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THURSDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13313

March 13, 2025  
Ramadan 13, 1446 AH

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**RAMADAN THOUGHT**

O you who believe! Do your duty to Allah and fear Him. And seek the means of approach to Him, and strive hard in His Cause (as much as you can), so that you may be successful. (Qur'an 5: 35)

**Prayer times**

Fajr...4.29; Zuhr...11.43; Asr...3.08; Maghrib...5.45; Isha...7.15

**Fasting times**

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## Nakilat celebrates steel cutting of 8 new LNG carriers

Nakilat has marked a significant milestone with the steel cutting ceremony for eight of its new LNG (liquefied natural gas) carriers at Hanwha Ocean Shipyard in Korea. These vessels are part of Qatar's historic LNG fleet expansion project, aimed at meeting the maritime transport needs of the LNG sector. Fully owned by Nakilat, each vessel has a capacity of 174,000 cubic metres. **Business Page 1**

## Glucoma awareness campaign launched

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has launched an awareness campaign as part of the observance of World Glaucoma Week, which runs from March 9 to 15 under the theme: "Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World". The campaign aims to raise public awareness about this chronic, non-communicable disease, which affects the eye and leads to gradual damage of the optic nerve responsible for transmitting images to the brain. **Page 9**

## Pak train passengers freed; hijackers killed

Pakistani security forces stormed a train yesterday that had been hijacked by separatist militants, killing all 33 attackers and ending a day-long standoff involving hundreds of hostages, the military said. The military said 21 hostages and all 33 insurgents had been killed. No civilians were killed in the operation. About 440 people had been on board. **Page 9**

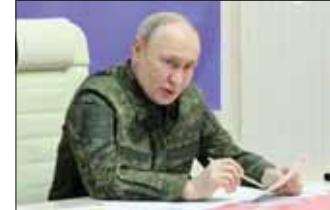
## Amir hosts Iftar banquet for diplomats, MoFA officials

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held an Iftar banquet yesterday at Lusail Palace in honour of heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Qatar, along with ambassadors of Qatar abroad and high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan. His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani alongside a host of Sheikhs, Ministers and high-ranking officials attended the banquet. **(QNA) Page 12**



## US negotiators head to Moscow for Ukraine ceasefire talks

**AFP**  
Washington



Putin visits a command point in the Kursk region, yesterday.

The Kremlin said earlier that it was still waiting for Washington to inform it about the details of the proposal.

Trump would not say when he would next speak to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, but added that "I hope he's going to have a ceasefire."

"It's up to Russia now," said Trump. "I've gotten some positive messages, but a positive message means nothing. This is a very serious situation, it could start World War Three."

## Arab states discuss Gaza plan with US ME envoy

**QNA**  
Doha



Trucks queue after Israel blocked the entry of aid through the borders, in the North Sinai city of Al Arish, Egypt.

Iifa Shaheen al-Marar, Secretary-General of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Hussein al-Sheikh, and US President's Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff.

The Arab foreign ministers presented the Gaza reconstruction plan, which was approved at

the Arab Summit held in Cairo on March 4, 2025. They also agreed with the US envoy to continue consultations and co-ordination on this plan as a basis for the reconstruction efforts in the Strip.

The Arab ministers emphasised the importance of consolidating the ceasefire in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories, stressing the need for genuine efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution, ensuring the fulfilment of the Palestinian people's aspirations of freedom and independence.

The Arab ministers reiterated their commitment to maintaining dialogue to reinforce the ceasefire and to work jointly to establish security, stability, and peace in the region.

## Lively Garangao celebrations across Qatar from today

**By Joey Aguilar**  
Staff Reporter

Various Garangao celebrations are set to take place across Qatar from today (March 13), featuring an array of activities from traditional sweets distribution and cultural performances to modern workshops and festive events.

Kicking off the festivities, the Doha Fire Station: Artists in Residence is hosting a Garangao Night event today, featuring a children's best dress contest, tote bag painting, henna art, puppet and bubble

shows, and distribution of sweets. To accommodate crowds, organisers announced that overflow parking will be available at Al Bidda Park.

The Qatar National Library will also be celebrating Garangao with a variety of cultural and art activities today.

The celebrations will continue Friday and Saturday with a host of events across Doha, including Dadu X Baladna: Garangao at 12 at Dadu Gardens, for children under 12 at Dadu Gardens.

Registration is required for this unique experience, where Dadu Gardens will be transformed into

a traditional Freej, allowing children to relive the joy of knocking on doors, singing Garangao songs, and collecting sweet treats.

Msheireb Downtown Doha will also host a two-day Garangao celebration on Friday-Saturday.

On Friday, tram tours distributing Garangao sweets will traverse the city, accompanied by traditional processions with drumming through residential areas. Children in traditional attire will also perform cultural songs throughout Msheireb Downtown Doha.

The main event on Saturday at Hosh Msheireb, will feature a

Garangao Fashion Show showcasing traditional Qatari clothing, game stations with classic activities, storytelling sessions, and a 360-degree photo experience, all supporting charitable initiatives with Qatar Charity.

Old Doha Port's Mina District will host a family-friendly Garangao Night on Friday from 6pm to 11pm. Children can partake in the cherished tradition of collecting sweets while visitors enjoy live performances and cultural activities that honour Qatari heritage.

Garangao events will be held in the Eastern Square of Souq Waqif on Friday from 8pm. **To Page 9**



Children attired in traditional dress. (File)

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/KG كغ 1.50 QR بصل أحمر اليمن  
Onion red, Yemen



/KG كغ 2.50 QR بطيخ اليمن  
Watermelon, Yemen



/KG كغ 2.75 QR خس عمان  
Lettuce iceberg, Oman



/PACK بـالعلبة 28.75 QR توت أزرق المغرب البري  
Blueberry bucket 500g, Peru / Morocco



/KG كغ 13.75 QR جبنة بفباء، محلية  
Baladna awafi white cheese, Local



/KG كغ 29.75 QR جبنة عكاوي، محلية  
Akawi cheese, Local



/KG كغ 18.75 QR هامور، محلية  
Hamour, Local



12.00 QR لحم بقر مفروم ٥٠٠ غم  
Beef mince 500g, South Africa



/KG كغ 17.75 QR مرتدلا متنوعة، محلية  
Mortadella assorted, Local



/KG كغ 38.75 QR خروف صومالي، محلية  
Lamb Somali, Local



10.00 QR دجاج ساديا ١٠٠٠ غم  
Sadia chicken 1000g



18.00 QR 8.75 QR زيت دوار الشمس ١.٨ لتر  
Pure sunflower oil 1.8L



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## Official

## Amir sends cables of congratulations to Mauritius president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Mauritius Dharambeer Gokhool on his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam. (QNA)

## Qatar slams systematic, deliberate destruction of food system in Gaza

Qatar has strongly condemned the systematic and deliberate destruction of the food system in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli occupation forces in addition to their use of blockade and starvation policies as a weapon in their total genocide war against the Palestinians.

Qatar called on the international community to take all necessary actions to protect the Palestinian people and ensure accountability for all those responsible for the crimes and grave violations committed against them. This came in a statement delivered by Hessa Essa Rashid al-Khater, third consular affairs researcher at the Department of Arab Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the right to food, within the framework of the fifty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Al-Khater noted that challenges continue to hinder the enjoyment of the right to food, including fam-



ine and malnutrition, environmental pollution, loss of biodiversity, and climate change, as well as the volatility of food prices exacerbated by conflicts or crises that have negatively impacted the realisation of this right.

She highlighted Qatar's hosting of the International Conference on Food Justice from a Human Rights Perspective last year, during which

the Doha Declaration on Food Justice was issued.

The declaration called for the establishment of just, healthy, and sustainable food systems based on upholding human dignity, protecting the most vulnerable, adopting ecological agriculture, and establishing fair and stable markets that do not prioritise growth and profit over human rights. (QNA)

## CRA launches public consultation on draft SCLS offer

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has launched a public consultation on the Standard Offer for Access to Submarine Cable Landing Stations (SCLS) in Qatar and the related guidelines. This is a second round of consultation building on stakeholders insights and feedback received through the initial consultation on "CRA Reference Offer for Access to Submarine Cable Landing Station International Connectivity Services". Based on industry feedback and concerns, CRA has refined the draft SCLS offer (now referred to

as a Standard Offer for Access) and related guidelines to enhance competition and improve access to international connectivity services across all SCLS. The revised documents include the minimum mandatory requirements for the Standard Offer of Access (SOA) to SCLS to be submitted by the SCLS Owners and the process for developing an Access Agreement between the SCLS Owner and the Other Licensed Service Providers. This consultation is part of CRA's ongoing work to enhance Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) sector regulatory framework aiming at fostering market competition and growth through improved access to international connectivity services across all SCLS. This initiative reflects CRAs commitment to promote a regulatory environment that supports competitiveness, transparency, and efficiency in the telecommunications sector, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030. CRA invites all stakeholders to submit their feedback on the public consultation by Mar. 23, 2025. (QNA)

## Cabinet nod for draft on real estate registry

QNA  
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, chaired the Cabinet's weekly meeting held yesterday morning.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi issued the following statement:

The Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda, as it approved – in principle – the draft Cabinet resolution to define the administrative units comprising the General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority and specify their areas of specialisation.

This draft, which was prepared in co-ordination with the Civil Services and Government Development Bureau, aims to complete the modernisation and development of the institutional structure of the administrative units responsible for implementing modern social insurance systems in accordance with the Social Security Law and the Military Retirement Law.

The Cabinet also approved a draft decision of the Minister of Finance to determine the remuneration of members of tender and auction committees and secretariats, as well as the regula-

tions for their entitlement and disbursement. The draft decision was prepared in accordance with the Tenders and Auctions Regulation Law.

The Cabinet approved a draft decision by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to issue a guide to radiation practice in industrial radiography, and for the draft to be posted on the "Sharek" platform for a period of ten days for any comments and feedback in its regard.

The draft decision aims to protect against the dangers of radiation used in industrial radiography across various fields by establishing guidelines and regulations on how to meet national oversight requirements in this field.

The Cabinet approved a draft decision by the Minister of Justice to organise the initial real estate registry, with the draft to be posted on the "Sharek" platform for a period of ten days to gather comments and feedback. This draft, prepared in co-ordination with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, comes in implementation of the provisions of Law No 6 of 2014 which regulates real estate development.

It aims to provide a legislative framework for recording data on the real estate units delineated on the map and for documenting the rights and legal dispositions that apply to them.

The Cabinet decided to take the necessary measures to ratify

a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in the fields of tourism and business events between the governments of Qatar and Sierra Leone. The Cabinet also decided to approve a draft MoU between Qatar's National Planning Council and Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Statistics for co-operation and exchange of expertise in the field of statistics, a draft MoU for co-operation on reforming public administration and enhancing its capabilities in the field of qualifying and developing human resources between the governments of Qatar and Morocco, and a draft MoU between the Qatar Financial Information Unit of Qatar and the Financial Information Unit of Libya regarding co-operation in combating money laundering crimes.

The Cabinet concluded its meeting by reviewing three reports and taking the appropriate decisions in their regard. The reports included the first semi-annual report on the progress made in implementing the National Cyber Security Strategy 2024-2030, a report on the results of the participation of the State of Qatar's delegation, headed by HE the Minister of Labour, in the Global Labour Market Conference, and a report on the results of the participation of Qatar's delegation, headed by HE the Minister of Public Health, in the Arab Health Conference and Exhibition 2025.

## Cote d'Ivoire's FM meets Qatar envoy

Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Ivorians Abroad of Cote d'Ivoire, Kacou Houadja Leon, met with Qatar's ambassador in Abidjan Mubarak bin Hussein al-Marri. Their discussion included bilateral relations. (QNA)



## Scale7 incubates 13 startups in creative and cultural sectors

Scale7, Qatar Development Bank's (QDB) creative and cultural enterprise hub, announced that it has incubated 13 startups as part of its incubation programme, aimed at supporting entrepreneurs in creative and cultural sectors by providing them with the knowledge and tools necessary to develop and grow their projects. In a release on Wednesday, QDB explained that the 11-week incubation programme is set to conclude with a "Demo Day" event in April at Scale7's headquarters in the M7 building in Msheireb Downtown Doha. The programme targets early-stage startups with viable prototypes, focusing on diverse sectors, including fashion and fashion technology, product design, arts and culture, video game development, and creative technology. Out of 135 applications

received, 13 startups were accepted. The Scale7 incubation programme takes a comprehensive approach that combines practical learning with strategic guidance. It includes a series of specialised workshops and mentoring sessions with a select group of experts in the creative sector, along with intensive training activities aimed at enhancing participants' capabilities and developing their products to ensure their success and global reach. The programme also provides extensive networking opportunities, allowing participants to build relationships with investors and business partners, as well as access to co-working spaces and administrative support throughout the programme.

In this context, Aisha Khalifa al-Rumaihi, Acting Senior Manager of the Creative and Cultural

Enterprise Center at Qatar Development Bank, said: "The 2025 incubation programme reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting entrepreneurs in the creative and cultural fields, enabling them to develop their projects and helping them transform their visions into a reality of success and excellence." "At Scale7, we work with a select group of Qatari innovators, and we are delighted to see the significant progress in the participants' creative ideas. We are making every effort to provide them with all the elements of success, ensuring their contribution to diversifying the national economy and promoting innovation in the State of Qatar, in line with the Third National Development Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030," she added. (QNA)

## Paris Hypermarket Launches Special Ramadan Promotions and Offers



As Ramadan, Qatar's landscape transforms into a vibrant tapestry of tradition, devotion, and generosity. Paris Hypermarket welcomes the Holy Month with exclusive offers and unbeatable deals across all branches, ensuring an enriching shopping experience for residents and visitors alike.

Embracing the spirit of Ramadan, Paris Hypermarket has launched its highly anticipated annual promotions, catering to the growing demand for both essential and specialty products. From fresh groceries to household staples and premium home appliances, shoppers can enjoy incredible

savings and exceptional value throughout the season.

Adding to the excitement, customers who spend QR 150 or more on mobile purchases will get a chance to win 50 mobile phones! This exclusive Ramadan promotion makes shopping at Paris Hypermarket even more rewarding.

With markets bustling with enthusiasm, Paris Hypermarket continues to be a trusted destination, offering quality, affordability, and convenience. Celebrate Ramadan with exclusive discounts, exciting prices, and incredible savings—only at Paris Hypermarket!

## Dividends Distribution Announcement



Barwa Real Estate is pleased to announce the distribution of cash dividends to its valued shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, at QAR 0.18 per share, equivalent to 18% of the nominal value, as decided by the Ordinary General Assembly on March 10, 2025.

In accordance with the provisions of Article No. 3 of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority's Board Decision No. (7) Of 2023 Concerning Rules of Dividend Distribution in Shareholding Companies Listed on the Financial Markets, Qatar Central Securities Depository Company (Edaa) will, on behalf of Barwa Real Estate, directly transfer the dividends to each shareholder's bank account (IBAN) based on the information registered with Edaa, within the period specified in the aforementioned decision of the Board of Directors of Qatar Financial Markets Authority.

Dividends will be deposited directly into the bank accounts of shareholders who registered their account numbers with Edaa before March 10, 2025, within the period specified in the decision of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority. As for shareholders who have not registered their account numbers, they are urged to provide Edaa with their bank account information via the Edaa website, Edaa application, through banks that have contracts with Edaa, or by visiting Edaa customer service.

Shareholders are kindly requested to contact Edaa for any clarifications regarding the dividend distribution:

Phone: +974 4015 0000 or 16014  
Website: [www.edaa.gov.qa](http://www.edaa.gov.qa)

Barwa  
Qatar

BUILDING THE FUTURE



In alignment with its commitment to corporate social responsibility and community engagement, QNB organised a special visit to patients at the Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Centre on the World Kidney Day.

## QNB team makes special visit to Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Centre

In alignment with its commitment to corporate social responsibility and community engagement, QNB organised a special visit to patients at the Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Centre on the World Kidney Day.

This initiative aimed to raise awareness about kidney health and encourage the community to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

During the visit, QNB representatives engaged with patients and expressed support for them.

They were also briefed by healthcare professionals about kidney well-being and means to prevent associated diseases.

Coinciding with the holy month of Ramadan, the visit included the distribution of gifts to patients, reflecting the Bank's dedication to strengthening ties

**"At QNB, we believe in giving back to the community, especially during Ramadan, a month of compassion and generosity. By supporting the Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Centre, we hope to contribute to the well-being of our community and encourage everyone to prioritise their health"**

with all segments of the community and promoting values of sharing and social solidarity.

"At QNB, we believe in giving back to the community, especially during Ramadan, a month of compassion and generosity. By supporting the Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Centre, we hope to contribute to the well-being of our community and encourage everyone to prioritise their health," said Heba al-Tamimi, senior executive vice-president, QNB Group Communications.



## Awqaf's Iftar tent at Industrial Area serves 1,900 people daily



The Iftar tent in the Industrial Area, set up by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, will serve 57,000 beneficiaries throughout Ramadan at the rate of 1,900 daily.

Iftar tents set up at various locations across Qatar by Awqaf, are expected to receive more than 300,000 fasting people throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

The air-conditioned tents are open in labour dense areas as part of Awqaf's Iftar Saem project, an official statement said. They are at Al Muraikha, Al Attiyah at Industrial Area, Thursday and Friday Market at Ain Khalid, New Central Market at Al Saliya, Eid Prayer Ground at Al Rayyan, opposite to Old Al Wakrah Market at Al Wakrah, Othman Mosque at Al Khor and Eid Prayer Grounds at

Bin Omran and Al Aziziyah.

The locations are strategically selected in order to maximise the impact of the initiative. Awqaf ensures that the meals are delivered in good quality and quantity to the fasting persons.

Mohammed Yaqoub al-Ali, chairman of the Iftar Saem Committee, said the project aims to support various segments of society and to alleviate the burden of preparing Iftar meals. It embodies the meaning of social solidarity and reflects the spirit of giving during the holy month.

He thanked the benefactors and supporters who are keen to contribute to this charitable effort noting that their continued support contributes to providing Iftar meals to thousands of fasting people every day and fosters a spirit of co-operation and solidarity within the community.

The official also urged charitable people to continue supporting the project adding that donations are still accepted from benefactors. Those wishing to contribute can choose the project they wish to support and participate via the project's link <https://www.awqaf.gov.qa/ftf>

Iftar tents also feature spiritual, religious and cultural aspects. Religious and awareness lectures are delivered ahead of Iftar. Awqaf, in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior, is carrying out a slew of awareness activities at Iftar tents where the participants are given tips by the officials from General Directorate for Drug Control, General Directorate of Civil Defence and General Directorate of Traffic and Community Police.



لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات  
مشروع توسيعة 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 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)

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY QATAR

20  
CELEBRATING TWO DECADES IN QATAR

## Carol Becker

Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence  
Georgetown University in Qatar

Talks about her new memoir

## George's Daughter

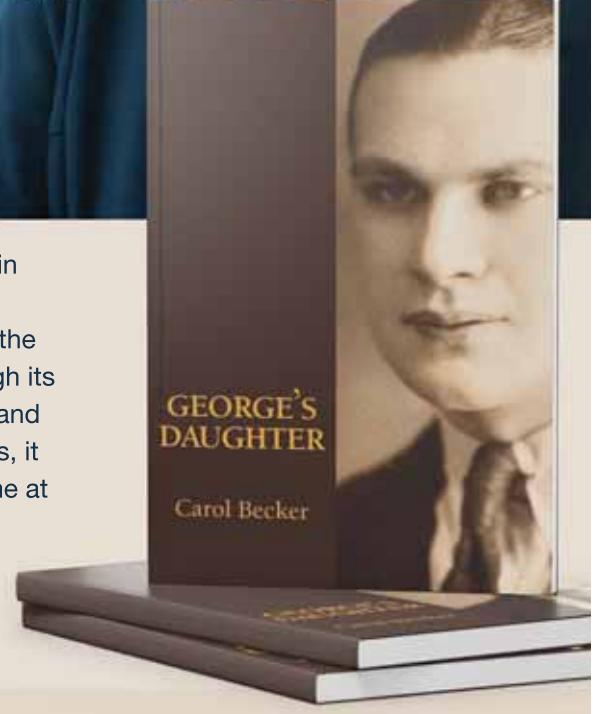
George's Daughter, shifts from loss in death to the fractures that unfold in life, offering another perspective on the daughter-parent relationship. Through its exploration of devotion, resistance, and the weight of unspoken expectations, it reveals how finding oneself can come at the cost of losing another.

Carol Becker is Professor of the Arts and Dean Emerita of Columbia University School of the Arts.

Moderated by



Kamila Shamsie  
Inaugural Writer-in-Residence  
Georgetown University in Qatar



Sunday, March 16

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Library, Georgetown University in Qatar





## QC distributes Ramadan food baskets in Sudan

Field teams from Qatar Charity (QC) in Sudan have begun distributing Ramadan food baskets to orphans, needy families, and people displaced due to the ongoing conflict.

The initiative is part of the 'Giving Lives On' campaign for the year 1446H (2025), being implemented in 40 countries, a statement said.

QC's Iftar project continues to assist approximately 4.5mn people in need across Africa, Asia, and Europe this year.

The Iftar project is designed to support orphaned families sponsored by QC, as well as non-sponsored orphans, displaced people due to the war, and other vulnerable families, by providing them with essential food supplies during Ramadan.

A total of 2,380 baskets are expected to be distributed to 14,280 beneficiaries across the Red Sea, Kassala, and Nile River States.

Rehab Sharif, the shelter supervisor at the Humanitarian Aid Com-

mission, said: "Qatar Charity has provided extensive support to various shelters, especially during the blessed month of Ramadan. Their efforts have made a significant impact in assisting displaced people, patients, and orphans."

Several mothers of orphans and displaced families in Port Sudan also expressed their thanks after receiving the Ramadan food baskets, which were thoughtfully prepared to align with Sudanese food culture during Ramadan.

## QRCS continues Ramadan Iftar project in Gaza

As part of the Ramadan Campaign #FruitfulGiving 2025/1446 AH, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and Hayat Yol Association are working together to distribute food parcels to fasting people in Gaza, under the Ramadan Iftar project.

To date, 1,500 food parcels have been distributed, out of a total of 15,300, a statement said.

Dr Mohamed Salih Ibrahim, assistant secretary-general for Relief and International Development at QRCS, supervised the packaging of food parcels in Deir Al-Balah, Central Gaza, funded by Qatar's Afif Charity.

QRCS's personnel in Gaza also distributed 103 food parcels at the Insan Camp in the Central Governorate, which shelters more than 60 wounded and sick Palestinians with chronic diseases, such as kidney failure,



cancer, and disabilities.

Dr Ibrahim, said: "QRCS seeks to meet the great needs and assist the residents of this and other camps throughout Gaza, with the contributions by the donors and other people who help make the campaign a success".

In co-ordination with Gazze Destek Organisation, QRCS's of-

fice in Gaza continues to prepare and serve hot meals as part of the Ramadan Iftar project. So far, 21,890 meals have been distributed, out of a target of 227,367 being prepared and distributed at shelters in Northern and Southern Gaza throughout the holy month of Ramadan, in support of the war-affected families.

## Customer data secure: talabat Qatar

All customer data, including payment information, remains secure and protected, talabat Qatar said yesterday. "talabat Qatar reassures its customers and partners that no security breach has occurred, following recent misinformation circulating on social media," a statement explained.

"At talabat, customer security and privacy are our top priorities. We implement industry-leading security protocols to safeguard customer information, and we assure our users that their data is fully protected. We remain committed to providing a safe and seamless ordering experience," said Francisco Miguel De Sousa, managing director of talabat Qatar.

"talabat will consider all legal options against anyone who publishes, circulates, shares, or promotes these false rumours and misinformation. As a company committed to the highest international security standards, we ensure encrypted and secure transactions while continuously monitoring its systems to prevent unauthorised access," he added.



## MoPH committed to delivering high-quality healthcare services

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is intensifying its control measures to oversee the performance of healthcare practitioners working in Qatar, ensuring their compliance with the laws regulating the health sector and the policies adopted by the ministry.

The MoPH is committed to ensuring the competence and safety of healthcare practitioners to deliver high-quality healthcare services in Qatar.

As part of its monitoring procedures for the current year, 2025, carried out by the Health Specialties Department in collaboration with other relevant departments, the MoPH has taken several legal actions against violators and the institutions where they operate.

The MoPH closed two private

dental clinics. One centre was found to be providing healthcare services through practitioners who did not hold the required professional licences, while the other centre offered specialised healthcare services through practitioners operating beyond the scope of their professional licences.

All legal measures have been taken against both clinics and the violating practitioners.

Additionally, the MoPH temporarily closed a private nutrition centre for operating solely with a nutrition specialist, without the presence of a nutrition technician.

The centre was also found to be providing healthcare services through practitioners who did not hold the necessary professional licences to offer such services. All legal measures have been taken

against the facility and the violating practitioners.

Furthermore, the MoPH closed four units in private healthcare centres for violating the laws regulating the health sector. Most of the violations involved healthcare practitioners operating beyond the scope of their professional licences.

The MoPH also suspended the professional licence of a doctor for working outside the scope of the licence, in addition to taking other legal actions against the doctor and the private healthcare facility where they were employed.

The MoPH is committed to ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety in healthcare services provided in the country, striving to enhance the quality of healthcare and ensure patient safety. (QNA)

## HMC highlights steps to advancing kidney health through cutting-edge treatments

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has highlighted its ongoing dedication to advancing kidney health through cutting-edge treatments, research, and patient-centred care.

This came at a time when the global healthcare community prepares to observe World Kidney Day today.

HMC's kidney services encompass a comprehensive range of treatments, including advanced dialysis therapies,

kidney transplantation, and specialised care for complex kidney conditions. The corporation's multidisciplinary team of nephrologists, surgeons, nurses, and support staff work collaboratively to provide personalised care, ensuring optimal outcomes for patients.

"At HMC, we are committed to providing the highest standard of renal care," said Head of Nephrology at HMC Dr Hassan al-Malki. "Our state-of-the-art facilities and

commitment to continuous improvement enable us to offer the latest advancements in kidney disease treatment. We are proud of the advancements we have made in dialysis, including home dialysis, and the overall management of chronic kidney disease."

HMC's dedication to providing world-class kidney services is evident in its investment in infrastructure, technology, and staff training. This includes the recently launched Kidney Transplant

Precision Medicine Program which marks a significant advancement in kidney transplant care, particularly for high-risk patients with hereditary kidney diseases. Also, an eight-bed ambulatory dialysis unit was opened in 2024 at Muaitheer Health Center as part of a joint initiative between HMC and Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC) to bring life-changing services closer to patients.

"World Kidney Day provides a valuable

opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of kidney health," Dr al-Malki added. "We are committed to educating the public about the risk factors for kidney disease and the importance of early detection. By working with our healthcare partners in Qatar to promote healthy lifestyles and regular check-ups, we can help prevent kidney disease and improve the lives of individuals affected by it." (QNA)

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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holder of

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QID No. 30960800183

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from

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to

ENZO CUASAY DE CHAVEZ

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## How to improve your relationship with the Qur'an

It is recommended for every believing man and woman to recite the Book of Allah, the Noble Qur'an, often, with due contemplation and understanding. This may be done by using a copy of the Qur'an or from one's memory. Allah - the Most High - Says (what means): "[This is] a blessed Book (the Qur'an) which We have revealed to you, (O Muhammad, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam), that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded." [Qur'an 38:29]

Are you one of those people who rarely touch the Qur'an? Or do you read it daily, but don't find it is having the impact on you that it should? Whatever the case may be, these are some simple tips that can help you connect with the Qur'an.

### 1. Before you touch it, check your heart

The key to really benefiting from the Qur'an is to check your heart first, before you even touch Allah's Book. Ask yourself, honestly, why you are reading it. Is it to just get some information and to let it drift away from you later? Remember that the Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, was described by his noble wife, 'Aa'ishah, radhiyallah 'anha, as a "walking Qur'an": in other words, he didn't just read and recite the Qur'an, he lived it.

### 2. Before you touch it, do your Wudhoo' (ablution)

Doing your Wudhoo' is good physical and mental preparation to remind you that you are not reading just another book. You are about to interact with Allah, the Most Exalted, so being clean should be a priority when

communicating with Him.

### 3. Start with reading only five minutes everyday

Too often, we think that we should read the Noble Qur'an for at least one whole hour. If you are not in the habit of reading regularly, this is too much. Start off with just five minutes daily. If you took care of step one, Insha' Allah (Allah willing), you will notice that those five minutes will become 10, then half an hour, then an hour, and maybe even more!

### 4. Make sure that you understand what you have read

Five minutes of reading the Qur'an in Arabic is good, but you need to understand what you are reading. If you are not Arabic, or you don't understand the Arabic language, then make sure you have a good translation of the Qur'an in the language you understand best. Always try to read the translation of what you have read that day.

Regarding those who neglect the Glorious Qur'an by not reading or not understanding it, Allah Almighty Says (what means): "And the Messenger has said, 'O my Lord, indeed my people have taken this Qur'an as [a thing] abandoned.'" [Qur'an: 25: 30]

Allah Almighty informs us about His Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, that he said: "My Lord my people have abandoned - acting or listening - to the Qur'an" and that is because the idol-worshippers did not pay attention nor listen to the Qur'an, as Allah Says (what means): "And those who disbelieve say, 'Do not listen to this Qur'an and speak noisily

during [the recitation of] it that perhaps you will overcome." [Qur'an 41:26]

### 5. Remember that the Noble Qur'an is far more interactive than a CD

In an age of "interactive" CD-ROMs and computer programs, a number of people think books are passive and boring. But the Qur'an is not like that. Remember that when you read the Glorious Qur'an, you are interacting with Almighty Allah. He Almighty is talking to you, so pay attention.

### 6. Do not just read, you have to listen too

There are now many ways to listen to audios of the Qur'an, a number of them with translations as well. This is in addition to your daily Qur'an reading, not as a replacement for it.

### 7. Make Du'a' (supplication)

Ask Allah, the Most Exalted, to guide you when you read the Qur'an. Your aim is to sincerely, for the love of Allah, interact with Him by reading, understanding and applying His blessed words. Making Du'a' to

Allah for help and guidance will be your best tool for doing this.

When you are making du'a', you have a direct connection with Allah Almighty. So when you are saying your du'a', you shouldn't be distracted, but instead you should be fully concentrated. The Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said: "Make Du'a' and be assured of it being answered, and know that Allah, the Exalted, does not answer a Du'a' from a carelessly heart which is not concentrating."

[At-Tirmithi]



## HMC's Ramadan campaign for blood, organ donation begins

Hamad Medical Corp (HMC), in collaboration with Al Faisali Without Borders Foundation (ALF) and City Center Doha Mall, has launched the 12th annual Ramadan field campaign for voluntary blood and organ donation under the theme 'Giving the Gift of Life'.

The campaign is part of ALF's nationwide initiatives and community partnership with HMC. It also aligns with ALF's efforts to raise awareness about the importance of blood and organ donation and highlights their crucial role in supporting the healthcare sector and saving the lives of patients.

HE the Chairman of Al Faisali Without Borders Foundation Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani emphasised that the campaign represents a national responsibility in line with ALF's mission of supporting humanitarian and social initiatives. He highlighted the foundation's commitment to supporting blood and organ donation campaigns, in addition to fostering public awareness of the life-saving impact of donation.

Acting Assistant Managing Director of HMC Ali al-Janahi commended the remarkable suc-

cess of the Ramadan blood and organ donation campaign over the years, attributing it to the ongoing collaboration between HMC and ALF. He expressed appreciation for the continuous support of HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani and ALF towards HMC.

"The sustained success of this annual campaign highlights the public's growing awareness of the importance of donating blood and registering as organ donors after death. We extend our gratitude to all supporters and hope this initiative will further instil the culture of life-saving donations, whether through blood or organ donation," said al-Janahi.

HMC's Chief Medical Officer Dr Khalid al-Jalham said: "The blood and organ donation campaign is a vital initiative that plays a significant role in enhancing healthcare in Qatar and meeting the needs of many patients. We deeply appreciate our ongoing collaboration with ALF, which reflects a strong spirit of partnership and social solidarity. We hope this campaign will see strong participation from donors, helping to foster a culture of donation, bring hope to

many patients, and ultimately save lives."

General Manager of ALF Abdullatif al-Yafei noted that the campaign's continuity since 2013 reflects its success. "Over the years, we have witnessed an overwhelming response from blood donors, demonstrating the generosity of Qatar's citizens and residents. Today, we reaffirm ALF's vision to be a leading national and global humanitarian organisation that promotes sustainable development, dignified living, and cultural and humanitarian engagement through various initiatives," added al-Yafei.

Director of HMC's Qatar Organ Donation Center (HIBA) Dr Riad Fadhil said that Qatar's organ donor registry has exceeded 580,000 registered donors, accounting for approximately 28% of the country's adult population. The number of living kidney donors to their relatives has been increasing annually, leading to a rise in kidney transplant procedures.

Dr Fadhil revealed the number of organ transplant procedures performed in 2024, which included 60 kidney transplants, 12 liver transplants, and one lung transplant. (QNA)

## Call for correcting the misconceptions of Islam



### Ramadan dialogue programme concludes

lectures, and the media, and to block any positive images of Islam in these outlets. Dr al-Ansari emphasised the need to focus on Islamic issues that aim to correct the false image of Islam and investigate the roots and causes of the phenomenon of hatred.

He called for the preparation of joint studies with prestigious Western universities that focus on detailed issues related to Islamophobia, and for the establishment of academic chairs in Western universities to combat Islamophobia.

President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars Dr Ali al-Qaradagi said Islamophobia has religious, expansionist, economic, social and intellectual roots, citing several verses of the Holy Qur'an discussing the phenomenon. (QNA)

For his part, Lebanese cleric Dr Bilal Baroudi said Muslim scholars hold the responsibility of restoring Islamic glory by erasing every ignorant interpretation that confuses Islam in the souls of its listeners.

Vice-President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars Dr Issam al-Bashir said that orientalism distorted Islam and played a major role in the growth of Islamophobia.

He slammed the collapse of Western values and its selective approach when dealing with religion, citing rejection and intransigence from the major powers against Muslims when they present their issues to the UN and demanded they be addressed in accordance with the UN laws and regulations. (QNA)

## QDA, Awqaf launch 'Safe fasting with diabetes' programme

The Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, launched the "Safe fasting with diabetes" programme, which aims to raise worshippers' awareness about how individuals with diabetes should fast safely during Ramadan.

The programme featured educational sessions after Taraweeh prayers at several mosques

statewide, namely Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani Mosque in the Pearl, Hamad Al Manaa Mosque in Lusail, Nasser bin Abdulla Al Musaide Mosque in Al Khor, Al Saad Mosque in Abu Hamour and Al-Mujadilah Center and Mosque for Women and Al Manarateen Mosque in Education City, where professional medical tips were provided to patients, along with free-of-charge blood sugar level testing.

Over 900 individuals from both genders benefited from this initiative, underscoring the community's interest in increasing the awareness of managing diabetes complications during Ramadan.

Curators of this programme underlined that such kinds of initiatives help individuals with diabetes fast safely, stressing the importance of regular testing and adherence to medical tips to maintain public health. (QNA)



## MCIT organises Ramadan Esports championship

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is organising the 2025 Ramadan Communications Esports Championship in partnership with a startup supported by the Digital Business Incubator and in collaboration with the Qatar Esports Federation.

The championship, which brings together professionals from the communications sector, aims to enhance the participation of the telecommunications and IT in-

dustry in Esports, while fostering a competitive environment that contributes to the sector's growth in Qatar.

Held during the blessed month of Ramadan, the event seeks to encourage industry players to engage in interactive activities and provide a unique opportunity for employees and their families to take part in exciting Esports competitions that reflect the spirit of the holy month, which is centred around community bonding and

connection. The tournament follows an individual competition format and includes three categories: telecommunications and IT sector employees, children under 18 (employees' children), and women. Valuable cash prizes and gifts will be awarded to the top three winners in each category.

The event is expected to enhance collaboration among stakeholders in the communications and IT sector, while providing a stimulating environment that en-

courages networking and engagement.

The 2025 Ramadan Communications Esports Championship is part of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology's strategy to foster local talent. Following the success of previous editions, supported by sponsors and partners, the ministry reaffirms its commitment to launching initiatives and events that promote sustainable digital transformation in Qatar. (QNA)





## 11th edition of Qumra to host over 250 film industry experts

Doha Film Institute (DFI) announced that the 11th edition of Qumra, the annual talent incubator for Arab and international cinema, will welcome over 250 film industry professionals representing all aspects of the entire life cycle of film production and exhibition to mentor emerging talent and provide creative feedback and business advice to take their films to the next level of success.

This year's mentorship for Qumra filmmakers will extend

beyond in-person meetings from April 4 to 9 to include online sessions from April 12 to 14, further expanding access to the invaluable guidance of industry experts that will support the success of their projects.

The event will be attended by many of the acclaimed film directors, producers, film festival and market representatives, programmers, consultants, fund managers, sales professionals, acquisition heads, script experts, distributors, video on demand (VoD) platforms

and broadcasters, and other industry leaders are return participants of Qumra, and have played a defining role in shaping the most exciting new voices in Arab and world cinema.

Industry professionals participating in Qumra 2025 come from some 50 different countries this year. Among them are countries as Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Honk

Kong, India, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkiye, the UAE, the UK and the US.

This year's edition showcases a significant presence of guests and projects from the Global South, with a diverse selection from

Asia, Africa, and Latin America underscoring DFI's commitment to nurturing emerging talent and fostering the development of underrepresented voices in world cinema.

Chief Executive Officer of Doha Film Institute Fatma Hasan Alremaihi said: "The presence of industry experts at Qumra is more than just guidance it is a powerful catalyst for transformation. By sharing their knowledge, experience, and networks, these mentors empower

new voices to carve their space on the global stage, ensuring that diverse and compelling stories find their rightful place in the world." Qumra will host 27 feature-length projects, 10 series projects, and 12 short films at different stages of development, production and post-production. Each creative team will receive personalised project consultations in pre-scheduled meetings with various international cinema industry experts. (QNA)



## Ministry, WHO hold talks on support services for elderly

**QNA**  
Doha

Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) Fahd Mohammed al-Khayarin met with Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Hassan Balkhy, where they discussed ways to enhance co-operation in developing services provided to people with disabilities and the elderly.

cussed the mandate and role of the Ministry of Social Development and Family in caring for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

The meeting also addressed areas of co-operation regarding the Global Disability Summit 2028 and strengthening the strategic partnership between the ministry and the WHO to support the achievement of the National Development Strategy.

In August 2024, the Ministry of Social Development and Family implemented a training programme on the rights of persons with disabilities in reproductive health in conflict and war zones,

in co-operation with the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region, and the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The programme addressed a number of significant topics, including reproductive health issues for people with disabilities, and the development of emergency plans for this group to ensure they receive the necessary protection and support during times of crisis, thus strengthening national and international efforts in this area.

During the meeting, they dis-

## QU hosts 'Ramadan Flavours' event

The Department of Nutritional Sciences at Qatar University (QU) concluded a special event titled 'Ramadan Flavours: Nourishing Body, Mind, and Spirit,' celebrating Nutrition Month.

The event attracted a diverse audience and featured a range of interactive activities and practical workshops designed to promote a balanced and healthy lifestyle during the holy month of Ramadan.

Participants were introduced to healthier cooking techniques and important food safety tips, ensuring that they could enjoy nutritious and safe meals throughout Ramadan. Insights were provided on how to stay active and maintain proper nutrition and hydration for all life stages during Ramadan, emphasising the importance of overall well-being.

The event provided an opportunity for attendees to track their diet progress and body composi-



tion before and after Ramadan. They could uncover the truth behind common nutrition myths, learning practical and evidence-based tips to maintain a healthy diet during Ramadan.

In the spirit of giving, attendees had the opportunity to support those in need during the blessed month of Ramadan

through donations in collaboration with Qatar Charity. Dr Maya Bassil, head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences, stated: "Our primary goal is to equip the community with the knowledge and tools necessary to celebrate Ramadan in a way that enhances both physical well-being and spiritual growth."

## Aspire Academy hosts Ghabga for staff

In celebration of being recognised by 'Great Place to Work' for the second time, Aspire Academy hosted a special Ramadan Ghabga event for its employees.

Aspire Academy director-general Ivan Bravo, football performance and science director Valter Di Salvo, chief corporate services officer Ali Sultan Fakhroo, education and student affairs director Badr al-Hay, Aspire Zone Foundation acting CEO and Aspire Logistics director general Abdullah Nasser al-Nuaimi, and Aspetar director general Khalid Ali

al-Mawlawi were present. Bravo said: The Great Place to Work certification is not just an award, it is a testament to the culture we have built together, the way we collaborate, and the positive environment we foster within our organisation."

During the event, Khalid al-Hamam, acting director of marketing and communication, extended his gratitude to those who contributed to making the occasion a success.

The employee responses highlight some impressive progress since the academy's recognition

in 2023. A total of 80.7% of Aspire Academy's full-time employees responded. When it came to the statement: This is a Great Place to Work, the Academy improved from 88% to 95% positive response.

Great Place To Work is a globally recognised independent organisation with over 30 years of expertise in assessing workplace culture. It has certified numerous organisations worldwide, with over 5mn employees in the US alone working for companies that have earned its prestigious certification.



## New mosque opens in Al Ruwais

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, represented by the Mosques Administration, inaugurated Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Shamsan Al Sada Mosque in the Al Ruwais area. The mosque has a capacity to accommodate up to 988 worshippers, including women.

The ministry announced in a statement yesterday that the mosque is situated on a sprawling plot of 8,462sq m and includes residences for the imam and the muezzin.

The mosque's inauguration, endowed by Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Shamsan al-Sada, aligns with the ministry's strategic plan to expand and enhance the number of mosques across the nation to keep pace with urban growth and population increase, reflecting Qatar National Vision 2030.

The mosque features a spacious main prayer hall that can accommodate 939 worshippers and a dedicated women's prayer hall with a capacity of 49.

It also includes a well-equipped ablution area, ample public parking spaces, some designated for individuals with disabilities, and organised entry and exit points. The mosque is adorned with a prominent minaret.

Notably, the ministry's Engineering Affairs Department focuses on meeting the country's mosque and prayer space requirements, providing temporary mosques in various regions, maintaining them, and preparing annual



al plans for mosque maintenance and imam accommodations. It also oversees the design, construction, and renovation of mosques and imam residences financed by endowments, ensuring adherence to technical and architectural standards, while maintaining a comprehensive database of all mosques and staff. The ministry's website offers a unique feature allowing users to locate mosques geographically using precise GPS-based maps, facilitating easy access to mosque locations in cities across Qatar. (QNA)



## Gord, ACI join forces for enhancing low-carbon concrete solutions

**QNA**  
Doha

The Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (Gord) and the American Concrete Institute (ACI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on advancing climate mitigation and sustainability within the concrete industry.

The MoU was formalised by Founding Chairman of Gord, Dr Yousef Alhorr, and President of ACI, Michael J Paul. The ACI is a US-based non-profit technical body that develops and disseminates consensus-based knowledge on concrete and its applications.

The MoU outlines several key areas of collaboration between the two organisations, centring on capacity building, training, and the promotion of sustainable innovations within the concrete sector. The collaboration also aims to create frameworks that support change through standardised certifications and sustainability assessments, such as Gord's International Green Mark (IGM), an eco-labelling system which ensures that construction materials meet rigorous environmental standards, enhancing transparency and accountability in the concrete industry.

The collaboration will also include joint research to create solutions that enable sustainable cities and communities, as well as the development of technical and educational materials. Addressing the audience, Dr Alhorr said,

"The challenge of decarbonising concrete production while meeting the growing demands of our region's development requires this kind of comprehensive, multi-level approach. Through this MoU, we are taking important steps toward reducing the environmental footprint of concrete production and promoting sustainable practices that align with global climate goals."

By combining Gord's expertise with ACI's technical and educational resources, we aim to drive innovation and create a lasting impact on the construction sector."

For his part, Paul said, "The need for sustainable practices in the concrete industry is more urgent than ever. As the demand for concrete grows through urbanisation and development, we must ensure that sustainability becomes a fundamental part of its



production and use. Working with Gord, ACI addresses this challenge head-on. ACI is pleased to be able to draw upon Gord's expertise in environmental standards, carbon markets, and sustainable practices to help the industry reduce its environmental impact and to create a more resilient and sustainable built environment for future generations." The MoU includes plans to promote technical and educational documents issued by ACI, launch awards to recognise excellence in the concrete industry, and support conferences and events aimed at fostering the transformation of the construction sector toward sustainability.

Additionally, Gord will support the institute's local branch by providing resources and guidance to contribute to the development of sustainable practices in regional concrete communities.

## QU celebrates graduation of second batch of professional diploma students

Represented by its Community Service and Continuing Education Center, Qatar University (QU) celebrated the graduation of the second batch of professional diploma students who successfully completed their program requirements.

The ceremony, held at the College of Education at QU, honoured a total of 228 graduates, with the attendance of officials from the university and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in addition to representatives of the private sector and partner agencies.

The list of professional specialisations from which students graduated within the framework



of the partnership between QU's Community Service and Continuing Education Center and Pioneer Training Center included leader-

ship and business management, human resource management, networking and cybersecurity, graphic design and social media

management, interior design and animation.

The Director of the Community Service and Continuing Ed-

uation Center at QU, Dr Rajah al-Ismail, stressed the importance of professional diplomas in the labour market, pointing out

that professional diplomas have become a cornerstone of educational and training programmes that play a crucial role in enhancing practical and professional competencies.

"Graduates of these programmes enjoy higher employment prospects due to their specialised, in-demand skills. A professional diploma is a valuable addition to any résumé, particularly in technical and creative fields," Dr al-Ismail added.

The ceremony concluded with the recognition of faculty members and trainers for their contributions, followed by the awarding of diplomas to graduates across the six specialised fields. (QNA)

## Significant efforts being made in Qatar to reduce spread of glaucoma



Dr Tawfik Dhaibain

In Qatar, 1.7% of the population is affected by glaucoma, with approximately 1,000 new cases recorded annually, noted physician from Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC).

Globally, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness after cataracts.

Dr Tawfik Dhaibain, consultant ophthalmologist at Al Thumama Health Centre PHCC, noted that glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in Qatar, and the most at-risk groups are individuals over the age of 40 and those with a family history of the disease. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide, particularly among individuals over the age of 60.

Every year, the world observes World Glaucoma Week from March 9 to 15 to raise awareness about eye diseases that cause blindness, particularly glaucoma.

Health institutions in Qatar actively participate in this awareness week to educate the public, as glaucoma is the primary cause of blindness among residents over the age of 60.

Glaucoma, also known as "blue water," is an eye disease that damages the optic nerve, often due to increased intraocular pressure. If left untreated, it can lead to gradual vision loss and even complete blindness.

According to the World Health

Organisation, an estimated 80mn people worldwide suffer from glaucoma, and this number is expected to rise to 111mn by 2040. Glaucoma accounts for around 10% of total blindness cases worldwide, and in certain regions, such as Africa, this percentage is even higher due to limited awareness and access to medical care.

In Qatar, significant efforts are being made to reduce the spread of glaucoma through initiatives led by the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation, and PHCC. These efforts include routine eye screenings, ongoing awareness campaigns via lectures, TV interviews, and educational brochures, and establishing specialised glaucoma clinics in various health centres.

To reduce the risk of glaucoma, Dr Dhaibain recommends regular eye check-ups, especially for individuals over 40 or those with risk factors; managing chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension; protecting the eyes by wearing protective eyewear during high-risk activities and recognising symptoms: such as loss of peripheral vision or seeing halos around lights.

Glaucoma is often called the "silent thief of sight" because it may not cause noticeable symptoms in its early stages. Therefore, early detection and regular eye exams are crucial to preserving vision.

### Kinar from Saudi



Kinar or Sidra fruits from Saudi Arabia are displayed at a stall near Souq Waqif in Doha. PICTURE: Thajudheen

## Qatar TV airs *Mardi Wa Daham*, a traditional comedy with a new approach

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

The series *Mardi Wa Daham* returns with a second season full of comic situations and new ideas, to reaffirm its position in the Gulf drama arena. Through its connected and separate episodes, the series continues to present social issues in an enjoyable comic format inspired by the traditional Gulf neighbourhood.

While employing a broad imagination that attracts viewers from different generations. We cannot talk about the success of *Mardi Wa Daham* without praising the role played by Qatar TV in supporting Gulf drama works. It has proven through this huge production that it is a renewed platform that seeks to provide diverse content that combines entertainment and qual-

ity. Directors Abdullah al-Arak and Malek Sabah succeeded in presenting an integrated directorial vision that combines a fast pace and visual angles that serve comedy. Their focus was on the interaction between the characters in a way that makes the viewer involved in the atmosphere of the neighbourhood as if it were real.

The directing also maintained the simplicity of the visual narrative, with the clever use of lighting and shadows to enhance the spirit of the traditional story with a fantasy character.

As for the decorations, they played an essential role in establishing the environment in which the events take place, as they reflected the designs of the Gulf neighbourhood with great skill.

The old-style houses, the women's café, and the narrow alleys all helped create a sense of time and



Screenshot from the series.

place, making the visual experience more realistic and connected to the popular heritage.

The work was distinguished by the use of costumes that reflect the identity of the characters and contribute to drawing their dramatic features. The costumes were consistent with the nature of the traditional neighbourhood, with the addition of some simple exaggerations in the designs of the characters of Mardi and Daham.

While the star Abdel Nasser Darwish continued to shine in the character of "Mardi" with his spontaneous and smooth embodiment of the role of the deceitful person in a likeable comedic style. While Ahmed al-Aounan presented the role of "Daham" with brilliance that embodies the comic chemistry between the duo, which made the viewers attached to them since the first part.

## Ashghal receives members of Filipino Society for Mechanical Engineers



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has received a group of engineers from the Filipino Society for Mechanical Engineers Qatar Chapter. According to an X post by Ashghal, more than 50 engineers visited the Doha South Wastewater Treatment Plant to learn about the process. Engineer Hassan al-Khawaja from Drainage Networks Operations and Maintenance department received the group and explained to them the efficient operation and maintenance of critical components to optimise plant performance, minimise downtime and enhance energy efficiency. From primary filtration to advanced purification, they closely examined the mechanical systems involved in the treatment process.

## Sawt al Khaleej Radio celebrating Garangao Night with special programme

Sawt al Khaleej Radio is celebrating Garangao Night with a special programme broadcast on Friday, highlighting the distinct Qatari heritage that accompanies this occasion. The radio station is preparing to convey the joy and fun to listeners through external coverage with colleagues Abdullah al-Hail and Mukhtar al-Kanti. They will cover a number of events and activities organised by various government institutions across the country, with the aim of strengthening communication, spreading a spirit of affection, intimacy, and love in society, and encouraging children to learn about their community's customs.

The programme airs on Fri-



days from 8pm to 9pm Doha time. It is prepared by Maha al-Zamel, presented by Shaya al-Fadel, moderated by Raja Salman, and supervised by Salem al-Mansouri.

## Garangao celebrations in Qatar from today

From Page 1

Major malls across Doha will also host Ramadan Garangao celebrations starting Friday. Darb Al Saai in Umm Salal is hosting the Razji event until Friday, offering a mix of past and present with competitions for children, entertainment shows, and workshops, including Garangao celebrations. Admission is free, and events run from 7:30pm to 12am.

Torba Market at Lusail Boulevard will host its Garangao Night on Friday from 8pm to 1am, while

The Pearl Qatar & Gewan Island will hold their Garangao event on Saturday. For those seeking a more artistic experience, "Under the Stars: Ramadan Night at Mathaf" is taking place today, from 8pm to 10pm at the Mathaf Garden. The event offers a variety of hands-on workshops, including a batool sticker design activity, pottery, tote bag creations, action model drawing, and a henna station. Traditional games, food stations, and school cultural performances will also be featured.

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**GULF TIMES**

## Europe faces stark choices over Russia asset seizure

Growing challenges to the euro's status as a reserve currency in a fast-changing global economy are, for now, staying the hand of European capitals as they weigh up the repercussions of a potential seizure of frozen Russian assets.

Nevertheless, Europe faces an increasingly urgent need to help bankroll Ukraine's survival as President Donald Trump looks to pull the plug on US support and instead bargain with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

That throws a spotlight on the roughly \$300bn of Russian central bank assets frozen by the West after Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine three years ago, the bulk of which is held in Europe – mainly as government bonds, the profits from which are used to guarantee loans to Ukraine.

While seizing those assets outright may be very tempting, such actions have a long and legally fraught history, and could scare off other central banks looking to park assets in Europe.

An early example of such action cited by European economists in research last year was the Soviet confiscation of gold shipped to Moscow by the National Bank of Romania back in 1918. The wars of the 20th century yielded dozens more examples.

But European officials who pride themselves on the region's respect for the rule of law are fighting shy of any breach of the legally enshrined immunity of sovereign assets.

"This is not for the European Central Bank to debate, but I would certainly submit that the international law basis on which any decision is made will matter as far as other investors are concerned," ECB President Christine Lagarde said last week.

The final decision rests not with the ECB but its political masters in Berlin, Paris and the other 18 capitals of the euro countries. But they will not take Lagarde's argument lightly.

"No-one has any interest in doing things that would weaken our system now, which is also being widely attacked elsewhere via trade, tariff, customs policies," French Defence Minister Sébastien Lecornu said last week of threats by Trump to impose hefty new levies on European exports.

Europe has long had to accept that the euro is unlikely to

challenge the dominance of the dollar as a reserve currency – briefly an aspiration in the heady days after its 1999 birth.

In fact since 2010, the share of global currency reserves held in the euro has dropped from 25.8% at current exchange rates to 20% as other currencies gain traction. Even the dollar has slipped slightly, while still accounting for 58.4%.

In a report last year on the euro's international standing, Lagarde cited challenges ranging from the emergence of other units as trade-invoicing currencies through to renewed interest in gold as a reserve asset in troubled times.

Some, however, question the rationale of even seeking to position the euro as a major reserve currency given the weak points in its construction, already exposed in debt crises 15 years ago.

"If we assume that this is a political ambition, then indeed the euro is handicapped by the absence of capital markets union, the lack of a euro safe asset and the lack of fully fledged banking union," said Hans Geeroms, a professor at the College of Europe and a visiting fellow at the EU think tank Bruegel.

Those were among the failings identified by former ECB chief Mario Draghi in a report last year on how Europe can avoid the "slow agony" of an economy falling further behind US and Asian rivals. Yet scant progress has been made on them even now.

But if such fragilities help explain why Europe is wary of anything which could weaken the credibility of its currency, wider geopolitical considerations are closing in.

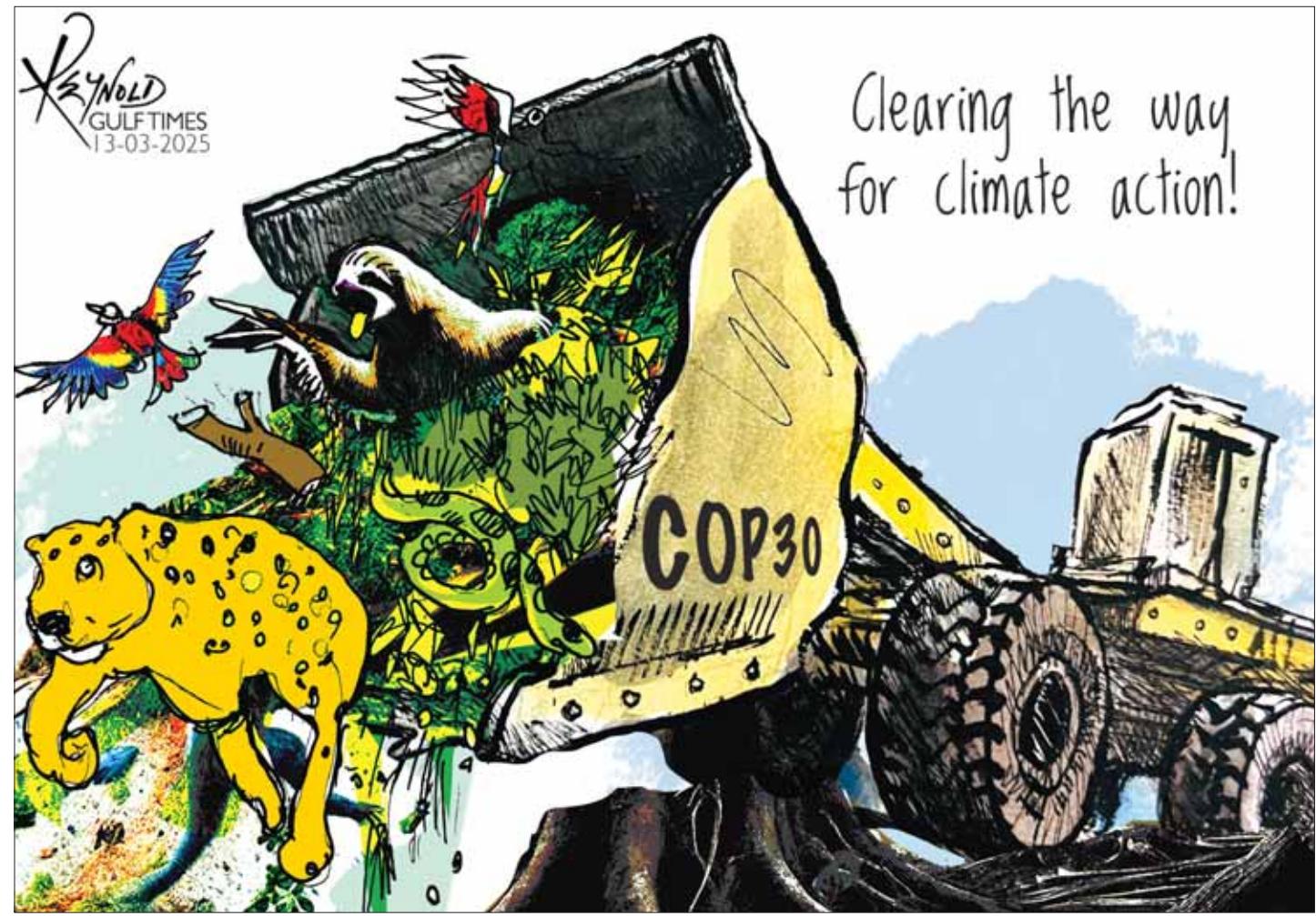
Participants at Thursday's summit on boosting European defence spending said no decisions on Russian asset seizures were taken in the talks, with one EU diplomat confirming that Germany, France and Belgium – home to the Euroclear securities depository where many of the assets are parked – had restated their opposition.

However Mitu Gulati, an expert on sovereign debt law at the University of Virginia, said Trump's reversal of US policy on Ukraine had shocked Europeans into "looking to do the things they weren't willing to do six months ago."

"The same people that said we are not going to do (full seizure) are calling now to say we are interested," said Gulati, who declined to elaborate on which countries he had spoken to.

One euro zone central banker who requested anonymity agreed the political pressure to consider confiscation was mounting.

"The ECB's advice won't change," the banker said. "But this may not sway politicians. The bill for Ukraine has just gone up a lot, and this makes this money so much more attractive." – Reuters



## Tesla's stock defied gravity for years. Is Musk's EV party over?

By Chris Kirkham

Tesla's stock has dropped by nearly half in three months. Even so, investors are still debating whether Elon Musk's electric-vehicle maker remains overpriced.

The company's market capitalisation has dropped 45% since hitting an all-time high of \$1.5tn on December 17, erasing most of the gains the stock made after CEO Musk helped finance the election victory of US President Donald Trump.

And yet Tesla continues to fetch a valuation far above those of the world's biggest automotive and technology firms, judging by standard financial metrics. That's because most investors and analysts have bought Musk's pitch that the world's most-valuable automaker isn't really a car company at all, but rather an artificial-intelligence pioneer that will soon unleash a revolution in robotaxis and humanoid robots.

Tesla's electric-vehicle business accounts for almost all of its revenue but less than a quarter of its stock-market value, according to a Reuters review of more than a dozen analyses by banks and investment firms. The bulk of its worth rests on hopes for autonomous vehicles Tesla hasn't yet delivered, despite Musk's promises in every year since 2016 that driverless Teslas would arrive no later than the following year.

The stock's decline since December stems from falling vehicle sales and profits; protests of Musk's political activity, including his mass firings of US government workers as a senior Trump adviser; and investor worries that politics are distracting the world's richest man from tending to his cash cow. Still, Tesla's market capitalisation remains up about \$65bn since the election – an amount higher than the entire value of General Motors.

After this article was published on Monday, Tesla shares fell by more than 15%, slicing off more than \$125bn in market value, after UBS cut its forecast for the automaker's first-quarter deliveries. The decline came in tandem with a broader market sell-off on worries about tariffs and recession fears, with the Nasdaq losing 4% and the S&P 500 dropping 2.7%.

Tesla's total worth of \$845bn as of Friday's close still tops the next nine most-valuable major automakers combined, which collectively sold about 44mn cars last year, compared to Tesla's 1.8mn.

Investors have long bet on Musk's vision of Tesla's tomorrow rather than its profits today. But the widening gap between its real-world performance and analysts' earnings estimates for unborn products has prompted some to warn of irrational exuberance.

"For how much longer can the stock remain divorced from the fundamentals?" JP Morgan analyst Ryan Brinkman wrote in January, after Tesla reported poor earnings and its first-ever annual vehicle-sales decline. Tesla and Musk did not respond to requests for comment. In July, Musk said investors who don't believe Tesla would "solve vehicle autonomy" should "sell their Tesla stock."

Tesla's previous peak value of more than \$1.2tn came in 2021, in response to concrete achievements. Soaring sales of its ground-breaking Model 3 and Model Y had proved that EVs could sell profitably in mass volumes. Musk vowed then that Tesla would produce even cheaper EVs and sell 20mn vehicles annually by 2030, nearly double what the world's largest automaker, Toyota, sells now.

Musk, however, shifted from the mass-volume goal last year. In April, Reuters reported Tesla had killed a long-awaited, all-new \$25,000 "Model 2" that investors had counted on to drive growth. Since then, Musk has pitched investors on Tesla's robotaxi focus.

The pivot was persuasive: Tesla shares jumped 71% from last year's low in April through the November election, even as its EV sales stalled and profits fell.

Then the stock nearly doubled in the weeks after Trump's election. Musk spent more than \$250mn supporting Trump and now serves as his top advisor on slashing government staff and regulations.

Musk's political clout has convinced bullish analysts that Trump will clear regulatory roadblocks to deploying a vast fleet of Tesla robotaxis. Tesla, however, already faces little oversight from many US states, which control most autonomous-vehicle regulation. Texas, where Musk promises to launch fare-collecting robotaxis by June, has barred cities from regulating them.

"There's absolutely nothing stopping him from releasing this self-driving technology right now," said Gordon Johnson, chief executive of investment-advisory firm GLJ Research, which recommends shorting Tesla's stock. The tech isn't road-ready, Johnson argues: "If he released it tomorrow, the jig would be up. These things would be wrecking across America."

Tesla has faced lawsuits and federal investigations into accidents, including fatalities, involving the driver-assistance systems it has marketed as Autopilot and Full Self-Driving. The company warns consumers the systems don't make its cars autonomous and require drivers to pay strict attention. Musk has long said Tesla's technology will soon be safer than a human driver.

The automaker's core EV business is struggling. The only vehicle Tesla has launched since the 2020 Model Y is the Cybertruck. The triangular pickup had sales of 38,965

units last year, Cox Automotive estimates, well below the 250,000 that Musk initially predicted Tesla would produce by 2025. Tesla has also cut prices on the now-ageing models 3 and Y amid slowing electric-vehicle demand globally and rising competition, especially in China, where EVs start below \$10,000. New data also show sharp Tesla sales declines this year in European markets following Musk's embrace of far-right political movements there.

Tesla now faces headwinds from the president Musk helped elect. Trump, a frequent EV critic, has called for scrapping EV subsidies and policies that have added billions of dollars to Tesla's bottom line. Musk has dismissed the impact on Tesla of losing subsidies, saying rivals would suffer more.

When Tesla reported a 20% drop in annual operating profit in January, analysts on the earnings call asked no questions about Tesla's financials or falling EV sales. They focused instead on Musk's promises of "autonomous ride-hailing" in Austin, Texas, by June and a wider driverless-vehicle launch by year-end. Tesla shares rose 3% the next day.

Tesla still trades at huge premiums, as measured by forward price-to-earnings ratios. The measure is used by investors to judge whether stocks are fairly valued. A high ratio suggests shares might be overpriced.

Tesla's forward PE ratio is more than nine times the average of the next 25 most-valuable automakers. It's quadruple that of BYD, the Chinese automaker that passed Tesla last year as the world's top EV seller. Unlike Tesla, BYD also has a booming business in gas-electric hybrids, driving total 2024 sales to about 4.2mn units, more than double Tesla's deliveries. Yet BYD's market capitalisation is less than a sixth of Tesla's.

Tesla's forward PE ratio also is more than double or triple those of tech giants Nvidia, Apple, Meta Platforms, Alphabet, Amazon.com and Microsoft – the other six high-flying stocks, along with Tesla, known as the Magnificent Seven.

Bulls discount standard financial metrics for judging Tesla's potential, arguing Musk is singularly capable of leading a transportation revolution. He has said robotaxis and robots will make Tesla the "most valuable company in the world by far."

Brian Mulberry, client-portfolio manager at Tesla investor Zacks Investment Management, said

Musk "always pulls off the technology," despite long-running concerns about his "mad-scientist personality."

Most analyst models reviewed by Reuters remain bullish.

Such models typically justify Tesla's market value by breaking it into several categories: its auto business, including services such as EV charging (now 90% of revenue); its energy-generation and storage business (10% of revenue); and three embryonic businesses: robotaxis; licensing or subscriptions for self-driving technology; and Optimus humanoid robots. Three such models in January rated EV sales as a relatively minor factor in Tesla's expected growth.

Truist Securities attributed just 9% of Tesla's value to car sales, 21% to driverless-tech services, 17% to robotaxis and 34% to robots.

Bank of America's model attributes about half of Tesla's value to robotaxis and 28% to self-driving software subscriptions.

Morgan Stanley attributes 21% to robotaxis and 39% to subscriptions for autonomous-tech and other services.

Tesla investor Ark Investment Management projects the stock will hit \$2,600 by 2029, with robotaxis accounting for 88% of the company's value. Ark forecasts Tesla could produce millions of robotaxis by then, generating about \$760bn in annual revenue. That would be more than Walmart, the world's largest company by revenue.

Tasha Keeney, Ark's director of investment analysis and institutional strategies, said she believes Tesla will achieve such growth by slashing the cost-per-mile of ride-hailing, making human drivers obsolete.

"It's cheaper than driving your personal car," she said. "Maybe people will stop even driving."

Trump could potentially clear the path for driverless cars with no steering wheels or pedals because the federal government regulates the safety of vehicle designs. Musk last October unveiled a concept car with such a configuration, the two-door Cybercab, saying it would go into production in 2026.

But individual states govern autonomous-vehicle travel on public roads, limiting Trump's influence. Some states, including Texas, have few rules. Tesla's largest US market, California, requires extensive driverless testing under state oversight before granting robotaxi permits.

A Trump move to loosen robotaxi regulation could benefit all competitors, not just Tesla. The tiny US robotaxi industry, for now, is dominated by Alphabet's Waymo, which operates hundreds of driverless taxis in cities including Los Angeles and Phoenix.

Waymo and most other autonomous-tech developers seek to ensure safety with many overlapping technologies, including artificial intelligence, radar and lidar. Tesla aims to develop much cheaper robotaxis by relying solely on cameras and AI.

Some investors doubt Tesla has found a unique path to cut-rate robotaxis. Mark Spiegel, an investment manager at Stanphyl Capital Partners, is shorting Tesla's stock, an investment that pays off if shares fall. – Reuters



People protest against Tesla and Elon Musk outside of a Tesla dealership in Palo Alto, California, on Saturday. (Reuters)

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## Amir hosts Iftar banquet for diplomats, MoFA officials

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held an Iftar banquet yesterday at Lusail Palace in honour of heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Qatar, along with ambassadors of Qatar abroad, and high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## WEEKEND DEALS

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