growth of bacteria.

A total of 53 students, divided into groups of three, worked to execute the research projects from beginning to end, demonstrating their ability to conduct and communicate science.

Altogether 18 posters were presented.

The students reviewed literature, formulated a question and hypothesis, conducted experiments in the laboratory, and analysed the data.

They then wrote a short synopsis of their findings and presented



Reema al-Emadi and Maryam Alghanem during the poster presentation event.

it in a poster to their fellow students and faculty.

Some of the posters will be showcased at the Doctors of the Future Conference, a gathering

of educational leaders and future medical students to take place on April 11-12 and organised by the WCM-Q.

“We are committed to helping

students master the essential skills of research,” said biology professor Dr Kuei-Chiu Chen. “We focus on enabling them to critically evaluate scientific literature, conduct thorough statistical analyses on their data, draw insightful conclusions, and effectively communicate their findings.”

Reema al-Emadi, Maryam Alghanem, and Khalid al-Thani presented a poster on the inhibitory effect of *Senna alexandrina* (senna leaves), *Euterpe oleracea* (açai fruit), and *Lepidium sativum* (cress seeds) on opportunistic pathogens – *Serratia marcescens* and *Corynebacterium amycolatum*.

Nour Alqubbaj, Maryam Sohail, and Dongeun Lee presented their poster, titled “The Antibacterial effects of *Vitex agnus-castus* paste on *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Serratia marcescens* (red strain), and *Corynebacterium amycolatum*”.

Students Aiza Tanveer Hassan, Dounia Baroudi, and Hyeonjeong Oh presented a poster laying out their research investigating the antibacterial activity of lime, apple, and kiwi extracts on *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*.

Farms add flower production to diversify source of income

A number of local farms across the country have established nursery sections for flower and plant production to generate additional income sources that also contribute to sustainability efforts.

However, a number of officials of the farms have noted that balancing flower production with food security is one of the key challenges facing the expansion of flower cultivation in Qatar.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, they noted that the Ministry of Municipality consistently strives to organise specialised flower exhibitions, whether independently or in collaboration with other entities in the country.

These exhibitions are aimed at creating marketing platforms for locally grown agricultural products related to flowers and plants, supporting local farm owners in establishing national agricultural projects.

Nagor Miran, head of a nursery section at a local farm, said that the farm was designed using a modern scientific approach, incorporating various agricultural activities and irrigation systems aimed at optimising water usage.

He said that the farm employs advanced techniques for producing vegetables, flowers, and sheep breeding, all tailored to suit the Gulf region.

The farm, Miran said, is divided into plots suitable for different agricultural activities, interconnected by internal road networks.

He added that water for irrigation is supplied through a desalination plant with a production capacity of 1,000cu m per day, which can be increased as the farm expands.

Miran said that since 2002, the company has focused on producing seasonal flowers in modern greenhouses and shaded net houses covering a total area of four hectares, and that production has increased annually since the project's inception, now reaching over 8mn plants per year.

He added that the farm cultivates summer and winter seasonal flowers, producing more than 55 different varieties.

In addition to seasonal flowers, they also grow potted flowering plants, hanging baskets, and some



types of cut flowers.

Agricultural engineer Ali Tamraz said that flowers produced in Qatar fall into two categories: seasonal flowers and sustainable flowers.

Seasonal flowers grown in winter include marigold, cockscomb, and petunia, while Vinca flowers are cultivated in summer.

He noted that the people in Qatar have a great appreciation for flowers, whether in public or private spaces.

Aside from these varieties, he highlighted the existence of other sustainable plants, such as the “Damask rose” or local rose, which comes in two types: rose seedlings and cut flowers.

Tamraz stressed that flower production requires large areas of land, as flowers are grown horizontally rather than vertically, unlike vegetables.

It also requires well-equipped infrastructure, air-conditioned greenhouses, and mechanised planting since manual cultivation of large quantities is difficult, leading to higher production costs.

He added that expanding horticulture in general, including vegetables, fruits, and flowers, contributes to increasing local farms' income.

Khaled Tabbaa, an official at a horticulture company, said that



the company's nursery is considered one of the largest in Qatar, covering an area of 4,000sq m.

The nursery produces a variety of indoor and outdoor plants, as well as fruit-bearing trees.

He said that there is usually high demand for flowers in winter, starting from late September until the end of April.

Tabbaa noted that the main reasons for flower or plant death are

overwatering or too little watering. Excessive water, he said, causes roots to rot, while insufficient water leads to plant dehydration.

Tabbaa advised flower enthusiasts to avoid placing plants directly in front of air conditioning units or under direct sunlight.

He also recommended covering outdoor plants during the extremely hot months of June, July, and August.

QNL highlights six empowering books to celebrate International Women's Day

Marking the International Women's Day, the Qatar National Library (QNL) has handpicked six empowering reads featuring thought-provoking and powerful stories that highlight the transformative role women have played in history, culture, business and beyond.

The list includes *Gravitas: The 8 Strengths That Redefine Confidence* by Lisa Sun with Kathryn Huck.

In this book, the author offers a guide to strengthening your confidence and enhancing your leadership potential.

The QNL also highlighted *A Healthy State of Panic: Follow Your Fears to Build Wealth, Crush Your Career, and Win at Life* by Farnoosh Torabi.

In this inspiring guide, the author provides practical advice on overcoming fear and leveraging emotions as tools to build wealth and achieve personal success.

On the list is *Shark Tales: How I Turned \$1,000 Into a Billion-Dollar Business* by Barbara Corcoran with Bruce Littlefield.

Corcoran shares her journey from a \$1,000 loan to a billion-dollar real estate empire.

Her autobiography offers practical advice and inspiration for women looking to turn their business dreams into reality.

Another pick is *Girlboss* by Sophia Amoruso, which tells of her journey from eBay seller to chief executive of a multimillion-dollar company, offering a blueprint for turning passion into success.

Her book is not just about entrepreneurship, but about self-reinvention and finding your own path to success.

Arab Women and Their Evolving Roles in the Global Business Landscape, edited by Ebtihaj al-Aali, Minwir M al-Shammari and Hatem Masri, is an insightful collection that explores the unique and evolving roles of Arab women in global business, the challenges they face, and their increasing contributions to shaping the future of commerce in the region.

Women Entrepreneurship in Family Business, edited by Vanessa Ratten, Leo-Paul Dana, and Veland Ramadani, delves into the role of women in family businesses, offering insights into how women can navigate challenges and thrive.

The QNL expressed pride to provide ac-



cess to these exceptional books that celebrate the empowerment, resilience, and brilliance of women, invited all girls and women to celebrate International Women's Day by diving into these thought-provoking reads and join the movement of women shaping the world today.

The International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8.

This year's theme, *For All Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment*, calls for actions to unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all women and girls, for a future where no one is left behind.

Empowering youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls is central to this vision. – **QNA**

Iran slams ‘bullying’ after Trump threats

AFP
Tehran

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday slammed what he described as bullying tactics a day after US President Donald Trump threatened military action.

“Some bully governments – I really don’t know of any more appropriate term for some foreign figures and leaders than the word bullying – insist on negotiations,” Khamenei told officials after Trump threatened military action if Iran refuses to engage in talks on its nuclear programme.

“Their negotiations are not aimed at solving problems, they aim at domination,” Khamenei said.

On Friday, Trump said he had written to Iran’s supreme leader, urging new talks on the country’s nuclear programme but warning of possible military action if it refuses.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran had yet to receive any letter from the US president by yesterday.

“We have heard of it (the letter)

but we haven’t received anything,” he told state television.

Khamenei accused the bullying powers of deliberately setting new conditions they did not expect Iran to meet.

“They are setting new expectations that they think will definitely not be met by Iran,” he said, without naming the United States or referring to Trump’s comments.

On Friday, Araghchi told AFP in an interview that Iran would not negotiate under “maximum pressure”.

The policy, reinstated by Trump on his return to the White House in January, saw him reimpose sweeping sanctions on Tehran during his first term after abandoning the nuclear accord formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Struck between Tehran and major powers in 2015, the deal had offered relief from sanctions in exchange for limits on Iran’s nuclear activities.

Tehran has in recent months engaged in diplomatic efforts with the three European parties to the deal – Britain, France and Germany – aimed at resolving issues surrounding its nuclear ambi-

tions. However yesterday, Khamenei condemned the three governments for “declaring that Iran has not fulfilled its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA”.

“You say that Iran has not fulfilled its commitments under the JCPOA. Okay, have you fulfilled your commitments under the JCPOA?” he asked.

Khamenei recalled that Tehran had abided by the terms of the JCPOA for a whole year after Trump abandoned it in 2018 before beginning to roll back on its own commitments.

He said there had been “no other way” following legislation by the Iranian parliament.

Iran has since sharply ramped up its enrichment of uranium far beyond the limits set by the JCPOA.

US officials now estimate that Iran could produce a nuclear weapon within weeks if it chose to do so. Tehran has consistently denied pursuing a nuclear arsenal, emphasising the peaceful nature of its programme.

Officials have always cited a religious decree issued by Khamenei that prohibits the development of such weapons.



Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaking during a meeting with Iranian government officials in Tehran yesterday. (AFP)

Last month, Khamenei reiterated his opposition to negotiations with the United States, calling the idea “unwise” after Trump called for a new nuclear deal.

Khamenei charged that Washington “ruined, violated, and tore up” the 2015 agreement.

In 2019, more than a year after Trump’s withdrawal from the JCPOA, Japan’s then prime minister Shinzo Abe visited Iran in an attempt to mediate.

But Khamenei firmly rejected the possibility of talks with Washington, saying he did not “consider Trump as a person worthy of exchanging messages with”.



A fallen tree lies on powerlines at Labrador following heavy rains and winds caused by Cyclone Alfred on the Gold Coast yesterday. (Reuters)

Troops injured as ex-cyclone Alfred batters Australia

Australian troops were rushed to hospital yesterday after being injured in a major road crash while responding to ex-Cyclone Alfred, which has battered a swathe of the eastern coast and cut power to more than 330,000 properties.

The former tropical cyclone – now downgraded to a tropical depression – lingered close to the coastline after whipping up gale-force winds that toppled trees, brought down power lines, and damaged buildings.

It was still creating heavy rainfall, swelling rivers in parts of a 400km stretch of the coast straddling southeast Queensland and northeast New South Wales, government forecasters said.

Near the flood-prone New South Wales city of Lismore, two Australian Defence Force (ADF) trucks deployed to help the community were involved in a crash, resulting in 36 injuries – some serious, government officials and emergency services said.

Patients were transported to four hospitals.

“Right now our focus is on the welfare of those involved and their families,” Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said, describing some of the injuries as serious.

“Our ADF heroes were on their way to help Australians in need,” he said in a joint statement with the defence minister.

A 61-year-old man’s body was found earlier in the day after his four-wheel drive pick-up truck was swept off a bridge into a river in northern New South Wales.

He had clambered out of the vehicle and tried in vain to cling to a tree branch in the river before disappearing into the rapid waters on Friday, police said.

The prime minister warned people not to underestimate the threat posed by the wild weather.

“While it has been downgraded, very serious risks remain so it is important that people do not take this downgrading as a reason for complacency,” Albanese told a news conference.

Utility companies said 295,000 properties in southeast Queensland and another 42,600 in New South Wales were without power, warning that floods could hamper repairs.

“That’s the largest ever loss of power from a natural disaster in Queensland’s history,” said the state’s premier, David Crisafulli, estimating that about 750,000 people had been impacted since the blackouts began.

Although the weather system “stalled and began weakening”, the bureau of meteorology warned that intense rain and damaging wind gusts were a risk throughout the weekend.

“Rivers are already starting to respond to the heavy rainfall, with many Minor to Major Flood Warnings current,” the bureau said in a statement.

Evacuation orders had been issued for thousands of people in New South Wales, where 30 flood rescues have been carried out over the past 24 hours, emergency services said.

Yoon free but trials continue after court quashes detention

Reuters
Seoul

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol walked out of a detention centre yesterday after prosecutors decided not to appeal a court decision to cancel the impeached leader’s arrest warrant on insurrection charges.

Yoon, 64, remains suspended from his duties, and his criminal and impeachment trials continue over his short-lived imposition of martial law on December 3.

The Seoul Central District Court cancelled Yoon’s arrest warrant on Friday, citing the timing of his indictment and questions about the legality of the investigation process.

“I would like to thank the Central District Court for their courage and determination in correcting the illegality,” Yoon said in a statement. As he left the facility, a relaxed and smiling Yoon, in a dark suit with no necktie, stepped out of his car, waved, raised his fist and bowed to cheering supporters waving South Korean and US flags.

His lawyers said the court decision “confirmed that the presi-



Impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol reacts to his supporters as he arrives at the presidential residence in Seoul yesterday. (AFP)

dent’s detainment was problematic in both procedural and substantive aspects,” calling the ruling the “beginning of a journey to restore rule of law”.

Prosecutors could not immediately be reached for comment.

The main opposition Democratic Party criticised the prosecutors’ decision for “throwing the country and people into crisis”, and urged the Constitutional Court to remove Yoon from office as soon as possible.

In his impeachment trial, the Constitutional Court is expected to decide in coming days whether to reinstate or remove Yoon.

Yesterday, some 55,000 Yoon supporters rallied in Seoul’s main districts, while 32,500 people demonstrated against him near

the Constitutional Court, Yonhap news agency reported, citing unofficial police estimates.

The public, however remains largely anti-Yoon, with 60% of respondents saying he should be removed from office and 35% opposing removal, according to a Gallup Korea poll on Friday.

Before the prosecutors’ decision, hundreds of Yoon supporters also protested in front of the Supreme Prosecutors’ Office.

“I was very sorry that he couldn’t come out quickly, and it was a hard time for me to wait, but it was very much worth the wait,” said Lee Heoung-ok, a 62-year-old supporter who waited for Yoon’s release at the detention centre.

Shim Ye-rin, 27, said: “I saw him walking out on his own feet and greeting his supporters. It was a little bit ridiculous to me because it seemed like something that couldn’t happen in a democratic society, something that was outside of common sense.”

Yoon, the first South Korean president to be arrested while in office, has been held at the Seoul Detention Centre, located in the city of Uiwang, 22km south of Seoul, since January 15.

Russia claims advances in Kursk

Russia said yesterday its troops had retaken three villages seized by Ukraine in its Kursk border region, in a fresh setback for Kyiv ahead of talks to try to end the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday named a high-level delegation including ministers to meet US negotiators in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, seeking to repair ties with President Donald Trump’s administration.

US envoy Steve Witkoff said Thursday Washington wanted to discuss a “framework for a peace agreement”.

“We hope to discuss and agree on the necessary decisions and steps”, Zelensky said, stressing that Ukraine was “fully committed to constructive dialogue”.

But he condemned “brutal” deadly strikes on eastern Ukraine, saying they proved that Russia was “not thinking about how to end the war”.

Trump on Friday threatened new sanctions and tariffs against Russia over its bombardment of Ukraine.

The three-year-long war is now at a critical juncture for Kyiv after Trump suspended US military aid following his public falling-out with Zelensky last week.

Ukraine still controls some 400sq km (in the Kursk region after launching an offensive last August. Zelensky sees this as a possible bargaining chip in peace talks.

But Ukraine’s troops in Kursk have seen their position worsen in recent weeks with Russia’s army pushing back.

Hackman died of natural causes, a week after wife: Medical examiner

Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman died of natural causes about a week after his wife’s death, a medical examiner said, ending more than a week of mystery surrounding the death of one of Hollywood’s most beloved stars.

The bodies of *The French Connection* star and his wife were found on February 26 in their home in New Mexico after emergency services were called to their property.

“The cause of death for Mr Gene Hackman, aged 95 years, is hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, with Alzheimer’s disease as a significant contributory factor,” Heather Jarrell, the chief medical examiner for the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator, told reporters.

“The cause of death for Miss Betsy Hackman, aged 65 years, is hantavirus, pulmonary syndrome. The manner of death is natural.”

Neither body showed any sign of trauma, nor any indication of carbon monoxide poisoning, which had been an initial suggestion.

Hantavirus presents as a flu-like disease, with symptoms including fever, muscle aches, cough, sometimes vomiting and diarrhoea that can progress to shortness of breath and cardiac or heart failure and lung failure, Jarrell



An image of late US actor Gene Hackman is seen on a screen during an ‘in memoriam’ segment at the 97th Annual Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, last Sunday. (AFP)

said. “This occurs after a one- to eight-week exposure to excrement from a particular mouse species that carries hantavirus.” Jarrell said data from Hackman’s pacemaker showed its last activity over a week before his body was found when maintenance workers were unable to access

the couple’s sprawling Santa Fe property.

“Based on this information, it is reasonable to conclude that Mr Hackman probably died around February 18. Based on the circumstances, it is reasonable to conclude that Miss Hackman passed away first, with February 11 being the last time that she was going to be alive,” said Jarrell.

First responders found the door unlocked and open, and pills scattered next to Betsy Hackman’s body, which was in the bathroom.

Gene Hackman’s body was found in another room, fully clothed, with sunglasses nearby, indicating a sudden fall.

Investigators suggested it could be the case that the elder Hackman had not realised his wife was dead in the bathroom, given his advanced age and neurodegenerative disease. “He was in an advanced state of Alzheimer’s, and it’s quite possible that he was not aware that she was deceased,” the medical examiner said.

A Hackman family spokesperson had previously denied reports of his Alzheimer’s disease.

In addition to the deceased couple, a dog was found dead in the bathroom, and two other healthy dogs were at the house.

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GULF TIMES

Trade wars produce more economic drawbacks than advantages

The Trump Administration's tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China took effect on March 4, though some have been temporarily postponed since. Notably, the 25% tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico was subsequently granted a one-month exemption by President Trump of the United States.

China responded swiftly, declaring its readiness for a tariff war or "any other type of war," signalling its intent to retaliate decisively. As the world's second-largest economy braces for countermeasures, global investors are preparing for prolonged economic turbulence marked by market volatility and financial uncertainty.

Some prominent US economists, including Greg Howard, caution that the imposition of these tariffs could provoke retaliatory measures that may ultimately impact American consumers.

Howard noted, "It will be interesting to see how the rest of the world responds. It has been a long time since we have seen trade wars of this scale, but historically, such disputes have led to widespread tariff increases across multiple industries and countries. This will not only affect US consumers but also American producers."

Market trends reflect growing investor concern. Global money market funds recorded a surge in inflows, with investors seeking safer assets in response to the United States' decision to escalate its trade dispute.

Given that the global economy is still recovering from the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is ill-equipped to endure a tariff war at this juncture

According to LSEG Lipper data cited by Reuters, global money market funds attracted \$61.32bn in the week ending March 5, following net purchases of \$39.55bn the previous week.

Conversely, demand for global equity funds declined, reaching a four-week low as they secured only \$2.97bn in inflows.

US equity funds, in particular, experienced significant net outflows of approximately \$9.54bn, while European and Asian funds saw strong inflows of \$5.87bn and \$5.83bn, respectively, during the same period.

Despite the Trump Administration's assertions that tariffs will bolster America's economic position, the reality may prove more complex.

Increased import costs force businesses to either absorb financial losses or pass them on to consumers, potentially driving inflation and reducing household purchasing power.

Higher import costs often get passed on to consumers, increasing inflation in countries around the globe.

Domestic businesses relying on imported materials also face higher costs, reducing profitability.

Nigel Green, CEO of deVere Group, warns: "Tariffs are an act of economic warfare. This aggressive escalation could cause the most severe economic disruption since the global financial crisis, excluding the pandemic.

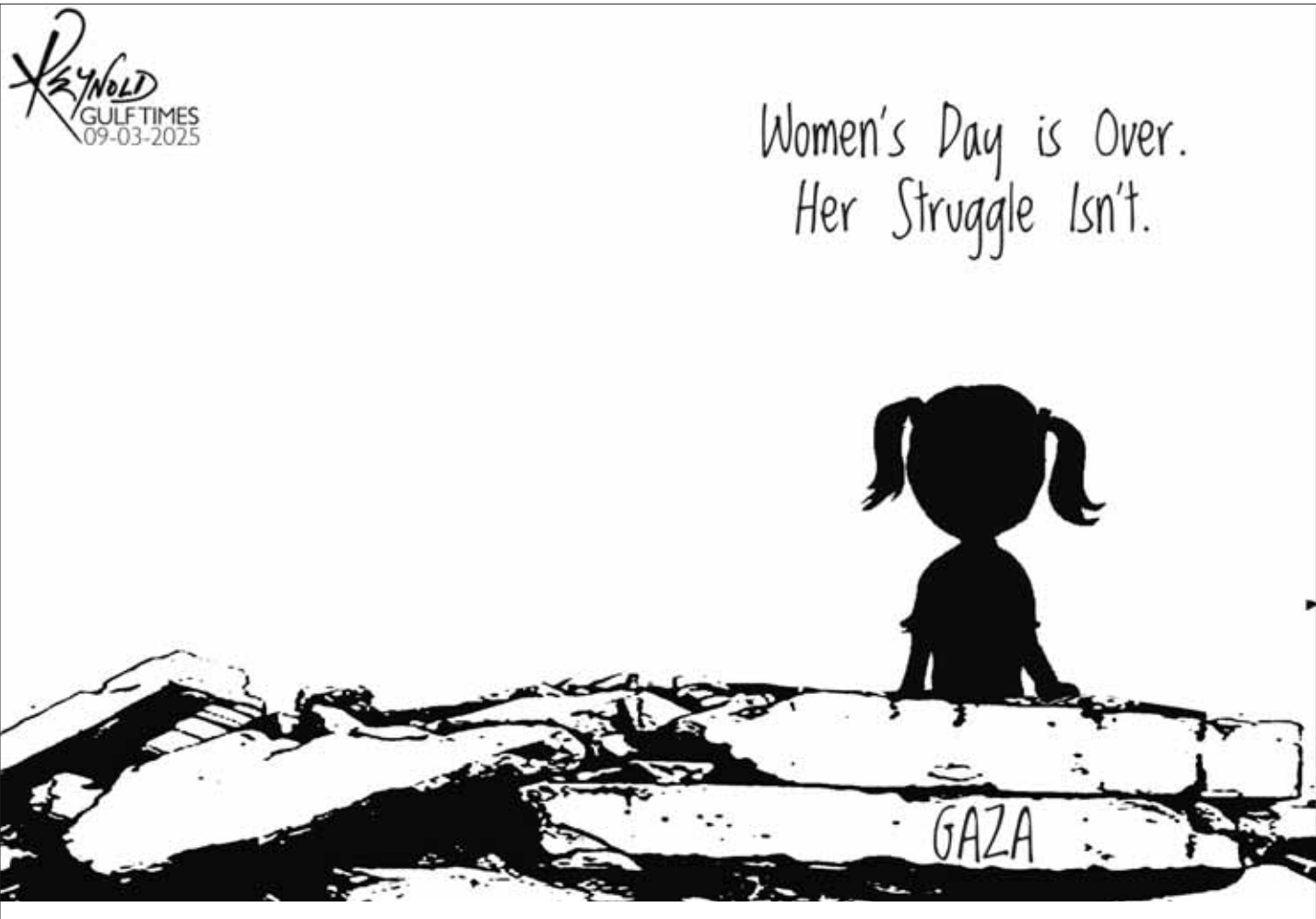
"The fallout extends far beyond tariffs alone, with ripple effects threatening corporate profits, inflation rates, and supply chain stability. Trade barriers of this magnitude are not a pathway to strength; they are self-inflicted wounds that raise costs for businesses, dampen consumer spending, and weaken economic resilience."

Higher tariffs increase the cost of trade, reducing economic activity and slowing global GDP growth.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has repeatedly warned that trade wars reduce business confidence and investment, leading to slower expansion.

Trade wars typically produce more economic drawbacks than advantages. While they may offer temporary protection to certain industries, ultimately they hinder global trade, increase costs, and generate uncertainty that weighs on economic growth.

Given that the global economy is still recovering from the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is ill-equipped to endure a tariff war at this juncture.



Making a better case for foreign aid

By Nilima Gulrajani
London

Foreign aid is being slashed across the Global North, nowhere more so than in the US. Within his first month back in the White House, President Donald Trump dismantled the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and froze foreign aid, calling it wasteful and fraudulent. The United Kingdom recently followed suit, trading off its international-aid budget for higher defence spending.

Advocates of official development assistance (ODA) rightly argue that it saves lives and serves national interests. But that does not change the fact that the system has been haemorrhaging credibility and resources for years and lacks a convincing narrative.

The upcoming UN Conference on Financing for Development, set for mid-2025 in Seville, Spain, will likely reiterate the long-held but rarely met target for high-income countries to spend 0.7% of their gross national income on ODA. What is really needed, however, is an independent commission on the future of the international aid system that can forge a new political consensus on the rationales for foreign aid, while also articulating a vision for the post-aid world many are now demanding. Without an effort to recalibrate and reset foreign aid, the system will face death by a thousand cuts. Its ambition of catalysing sustainable development will be

left unrealised, and an eighty-year international cooperation regime will likely collapse with no robust alternative in its place.

The modern global aid regime has looked brittle since the 2008 financial crisis. But America's withdrawal is a massive blow to a system whose purpose is laid out in Article 55 of the UN Charter: "the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations." The US was the foremost champion of these goals: in his 1949 inaugural address, President Harry Truman called for a "bold new programme" for sending technology and capital to help nations afflicted by poverty, disease, and misery.

By the 1950s, America was actively promoting foreign aid as a universal obligation, both to avoid shouldering the financial burden alone and to find common cause with anti-communist allies. That led, in 1961, to then-US President John F. Kennedy creating USAID. A decade later, nearly all European countries had some kind of aid programme, and being a donor had become synonymous with being a modern, "developed" country.

Even so, spending flagged almost immediately. To reboot donor support, in 1968, the World Bank invited former Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson to lead an independent commission tasked with finding a new rationale for foreign aid. In other words, the Pearson Commission sought a persuasive argument for why affluent countries beset by domestic

challenges should be concerned about the plight of low-income countries.

The question remains relevant today. Even before Trump set his sights on US foreign aid, the rationale for such assistance had become increasingly tenuous. In recent years, Global North countries have directed their aid budgets toward a range of foreign-policy priorities, many of which follow the letter but not the spirit of ODA, as defined by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee. This includes directing development assistance to Ukraine, a middle-income country which in 2023 became the largest-ever recipient of foreign aid, while the share of aid reaching the poorest countries had declined, and hosting refugees at home, which now consumes at least one-quarter of the aid budget in seven countries. With other public-policy priorities gobbling up resources earmarked for development assistance, the OECD's claim that a record amount of foreign aid was spent by donors in 2023 rings hollow.

Meanwhile, foreign aid has become an easy target in high-income countries that face growing fiscal deficits, cost-of-living crises, and new security concerns. Right-leaning governments, in particular, often portray this foreign assistance as inefficient and ineffective. In 2024, seven national governments and the European Union announced \$17.2bn in cuts to ODA to be implemented sometime between 2025 and 2029. Now, the Trump administration has

slashed some \$60bn in foreign assistance, while the UK will shrink its aid budget by roughly £6bn (\$7.6bn) per year. Given that the world's second-largest donor, Germany, spent \$27bn less than the US on foreign aid last year, it will be difficult for any country to fill such a large gap. And the UK's decision suggests that there is little interest in picking up the pieces left by Trump's wrecking ball, likely leaving us at the tipping point of "peak aid."

Many have suggested using this foreign-aid crisis as an opportunity to reduce African dependency on politicised external finance through changes to global trading rules and by lowering the cost of capital, or by building a new co-operation paradigm focused on global public investment.

Yet in his drive to "Make America Great Again," Trump has shown no desire to advance such alternative visions and little understanding of the value of the soft power that USAID spent decades trying to cultivate. This is why the elimination of USAID cannot be described as a normal merger between the diplomatic and development branches of government, as in Canada or the UK, but only as an attack on America's role as global benefactor. This offensive comes with few domestic political consequences but with a high immediate human cost for those reliant on aid-funded goods and services.

America's abrupt inward turn underscores the need to reimagine a global aid system built for a world order that no longer exists. One way to do this is to commission an independent, high-level review of the global aid regime that can articulate a new paradigm that does not rely on the benevolence of any single donor. A Pearson Commission 2.0 could outline several new rationales for international transfers, present alternative financial and policy frameworks, and explore new global institutional arrangements to minimise aid dependency and reduce fragmentation, while still providing for the most vulnerable and helping future generations prosper.

As these massive aid cuts take effect, the risk of contagion is real. Unless the international community undertakes a systematic effort to understand the root causes of the current crisis and explore plausible solutions, countries still investing in ODA may start to worry that they are just rearranging the deck chairs on a sinking aid ship. – Project Syndicate

• Nilima Gulrajani is Principal Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute, where she leads the Donors in a Post-Aid World program, and an associate at Trinity College, University of Toronto.



In his drive to 'Make America Great Again,' US President Donald Trump has shown no desire to advance such alternative visions and little understanding of the value of the soft power that USAID spent decades trying to cultivate, writes the author.

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Why studying at QF allows you to see the big picture

Ghanim al-Kubaisi, a senior student majoring in International Politics at QF partner university Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), shares his experience

As students in Qatar make their university choices, Ghanim al-Kubaisi, a senior student majoring in International Politics at Qatar Foundation (QF) partner university Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), shares his experiences of studying in Education City.

Choosing a university is one of the most significant decisions in a student academic journey. It shapes their perspectives, career aspirations, and overall growth as individuals. In Qatar, students are fortunate to have a unique educational ecosystem that fosters not only academic excellence but also personal development, global awareness, and social responsibility.

Qatar Foundation (QF) is more than just a collection of universities; it is a thriving intellectual hub that offers students the chance to engage with a diverse community of scholars, professionals, and thought leaders. The opportunity to experience a vibrant melting pot of cultures, religions, and backgrounds, and to gain, through diversity, a perspective that one does not need to seek abroad is what makes Qatar Foundation special.

As a Qatari student, I feel privileged to have access to such a diverse educational landscape, further enriched by the exceptional quality of education provided. This truly reflects the remarkable vision and efforts of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, whose leadership has transformed education in Qatar and positioned it as a beacon of knowledge and innovation.

From an early age, I was encouraged to think critically, challenge assumptions, and engage in meaningful dialogue. I always believed I was outspoken and willing to share my opinions; however, QF challenged me to become even more vocal than I ever imagined. The diverse student body at QF, which includes individuals from all over the world, has given me the ability to engage with different cultures, perspectives, and ideas.

A Hub of Intellectual and Cultural Exchange

Qatar Foundation is home to multiple world-renowned universities, each bringing its own academic strengths and research expertise. This unique setup creates an interdisciplinary learning environment where students from different fields of study can interact, collaborate, and learn from one another.

QF serves as a hub for a diverse array of intellectuals and interesting personalities. It attracts artists, politicians, journalists, doctors, engineers, computer scientists, biologists, and many more



Ghanim al-Kubaisi with the Georgetown University in Qatar Dean Safwan M. Masri

people from all walks of life who come together to pursue education from around the world. This dynamic environment fosters innovation, creativity, and a spirit of collaboration that is rarely found elsewhere.

When you bring together such a rich tapestry of people in one space, the conversations that emerge can be truly magical. Whether in classrooms, student lounges, or research labs, QF creates an environment where our unique expertise can come together to create one big picture something that cannot be achieved alone. This collaborative spirit is fascinating and is one of the key reasons why studying at QF is so special.

Beyond academics, the diverse extracurricular activities, cultural events, and student-led initiatives further enrich the student experience. From Model United Nations conferences to debates, hackathons, and art exhibitions, there is always an opportunity to engage in something new and broaden one horizon.

Fostering Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility

One of the core values instilled at QF is the importance of civic engagement and social responsibility. Education is not just about personal achievement it is about using knowledge to make a difference. QF encourages students to participate in community service,

volunteer work, and social initiatives that have a meaningful impact on society.

During my International Baccalaureate (IB) years at Qatar Academy QF school, I had the opportunity to participate in a service trip to Nepal. This experience was transformative. In the classroom, it's one thing to grasp concepts during lectures and note-taking. But diving into the field and experiencing reality firsthand was a completely different experience.

In Nepal, we worked with underprivileged children, providing educational support and engaging in community development projects. Seeing their lives in person, rather than just through photographs, profoundly impacted me and inspired me to share their stories with the world. It was a stark reminder of the disparities that exist globally and the responsibility we have to use our privileges for good.

This experience shaped my perspective on education and social justice. It made me realise that academic knowledge alone is not enough, we need to apply our learning to create tangible solutions. QF nurtures this mindset in its students, encouraging us to think beyond our own lives and consider how we can contribute to the broader society.

Having this opportunity at a young age allowed me to engage in greater civic involvement. At



Ghanim al-Kubaisi with Former president of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė (centre).



An exterior view of Georgetown University in Qatar campus.

QF, students realise the importance of contributing their skills to help those in need. Whether through volunteer work, student-led initiatives, or partnerships with local organisations, the emphasis on social impact is deeply embedded in the educational experience.

Unparalleled Opportunities for Leadership and Professional Development

One of the most remarkable aspects of studying at QF is the access it provides to leadership and professional development opportunities. Students are not just passive learners; they are encouraged to take initiative, develop leadership skills, and engage in real-world experiences that prepare them for their future careers.

One of the greatest opportunities I have had is the Georgetown Leadership Ambassadors Programme. The experiences I have gained through this programme have been incredible. I have met heads of state, including the President of Lithuania, and given tours to various diplomats.

Just recently, I attended a meeting with a Nato representative. These experiences have truly immersed me in the world of diplomacy, offering insights that many people only encounter later in their careers. Engaging in this programme alongside my studies enabled me to contextualise what I am learning, as I am actively involved in real-world diplomatic activities.

While such experiences are often reserved for the professional world, the unique access afforded by QF and GU-Q allowed me to take the lead in a programme I initially knew little about. This has enhanced my confidence, leadership skills, and ability to navigate complex political discussions.

In addition to diplomatic experiences, QF provides students with access to cutting-edge research opportunities, internships, and mentorship programmes that bridge the gap between academia and real-world application. Whether working with leading scholars on policy research, collaborating with industry professionals, or participating in global

conferences, students are constantly exposed to environments that prepare them for impactful careers.

The Key to Success at QF: A Passion for Learning

To be a successful student at QF, one essential quality is a genuine desire to learn and a passion for education. QF is a premier hub for academia, not just in the region but also on a global scale. To truly maximise the resources and opportunities available here, students need to embrace that desire to learn; otherwise, they may not fully benefit from what QF has to offer.

QF is not just about attending classes and earning a degree it is about engaging with knowledge in a meaningful way. Students who thrive here are those who take initiative, seek out challenges, and actively contribute to the academic community. Whether through research, leadership, or community service, there is a strong emphasis on proactive learning and personal development.

Looking Toward the Future

As I near the end of my undergraduate journey, I aspire to be a leader, though I don't have a specific institution or organisation in mind where I want to be employed. My primary goal is to make a meaningful change, whatever that may look like. I feel a strong sense of responsibility to convey my message, not just for my own benefit, but for the youth and future generations as well.

My experiences at QF have equipped me with the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed to make an impact. Whether in policy-making, community development, or diplomacy, I know that the lessons I have learned here will continue to shape my approach to leadership and advocacy.

A Message to My Peers

To my fellow students and future generations at QF, my message is simple: Be aware of biases and different perspectives, and make your own informed decisions. Never simply adopt an opinion presented to you.

The world is complex, and navigating it requires critical thinking, open-mindedness, and the ability to engage with diverse viewpoints. QF provides the perfect environment to develop these skills, but it is up to each of us to take full advantage of it.

Education is a lifelong journey, and studying at QF is just the beginning. By embracing diversity, engaging in civic responsibility, and continuously seeking knowledge, we can all contribute to a more informed, empathetic, and progressive world.



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