

Insurance made simple  Visit [qic.online](http://qic.online) 

**GULF TIMES**  **TUESDAY** Vol. XXXXVI No. 13311  
 March 11, 2025  
 Ramadan 11, 1446 AH  
[www.gulf-times.com](http://www.gulf-times.com) 2 Riyals

Unlock Daily Free Gifts this Ramadan 

**ROBSON** The first Paint product that obtained Qatar Quality Mark

Robshield Topcoat Matt by ROBSON PAINTS  
 Used as Exterior Coat - Matt

[www.npfqatar.com](http://www.npfqatar.com) Tel: 44601602

**BOOKING AVAILABLE**

**IFTAR BUFFET**

**HOT CHICKEN**

30460715 / 44632073

**RAMADAN THOUGHT**

And eat up not one another's property unjustly (in an illegal way), nor give bribery to the rulers (judges before presenting your cases) that you may knowingly eat up a part of the property of others sinfully (Qur'an 2:188)

**Prayer times**

Fajr...4.31; Zuhr...11.44; Asr...3.08; Maghrib...5.44; Isha...7.14

**Fasting times**

Iftar today 5.44pm - Imsak tomorrow 4.20am

**FOR RENT**

**INDUSTRIAL CATERING & FOOD STORAGE**

Ideal for High end catering

- Cloud Kitchen
- Food Storage

(2500 pallet: chiller / freezer / ambient)

Contact: 55601482

**talabat**

Proud to stand with local brands for a thriving Qatari market!

QATARI PRODUCT متوافنا

**selfdrive**

**Ramadan SALE**

**CAR RENTAL**

STARTING FROM **1199** QAR PM

KNOW MORE!

# Amir holds Iftar banquet for scholars



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani hosted, yesterday at Lusail Palace, an Iftar banquet in honour of scholars, judges, clerics, members of the Public Prosecution, and members of education sector on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The banquet was attended by His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, and a number of sheikhs, ministers and senior officials. (QNA)



## Qatar hails deal on SDF integration

Qatar has welcomed the agreement to integrate the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) into the institutions of the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic, deeming the move a critical step toward strengthening civil peace, security, and stability, as well as building a state based on institutions and the rule of law. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that the stability and prosperity of Syria require the state's exclusive control over weapons within a single army that represents all Syrian components, ensuring the preservation of the country's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. The Ministry reiterated Qatar's full support for Syria's sovereignty and the aspirations of the brotherly people of Syria to freedom, development, and prosperity. (QNA)

## Sharaa orders probe into civilian killings

Syria's government yesterday said it had completed a military operation against a nascent insurgency by Bashar al-Assad loyalists, as it faced Western demands for accountability over the reported killing of hundreds of civilians. A war monitor reported hundreds of civilians to have been killed in Alawite villages. President Ahmed al-Sharaa has also announced the establishment of a fact-finding committee into the violence.

# New version of smart EV charging station launched

●1,000 EV charging stations expected by 2030

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), through the TASMU Smart Qatar Programme, and the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa), represented by the National Programme for Conservation and Energy Efficiency (Tarsheed), has launched the second version of the Tarsheed Smart Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Platform. This version, according to an official statement from MCIT, aims to promote the use of electric vehicles and provide smart infrastructure that supports the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030. The new Tarsheed platform introduces several new features such as integrating a Chatbot that provides real-time, 24/7 user support along with a new online portal for service providers, enabling more efficient management of EV charging stations. The Central Management Portal has also been updated to enhance notification management and real-time status monitoring. Assistant Undersecretary of



Digital Industry Affairs at MCIT Reem al-Mansoori said the ministry is proud to partner with Kahramaa in advancing Qatar's leadership in accessible and sustainable transportation enabling the community to have quick and easy access to eco-friendly solutions and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future for our country. "We are committed to connecting people and technology to simplify lives and create a more liveable, sustainable Qatar. Till now, we have successfully brought over 135 EV charging sta-

tions online, and in this second phase, additional user-friendly features have been added, with 1,000 stations expected by 2030. This expansion improves access and empowers users with real-time information at their fingertips making sustainable transportation more convenient than ever," al-Mansoori said. Manager of Conservation and Energy Efficiency Department Rashid al-Rahimi said Kahramaa is pleased to collaborate with MCIT on the significant upgrade to the Tarsheed Smart EV Charging Platform. **To Page 2**

# Amir issues decision reforming National Planning Council

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani

HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani (vice-president)

HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani (President)

**MEMBERS**

- HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- HE Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, Minister of Finance
- HE Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa Al Hassan Al Mohannadi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs
- HE Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai, Minister of Communications and Information Technology
- HE Dr Ali bin Saeed bin Samikh Al Marri, Minister of Labour
- HE Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs
- Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak Al Khalfa, Secretary-General of National Planning Council
- HE Sheikh Faisal Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry
- HE Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater, Minister of Education and Higher Education
- HE Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiya, Minister of Municipality

# Israeli blockade, power cut worsen Gaza conditions

Reuters  
Cairo

Israel's suspension of goods entering Gaza is taking a toll on the Palestinian enclave, with some bakeries closing and food prices rising, while a cut in the electricity supply could deprive people of clean water, Palestinian officials said. The suspension, which Israel said was aimed at pressuring resistance group Hamas in ceasefire talks, applies to food, medicine and fuel imports. The UN Palestinian refugees agency UNRWA said the decision to halt humanitarian aid threatens the lives of civilians exhausted by 17 months of "brutal" war.



A Palestinian family prepares Iftar meal next to the debris of their home in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Most of Gaza's 2.3mn people were dependent on aid, it said. Hamas describes the measure as "collective punishment" and insisted it will not be pushed into making concessions.

## Israeli team heads to Qatar for Gaza talks

Israel's negotiating team left for Qatar yesterday for talks aimed at extending the fragile Gaza ceasefire, AFP reports from Jerusalem. The first phase of the truce deal expired on March 1 with no agreement on subsequent stages that should secure a lasting end to the war. An Israeli official familiar with the negotiations said the country's team had left for Doha. Media reports said the delegation was led by a top official from the domestic security agency Shin Bet.

ment and climate change, the minister of state for energy affairs, the minister of labour, the minister of communications and information technology, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the minister of municipality, the minister of education and higher education, the minister of commerce and industry, and the secretary-general of the National Planning Council.

The decision stipulated that the National Planning Council shall be formed under the presidency of the prime minister, with the deputy prime minister and minister of state for defence affairs as vice-president, and the membership of the minister of finance, the minister of environ-

The president of the National Planning Council may add representatives of other parties concerned to the council's membership.

The decision is effective starting from the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette.

## Al-Misnad meets Yemeni FM

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with the visiting Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Dr Shaya al-Zindani. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the developments in Yemen, as well as other topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**



## PM reiterates Qatar's support for Yemen



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, met yesterday in Doha with Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Dr Shaya al-Zindani. The agenda included bilateral relations and ways to boost them along with the latest developments in Yemen. HE Sheikh Mohammed reiterated Qatar's permanent support for Yemen and its unrelenting support for its people to realise their aspirations of security, stability and development. **(QNA)**

## AlKhater meets president of Turks Abroad



HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met yesterday with President of Turks Abroad and Related Communities of Turkiye, Abdullah Eren. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in the educational and cultural fields. **(QNA)**

## New version of smart EV charging station launched

From Page 1

"This initiative is a testament to our commitment to advancing Qatar's sustainability and digital transformation goals, as Qatar National Vision 2030 outlines. By enhancing the user experience and operational efficiency of the EV charging infrastructure, we are not only supporting the transition to electric vehicles but also contributing to reducing carbon emissions and promoting environmentally responsible practices," he said. The new features introduced in this upgrade will ensure a seamless and efficient charging experience for EV users while providing service providers with the tools they

need to manage and optimise the charging network effectively. We look forward to continuing our efforts in expanding the charging network across Qatar, reinforcing our leadership in sustainable transportation, and supporting the nation's ambitious goals for a greener future."

Najla al-Jaber, in charge of the Road Affairs Department at the Ministry of Transport (MoT) said the ministry is proud to support and accelerate the adoption of sustainable and eco-friendly transportation solutions in Qatar in line with its plans to achieve the Third National Development Strategy to implement the pillars of QNV 2030. "The integration of Tarsheed smart EV charging

platform reflects seamlessly with integrating the latest technologies into the country's sustainable transit system, which is fully consistent with the ministry's strategic plans to develop a modern transportation network that supports national sustainability efforts," he said. Since its launch in December 2023, the platform has connected over 135 charging points across Qatar and recorded more than 3,561 active transactions. The platform has witnessed strong user engagement, and its integration with Kahramaa has also helped optimise national grid management, providing key insights into electricity consumption and charging behaviour.

# Shura Council hails Amir's Arab Summit participation

QNA  
Doha

The Shura Council held yesterday its weekly session, chaired by HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. The session, at the Tamim bin Hamad Hall at the Council's premises, began with the legislature hailing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's participation in the extraordinary Arab Summit on March 4 in Cairo – along with the leaders of the Arab countries.

Noting that the summit came at a very important time to address the latest grave developments of the Palestinian issue, the legislative body said the Amir's participation demonstrated Qatar's firm commitment to defending the brotherly Palestinian people's rights, and its keenness to support Arab and international efforts to stop the aggression on the Gaza Strip and ensure the required support for reconstruction,



alleviating the suffering of Palestinians.

It also appreciated the summit outcomes, which manifested a unified Arab position backing the Palestinian cause, rejecting any transfer or demographic change schemes, and affirming the necessity of a just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

After that, HE the Secretary-General Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud read out the session agenda, and the minutes of the previous session were approved.

During the session, the legislature approved a draft law on supporting innovation and scientific research following a thorough debate on the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee report and referred it to the esteemed government.

Furthermore, the agenda included a debate on the Shura Council's engagement in 36th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), held in Cairo in December 2024. It also approved six requests to extend the work of its standing committees to study the topics referred to them by the Council.

## Alfardan Group launches first sustainability report

Alfardan Group, a name synonymous with luxury and excellence across Qatar and the region, embarks on a new chapter in its legacy of 70 years with the unveiling of its inaugural sustainability report, 'Athar Alfardan 2024'. The report demonstrates Alfardan Group's commitment to sustainability and its progress towards it, aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030. Athar, Alfardan Group's comprehensive, company-wide sustainability strategy, serves as the compass for this journey. Beyond a plan, it's a commitment to tangible results, detailing the progress made by embedding sustainability principles into the group's core business strategies and daily practices across its diverse divisions. Athar translates ESG principles – Environmental, Social, and Governance – into action, aligning with the global roadmap of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Athar's strategy serves to be a regional catalyst for societal and environmental change through

responsible practices, ethical governance, and operational excellence. Covering the period from May 2023 to May 2024, the first group-wide sustainability report demonstrates Alfardan Group's management of ESG risks and opportunities, as well as its progress towards delivering on its sustainability targets across three strategic focus areas: empowering our people, protecting our planet, and fostering strong partnerships. Reflecting on the group's enduring legacy and its evolving commitment to sustainability, Omar Hussain Alfardan, president and CEO of Alfardan Group, said: "Since our establishment, Alfardan Group has been synonymous with excellence and luxury, guided by the core values of trust, distinction, and dedication, as instilled by our founder and chairman, my father, Hussain Ibrahim Alfardan. Today, this commitment extends beyond our businesses and services, embracing a deep responsibility for

the environment and the communities we serve." Dr Ma'n Alhamawi, chairman of the Sustainability Committee and CEO of Alfardan Automotive, emphasised the group's role in sustainability: "From understanding operational efficiencies that will reduce energy, water and waste consumption and expanding our green portfolio across our diversified businesses, to fostering a culture that promotes economic prosperity, environmental benefits and social value, Alfardan Group is proud to actively contribute to the economic and social development of our region and serve as a sustainability benchmark for organisations looking to scale up their efforts." Across its diverse operations, from jewellery and financial services to properties, automotive, marine services, hospitality, healthcare and agriculture, Alfardan Group's dedication to quality and exclusivity has become deeply intertwined with its commitment to sustainability.

Athar  
Driving forward change



"Athar Alfardan 2024," the first sustainability report released by Alfardan Group, marks another step in an ongoing journey toward a more sustainable future in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

## Culture Ministry launches 'Al Razji' event at Darb Al Saai

The headquarters of Darb Al Saai in Umm Salal embraced the event of 'Al Razji', which is set to continue until March 14. Organised by the Ministry of Culture, the event intends to preserve the deeply-rooted Qatari traditions, promote the national identity, and cope with the atmosphere of the holy month of Ramadan. Al Razji includes a combination of areas, namely Al Rumaila and Al Bidda, "Eid Joy" gift distribution zone "Garangao," as well as a section for a plethora of exhibitions and workshops statewide. Abdullah al-Ghanem, the person in-charge of the heritage corridor event, explained that the event showcases various aspects of Qatar's traditional heritage and lifestyle during Ramadan. He highlighted that the corridor features sections spotlighting traditional crafts such as goldsmithing and women's attire, as well as a sound section where visitors can stand at a specific point to listen to traditional songs and chants, including those for occasions like Garangao. **(QNA)**

## Devji Aurum unveils Ruhi Collection 2025 in Doha

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

Devji Aurum, a distinguished name in fine jewellery, is showcasing its Ruhi Collection 2025 at Alfardan Jewellery in Doha, offering a glimpse of modern luxury and timeless heritage.

The unveiling on Sunday marked the second edition of Ruhi Week in Qatar, running until March 13 at Doha Festival City, and celebrates the brand's 75 years of outstanding presence in the region.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the event, brand designer Dev M Sagar highlighted Devji Aurum's appeal and legacy, as well as the collection's craftsmanship and designs.

"One of my grandfather's last wishes is to create something that is completely limited edition, one-of-a-kind, made with precious metals, gemstones, precious pearls, all natural pearls, and the unique touch that we add in each of the designs itself," he said.

The design and creation process for each piece takes 12-18 months, Sagar said, highlighting the extensive research and development involved in ensuring the highest quality and exclusivity.

About the challenge of balancing tradition with contemporary trends, he said that Devji Aurum has always been open to new adaptations, citing how the brand created its designs to cater to a younger generation.

"For example, today, the modern generation likes to layer. We were specialising in bigger pieces ... what we did is we broke down those bigger pieces into smaller ones so that the younger generation can layer up or layer down as per their wardrobe, as for their choice, what they want to wear," Sagar recalled.

He said that they experimented with various new materials and continuously introduced new manufacturing techniques to remain relevant.

He also pointed to the brand's intricate manufacturing processes as a deterrent to copycat designs, ensuring the continued



Dev M Sagar during the unveiling of Ruhi Collection 2025 at Alfardan Jewellery in Doha Festival City.



originality of Devji Aurum creations.

According to Sagar, Qatar was chosen as a key location for Ruhi Week due to the longstanding support from Qatari customers.

"We have received love from Qatar and its people from a very, very long time," he stated.

Sagar said that many patrons visiting their Bahrain and Dubai locations had urged them to open a boutique in Qatar.

He also noted the aligned vision between the Devji family and Hussain Alfardan in continuing a legacy that has resonated for generations, and underscored



Devji Aurum's exceptional craftsmanship and exquisite designs showcased at Alfardan Jewellery in Doha Festival City. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam



the 40-year partnership with Hussain Alfardan and the Alfardan family.

"Even before we had our retail presence over here, we made a lot of limited edition pieces for him, for his collection," Sagar said. "So it's been a long, long time that

started from my grandfather's time, that came to my dad, and now it is between me and Ali (Alfardan) and the whole Alfardan family as well."

Devji Aurum celebrated the opening of its first boutique in Doha last year, a sig-

nificant milestone in its 75-year history, which began in Bahrain and later expanded across the Middle East.

This achievement is the result of a long-standing partnership with the prestigious Alfardan Group.

## QNB hosts Iftar at Qatar Rehabilitation Institute

QNB hosted an Iftar for senior citizens and children at the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC)'s Qatar Rehabilitation Institute to promote solidarity and support a positive environment for them.

The event was organised in collaboration with the HMC.

Every year, QNB's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) team actively engages in initiatives that promote inclusion, care, and support for vulnerable groups.

"At QNB, we believe in the power of coming together and the importance of giving back," said QNB senior executive vice-president (Group Communications) Heba al-Tamimi. "Ramadan is a time of unity and generosity, and we are delighted to share this special occasion with the senior citizens patients and children at Qatar Rehabilitation Institute."

"Through this initiative, we hope to bring a sense of belonging to those in need," she said.

QNB employees interacted with the patients over the Iftar meal, and then distributed gifts to all residents of the institute.

# Ashghal completes work on key streets in Ain Khaled

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced the completion of the development and beautification works of some streets in Ain Khaled, with the aim of regulating traffic flow on the main streets and increasing capacity to accommodate vehicles, in addition to the development of infrastructure services in the area.

Engineer Abdullah Saleh, the project engineer at the Doha City Projects Section at Ashghal, said that the authority is making great efforts to develop internal road networks and linking them with the main road network in all parts of the country.

Ashghal is also upgrading the existing service facilities and infrastructure to meet the requirements of urban and social development in the country.

Saleh noted that Ain Khaled area is witnessing a high population density and active traffic movement.

The project included the development of two main streets, namely Waab Lebareg and Rawdat Al Thekhriya, which serve several residential units and service



and educational facilities, notably Umm Al Seneem Park, Umm Al Seneem Health Centre, Qatar Science and Technology School, and Al Meera Complex.

The implemented works encompassed the construction of two-way roads with a total length of 3km, the construction of two new intersections with light sig-

nals, the provision of 1km long cycling lanes and 5km long pedestrian lanes, in addition to the provision of 437 parking spaces.

Interlock was installed over an area of 65,000sq m, as well as beautification covering an area of 17,000sq m, and planting of 300 trees.

Infrastructure works covered the upgrading of the existing surface water drainage network and the construction of a new network with a total length of 3.5km, as well as the development of 1km of potable water lines.

Protection was also provided for electricity grid lines with a length of 5km, upgrading the street lighting systems by extending 8.5km of light cables and installation of 112 lighting poles.

This is in addition to the extension of telecommunications network lines with a length of 2.5km.

Local materials and manufacturers have been relied upon in most of the project work, in line with Ashghal's support of local manufacturers and Ta'heel initiative launched by the authority in 2017. - QNA

## Qatar National Archives launches 2nd interactive heritage competition

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

The Qatar National Archives has announced the launch of the second edition of the "Bishtakhta Al Dar" interactive competition, which aims to encourage the public to explore Qatar's history and research heritage documents and collectibles.

The competition gives participants the opportunity to win a weekly cash prize of QR2,000 by finding the location of the Bishtakhta and answering the question attached to it with private messages.

Bishtakhta is an old term of non-Arabic origin, which means gramophone.

The Qatar National Archives is inviting the public to access its official accounts to follow the hints that help them find

the location of the Bishtakhta, and then send the correct answer before the weekly draw, which takes place every Sunday at 10pm.

This initiative is an innovative way to enhance interest in national heritage and stimulate research and exploration in an interactive and fun way.

The participant must be a follower of all social media platforms of the Qatar National Archives, and be a citizen or resident of Qatar.

The participant must search for the location of the Bishtakhta through the hints in the competition post, then answer the question inside it with a correct answer.

They must take a clear photo of the location where the Bishtakhta was found, and send the answer in a private message to the Qatar National Archives accounts.

## Education ministry amends Acceleration System terms

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has amended the terms and conditions of the Acceleration System.

Under the new amendments, students of all nationalities who have passed the first round exam with the needed grades will be allowed to sit for the grade skipping test in the second round of the same academic year.

This acceleration system - a provision for gifted students to move to higher grades -

works according to an approved schedule that specifies the permitted grades.

The percentages required for applying for, and passing, the test have been modified as the criteria differs between daytime education students and adult/home education students, as well as between Qatari and non-Qatari students.

The MoEHE added that the promotion rules will not apply to students applying for the Acceleration System test, and that the system does

not include students in the support category (third level).

A student is allowed to apply for the test only once in each academic stage, according to the approved schedule.

A joint team from the MoEHE's Student Evaluation Department and Educational Guidance Department will prepare the test questions centrally.

The dates for applying for acceleration tests will be announced at a later time. - QNA

## Qatar-based study promotes sustainable palm cultivation using organic fertilisers

A Qatar-based study has examined the impact of organic fertilisers on the growth and quality of Qatari palm tree varieties, with that findings aligning with the country's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and reduce environmental impacts.

Researchers from the Ministry of Municipality's Agricultural Research Administration and the Qur'anic Botanic Garden (QBG), a member of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), conducted the study and have published a peer-reviewed study in the *Journal of Horticulture and Forestry* in December 2024.

By comparing organic alternatives such as compost tea, humic acid, and bio-

fertilisers with chemical fertilisers, the research revealed a significant improvement in soil fertility and the overall health of tissue-cultured palm trees when resorting to natural fertilisers.

The study marks a pivotal milestone in advancing sustainable agriculture in Qatar, as it demonstrates how organic fertilisers enhance soil properties and increase nitrogen levels, boosting the productivity of tissue-cultured Qatari palm trees.

Beyond improving agricultural yields, it highlights the role of organic fertilisers in reducing dependency on chemical alternatives, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector in Qatar.



These efforts further support food security and environmental conservation in the country.

"This research marks an important milestone in advancing sustainable agricultural practices in Qatar," said QBG director Fatima Saleh M al-Khulaifi. "By

leveraging organic fertilisers, we can improve soil quality and enhance crop productivity while aligning with the country's environmental goals."

"At the QBG, we are dedicated to implementing innovative scientific approaches that support local environmental sustainability, and this study is a key contribution to our vision of achieving food security and preserving natural resources in Qatar," she said.

"This study is a significant achievement for Qatar's agricultural research sector and underscores the importance of the Ministry of Municipality's cooperation with institutions such as the HBKU and QBG," said Agricultural Re-

search Department director Hamad Saket al-Shammari. "Using organic fertilisers to improve the productivity and growth of tissue-cultured Qatari palm varieties aligns with Qatar's National Vision 2030, particularly in food security and environmental conservation."

The QBG's Plant Conservation Centre conducted the research, focusing on the Qatari palm varieties *Shishi* and *Nebt Saif*, which were cultivated using advanced tissue culture techniques developed by the Tissue Culture Agriculture Department.

A team of six specialists from both institutions collaborated to conduct this study.

## Qatar, WHO discuss Gaza, Syria



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with the visiting Regional Director of the World Health Organisation for the Eastern Mediterranean, Dr Hanan Hassan Balkhy. The meeting discussed the co-operation relations between Qatar and the WHO and developments in the region, particularly in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, Syria, Sudan, and Yemen, alongside several other issues of mutual concern. **(QNA)**



## Graduates of Police Sciences Diploma honoured in ceremony

HE the Minister of Interior, Commander of Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Police Academy Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani attended the graduation ceremony of the first batch of the Police Sciences Diploma on Sunday. A total of 98 graduates completed their training at the Police Institute under the Police Academy. The ceremony, held at the academy's training field, was attended by senior officials, high-ranking officers, guests, and the graduates' families. **(QNA)**



## Transport ministry launches its mobile app 'Darb'

**QNA**  
Doha

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) has launched its application 'Darb' for smartphones and smart devices as part of enhancing accessibility to its digital services anytime, anywhere.

Currently, Darb provides a package of new digital services related to maritime transportation affairs, particularly small crafts transactions. Using Darb now, beneficiaries can register a new small craft, renew a small crafts registration license, modify a small crafts specifications, have a replacement for a lost or

damaged license issued, delete a small craft, have a small crafts ownership sequence certificate issued, apply for a small crafts mortgage service, apply for a small crafts mortgage release service, and modify a small crafts ownership.

Darb has a notification feature that keeps users updated on their applications, in addition to a feature that allows users to request their maritime vessels cards to be sent via Qatar Post. Beneficiaries can visit and apply for those new digital services at their convenience, thereby saving time and effort.

Users can also get in touch with the MoT team directly via the "Contact Us" page, the Helpline 16016, or e-mail info-mot.gov.qa

They can also use the application to reach the MoT's official website where they can view MoT's news and events. Darb will include other MoT's digital services soon.

They relate to seafarers affairs and land transportation licensing.

The launch of both digital services and the application comes within MoT's efforts to modernise the country's transportation sector in a fashion that meets technological advancements. Digitising the services is one of MoT's top priorities.

The MoT, by so doing, is also implementing its plans that aim at improving the services and making them easier, simpler, and available, thereby triggering higher public satisfaction.



## INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
QF-RFQ-808	Social Media Channels Strategy, Management and Coverage for WISH	500.00	N/A	April 14, 2025, 2:00 PM
CO-RFQ-271	Provision for Independent Safety Assessment Services to the Education City Tram on Call-Off basis for 3 years with option to extend for 1 more year	500.00	N/A	April 8, 2025, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-814	Supply of 3 years of Nucleic Acids (DNA, RNA and Protein) Extraction, Purification, Quantification and Normalization Test Reactions with Free of Charge (FOC) Instrument with 3 year Comprehensive Preventive Maintenance to Qatar Foundation-QPHI Qatar Biobank for 3 years on Call-Off basis	1,000.00	100,000.00	April 10, 2025, 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

1) **Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.

**Tender Fee:** Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

**Tender Fee Payment Dates:** Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **March 11 to 17, 2025**.

2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.

3) Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.

- The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
- The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
- The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
- Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

**Note:** All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>

## Cleanup campaign of Rawdat Wadi Al Gharban



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Wildlife Protection Department has carried out an intensive cleanup campaign in Rawdat Wadi Al Gharban in the central region, south of Al Nasraniya. The initiative is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to preserve the natural environment and protect wildlife. A number of ministry employees and volunteers participated in the campaign, which saw various types of waste removed, and the site rehabilitated to ensure its sustainability as a natural habitat for wildlife. Such campaigns aim to raise environmental awareness among the society and encourage positive behaviour to conserve the country's natural resources.

## In brief

### Volkswagen model recalled for faulty engine cover

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Q Auto, has announced the recall of Volkswagen Teramont, 2025 model, as the engine compartment cover may be incorrectly installed, resulting in severe damage or in rare cases a fire.

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

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

The ministry urges all consumers to report any violations or breaches by contacting the Consumer Protection and Combating Commercial Fraud Department, which receives complaints, suggestions, and inquiries through the following communication channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: [info@moci.gov.qa](mailto:info@moci.gov.qa), ministry's accounts on social media: @mociqatar, ministry's Mobile App: MOCIQATAR (available on iOS and Android devices)



### Public Announcement

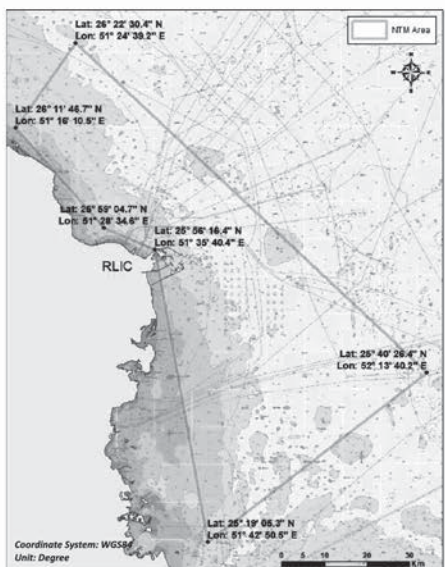
To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners  
Seismic Survey Acquisition by Vessels AOS Glory, Stanford Hawk, GMS Apollo, Voyager Explorer, BGP Innovator and Safa Searcher  
Seismic Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Seafarers Affairs & Registration, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen that QatarEnergy LNG intends to perform Ocean Bottom Node Seismic Survey Works with Vessels AOS Glory, Stanford Hawk, GMS Apollo, Voyager Explorer, BGP Innovator and Safa Searcher in the locations bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.

Point	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	26° 22' 30.4"N	51° 24' 39.2"E
2	25° 40' 26.4"N	52° 13' 40.2"E
3	25° 19' 05.3"N	51° 42' 50.5"E
4	25° 56' 16.4"N	51° 35' 40.4"E
5	25° 59' 04.7"N	51° 28' 34.6"E
6	26° 11' 46.7"N	51° 16' 10.5"E



Any further inquiries should be addressed to: Tel. +974 44531797

## QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/EDU/6929/24 SUPPLY OF BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR AL KHOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (AKIS) ON CALL OFF BASIS	06/03/2025 to 10/03/2025	0	0	17/03/2025

### Scope of Work:

To avail the services of a competent CONTRACTOR to source, procure, consolidate and deliver educational Resources on call-off basis (for the below listed) to cater for both curriculums (British and CBSE) run by Al Khor International School.

- British Curriculum (BC) books
- Library books under BC and CBSE
- Curriculum resources

**Bid Validity:** Bid Offer should be valid for **180** calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

### Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

**Note:** Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local 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 Bid 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 and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/en-US/>

## QIIB names winners of 'Joud' savings draw

QIIB has announced the 10 lucky winners of the monthly prizes for its 'Joud' savings account in the latest draw held at the bank headquarters recently.

The "unique" product offers customers opportunities to win a variety of cash prizes throughout the year, including monthly, quarterly, and annual draws, with a grand prize of QR1mn.

The February prize draw took place in the presence of senior bank officials and a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The winners of the QR10,000 prizes for the February draw are: Eiman Rahman al-Naama, Hamad Mohamed al-Tamimi, Hasanat Mubarak al-Abdulla, Nabil Mohamed al-Khaldi, Mohamad Murhaf al-Dabbagh, Oqla Methqal al-Shamari, Mohammed Ahmed al-Kubaisi, Abdulrahman Ibrahim Ibrahim, Hudaifah Ahmed al-Jayousi and Khalid Ali al-Yafei.

QIIB said, 'Joud' savings account stands out as a competitive product, offering a wide range of benefits to QIIB customers. Among the most attractive features is the chance to win significant cash prizes. "In addition to these opportunities, account holders benefit from quarterly dividends, as well as the flexibility to make deposits and withdrawals based on their needs."

The total number of prizes for the 'Joud' savings account from QIIB is 141 throughout the year. This includes the highly anticipated annual grand prize



of QR1mn, 20 quarterly prizes (five per quarter) each valued at QR50,000, and 120 monthly prizes (10 per month) each worth QR10,000.

Every QIIB customer with a 'Joud' savings account is eligible to participate in these draws.

For every balance of QR10,000 maintained, customers receive an additional entry into the prize draws conducted throughout the year, QIIB noted.

## QC delivers Ramadan food baskets to orphan families in Djibouti

With the support of Qatari people, and as part of its humanitarian efforts to support the neediest families during the holy month of Ramadan, Qatar Charity (QC) distributed 500 food baskets to the families of orphans under its care.

This was part of the Iftar Project under its 'Giving lives on' campaign, launched at the beginning of the current Ramadan season. The distribution, which benefitted 3,000 people, took place in the presence of several officials from the Djiboutian Ministry of Social Affairs.

The aim is to provide basic food necessities to the families supported by QC, helping them prepare Iftar meals daily throughout the holy month and alleviating their living hardships.

The project was lauded by Mahmoud Belh, adviser to the Minister of Social Affairs.

Beneficiaries expressed their immense happiness upon receiving the food baskets, which serve as essential support during this blessed month. They thanked the people of Qatar and the Ministry of Social Affairs for their efforts.

QC's Ramadan campaign for the current season 1446 AH - 2025 AD is being implemented with the support of Qatari people in 40 countries, including Qatar, targeting 4.5mn beneficiaries in need.

Through this campaign, seasonal projects are being carried out, including Iftar meals, Zakat al-Fitr, and Eid clothing, while also gathering support to implement a range of quality development projects. On this occasion, Qatar Charity has called on the generous people of Qatar to continue donating to the campaign and support its projects.



Donations can be made through QC's website: [www.qcharity.org](http://www.qcharity.org) or QC's app: [www.qch.qa/app](http://www.qch.qa/app)

Additionally, donations can be received through the "Home Collector" service via

the QC app [qch.qa/APP](http://qch.qa/APP), or by contacting the Call Center at: 44290000. Zakat payments can also be made at QC branches and its collectors in shopping malls.

## QRCS distributes Ramadan Iftar parcels to thousands of families



During the first 10 days of Ramadan, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) worked on international Ramadan Iftar projects, through its foreign representation offices/missions and in co-operation with fellow National Societies in the host countries, as part of the Ramadan Campaign #FruitfulGiving 2025/1446 AH.

QRCS office in Gaza is implementing Ramadan Iftar project, which involves distribution of 15,300 food parcels, and distribution of 227,367 hot meals, a statement said yesterday.

In Yemen, the QRCS office is distributing 7,476 food parcels to 52,332 beneficiaries in the governorates of Taiz, Aden, Al-Hudaydah, Raymah, Lahij, and Al-Mahrah, at a total cost of \$458,656.

Engineer Ahmed Hassan al-Sharaji, head of QRCS office in Yemen, said: "As usual every year since 2015, we are delivering the Ramadan aid donated by the benevolent people of Qatar. These parcels are a great help for vulnerable and poor families, widows, and orphans during the holy month of Ramadan, amid the current difficult living conditions."

In partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent Society, QRCS completed the distribution of Ramadan food parcels in Afghanistan, for the benefit of 850 families in Tarinkot district (Uruzgan) and Khuram Wa Sarbagh district (Samangan), at a total cost of \$123,456.

In Somalia, the Ramadan Iftar project was launched in the presence of Qatar's ambassador Dr Abdullah bin Salem al-Nuaimi, with a target of 1,861 food parcels to be distributed to 11,166 people in the outlying camps of Mogadishu (Banadir) and the camps of Baidoa (South-West), the two main destinations of the internally displaced people affected by drought and armed conflict. The project is to the value of \$185,185.

As part of Ramadan Iftar project in Bangladesh, 1,039 Ramadan food parcels have been distributed so far at Camp#13 in Cox's Bazar.

In co-operation with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, the distributions will continue over the coming days for a total of 10,100 refugee families at Camps#13 and 19, in addition to 6,350 local poor families in different districts.

Earlier this month, QRCS office in Jordan began the distribution of 1,233 food coupons to 6,165 recipient families, in co-operation with Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

Other food parcels were distributed to 400 families, or 2,400 people, in N'Djamena, Chad, as well as 351 families, or 2,106 people, in 10 remote areas of Djibouti, in co-operation with the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti.

QRCS office in Lebanon is distributing Ramadan food parcels to 11,700 Syrian refugees and Lebanese locals in the poorest parts of the country, with 1,170 food parcels distributed so far in Sidon and neighbouring areas of southern Lebanon.

The benevolent donors of Qatar still have time to support QRCS' international Ramadan projects via the website ([www.qrcs.qa](http://www.qrcs.qa)); mobile app (QRCS); call centre (44027777); donor service (66666364); home donation collection (33998898); SMS with the code "1" to 92216 (QR100), 92552 (QR250), 92869 (QR350), 92092 (QR500), and 92246 (QR1,000); or bank transfer as follows: QIB (IBAN: QAS1QISB00000000110575190014), QIB (IBAN: QA66QIB00000000111126666003), Al-Rayan Bank (IBAN: QA18MA-FR00000000011199980003), QNB (IBAN: QA21QN-BA000000000850020196062), or Dukhan Bank (IBAN: QA37BRWA000000000200000094340).

## Avoid speeding, reckless driving ahead of Iftar: MoI

Avoid speeding and reckless driving ahead of Iftar and follow the directed speed limits while driving, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has urged.

"If it's close to Iftar or Suhoor, refrain from any distractions while driving, including eating or drinking. It is advisable to pull over to a designated waiting area to consume food and beverages and then continue your journey safely," MoI explained in its Ramadan safety advisory.

Pedestrians should ensure the roadway is entirely clear on both sides before crossing, particularly during busy hours and to cross only at marked crossing zones. "Refrain from allowing children to play on the internal roads of residential neighbourhoods, particularly at night, to protect them from traffic accidents. Instead, let them play only in designated play areas. "Avoid driving if you feel fa-

tigued, tired or dizzy as these conditions can result in diminished focus and attention while driving. If you have health issues that necessitate rest, medication, or stimulants impacting your concentration or inducing relaxation, please avoid driving to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you," the guidelines added.

MoI also issued a set of guidelines to ensure fire safety during Ramadan asking the public to ensure there is a proper fire extinguisher in the house.

"Don't leave the match until it is completely extinguished. Don't leave the children in the kitchen or nearby hot and burning materials or electrical power sources. Don't wear flowing dresses or nylon mixed wear in the kitchen to avoid catching fire," the advisory said.


When a fire breaks out in the oil pan, avoid pouring water into the pan as it will ignite the fire.

Cover the burning pan by placing the nearest thick lid on the pan or cover it with a fire blanket.

"When fire breaks out in the trash bin, cover the burning trash bin immediately with a damp cloth to prevent oxygen from igniting the fire. When you smell gas odour, immediately open all doors and windows to reduce the concentration of leaked gas.

"Don't use a burning matchstick near a gas cylinder to locate the place of leakage and avoid switching on the lights and exhaust fan for ventilation, as they may serve as points of ignition to the highly inflammable gas and an electric spark from the switches of a light or a fan is sufficient to ignite the leaked gas."

The advisory also urged to make sure to put the gas cylinders in a cool and open place to get it under control easily when necessary and to not expose it to the sun.



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](mailto:hiaetc@hiaproject.gov.qa)

# Ramadan Offers

From 15/1 To 15/4/2025



رمضان مبارك  
Ramadan Mubarak

Lease to own cars **0%** Downpayment  
Grace Period 3 Months



1.5 Turbo

1.5 Turbo

1.6 Turbo  
7 Seats

Engine 1.5

Engine 1.5

TIGGO 7 PRO MAX

OMODA

TIGGO 8 PRO

TIGGO 4 PRO

ARRIZO 5

Cash  
**59,900** Q.R.  
1,400 Monthly

Cash  
**69,900** Q.R.  
1,700 Monthly

Cash  
**79,900** Q.R.  
2,000 Monthly

Cash  
**49,900** Q.R.  
1,200 Monthly

Cash  
**39,900** Q.R.  
999 Monthly

In cooperation with



\* Terms and conditions apply

77039936 - 66793039 - 77757494 - 31182151

Shop with Confidence  
16001  
48/1/2025

## Illuminate your Ramadan with Kia.

Choices abound with our comprehensive offer!



### IN-HOUSE FINANCE

0% Interest Rate on the 1st year  
Free full insurance for the 1st year  
Free lube Services for 2-years / 40,000km  
(whichever comes first)  
Free Registration on the 1st year

OR

### CASH

Free Full Insurance on the first 3 years  
Free lube Services for 3-years / 60,000km  
(whichever comes first)  
Free Registration on the 1st year

Trade-in your old car for better value!

- 5-year / 100,000km. Manufacturer Warranty
- The offer is valid until March 31, 2025



Offer valid for retail customers only. | Financing deals are subject to approval.

Shop with Confidence  
16001  
License number: 2025 / 2696

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS IN QATAR



**BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)**  
Art History

**BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)**  
Graphic Design  
Interior Design  
Kinetic Imaging  
Painting + Printmaking

**MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)**  
Design

**vcuarts**  
QATAR

[www.qatar.vcu.edu](http://www.qatar.vcu.edu)



Every great business starts with a conversation.

Bring your ideas to the table, and let us help you turn them into opportunities. Whether you're in automotive, services, or tech, publishing your ad here ensures you're seen by the right audience.

Let's start the conversation. Publish your ad now.

Contact us on [gtadv@gulf-times.com](mailto:gtadv@gulf-times.com) or 444 666 21

Wagh Bakri Tea - India's Most Trusted Tea Brand  
**SERVING THE FINEST QUALITY TEAS SINCE 100 YEARS**  
**WAGH BAKRI** Tea Group



AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STORES



Imported & Distributed by: **AL MAYA INTERNATIONAL W.L.L.**

P.O. Box 37366, Doha, Qatar. Tel: +974 4441 6441 - Email: [almaya@almayaqatar.com.qa](mailto:almaya@almayaqatar.com.qa)

# HORIZONS CALLING



## JEEP® GRAND CHEROKEE

STARTING FROM **179,999 QAR**

### COMPETITIVE IN HOUSE FINANCE SCHEME

5 YEARS/100,000KM  
SERVICE PACKAGE | WARRANTY | ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

THIS OFFER IS VALID FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025

**Jeep**

المتحدة للسيارات - المانع ذ.م.م.  
**United Cars - Almana W.L.L.**

BOOK A TEST DRIVE



Shop with Confidence  
16001  
License number 3119/2024

Jeep Qatar

Jeep.qatar

jeep\_qatar

ucalmana

unitedcarsalmana

HOTLINE 800 7552

## Al-Misnad meets Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with Head of Muslim Scholars and Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina Dr Husein Kavazovic. The meeting discussed relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them, along with a number of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)

## Public Prosecution holds seminar on 'Criminal Justice in Islam'



The Public Prosecution's Criminal Studies Institute organised a seminar on 'Criminal Justice in Islam', on the occasion of the advent of Ramadan.

Presented by Sheikh Shaqr Juma al-Shahwani, the seminar addressed several key topics related to Islamic terms concerning justice, the importance of justice and its close connection to Islamic, linguistic, and legal sciences, and the principles of Islamic

law and legal foundations, in addition to the concept of prosecution in Islam. This seminar is part of a series of events organised by the Criminal Studies Institute aimed at enhancing the Public Prosecution members' legal culture and knowledge of Islam, deepening their understanding of the principles governing Criminal Justice in Islam and promoting the application of justice within the frameworks of both Islamic law and legal regulations. (QNA)

## Ramadan talk show stresses families' role in building tight-knit communities

The second episode of the Ramadan talk show 'Wa Amenhum mein Khawf' (secure them from fear), organised by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs and represented by the Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance, discussed the role of families in building tight-knit communities.

The episode highlighted the foremost factors of successful families, along with the most significant errors to which spouses are prone, potentially exerting a detrimental impact upon their conjugal life.

Moderated by Dr Yahya Butti al-Nuaimi at the Imam Muhammad ibn Abd Al Wahhab Mosque in Doha, the episode, entitled "Muslim families are the cornerstone of sound societies", deliberated on the most significant merits that endure sound families and make them incubators of compassion and mercy.

It also tackled other behaviours pursued by some families that have caused the surge in divorce rates due to pursuing weird mores and behaviours in the community.

The ministry's preacher, His Eminence Dr Mohammad al-Mahmoud, underscored the importance of carefully addressing family matters to rectify the errors and to urge those who pursue decent traits and virtues to maintain these tenets, stressing that families are the bedrock of the community, as when it thrives in righteousness, society prospers accordingly.

Conversely, when the family unit becomes corrupted, it will have domino effects within society, ultimately resulting in the proliferation of moral decay, Dr al-Mahmoud highlighted.

Citing the Prophetic Hadiths in this regard, he emphasised that families must be founded upon religion, and once this foundation is secured, all subsequent matters will be sound.

He affirmed the principle of "qiwamah", the guardianship and



responsibility of men over women as ordained in Islam, stressing that any disruption of this divinely prescribed order leads to serious disorder. He stressed the necessity of granting each authority its rightful jurisdiction and responsibilities.

For his part, Professor at the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University, Dr Abdul Salam al-Majidi, highlighted the models of successful families based on verses from the Holy Qur'an.

He addressed family life between husband and wife, recalling the story of Adam and Eve, indicating that it is the man who bears the burden, just as he is the one to take the lead in the distribution of benefits.

Dr al-Majidi cited the model of the successful family, that of Prophet Abraham, in which the ideals of a prosperous family are fully exemplified.

Member of the Association of Muslim Scholars in Algeria, Dr Abdul Razzaq Qassoum, said that the culture of families is the core determinant of their configuration, emphasising that these determinants create the foundations that imbue the family with a sense of social, cultural and civilisational belonging.

Religious doctrine is situated within the context of these core precepts and determinants, serv-

ing to forge a robust relationship between humans and the element of faith, Dr Qassoum highlighted, noting that these two parallel trajectories culminate in a harmonious integration, ultimately striving towards the creation of a more enlightened and cohesive human society.

He explained that the Muslim family is significantly founded upon the husband, the wife, and the children, underlining that a fundamental support and guarantor of the Muslim family is the marriage contract.

He further noted that, in contemporary society, the Muslim family faces distorted ideologies, notions, and terminologies that have permeated human society, adversely impacting the development of the individual.

The thinker and academic at the Morocco Education and Training Centre, Dr Al-Bashir Essam al-Marrakchi, asserted that correct religious discourse maintains families from disintegration, as both men and women have their respective roles and responsibilities.

He emphasised that it is imperative for both men and women to remain within the bounds of their distinct characteristics, noting that families are not solely based on love, as commonly perceived by youth, but are grounded in affection and respect. (QNA)

## CView Residence- where luxury meets a charming view

**Seize the golden opportunity to own luxury living in Lusail—stunning, ready-to-move-in apartments await!**

**Modern designs and spacious spaces to suit all tastes - The project offers secure parking and concierge service**

**Upscale services include a luxurious swimming pool and a fully equipped gym**



Imagine starting your day with an attractive sea view of the waters of the Arabian Gulf, immersed in sound painting with unparalleled tranquility. From there, find yourself in the heart of luxury and elegance, walking distance from the iconic Place Vendôme Mall and the Waldorf Astoria Lusail Hotel to set.

CView Residence is not just a residential project, but rather an individual investment opportunity and luxurious living. FGREALTY, now in real estate, also provides you with the exclusive ownership opportunity in this distinctive project.

### • Why choose Cview Residence ?

A strategic location with an amazing sea view of the Arabian Gulf.

- Modern designs and spacious spaces to suit all tastes (one, two, and three bedrooms).

- High-end services include a luxurious swimming pool, a fully equipped gym, secure parking, and a concierge service.

- A profitable investment opportunity with a high rental return, whether for short or long-term rental.

- Down payment options also available.

- Flexible payment plans - Own your luxury unit with a downpayment starting from QR 600,000.

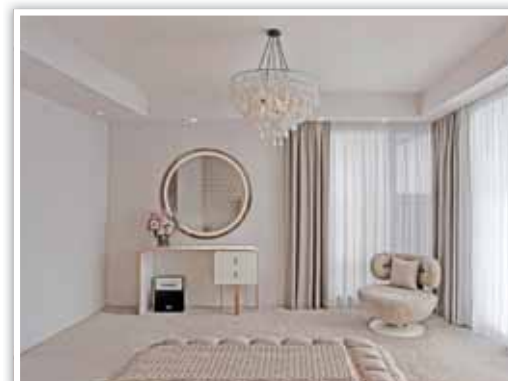
Visit us at the CView Residence booth at Place Vendome Mall or contact FGREALTY to discover more about exclusive offers and flexible payment plans

**Reserve your unit now and make the dream of luxury housing a reality**

### FGREALTY is the luxury real estate portal in Qatar

FGREALTY redefines luxury living in Qatar. As a premier real estate agency, FGREALTY specializes in offering the finest properties across the country. From luxurious villas to high-end apartments, we provide our clients with unparalleled service, guiding them to find their dream homes. Our expertise is in commercial, residential and industrial.

Founded on the principles of excellence, trust, and innovation, FGREALTY has quickly established itself as a leader in the Qatari real estate market. With a dedicated team of over 60 agents and a cutting-edge technological infrastructure, we are committed to exceeding client expectations and setting new benchmarks in the industry.





## Faith Connexion, TheArsenale launches 'Runway on the Rail'

Faith Connexion and TheArsenale unveiled the inaugural Faith Active Collaboration Collection at the "Runway on the Rail" fashion show in Doha's Design District recently.

The event was attended by Westbrook Racing, the E1 World Championship team founded by Hollywood icon Will Smith with the Westbrook E1 Racing Team, creating a powerful synergy between speed and style.

Designed by Marcela Meignan in collaboration with Maria Buccellati, president of Faith Connexion, the Faith Active Collaboration Collection draws

inspiration from the aesthetics and adrenaline of racing culture.

The lineup features a dynamic mix of technical fabrics, aerodynamic silhouettes, and race-inspired details.

Adding depth to this collaboration is a special capsule with Qatari brand TRZI, founded by designer Amna Ahmed al-Misned. This partnership introduces pieces inspired by traditional Abayas, Sheilas, scarves, and ponchos, honouring Middle Eastern tradition while pushing fashion forward. Also joining this creative alliance is Sidi, the Italian brand revered for its high-performance racing boots.



From the launch event.

"This event is more than a fashion show; it is a creative revolution," stated Maria Buccellati. "By merging the thrill of motorsport with high fashion, we're redefining the boundaries of luxury streetwear. The collaboration with TheArsenale and the support from Westbrook Racing and Will Smith have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life."

"We wanted to create a collection that incorporates Middle Eastern culture by designing pieces that are bold and expressive while respecting cultural protocols," added Marcela Meignan.

## QCS launches 'Trail of Wellness'

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote health awareness in the society, Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) is launching a new sustainable programme titled 'Trail of Wellness' on its social media platforms from the holy month of Ramadan.

The programme aims to provide health tips to followers, focusing on proper nutrition, exercise, and disease prevention.

Batool Ibrahim, a nutritionist at QCS said: "Trail of Wellness' consists of a series of episodes filmed in various locations, including shopping centres, to help reach a broader audience. The programme encourages individuals to adopt a healthy lifestyle by providing practical and direct solutions that they can easily apply in their daily lives."

"The programme acts as an interactive platform with the community, featuring surveys and open-ended questions posed to the public in various public spaces. Its goal is to assess the community's awareness and understanding of nutritional guidelines, while also identifying the obstacles individuals



may face in adopting a healthy lifestyle.

"Additionally, it provides an opportunity to clarify any misconceptions, ensuring the delivery of clearer and more accurate health messages," she noted.

Batool added, "Through 'Trail of Wellness' we aim to motivate the Qatari community to take positive steps towards improving their health, believing that knowledge is power, and spreading accurate information can help

individuals make better health decisions and promote a healthy lifestyle that contributes to disease prevention, especially cancer."

The 'Trail of Wellness' programme covers several key topics, including proper nutrition, foods that improve cognitive function, foods that help in the prevention of breast cancer, the importance of soy products in the diet, and their potential impact on disease prevention, among other topics.

## AlRayan Bank supports Qatar Autism Society

AlRayan Bank has made a significant donation to the Qatar Autism Society, reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility and inclusivity.

The initiative is part of AlRayan Bank's comprehensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy during the holy month, reflecting the bank's dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals with autism and their families in Qatar.

Ramadan is a time that embodies giving, solidarity, and supporting those in need, values that are deeply rooted in Islamic teachings. It is also a month of generosity, compassion, and community support.

Through this contribution, AlRayan Bank underscores its belief in the transformative power of generosity, ensuring that support reaches the communities that need it most.

The support was presented by Nawaf Talfat, assistant general manager, Business Relations, in the presence of Sheikha Jawaher Fahad Jassim Jabor al-Thani, chairman of Qatar Autism Society.

Eman al-Naemi, assistant general manager, Corporate Communications at AlRayan Bank,



said: "Ramadan is a time for reflection, generosity, and uplifting those in need. At AlRayan Bank, we embrace this sacred month by extending our support to meaningful causes that align with our values."

"Our contribution to the Qatar Autism Society reflects our commitment to fostering an inclusive society where every individual has access to the care and support they deserve. True prosperity is measured not only in financial success but in the

positive impact we create for our communities."

As a responsible financial institution, AlRayan Bank recognises that CSR is a fundamental part of its mission, extending beyond banking to foster social welfare, inclusivity, and sustainable community development. The bank firmly believes that CSR initiatives play a vital role in strengthening social bonds and reinforcing its role as an engaged and responsible corporate citizen.

## Katara Ramadan Beach Volleyball Championship to conclude on March 17



Katara Ramadan Beach Volleyball Championship 2025 is set to go on until March 17. On March 13, the final round of preliminary matches will be held, followed by a rest day on March 14 in preparation for the semi-finals on March 15, where the top teams from both groups will compete. Then, on March 17, the third-place match will be played, followed by the grand final to crown the tournament champion.

## Old Doha Port's Ekbes Volleyball Tournament reaches full swing

The 3rd Ekbes Beach Volleyball Tournament 2025 continued at the Old Doha Port and reached full swing. Dedicated to the holy month of Ramadan, the event will run until March 14.

The tournament featured many triumphs by the participating teams, with the Police College team triumphing over Mareikh with a 2-1 victory, registering scores of (21-15, 15-21, 15-21), while Marqab defeated Al Wakrah in straight sets, with scores of (21-14, 21-15).

The teams had a rest yesterday, with the competitions resuming today in preparation for the second phase of the tournament. They will engage in decisive confrontations in the lead-up to the semifinal slated for tomorrow, after which they will have a rest on Thursday to prepare for the final game on Friday, March 14.

Chairman of the Championship Organising Committee, Faisal Khalid al-Otaibi, lauded the role the Old Doha Port plays in organising this tournament.

He affirmed that removing all hiccups and challenges by the Old Doha Port made the tournament a landmark in the tournament's history, including all Ramadan championships.

Al-Otaibi urged all Qatari community members to attend this event and enjoy the spellbinding Ramadan atmosphere and the accompanying events.

The organising committee has allocated financial rewards valued at QR100,000 for the winners of the first three places as part of encouraging the teams to participate, with the champion receiving QR50,000 in cash, QR30,000 going to the runner-up, and QR20,000 for the third-place finisher. (QNA)

## Swords of the Arabs on Qatar TV soon

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

Qatar TV is preparing to air the series *Swords of the Arabs* soon. It is one of the largest historical series presented by the Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), due to the dramatic treatment it provides for the pre-Islamic era and beyond, until the beginning of the Umayyad era.

The work sheds light on a time period full of events, which makes it the focus of attention for lovers of historical drama in the Arab world.

The series is distinguished by its huge production and decorations that reflect the authenticity of the time period it deals with, in addition to exciting battle scenes and advanced visual effects. It also relies on a strong scenario that highlights the social and political complexities of that period, which makes it an ideal choice for lovers of historical drama.

In an attractive framework, the



Swords of the Arabs series poster

a period extending from before Islam in the pre-Islamic era until the beginning of the Umayyad Caliphate. It tells stories about important historical figures and presents topics such as wars, battles, poetry, literature, customs, traditions, and values that were prevalent in that period.

In the context of the events of the series *Swords of the Arabs*, it will present a contemporary vision of these events and draw lessons from them that suit our reality today.

The series is a collective writing under the supervision of the author Dr Muhammad al-Batoutah, and directed by Samer Jabr with the participation of a group of Arab drama stars, including more than 80 actors from various Arab countries also participating in this work.

The series is distinguished by its innovative production and directing, which made the work different from other dramas. In addition to the group of actors participating in it, it mixes drama and documentary to be a new experience for the Arab viewer.

## Qatar Airways launches additional flights

Qatar Airways is enhancing connectivity with additional flights to key destinations around the world, a statement said.

Qatar Airways chief commercial officer Thierry Antinori said: "The new additions further reflect our commitment to fostering worldwide connectivity and elevating passengers' travel experience with our award-winning hub, Hamad International Airport."

The national carrier will provide increased to the following destinations: Amsterdam - increased from seven weekly flights to 11; Damascus - increased from three weekly flights to 14; Dar Es Salaam-Kilimanjaro - increased from three weekly flights to seven; Entebbe - increased from seven weekly flights to 11.

Larnaca - increased from seven weekly flights to 10; London Heathrow - increased from 49



weekly flights to 56; Madrid - increased from 14 weekly flights to 17 (bringing the jointly operated flights between Qatar Airways and Iberia from 21 weekly flights to 24).

Maputo-Durban - increased from five weekly flights to seven; Sharjah - increased from 21 weekly flights to 35; Tokyo Narita - increased from 11 weekly flights to 14; Tunis - increased from 10 weekly flights to 12.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, NICOLE CASSANDRA BELTRAN

holder of

PHILIPPINE Passport No. P2233566C  
QID No. 30460800498

hereby change my name

from

NICOLE CASSANDRA BELTRAN

to

NICOLE CASSANDRA TORRENTE BELTRAN

Any objection, please contact  
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SHIRLEY DE SALES

holder of

INDIA Passport No. C6799940  
QID No. 26435605624

hereby change my name

from

SHIRLEY DE SALES

to

SHIRLEY DE SALES

Any objection, please contact  
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



**CHAIRMAN**

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

**Deputy Managing Editor**

K T Chacko

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
- ☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)
- ☎ 44350474
- 📘 facebook.com/gulftimes
- 🐦 twitter.com/gulftimes\_Qatar
- 📷 instagram.com/gulftimes
- 📺 youtube.com/GulftimesVideos



## Germany's climate activists on edge as parties eye agenda

Climate activists fear the worst when Germany's conservatives and Social Democrats begin to thrash out a joint climate policy for their future coalition government.

A country once seen as a beacon of progressive climate policy is poised for a significant reset, with the conservatives – having in part blamed Germany's ambitious green goals for chronic economic weakness – keen to roll back targets and policies amid rising voter apathy on climate.

As Europe's largest emitter of CO2 but also Europe's biggest generator of renewable energy, Germany's future stance on climate issues will be even more critical after the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and with the European Union under pressure from some members to ease regulations and goals.

"If there was ever a time to panic about climate and politics, now would be it," Luisa Neubauer, a prominent German climate activist with Fridays for Future, told Reuters. Since winning February's election, the CDU has affirmed its commitment to Germany's overarching 2045 target of being climate neutral but emphasises a "pragmatic approach that supports the economy, industry, and public acceptance", according to Andreas Jung, the conservatives' climate policy spokesperson.

The party wants to abolish a future ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars, end restrictions on the use of cars, reverse a law phasing out fossil fuel heating, and reintroduce diesel subsidies in agriculture.

How strongly the SPD will defend its green election pledges – to stick to national and EU targets, invest in green infrastructure and renewables, and focus on affordable climate protection – in coalition talks is key, climate activists say.

### Germany must annually invest about 3% of its GDP in climate protection measures

Nina Scheer, an SPD climate spokeswoman, told Reuters it would be important to develop a common understanding with the conservatives on an accelerated and systematic transition to renewable energies. But that could be tricky.

The SPD has been significantly weakened and came in third place in the election, with just 16.4% of the vote, its worst ever result.

"The SPD is not a traditional climate policy party like the Greens, so we shouldn't expect them to push this issue as strongly," said Stefan Marschall, political scientist at the University of Duesseldorf.

Greenhouse gas emissions in Germany fell by 12.5% under the three-party "traffic light" coalition of the SPD, Greens, and Free Democrats, thanks to a renewable energy push and a drop in industrial production. But emissions cuts in sectors such as transport and building – 38% of Germany's 2024 total emissions – have stalled.

Expanding net-zero policies to these sectors has faced growing resistance in Germany and Europe, amid a cost-of-living crisis that has shifted climate protection lower on German voters' priorities in the February election.

Only 12.8% of Germans saw climate protection as the most important issue in this election, down from 24.4% in 2021, a study by IW Koeln economic institute showed.

Environmental and expert groups say Germany is not expected to meet the 2045 target as things stand. The Green Party, heading for opposition, still wields some influence, after threatening to tie its support for a new conservative-SPD financial package to the inclusion of some climate investment commitments within that plan.

Germany cannot unilaterally reverse EU laws, but its influence is strong. The centre-right European People's Party (EPP), the largest group at the European parliament and which includes Germany's conservatives, launched a campaign in December to weaken the bloc's climate rules.

At a recent EPP retreat in Berlin, conservative leader and Germany's likely next chancellor Friedrich Merz signed a declaration calling on the EU to abandon its renewable energy goals, a step backed by industry.

"If Germany is not standing by the Green Deal, the Green Deal is gone," said German Green MEP Michael Bloss, referring to the EU's target.

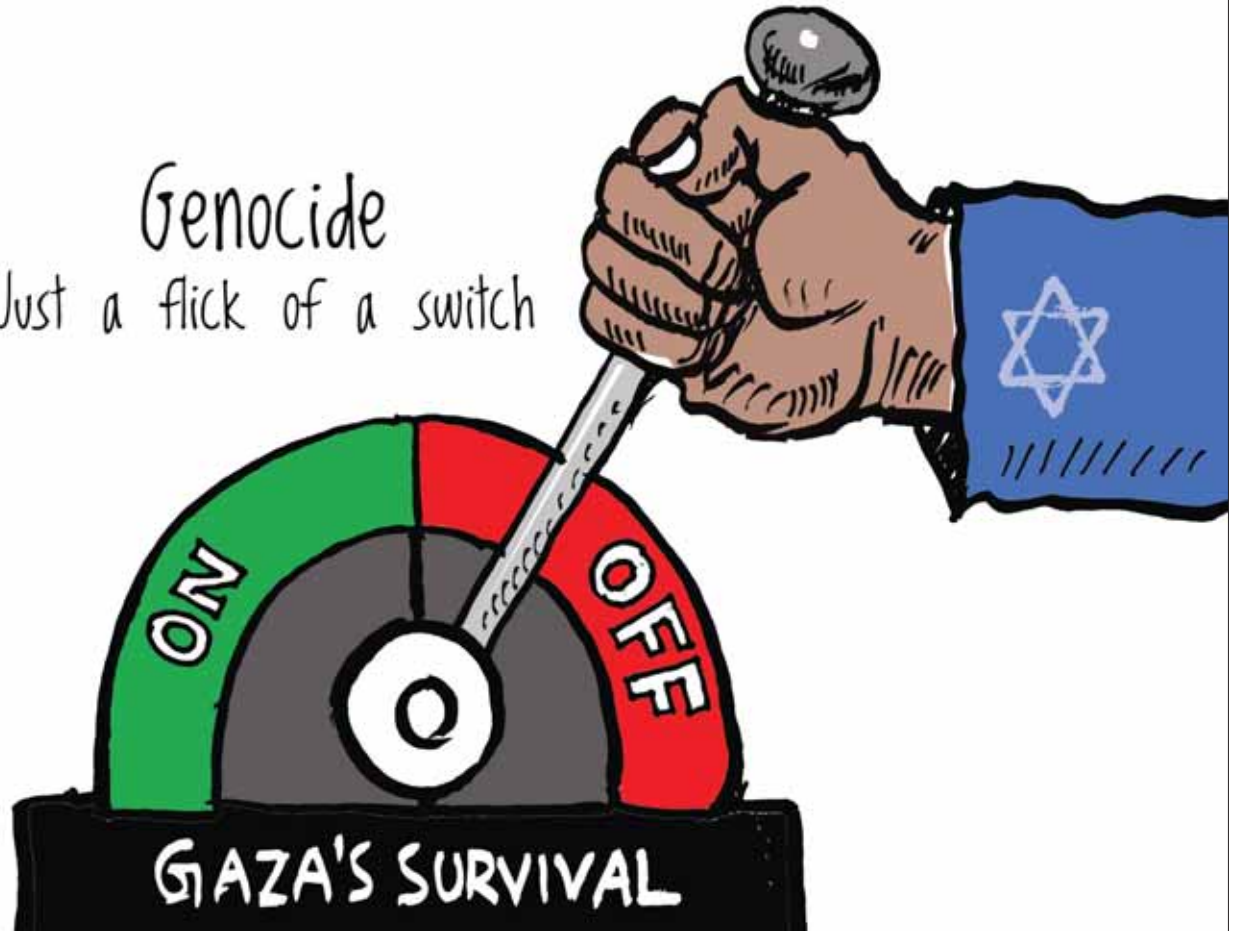
The conservatives' climate policy relies heavily on CO2 pricing as a mechanism to cut emissions and fund investment.

"We are focusing on three pillars: gradual CO2 pricing with social compensation, reliable subsidies, and a strategy of enabling rather than excessive regulation," CDU's Jung said. The European emissions trading system (ETS), extending to the transport and buildings sectors from 2027, is expected to increase prices and make heating or powering vehicles with fossil fuels less appealing. But if prices rise too much that creates a crisis of affordability.

Germany must annually invest about 3% of its GDP in climate protection measures like power grid upgrades, industry electrification and public transport expansion, to meet its 2045 climate neutrality goal, says Berlin-based think tank Agora. – Reuters



Genocide  
Just a flick of a switch



## DOGE job cuts bring pain to Trump heartland

By Nathan Layne and Aleksandra Michalska  
Parkersburg (West Virginia)

Jennifer Piggott proudly hung a red-and-blue Trump campaign flag outside her one-story home during the November election race. Now, after she was abruptly fired from her civil service job, her days of supporting the president are over.

Piggott is among more than 125 people dismissed in February from the Treasury Department's Bureau of Fiscal Service in Parkersburg, West Virginia, unsettling a community that voted overwhelmingly for Republican President Donald Trump.

"Nobody that I've talked to understood the devastation that having this administration in office would do to our lives," Piggott, 47, told Reuters in an interview, saying she would not have supported Trump if she knew then what she knows now.

"As much as I think that President Trump is doing wonderful things for the country in some regards, I don't understand this at all," she said.

Piggott worked at BFS for five years and had recently been promoted. That promotion made her a target as the Trump administration began firing thousands of probationary federal workers – a group that includes new hires but also existing workers moving from one internal position to another.

The renunciation of allegiance to Trump by Piggott, a church-going conservative and three-time Trump voter, comes as political analysts are parsing early signs of a possible backlash in Republican strongholds where the government-slashing efforts of the president and his cost-cutting czar Elon Musk are beginning to be felt.

A White House spokesman told Reuters that Trump had been given a popular mandate to overhaul the federal government to combat waste, fraud, and abuse. Trump edged out his opponent, Democratic former Vice-President Kamala Harris, by 1.5 percentage points in the November contest.

"The personal financial situation of every American is top of mind for the president, which is why he's working to cut regulations, reshore jobs, lower taxes, and make government more efficient," Harrison Fields added.

The Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency did not respond to requests for comment.

Spokespeople for Riley Moore, who represents Parkersburg in the House of Representatives, and Senator Jim Justice did not respond to requests for comment. Senator Shelley Moore Capito told Reuters that while she understands the concerns some have about the DOGE cuts, she supports the Trump administration's efforts to "right-size" government.

Trump spoke at length about eliminating unnecessary



Protesters gather outside of a Manhattan Tesla dealership to demonstrate against Tesla CEO Elon Musk in New York City. Working as a "special government employee" of the Trump administration, Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have recently made dramatic cuts across federal agencies. (AFP)

programmes during his address to Congress on Tuesday but made no mention of the mass government firings that have roiled the country. So far 100,000 workers have been fired or taken a buyout.

Reuters/Ipsos polling shows Americans' attitudes toward Trump are so far essentially unchanged since he began firing federal workers in February. As of March 4, his approval rating was holding steady at 44%.

West Virginia is also strong Trump country. He won the state in November with 70% of the vote, among his biggest victories.

Still, the economic impact of the mass dismissals across America may not be felt immediately.

A handful of Republican voters who lost their federal jobs joined Democrats for a rally of more than 100 people protesting the cuts near the two BFS office buildings in Parkersburg last week, cheering on a local union leader as he criticised Trump and Musk while standing next to a large "Fat Cat" balloon.

Support for Trump's shrinking of government can, however, be heard in places around Parkersburg – a middle-aged couple singing DOGE's praises over breakfast at a local diner; a hotel patron saying remote workers deserved to be fired; a young bartender lamenting federal workers' relatively high pay.

In interviews with three dozen workers, business owners and politicians in Parkersburg, which sits at the convergence of two rivers including the mighty Ohio, nearly all said Trump's focus on cutting government spending was a worthy goal. But most said they knew BFS employees to be hard-working and didn't see them as the right target if the aim was to eliminate waste.

Scot Heckert, a Republican who represents parts of Parkersburg in the West Virginia state legislature, said he was worried that layoffs at BFS, which employs about 2,200 workers in Parkersburg, would "devastate" the local economy because the workers earned higher-than-average salaries, and because of

factory leaving town.

Parkersburg Brewing, a local bar and eatery, is also worried about a hit to demand. Roughly one-sixth of the brewery's 65 members, who pay an annual fee for a larger pour and other perks, work at BFS, manager Samantha Gibbs said.

"They have the extra money to come spend at places like this and give back to the community, and now a percentage of that is lost," she said. "That's going to affect us tremendously."

West Virginia ranks third among the contiguous 48 states in the percentage of its total workforce – 3.7% – in federal jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows. That's about double the national average. Only Virginia and Maryland, the two states closest to Washington, are higher at 4.6% and 5.9%.

John Deskins, an economics professor at West Virginia University, said he is worried about potential job losses at other large federal facilities in the state.

"We stand to suffer a disproportionate share when those jobs disappear, when that income disappears," he added.

Roger Conley is a Trump supporter who left the Republican Party last year because he thought it was too liberal. In a Facebook post before BFS layoffs were cut, Conley said DOGE was acting like any successful business in boosting efficiency and wondered why anyone would question its moves to lower costs.

Then his son lost his job at BFS, according to union members.

In a February 20 Facebook post, Conley said while he still backed Trump, he questioned the need to fire so many people so quickly and whether Musk was the right person to lead the effort.

When reached by phone, Conley declined to comment. His son did not respond to requests to be interviewed for this story.

Meanwhile Piggott, who like other fired probationary employees received no severance, faces an uncertain future. She said she and her husband, a disabled military veteran, have been discussing ways to make ends meet including selling their home.

She teared up when talking about how many veterans, who make up about 30% of the federal workforce, had lost their jobs at BFS and other agencies.

One veteran caught up in the BFS layoffs was Chauncy James, who was promoted twice during his 18 months at BFS, the second time to building maintenance.

James, 42, said he too worries about making his mortgage payment and feeding his five children. At last week's rally he marched with a sign criticising Musk and said he regretted voting for Trump.

"They are pretty much just coming here, chopping heads off, without really doing their homework," James said. "He got elected president and he's doing a lot of things that people never even imagined that he was going to do to us." – Reuters

**To Advertise**

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

**Display**

☎ 44466621  
☎ 44418811

**Classified**

☎ 44466609 ☎ 44418811  
✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

**Subscription**

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

## Greens may torpedo Merz defence spending, leave room for deal

Germany's Greens vowed to block plans by likely next chancellor Friedrich Merz (pictured) for a massive increase in state borrowing but left room for compromise yesterday on measures to revamp the military and revive growth in Europe's biggest economy.

The Greens' refusal to back sweeping reforms to debt rules and a special €500bn (\$540bn) infrastructure fund could derail a spending bonanza that had excited markets and could rapidly transform the global bond trade.

However, the party will put forward its own proposals and hold talks with Merz's conservatives and his potential coalition partners, the Social Democrats (SPD), later yesterday.

At stake is Germany's ability to unshackle borrowing limits to spur growth and support struggling industries after two years of economic contraction.

Merz has also stressed the urgency to increase defence spending. After winning elections last month, he said it was "five minutes to midnight" for Europe, warning

that a hostile Russia and an unreliable US could leave Europe exposed.

But Merz and the SPD under leader Lars Klingbeil need support from the Greens to pass the measures in the outgoing parliament.

"We will not allow ourselves to be blackmailed, nor will we allow Friedrich Merz and Lars Klingbeil to abuse a difficult European security situation," said Greens party co-leader Franziska Brantner. "This is something that serves neither the country nor our interests in Europe." Another co-leader Katharina Droege said the Greens would urge its lawmakers not to vote for Merz's proposals, saying they would only back measures that included genuine support for climate policies and the economy.

Germany's benchmark blue-chip DAX index was down 1.7% at 1419 GMT, with Siemens Energy, Heidelberg Materials and Rheinmetall - which all surged on the funding announcement last week - among the biggest decliners, down 1.8%-10.3%. Some voices in Merz's camp



suggested the Greens could be playing hardball to extract concessions, though Klingbeil said the SPD was taking their concerns very seriously.

Merz wants to push through his plans in the outgoing parliament because in the new Bundestag that begins on March 25, they get even harder to pass, with an enlarged contingent of far-right and radical left lawmakers threatening to block them. The far-right Alternative

for Germany (AfD) yesterday made good on those threats, launching a legal challenge at the constitutional court to block lawmakers from debating Merz's proposals. It also filed a complaint against the measures, which it has previously characterised as an "orgy of debt".

The court spokesperson said the challenges were being processed but could not give a date for a decision. The Left party later followed suit. It launched a legal challenge against convening the outgoing parliament and will consider further steps.

Investors and some economists have long urged Germany to reform its constitutionally enshrined state borrowing limits - known as the "debt brake" - to free up investment.

The reform would mark a rollback of borrowing rules imposed after the 2008 global financial crisis that many see as an outdated fiscal straitjacket.

Merz wants to amend the constitution so defence expenditure above 1% of economic output is exempted from

debt brake rules, and for a commission separately to develop proposals for broader debt brake reforms to boost investments permanently.

But the Greens want a complete reform of the debt brake straightaway.

"The Greens are making legitimate points," Finance Minister Joerg Kukies said yesterday in Brussels. "It is now a question of negotiations to hopefully address these points."

Kukies, an ally of outgoing SPD Chancellor Olaf Scholz, also voiced German scepticism about joint European Union borrowing, but said Berlin would be open to it for specific defence projects.

Merz's conservatives and the SPD have agreed to push income and corporate tax reforms, but Greens spokesperson Katharina Beck suggested a wealth tax instead.

"Investing in Germany's infrastructure on a large scale is absolutely necessary, as we Greens have been proposing for years, but cross-subsidising tax gifts is not," she told Reuters.

## Carney vows 'quick' transition to new Canada government



Former Bank of Canada and Bank of England governor Mark Carney waves next to his wife Diana Fox after winning the race to become leader of Canada's ruling Liberal Party and will succeed Justin Trudeau as prime minister, in Ottawa, Ontario. (Reuters)

AFP  
Ottawa

Canada's incoming prime minister Mark Carney said yesterday he will soon take over from Justin Trudeau after his convincing win in the ruling Liberal Party's leadership race.

"The transition will be seamless, and it will be quick," Carney told reporters in Ottawa after meeting Trudeau and the Liberal caucus.

Speaking a day after the leadership vote, Carney said he and Trudeau discussed "the most important issues for our country, including Canada-US relations."

But he declined to comment on President Donald Trump's threats against Canada, which include tariffs and comments about annexation. Carney said he was not

yet prime minister and Trudeau remained Trump's "interlocutor" for now.

"This is a crucial time for our country," he added.

Carney, 59, soundly defeated his rivals in the Liberal leadership race Sunday, winning 86% of more than 150,000 votes cast.

In his victory speech to supporters, he struck a defiant tone towards the United States.

"The Americans, they should make no mistake, in trade as in hockey, Canada will win," he said.

"We didn't ask for this fight. But Canadians are always ready when someone else drops the gloves."

Canadian media reports, cit-

ing unnamed sources, indicated the transition from Trudeau to Carney could take place by week's end, but the timing remained uncertain.

Regardless of when Carney forms a government, he may not be prime minister for long.

Canada must hold elections by October but could see a snap poll within weeks. Current public opinion surveys put the opposition Conservatives as slight favourites.

The general election will be a major test for Carney, a former governor of the Bank of Canada and Bank of England, who has never served in parliament nor held any elected public office.

## US hired tanker ablaze off UK after being hit by a container ship

Reuters  
London

A tanker carrying jet fuel for the US military was hit by a container ship off north-east England yesterday, with the collision igniting a blaze on both vessels, causing multiple explosions and forcing both crews to abandon ship.

The tanker, which can carry tens of thousands of tonnes of jet fuel, was at anchor when the smaller container ship struck it, rupturing its cargo tank and releasing fuel into the sea, its operator said. Its owner Stena Bulk gave the same details.

Two maritime security sources said there was no indication of any malicious activity or other actors involved in the incident.

Local officials said 32 casualties had been met by ambulances but by mid-afternoon only one remained in hospital.

But there was still a risk of environmental damage, experts said.

The tanker, the Stena Immaculate, operated by US logistics group Crowley, was carrying Jet-A1 fuel when it was struck by the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship Solong while anchored near Hull, Crowley wrote on X.

The tanker is part of a US government programme designed to supply the armed forces with fuel when required. A US military spokesperson told Reuters on yesterday it had been on a short-term charter to the US Navy's Military Sealift Command.

The Solong's Hamburg-based owner Ernst Russ said separately that the vessel had been involved in a collision with the Stena Immaculate in an incident which took place at 1000 GMT whilst the vessel was transiting the North Sea, off the British coast of Humberside. "Both vessels have sustained significant damage in the impact of the collision and the subsequent fire," Ernst Russ said in a statement.

"13 of the 14 Solong crew members have been brought safely ashore. Efforts to locate the missing crew member are ongoing."

The Solong is carrying 15 con-



A vessel waits by the quayside at the Port of Grimsby, after a fuel tanker, operated by US company Crowley and owned by Stena, and a container vessel named Solong were involved in a collision off the coast of northeast England, in Grimsby, Britain, yesterday. (Reuters)

tainers of sodium cyanide, a toxic chemical used mainly in gold mining, and an unknown quantity of alcohol, according to a casualty report from maritime data provider Lloyd's List Intelligence.

Emergency teams sent a helicopter, fixed-wing aircraft, lifeboats and nearby vessels with fire-fighting capability to the incident on Monday morning.

"A fire occurred as a result of the collision and fuel was reported released," Crowley said. An allision is a collision where one vessel is stationary.

Crowley said there had been multiple explosions on board.

Martin Slater, director of operations at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said East Yorkshire's coast was home to protected and significant colonies of seabirds including puffins and gannets, with many offshore on the sea ahead of the nesting season.

A Greenpeace spokesperson said any impact would depend on factors including the amount and type of oil carried by the tanker, the fuel carried by both ships, and how much of that, if any, had entered the water, plus the weather conditions.

One insurance specialist said the pollution risk was lower than if the tanker had been carrying crude oil.

"A lot depends really on cargo carried, how many tanks were

breached and how bad the fire is," the insurance source said.

Mark Sephton, professor of Organic Geochemistry at Imperial College London, added that the relatively small hydrocarbons of jet fuel could be degraded by bacteria more quickly than larger molecules.

"The fact that we are moving into warmer temperatures will also speed up biodegradation rates," he said.

The incident occurred in a busy waterway, with traffic running from the ports along Britain's northeast coast to the Netherlands and Germany, shipping industry sources said.

Maritime analytics website MarineTraffic said the 183m-long Stena Immaculate was anchored off Immingham, northeast England, when it was struck by the 140m-long Solong, which was en route to Rotterdam.

Ship insurer Skuld of Norway would only confirm that the Solong was covered with it for protection & indemnity (P&I), a segment of insurance that covers environmental damage and crew injuries or fatalities.

Solong's manager, Hamburg-based Ernst Russ, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Stena Immaculate's P&I insurer, which was listed as Steamship, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Musk says X hit by major cyberattack

Elon Musk said X was hit yesterday by a major cyberattack, raising questions as to whether the politically divisive billionaire is being targeted or his decision to gut staff at what was once Twitter is haunting the social network. Reports of problems with X started early yesterday, with users in Asia, Europe, and North America saying they could not access the platform, according to the DOWNDetector tracking site. "There was (still is) a massive cyberattack against X," Musk said in a post on the platform, which was working sporadically as the day wore on.

Musk also blamed a cyberattack, although he provided no evidence, for crashing the site last year when an interview with Donald Trump was about to be streamed on it.

In his post yesterday, Musk included an X post from a DogeDesigner account that some on Reddit speculated could be a puppet of the tycoon himself - in other words Musk hiding behind his own identity.

The post noted protests against the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) that Trump entrusted to Musk, along with Tesla shops being vandalised, suggesting a cyberattack could signal another burst of animosity towards Musk. He is the chief of Tesla, the electric car company.

"It would take a lot of (money) to do an attack of

this magnitude," read a post in the exchange by the account of Jammies.

"Who has the resources to fund this?" Musk also maintained such an attack would take tremendous resources, speculating it was the work of a country or large co-ordinated group. Cybersecurity experts say that it is difficult to assess what is happening without being able to see into X operations, but the duration of the trouble is a sign of an attack.

"It's cyberwar hitting at full force," said Chad Cragle of cyber defence platform Deepwatch.

"With Musk in the spotlight and political tensions at a peak, these attacks bear all the indicators of nation-state aggression."

Trump responded last week to growing criticism over unprecedented cuts to the US government overseen by his billionaire adviser Musk, saying they should be carefully targeted.

"We say the 'scalpel' rather than the 'hatchet,'" Trump posted on his social media platform Truth Social. The president's message represents the first significant move to rein in the power accorded to Musk, as DOGE works toward gutting federal staffing and spending.

DOGE's cost-cutting campaign has faced increasing resistance on multiple fronts, including court rulings and some pressure from lawmakers.

## Indian slums get 'cool roofs' to combat extreme heat

Hundreds of roofs in the informal settlements of India's western Gujarat state have been painted in a reflective, white coating over the last two months to try to keep their occupants cooler as the hottest time of year approaches.

The effort, which involves 400 households in Ahmedabad, is part of a global scientific trial to study how indoor heat impacts people's health and economic outcomes in developing countries - and how "cool roofs" might help.

"Traditionally, home is where people have come to find shelter and respite against external elements," said Aditi Bunker, an epidemiologist at the University of Heidelberg in Germany who is leading the project, supported by the UK-based Wellcome Trust.

"Now, we're in this position where people are living in precarious housing conditions, where the thing that was supposed to be protecting them is actually increasing their exposure to heat." As climate change has made India's summers more extreme, Ahmedabad has suffered temperatures in excess of 46C (115

F) in recent years. In the Vanzara Vas slum in the Narol area of the city, which has more than 2,000 dwellings, most of them airless, one-room homes, residents that are part of the project, such as Nehal Vijaybhai Bhil, say they have already noticed a difference.

"My refrigerator doesn't heat up any more and the house feels cooler. I sleep so much better and my electricity bill is down," said Bhil, whose roof was painted in January.

Across the world, heatwaves that, prior to the industrial revolution, had a one-in-10 chance of occurring in any given year are nearly three times as likely, according to a 2022 study in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*.

By painting roofs with a white coating that contains highly reflective pigments such as titanium dioxide, Bunker and her team are sending more of the sun's radiation back to the atmosphere and preventing it from being absorbed.

"In a lot of these low socioeconomic homes, there's

nothing to stop the heat transfer coming down - there's no insulation barrier from the roof," Bunker said.

Before joining Bunker's experiment, Arti Chunara said she would cover her roof with plastic sheets and spread grass over them.

Some days, she and her family sat outside for most of the day, going into the house only for two to three hours when the heat was bearable. The trial in Ahmedabad will run for one year, and scientists will collect health and indoor environment data from residents living under a cool roof - and from those who do not.

Other study sites are in Burkina Faso, Mexico and the island of Niue in the South Pacific, spanning a variety of building materials and climates.

Early results from the Burkina Faso trial, Bunker said, show that cool roofs reduced indoor temperature by between 1.2 C in tin- and mud-roofed homes, and 1.7C in tin-roofed homes over two years, which subsequently lowered residents' heart rates.



Painters apply liquid-applied membrane coating that according to the authorities helps to bring down the temperature inside the shanties at a slum in Ahmedabad. (Reuters)

# WIN A **CHANGAN** CS35 PLUS 2025

## In Only Four Steps

- 1 Scan the QR Code and Answer the question in the comments
- 2 Tag 2 friends who love challenges and follow @gulftimes & @gulftimestoday
- 3 ❤️ Like the post
- 4 📌 Share the post on your story & tag us

Winner\* will be announced at the end of this month

Scan the QR Code  
to participate in  
Ramadan Quiz Challenge!



Our Platforms

**GULF TIMES**



\*\* COLOUR OF THE CAR MAY VARY

\* Terms & Conditions Apply -  
Competition open to Qatar residents only