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April 17, 2025
Shawwal 19, 1446 AH

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BUSINESS | Page 1

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Griller 1kg

QAR 7.75



2pcs Per Customer

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QAR 15.00

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QAR 31.75



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Farmed Prawns
Medium Saudi 1kg

QAR 27.75

QAR 19.50



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Farmed Sea Bream
Oman 1kg

QAR 25.50



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Salmon Steak
Norway 1kg

QAR 89.75

QAR 69.50



لحم جاموس هندي
بدون العظم 1 كيلو
Buffalo Boneless
India 1kg

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QAR 22.75



شريحة لحم الضلع
بقري برازيلي 1 كيلو
Beef Rib Eye
Steak Brazil 1kg

QAR 45.75

QAR 36.75



QAR 30.00

QAR 22.50

أفطار أرز بسمتي طويل
الحبة 0 كيلو
Avatar Extra Long Grain
Basmati Rice 5kg



آر اس زيت
زيتون 1 لتر
RS Pomace
Olive Oil 1Ltr

QAR 17.75



عوافي جبنة
بيضاء 1 كيلو
Awafi White
Cheese 1kg

QAR 19.50

QAR 11.75



جين بري فرنسي
0.5 كغ
French Brie Cheese
500gm

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QAR 30.00



عنب احمر قرمزي
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Australia 1kg

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QAR 12.75



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1 كيلو
Broccoli
Spain 1kg

QAR 18.50

QAR 9.50



أفوكادو هاس
كينيا 1 كيلو
Avocado Hass
Kenya 1kg

QAR 22.50

QAR 8.75



QAR 19.50

QAR 16.50

تفاح روكيت
الأنبوب (5 قطع)
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Tube (5pcs)

QAR 22.50

QAR 17.50

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900 غرام
Lulu Bobby Veal
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Dandy Ice Cream
Asstd 2Ltr x 1pc

QAR 16.25

QAR 11.75



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1.6 كيلو
Germania Frozen
Duck 1.6kg

QAR 31.75

QAR 27.75



QAR 49.50

كيك كريمة متوسط 1 حبة
(8 إلى 10 أشخاص)
Easter Special Cream
Cake Medium 1pc
(8 to 10 Person)



ويلتش عصير العنب الأبيض
الفوار 750 مل
Welch's Sparkling
White Grape Juice
750ml

QAR 36.50



سيلبريشنز رجاچه
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Bottle 312gm

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/PACK 2.75 QR
/بالعبوة/



عنب أبيض، الهند
/PACK 3.75 QR
/بالعبوة/



تفاح رويال جالا، فرنسا
/PACK 4.75 QR
/بالعبوة/



أفوكادو ٢ x ٢، كينيا
/PACK 8.50 QR
/بالعبوة/



مانجو، اليمن
/KG 9.75 QR
/كغ/



لحم جاموس ٥٠٠ غم، الهند
11.00 QR
Buffalo cubes 500g, India



بلطي، محلي
/KG 12.75 QR
/كغ/



سمك ماكريل، السعودية
/KG 5.50 QR
/كغ/



موز، الاكوادور
/KG 3.00 QR
/كغ/



زيت دوار الشمس
زین ١.٨ لتر
2 Pieces
36.00 QR
15.00 QR
Zain pure sunflower oil 1.8L



دجاج ساديا ١٠٠٠ غ
15.00 QR
10.00 QR
Sadia chicken 1000g



مسحوق الغسيل ٣ كغ
Per Piece
15.00 QR
10.00 QR
9easy detergent powder 3kg assorted

WOW!

3 LITER

16.00 QR
10.00 QR

PYREX
وعاء بيركس
Pyrex glass bowl

WOW!

Per Piece
49.75 QR
15.00 QR

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Blanket single
150 x 200cm

WOW!

4 LITER

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89.00 QR

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Clikon air fryer CK352

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Qatar and Lebanon to enhance ties

From Page 1

For his part, President Aoun expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir for the warm welcome and generous hospitality. He affirmed his keenness to enhance bilateral co-operation between the two countries to contribute to achieving common interests and support stability and development efforts in the region. During the session, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and enhance them across various fields. In addition, they discussed a number of regional and international issues of common concern. The session was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-

Khulaifi, HE the Minister of Transport Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Thani, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi, and a number of senior officials. On Lebanon's side, the session was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Youssef Raji, along with a number of members of the official delegation accompanying the president. His Highness the Amir and President Aoun held a bilateral meeting, where they discussed regional and international developments and the joint efforts to enhance peace and stability. His Highness the Amir hosted a luncheon banquet in honour of the Lebanese president and his accompanying delegation. Earlier, President Aoun arrived at the Amiri Diwan, where he was accorded an official reception ceremony.

Amir welcomes Lebanese president and delegation



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with President of the Republic of Lebanon General Joseph Aoun ways to strengthen co-operation between the two countries across various fields, including energy, economy, and investment, during a session of official talks held at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

Call for urgent need to move forward with Lebanon’s economic reform plans

A joint statement was issued by Qatar and Lebanon, marking the official visit of President General Joseph Aoun to Qatar yesterday. The statement reads as follows: In response to the generous invitation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Lebanese President Aoun paid an official visit to Qatar on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The visit came within the framework of the solid fraternal relations between the two countries and the historical ties between their brotherly peoples, reflecting their shared determination to deepen and consolidate co-operation between them across all fields. In an atmosphere marked by mutual trust and a shared desire for consultation and understanding, the Amir and the president held bilateral talks that addressed relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen and develop them across all fields. In this context, the two leaders emphasised the strength of the relations between the two countries and their shared will to advance them to broader horizons for the

benefit of the two fraternal peoples. They also emphasised the urgent need to move forward with Lebanon's economic reform plans. The two sides stressed that the two countries enjoy diverse and promising opportunities in all fields, which will contribute to enhancing bilateral co-operation, consolidating partnerships, and increasing investment and trade volume to achieve common interests. The two leaders discussed regional and international developments, ways to enhance joint Arab action, and co-ordinate their positions on key issues. They emphasised the need to address all regional issues through dialogue and diplomacy, including de-escalation in southern Lebanon. On Arab affairs, the two sides stressed their unwavering support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the establishment of an independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

They also reiterated their support for Syria's unity, sovereignty, and independence. Both sides emphasised the national role of the Lebanese Army, the importance of supporting it, and the need to implement Resolution 1701 in all its provisions. In this regard, His Highness the Amir announced the renewal of the Qatari grant to support the salaries of the Lebanese Army, amounting to \$60mn, in addition to 162 military vehicles, to enable it to carry out its national duties of maintaining stability and controlling the borders throughout Lebanese territory. His Highness the Amir also affirmed to President Aoun that Qatar stands with Lebanon, its people, and its institutions, reiterating Qatar's firm stance toward Lebanon's stability and territorial integrity. At the conclusion of the visit, the president voiced his thanks and appreciation to the Amir for the warm welcome and generous hospitality. The Amir expressed his wishes for the president's continued health and happiness, and for the fraternal Lebanese people further progress and prosperity. (QNA)

PM meets US Congress delegation



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met with a delegation (above) of members of the US Congress, headed by Representative for Washington's 9th Congressional District Adam Smith, on the occasion of his visit to the country. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the close strategic relations between Qatar and the US and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the latest developments in the region, especially in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories.

■ HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met with the visiting Mayor of Rio de Janeiro City Eduardo Paes. During the meeting, the two sides discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, in addition to several issues of mutual interest. (QNA)

Lebanese president ends Doha visit



Lebanese President General Joseph Aoun left Doha yesterday, following an official visit to the country. He and his accompanying delegation were seen off from Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of Transport Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Thani and Acting Charge d'Affaires at the Lebanese embassy in Qatar Farah Berri. (QNA)

Public Announcement

To all Ships, Fisherman and Mariners
Subsea Survey Works Offshore in North Field, Qatar
By the Vessel “Fugro Proteus”

Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar
from 20th April 2025 to 31th May 2025

In pursuant and under directives from the Department of Marine Regulations, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fisherman that Qatar Energy intends to undertake subsea survey works by the vessel “Fugro Proteus” in North Field, Qatar, bound by the coordinates and location map shown below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations. Qatar Energy takes no responsibilities for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operations following publication of this notice.

For more details contact 7048 9890

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OPEN TENDER

Vertical Expansion of Block D (G+5)

MEDICARE GROUP(Q.S.C.) would like to invite Classified Grade-A Contractors for the Open Tender for the construction, equipping, furnishing, completion, installation, testing, commissioning, handing-over and maintenance for (730) days of the above named hospital project (the“Works”). The Works includes finishing, interior design and procurement of all specified medical equipment and systems; and for a total built up area of 14,200 m2, at Al-Ahli Hospital located at Wadi Al Sail, Doha, Qatar.

Tender Ref.	Tender Bond	Fees	Tender Submission Closing Date	Tender Submission
TD-2023-Q 2239	QR 1,500,000	QR 75,000	30-Jun-25	Two Envelopes

Tender: Addition of the existing Building Block-D; consists of (G+5) with built up area 14,200 m².

Client: Medicare Group (Q.S.C.)

Tender Bond: Bank Guarantee letter valid for 120 days from the Tender closing date.

Tender Documents: To be received (09:00 AM to 04:00 PM) starting from 20th to 30th April 2025, excluding Friday & Saturday, from **Al-Ahli Hospital Finance Department**, located at Wadi Al-Sail, Doha, Qatar. Email: johnnt@ahlihospital.com

Collection of the tender shall be done by a contractor's representative carrying official authorization letter along with a valid Commercial Registration License, Company Computer Card and Contractor's Classification Certificate.

Submission of Offers: 12:00 noon time on Sunday, **30th June 2025**, to Al-Ahli Hospital.

Tender Document Fees: Payments are Non-Refundable and must be processed at the AAH Finance Department by cash, credit card or certified banker's check.

Tender Awarding: The successful Tenderer whom submitted the most satisfactory technical and financial offer- The Client reserves his rights to award the work to any Tenderer without any justification; and in accordance with the Tender's Terms and Conditions.

Qatar Press Center, QMC in media co-operation pact

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Press Center (QPC) and the Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance co-operation, exchange expertise, and develop capacities in the fields of media, journalism, and training.

Under the MoU, the Corporation will serve as the centre's media partner for one year, as part of both parties' commitment to encouraging and developing co-operation between them and media



(From left) Abdullah Ghanem al-Mohannadi and Sadiq Mohammed al-Ammari.



Editors-in-chief of local newspapers and other dignitaries at the event. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

outlets. The MoU was signed by Sadiq Mohammed al-Ammari, director general of the QPC, and Abdullah Ghanem al-Mohannadi, director of the International Co-operation and Agreements Office at the QMC.

The signing was witnessed by editors-in-chief of local newspapers, members of the Center's Board of Directors, Abdullah bin Hayi al-Sulaiti, vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of the QPC, Mohammed Nasser al-Mohannadi, director general of Qatar Radio, Ali Saleh al-Sada, director of Qatar Television, a number of department directors at the QMC, journalists and media professionals. The director general of the QPC appreciated the support of the QMC, extending his thanks to HE Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani, acting CEO of the QMC, for enhancing joint co-operation through professional and training initiatives to advance the role of Qatari journalism and media.

The director general noted that the

MoU stipulates that the centre, in co-operation with the QMC, will organise two annual seminars. They will be held in response to current events or to shed light on specific issues under discussion. A relevant personality from within or outside the country will be hosted during these seminars. He said: "In accordance with the MoU, the centre will, in co-operation with the QMC, organise four training courses annually. These courses will be either specialised courses organised in co-operation with the foundation, or courses specific to media affairs, organised by the centre and presented by specialists according to the chosen topic."

Abdullah al-Mohannadi said: "Through our joint co-operation, we seek to support the use of information and communications technologies to facilitate the flow of printed, visual, and audio materials between the two parties. It will encourage regular exchanges of visits between specialists, experts, me-

dia professionals, journalists, and media delegations from each party, with the aim of learning from each other's experiences and expertise."

He added: "The MoU includes co-operation in organising and co-ordinating the media required for the joint activities held by the centre. In addition to co-operation with the relevant authorities in the QMC's radio and television channels to participate in producing documentary and recording programmes for the centre, including interviews with pioneers of journalism and media, or programmes that align with the centre's objectives."

Al-Mohannadi affirmed the QMC's commitment to supporting the centre's efforts, which aim to serve as an umbrella for advancing journalistic and media work, to be a forum for all those working in the journalistic and media fields in Qatar. This will be done through intensive activity and growing media partnerships at the local, Gulf, Arab, and international levels.

Kuwaiti delegation visits MoI depts

A Kuwaiti interior ministry delegation visited departments of Qatar's Ministry of Interior, as part of bilateral security co-operation.

The delegation learned about the tasks of the Establishments and Authorities Security Department. A field presentation was given by the Security Support and Backup Force Department. The delegation also visited the General Directorate of Industrial Security and also conducted a field tour of Ras Laffan Industrial City. **(QNA)**



Tender - Waseef

Waseef Asset Management (Waseef) would like to invite competent Service Providers for the below Open Tenders:

Tender Number	Subject	Bid Bond (QAR)	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
GTC/WSF/AKC/IPS/17/2025	TENDER FOR REMOVAL, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF POTABLE AND IRRIGATION PUMP SETS AT AL KHOR COMMUNITY	13,000	500	May 15, 2025
GTC/WSF/BAS/CC/18/2025	TENDER FOR RENOVATION, REVAMPING, OVERHAULING AND TESTING AND RE-COMMISSIONING OF CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSOR INCLUSIVE OF SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FOR WATER CHILLER PLANT IN BARWA AL SADD PROJECT	30,000	500	May 15, 2025
GTC/WSF/BAH/MOS/19/2025	TENDER FOR REHABILITATION OF FIVE (5) MOSQUES IN MUKAYNIS COMPOUND	17,000	500	May 15, 2025

The Tender Document will be available from April 17, 2025 onwards upon submission of the below documentation to tender@waseef.qa

To collect please provide the following:

- Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid Identification of the representative.
- Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name - Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number 0002-105222-200 with Masraf Al Rayan Bank.

To collect please provide the following:

- Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date.
- Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and delivered to the below-mentioned address: GTC Secretary, 10th floor, Waseef Head Office, Al Owaina Tower, Old Salata, Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar.



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AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

AUCTION NO. (MQ /AC/AUCT/17/2025)

FOR SALE OF floating Ponton, tiles, granite, furniture, aluminum windows, coal, firewood, household utensils and other miscellaneous goods

Mwani Qatar Auction's committee announces a public auction for the sale of goods mentioned above according to the following terms: -

Document fees	last Date for		Time & Date of Sale
QAR 500	Document collection	Inspection of Goods	Saturday 09:00 AM 17/05/2025
	12/05/2025	14/05/2025	

1. Document collection	Documents for the above mentioned auction can be obtained from th Finance and Accounting Department of MQ, via Email, Tel No. e 40453724/568 - 31265655 / 30121037) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. (0850 - 102030 - 060) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of Qatari ID for personal bidder / the Commercial Registration for companies . (07:30 - 14:30) . EMAIL Tender.secretary@mwani.com.qa
2. Goods inspection	Hamad Port , Messaied (CT3 / LCL2) after issuing of gate pass (as per the rules and regulations) For only one person , (07:30 - 14:30) .
3. Auction Place	MQ, main building Hamad Port, Messaied, 1st floor
4.	Successful bidder for any item has to pay 10% of the awarded value in Qatari Riyals by Debit or Credit Card only (cash is not accepted) , and to complete the balance within maximum 5 working days after the Auction date. If the bidder fails to pay during the allocated period, the Auction committee reserves the right to confiscate the deposit and resale the goods without notifying the buyer.
5.	The inspection permit and the Auction Card will be issued for One person only , after paying the documents fees and port entry permit fees . No inspection will be without the inspection permit and it is not allowed to attend the Auction without the Auction Card.
6.	Goods will only be delivered to the winning bidder, and the resale is not allowed in the Auction yard.
7.	Safety measures will be applied at all stages of the auction (preview, sale, receipt of goods) and all bidders must abide by the instructions for tour safety and to facilitate the auction procedures.
8.	For further information you can call the following number: (55528788, 31330300) during working hours.

Mwani Qatar @Mwaniqtr Mwani.qatar Mwani.Qatar Mwani Qatar

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Raebareli, Shillong, Srinagar (J&K), Varanasi



Al-Misnad in London meetings

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met with UK Minister of State for International Development Baroness Jennifer Chapman, on the sidelines of the London Sudan Conference, held in London on Tuesday. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, particularly in the areas of humanitarian response and joint development work.



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday in London with Chair of the UK Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Emily Thornberry. On the table were ways to foster co-operation relations between the two countries, primarily in the humanitarian and development spheres. Both sides stressed the importance of continuing dialogue to address current international challenges. **(QNA)**



Cabinet backs forming digital safety committee for children

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting held yesterday at the Amiri Diwan.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stated the following: At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet commended the outcomes of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's official talks session with Egyptian President Abdel Fatah el-Sisi during his official visit to Qatar on April 13-14, which embodied the depth and strength of the solid fraternal relations between the two countries, and what distinguishes them in terms of mutual trust and shared aspirations to develop and advance them in various fields, in a way that benefits the two brotherly peoples and contributes to preserving the security and stability of the region.

The talks reflected the understanding prevailing between the two countries in regard to key regional and international issues, at the forefront of which is the Palestinian cause. They also highlighted the two countries' commitment to continuing their joint efforts to achieve an immediate and sustainable ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, ensure the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid to civilians, and support reconstruction efforts to alleviate the suffering of the brotherly Palestinian people.

The Cabinet also commended the outcomes of His Highness the Amir's official talks session with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during his official visit to Qatar on April 12-13, affirming that the visit, and the constructive talks that took place within its framework, have advanced relations between the two countries to a new phase of bilateral partnership, based on developing economic co-operation, enhancing investments, and deepening understanding, in a way that serves the mutual interests of the two countries and benefits the two friendly peoples.

The Cabinet also welcomed the outcomes of His Highness the Amir's official talks session with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa

during his official visit to Qatar on Tuesday, during which the two sides affirmed their aspiration to advance co-operation and bilateral relations, especially in the political and diplomatic fields, and strengthen co-ordination, in a way that serves the interests of the two countries and their peoples and enhances security and stability in the region.

Afterwards, the Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda, as it approved a draft Amiri decision amending some provisions of Amiri Decision No 14 of 2011 establishing an anti-doping laboratory, and a draft Amiri decision establishing Qatar Anti-Doping Agency. The proposal to establish this agency comes with the aim of strengthening efforts aimed at combating doping in the sports field.

The Cabinet approved a draft Cabinet decision to establish a digital safety committee for children and adolescents at the Ministry of Social Development and Family. The decision to establish this committee is based on a proposal submitted by the Shura Council, with the aim of presenting a comprehensive study on the state of digital safety for children and adolescents, and providing tailored recommendations to each relevant government agency, based on its mandate, to work towards creating a safe digital environment.

The Cabinet also approved a draft decision to reorganise the committee to follow up on the implementation of food security policies in the public and private sectors. This draft, which was prepared by the Ministry of Municipality, comes within the framework of working to achieve the objectives of the National Food Security Strategy 2024-2030, which is to build a high-performance food system that supports a diversified and competitive Qatari economy, while achieving permanent harmony between economic, social and environmental development.

The Cabinet decided to approve the draft agreement establishing the Arab Energy Organisation, which includes all the amendments to the agreement on establishing an organisation of Arab petroleum exporting countries, as well as approving a draft protocol

on immunities and privileges of the aforementioned organisation and its employees, in addition to a draft memorandum of understanding on co-operation in the field of diplomatic training and education between the State of Qatar's Diplomatic Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diplomatic Academy of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy of Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Cabinet also approved the draft agreement on mutual legal and judicial assistance in criminal matters between Qatar and Uzbekistan, the draft agreement on the extradition of accused persons between Qatar and Uzbekistan, the draft strategic partnership programme on establishing a national strategy for intellectual property and enhancing capacity building between the Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Korean Intellectual Property Office, and the draft basic contribution agreement between the Qatar Fund for Development and the UN, represented by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, for the Trust Fund for the Office of Human Rights NGO Support for the years 2025-2026.

The Cabinet reviewed four reports and taking the appropriate decisions in their regard. It included a report on the outcomes of the work of the joint committee on re-examining the amendment of the terms and conditions for applying the stabilisation of the electricity consumption bracket on productive farms, the third report of the team concerned with following up on the recommendations of the committee preparing a study on chemical and hazardous materials, dual-use materials and chemical precursors, a report on the outcomes of the participation of Qatar's delegation – headed by HE the Minister of Municipality, in the Real Estate Future Forum held in Riyadh (January 2025), and a report on the outcomes of the participation of Qatar's delegation – headed by HE the Minister of Labour, in the 102nd session of the Arab Labour Organisation's Board of Directors held in Cairo (February 2025). **(QNA)**

Al-Khulaifi meets Russian, Ukrainian officials



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, met Head of the Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights under the President of Russia, Alexey Ghazaryan (above). The meeting coincided with Qatar's hosting of 19 Russian and Ukrainian families in Doha to receive comprehensive healthcare and support. During the meeting, Qatar's latest efforts in reuniting Russian children with their families were reviewed, as part of its ongoing mediation aimed at reuniting families separated due to the Russian-Ukrainian crisis. Dr. al-Khulaifi affirmed Qatar's commitment to ensuring the continuation of its mediation to reunite children with their families. HE al-Khulaifi also met with Commissioner for Human Rights of the Ukrainian Parliament, Dmytro Lubinets (below). During the meeting, Qatar's efforts to reunite Ukrainian children with their families were reviewed, as part of its ongoing mediation aimed at reuniting families separated due to the Russian-Ukrainian crisis. Dr. al-Khulaifi affirmed during the meeting Qatar's commitment to ensuring the continuation of its mediation to reunite children with their families. **(QNA)**



Doha hopes Second World Summit for Social Development will yield tangible outcomes

QNA
New York

Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN HE Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani participated in a panel discussion organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs titled 'The Legacy of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development at its 30th Anniversary'.

The event was held in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action, as a prelude to Qatar's hosting of the Second World Summit for Social Development later this year.

The panel discussion, held at the UN headquarters in New York, also featured participation by Under-Secretary-General of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua.

During the session, HE Sheikhha Alya affirmed that Qatar's hosting of the upcoming summit is a continuation of the country's long-standing com-

mitment to supporting the social dimension of sustainable development. She noted that Qatar is a key partner of the UN in this field, as it hosted several major international conferences and summits focused on development, human rights, and global peace and security.

HE Sheikhha Alya added that the upcoming summit represents a pivotal moment to reaffirm international commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action on Social Development, while also generating the necessary momentum to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, especially in light of the adoption of the "Pact for the Future" last year.

She explained that Qatar hopes the summit will yield tangible and practical outcomes in key areas of social development, such as eradicating poverty, providing decent work for all, and promoting social inclusion, while emphasising the need to address implementation gaps and accelerate progress toward the desired goals.

HE Sheikhha Alya reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to hosting a

summit that focuses on making a real difference in peoples lives. She expressed the State's readiness to work hand-in-hand with UN member states, the UN, and all partners to ensure the summit's success and the achievement of its goals, ensuring that no one is left behind.

For his part, the under-secretary-general of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs called on member states and all stakeholders to strengthen their co-operation with the UN, in order to capitalise on the momentum generated by the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha. He emphasised the importance of translating political commitments into concrete, actionable steps that serve the people and respond to evolving global challenges.

This participation reflects Qatar's commitment to reinforcing a multilateral dialogue approach and enhancing international co-operation on priority issues, paving the way for an ambitious summit in Doha that contributes to advancing collective efforts toward more just and inclusive global development.



Qatar, Hungary parliamentary co-operation



The Qatar-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Shura Council, chaired by President of the Group Mohammed bin Fahd al-Musallam, met in Budapest with Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament Laszlo Kover and Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Istvan Jakab. In addition, the Shura Council's delegation met with the Hungary-Qatar Parliamentary Friendship Group, chaired by Laszlo Horvath, and President of the Hungarian National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mihaly Balla. The meetings discussed advancing the parliamentary relationship between the two friendly nations, in addition to mechanisms for bolstering engagement and coordination between the two friendship groups of the Shura Council and the Hungarian Parliament. **(QNA)**

QRCS aid projects benefited millions of people last year

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) held its annual Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) at its headquarters on Tuesday.

QRCS President Yousef bin Ali al-Khater chaired the meeting, which was attended by board members; Secretary-General, Faisal Mohamed al Emadi; assistant secretaries-general; and department directors; in addition to observers from the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA); Department of Supervision and Control director, Mubarak Saleh al-Hajri; inspector, Ismail Abdulrahim al-Tahan; and legal studies re-

searcher, Khalifa Farhan Mohammed.

Al-Khater said: "Last year, there were humanitarian interventions and emergency responses in various fields, both locally and internationally. Our humanitarian efforts in Gaza, Syria, and Sudan were the biggest in terms of amount, partnerships, and challenges. This motivates us to keep working with a more comprehensive, structured, and flexible strategy". After the adoption of the meeting's agenda, al-Emadi gave a video presentation on the results and achievements made in 2024 by the organisation's main

divisions: Volunteering and Local Development, Medical Affairs, Relief and International Development, and Communication and Fundraising.

As shown in the presentation, QRCS implemented local and international aid projects for the benefit of 7,994,317 people last year, at a total cost of QR547,552,030 up 4.8% compared to 2023.

Board Member and Secretary, Dr Mohamed Johar al-Mohamed, sought the opinion of the OGM on endorsing the closing audit report and discharged the Board of Directors from liability for Fiscal Year 2024. QRCS Head of Finance and budget committee representative, Mohamed Mohiy Khalifa, presented the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, while Assistant Secretary-General for Communication and Fundraising and elections committee head, Mohamed Ahmed al-Bishri, announced the election of Abdullah Hamed al-Mulla as a board member for the remaining of the 2024-27 term, replacing Dr Abdul-Salam Ali al-Qahtani.

The OGM endorsed all of the aforementioned items. (QNA)



QM exhibition to explore themes on exile, migration

Qatar Museums (QM) is set to present Your Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinemas, Amplified Voices at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art from April 19-August 9, featuring the work of more than 40 filmmakers and video artists from the Arab world, Africa and Southeast Asia.

The exhibition, originally presented at the 60th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale in 2024, explores themes such as exile, migration, and the complex dynamics of transnational crossings.

The exhibition unfolds across ten immersive sections over seven galleries, each dedicated to themes such as deserts (cradles of civilisation and places of rebirth), ruins (relics of culture), borders (demarcations between allowed and forbidden places) and exile.

Selected films are supported, co-financed or initiated by Doha Film Institute (DFI), with the support of Media City Qatar, and are on view alongside video works from the collections of Mathaf and the future Art Mill Museum.

In a press statement, Mathaf director Zeina Arida said: "This exhibition reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting contemporary artists and fostering global dialogue".

For Mathaf's version of the exhibition, the original scenography was adapted to Mathaf's



Beirut 1001 Views (2010)

galleries, and two additional video works from Mathaf's collection by Lamia Joreige and Basim Magdy, will be added, both of which were either commissioned or featured for exhibitions at Mathaf.

DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Al-remailhi said: "By showcasing the diverse perspectives of filmmakers from across the MENASA region and beyond, we aim to provide visitors with an engaging and thought-provoking experience with universal resonance."

Included will be excerpts from works by more than 40 filmmakers including but not limited to Algeria (Hassen Ferhani, Tariq Teguia), Egypt (Morad Mostafa, Sameh Alaa), Ethiopia (Jessica Beshir), Iran (Shirin Neshat, Shoja Azari, Ali Asgari), Lebanon

(Khalil Joreige and Joana Hadjithomas, Ali Cherri), Lesotho (Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese), Morocco (Faouzi Bensaidi, Randa Maroufi, Asmaa El Moudir), Palestine (Elia Suleiman, Raed An-doni, Larissa Sansour, Abdallah al-Khatib), Qatar (Hamida Issa, Amal al-Muftah, Majid al-Remailhi, A J al-Thani), Sudan (Suzannah Mirghani), Mauritania (Abderrahmane Sissako), Syria (Yasser Kassab, Mohamad Malas, Fares Fayyad), Senegal (Ramata-Toulaye Sy), Yemen (Shaima al-Tamimi) and more than a dozen other countries. The exhibition also presents video works by artists Wael Shawky, Lida Abdul, Hassan Khan, Basim Magdy, Lamia Joreige and Sophia Al Maria.

Media City Qatar CEO Jassim Mohamed al-Khori added: "As a catalyst for next-generation media, this exhibition reflects our commitment to championing bold voices and new formats that show the world Where Next is Made".

Curated by Matthieu Orlean with the collaboration of Majid al-Remailhi and Virgile Alexandre, Your Ghosts Are Mine continues QM's commitment to fostering cross-border cultural exchange and expanding the understanding of cinema as a powerful form of contemporary art.



I Promise You Paradise (2023)



Qatar Charity delivers over 5,600 tonnes of aid to Sudan war victims

Qatar Charity (QC) revealed that it has provided 5,635 tonnes of humanitarian aid since the beginning of the war in Sudan to about 1.75mn displaced persons in the country's safe states and regions.

QC indicated that its technical teams had implemented a new package of health interventions in Sudan, including the provision of kidney dialysis machines, incubators for children, and the necessary medicines to combat the cholera epidemic, as well as providing health services to displaced persons. QC noted that its health interventions are a continuation of its continuous efforts during the two-year humanitarian crisis in Sudan, during which it implemented specific interventions in the areas of food security, health, non-food items, women and children, and water and sanitation.

Currently, field teams are active in multiple states, distributing 2,500 food baskets and 230 tonnes of dates, funded by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), and implemented in partnership with the Qatar Red Crescent in Sudan.

In the states of Kassala, Al Qadiri, and Al Jazirah, QC is also carrying out a project to provide hot meals and essential supplies for displaced people. The project includes kitchen kits, water tanks,



tents, and 16,500 ready-to-eat meals. The project also includes kidney dialysis machines, incubators, cholera medications, and other health services.

With funding from the QFFD, QC delivered hundreds of tons of aid via three airlifts containing food, medicine, medical equipment, and shelter materials to the neediest beneficiaries as part of its ongoing humanitarian response. The medical and food aid provided advanced support for the dire health situation in Sudan. QC also covered the salaries of medical staff working at Al Nau Hospital in Omdurman, which has seen a high influx of patients after hundreds of other hospitals in the capital, Khartoum, closed.

It also launched a mobile clinic

project providing free medical care and medicine to refugees in Port Sudan, responding to the outbreak of infectious diseases in camps. The clinic operated for a full month, covering multiple camps and displacement areas.

With Sudan's stock of life-saving medicines for cancer and kidney failure patients nearing depletion, the Ministry of Health issued an urgent appeal. QC responded immediately, establishing an air bridge to deliver 62 tonnes of critical medications, aiding approximately 8,000 patients. Additionally, QC enabled the resumption of schooling by launching a Safe Return to School project, which included relocating displaced individuals from schools in Port Sudan, allowing educational activities to restart. (QNA)

HBKU co-hosts Materials Science forum



Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), in collaboration with Qatar University and Texas A&M University in Qatar, organised the 14th edition of the Materials Science and Engineering Forum, supported by Qatar Petrochemical Company (Qapco).

The forum witnessed the participation of more than 190 experts and specialists from Qatar and around the world, representing academic institutions, research centres, the industrial sector, government entities, as well as undergraduate and graduate students.

Held under the theme "Advancing Resilient and Sustainable Materials Through Technological

Innovation", the forum focused on the latest developments in materials engineering and related advanced technologies. It highlighted the role of these innovations in supporting economic diversification efforts, in alignment with Qatar's Third National Development Strategy.

The forum featured keynote speeches, industrial presentations, and research contributions from university students and alumni, alongside a panel discussion that explored ways to enhance collaboration among stakeholders to advance the fields of sustainable and resilient materials.

The event also included a series

of presentations, discussions addressing challenges faced by undergraduate and graduate students and researchers, and technological showcases of innovative solutions from Qatari companies. The forum concluded with an open discussion session, expert feedback, and an awards ceremony.

Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at Hamad Bin Khalifa University Dr Mounir Hamdi emphasised that the forum, over the past fourteen years, has attracted leading academics, students, and professionals to discuss pivotal topics contributing to development in Qatar and beyond. (QNA)

QU forum focuses on art's role in education

The Department of Art Education at the College of Education at Qatar University (QU) organised the forum titled "Art and Art Education: Education and Visual Culture".

The event aimed to explore the relationship between education and art by presenting a comprehensive vision of the role of art in developing visual culture and education. The forum witnessed distinguished participation from art enthusiasts within and beyond QU.

During the forum, Dr Omar al-Ansari, president of QU, inaugurated the art exhibition showcasing the learning outcomes of the Department of Art Education for the 2024-2025 academic year. Students from the department presented their most prominent

artworks produced throughout the year. The exhibition provided an opportunity for students to display their creativity to attendees, reflecting the level of excellence and progress they have achieved across various artistic fields. This exhibition serves as an important platform to showcase students' artistic potential and to enhance their ability to express their ideas through art.

In her opening speech, Prof Asma Abdullah al-Attayah, dean of the College of Education at QU, stated: "This forum provides a space for learning, a platform for dialogue, and a window through which we view the horizons of beauty, education, values, and identity. The College of Education believes in the role of art as an educational and instructional



tool that enhances students skills and fosters their aesthetic sensibility. It also contributes to building a well-rounded personal-

ity based on positive engagement with the community." She added: "Art education - with its cultural, aesthetic, sensory, and visual

dimensions - represents a fundamental pillar of balanced and holistic education. Through this forum, we aimed to highlight the integrative relationship between education and the elevated artistic role embodied in the outcomes of the Department of Art Education." She emphasised that art is an educational necessity, a rich expressive tool, and a means of human and societal development.

The forum featured two main sessions. The first session, titled "Educational Institutions and Their Role in Education Through Art", was moderated by Dr Faeza al-Thamari from QU. Panelists included: Dr Cherif Amor, associate dean for academic affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University; Dr Latifa al-Meghaissib, head of the education department

at the College of Education at QU; Hemyan al-Kaabi, head of the department of arts and theatre; and Prof Hala al-Said, director of the Doha International Center for Special Needs.

The second session addressed "Community Institutions and Their Role in Promoting Artistic Taste".

Participants included: Shaika al-Nassar, head of the Museum of Islamic Art; Abdulrahman al-Dulaimi, director of the Department of Culture and Arts; Prof Ayad Taama from the Department of Art Education at the College of Education at QU; and Dr Nizar Mouakhar, from the Department of Fine Arts at the College of Arts and Sciences at QU. The session was moderated by Dr Samah Abdel-Mawla, from QU. (QNA)

The Nakameleon - Autistic love music video launched

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Nakameleon - Autistic love, a music video with focus on raising awareness on the need to embrace and integrate autistic persons within the community, was launched on YouTube yesterday in Doha. Edrian, the creator of the video, who has also composed the music alongside the singer and songwriter Kayyca and Joelle Lahlouh, the mother of the 14-year-old Mounir Zakhour featured in the production, attended the Avant-premier (pre-launch) event. Edrian explained that the video carries an intrinsic message of love and care for such category of people, in particular children with autism. He said the idea came to him a long time ago when he was invited to a workshop and entertainment event for autistic children. This inspired him to further engage them into the



Edrian and Kayyca. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Joelle Lahlouh with her son Mounir Zakhour.



A scene from the music video.

community through raising public awareness that these children are normal in their own particular way and can be creative and engaging when dealt with in the proper way. Accordingly, the community needs to understand their nature, appreciate their skills and deal with them with the due care, love and respect. Edrian stressed that Her Highness

Sheikha Moza bint Nasser has been pioneer in promoting the need to give more respect and care for this category of people and thanks for her advocacy the United Nations has adopted April 2 as the World Autism Awareness Day. He considers this video is a message of love and care from Qatar to the world. He also said that the Child Development

Center for People with Disabilities has supported this work. Kayyca, a German expatriate who is the singer and songwriter, noted she was very happy to take part in such a work of love, said that the community needs to understand autistic children's nature, appreciate their skills and engage them with love and care. Such love and respect should be there in schools, gathering and

all other social activities. She also expressed her appreciation for the efforts exerted by Qatar in this regard. Lahlouh said that her son lived all his life in Qatar and enjoyed the most excellent care and support given to the autistic children in his category. She said that she loved the idea behind this awareness work and welcomed the participation

of her son as it gave him an opportunity to share in something he loves. She stressed that based on her experience, Qatar provides excellent care for such category with all the sophisticated means of treatment, training and support. The link to the music video: https://youtu.be/zrQOWoJxPVM?si=dq5V_S09JoVcfSti

New Nothing smartphones launched in Qatar

Nothing Tech has launched its new smartphones, (3a) and (3a) Pro, in Qatar, which will be available across various local retailers, both in store and online, a statement said.

Building on the 'acclaimed Phone (2a), the Phone (3a) Series boasts an advanced triple-camera system with optical zoom, a powerful Snapdragon processor, a brighter, more responsive display, and Nothing OS innovations like Essential Space – all wrapped in two uniquely refined designs.

Priced at QR999 and QR1,749 the Phone (3a) and (3a Pro) the series was announced earlier this year at MWC 2025.

Commenting on the launch, Rishi Gupta, regional director: Middle East & Africa for Nothing, said: "Our new Phone (3a) series represents the latest innovation from Nothing."

Sajed Sulaiman, vice-chairman and managing director at Jumbo Electronics Qatar, said: "At Jumbo Electronics, we are always committed to offering the latest and best in technology. The Phone (3a) and Phone (3a) Pro perfectly align with the growing demand for stylish, performance-driven smartphones at affordable price points."

Both the Phone (3a) and Phone (3a) Pro feature a more sophisticated look and feel, with upgraded glass back panels, enhanced symmetry in the internal structure, and refined visual details and elements throughout the finish.



The Phone (3a) Series also upgrades its durability to an IP64 rating and achieves Nothing's lowest carbon footprint on a smartphone to date, with 51.3kg of CO2e.

The Phone (3a) Series introduces Nothing's most advanced camera system to date, featuring an upgraded 50MP main sensor and a Sony ultra-wide sensor, along with 2x optical zoom for the first time. All powered by TrueLens Engine 3.0 combining advanced computational algorithms, AI processing, and multi-frame technology to deliver professional-grade, true-to-life photography.

Phone (3a) Pro's powerful periscope zoom, a total upgrade in hardware, combines a large 1/1.95-inch Sony LYTIA 600 sensor with a 70mm equivalent focal length and a fast f/2.55 aperture. The high-resolution 50MP sensor delivers lossless in-sensor zooming at up to 6x and when boosted with AI clarity-enhancing algorithms, it unlocks 60x ultra zoom.

The Snapdragon 7s Gen 3 Mobile Platform, with breakthrough performance powering select Snapdragon experiences, is turbo-charged by Nothing OS optimisation. The CPU is up to 33% faster than Phone (2a),

while the Qualcomm Adreno GPU delivers 11% better graphics.

Phone (3a) and Phone (3a) Pro both have 5000mAh batteries, delivering up to two days of use on a full charge. With upgraded fast charging now at 50W, Phone (3a) Series delivers a full day's power (50%) in under 20 minutes.

Nothing OS 3.1 is built with Android 15 at its core. Phone (3a) Pro also supports eSIM (excluding India). Phone (3a) Series will get updates for six years starting from when the device first became available on Nothing Tech. This includes three years of Android updates and six years of security updates in addition to corrective and functionality updates.

Essential Space is a new, AI-powered hub for notes, ideas, and inspirations. Essential Space Early Access will be available to all customers who purchase a Phone (3a) or Phone (3a) Pro. Phone (3a) will be available in Black, White, and Blue: 8GB + 128GB – QR999 (exclusively at LuLu Hypermarket); 12GB + 256GB – QR1,399 (Includes CMF Buds); Phone (3a) Pro will be available in Grey and Black; 12GB + 256GB – QR1,749 (Includes Watch Pro 2 + CMF Buds)

Both variants will be available at leading retailers in Qatar, including LuLu, Jumbo Souq, Virgin, Al Anees, Alif Stores, Jarir, Ansar Gallery, and Saudia Hypermarkets.

Prof Janahi is Sidra Medicine's CMO

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has appointed Prof Ibrahim Janahi as its new chief medical officer (CMO).

A distinguished leader at the Sidra Medicine, Prof Janahi has previously served as acting CMO, where he led several strategic initiatives that advanced patient care and strengthened medical training programmes.

Dr Iyabo Tinubu-Karch, CEO of Sidra Medicine, said: "Prof Ibrahim Janahi has long been a driving force behind Sidra Medicine's medical and academic excellence. His commitment to building a world-class health system, grounded in patient safety, innovation, and education, makes him the ideal choice for chief medical officer. We look forward to the impact Prof Janahi will continue to make as we expand our clinical, research and medical education programmes to meet the evolving needs of women and children in Qatar and beyond."

In his expanded role as CMO, Prof Janahi will continue to oversee high-quality patient care programmes, ensuring that clinical excellence and patient safety remain aligned with Sidra Medicine's long-term strategy. He will also continue to serve as chair of medical education, designated institutional officer, and division chief of pulmonology.

Prof Janahi, said: "This appointment is both a privilege and a responsibility. My focus will be on advancing innovation in care, strengthening our research capabilities, and expanding our medical education programmes



to shape future leaders. Sidra Medicine is uniquely positioned to drive excellence in paediatric and women's healthcare and research across Qatar and the region, and I am committed to supporting that vision."

He led efforts to secure ACGME-International and ACCME accreditations, supporting the training of over 400 paediatric specialists and ongoing development of care teams. Most recently, he helped establish the hospital's Gene Therapy Center for treating rare childhood diseases like Spinal Muscular Atrophy and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

In addition to his roles at Sidra Medicine, Prof Janahi is a Professor of Clinical Paediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar. Janahi is the founder and president of the Gulf Society for Pediatric Respiriology, a founding member of the Arab Pediatric Pulmonology Association), and a respected examiner and committee member for numerous medical boards, including the Arab Board and the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health in the UK.

AJMI win Stevie awards

Al Jazeera Media Institute has won a gold and three bronze Stevie Awards, one of the most prestigious international honours for outstanding achievements in business, marketing and corporate innovation, a statement said.

The gold award was in 'Social Media Management of the Year' category, in recognition of excellence of the digital strategy of the Institute, strengthening its presence on various platforms and providing innovative interactive content. While one bronze award was in the category of 'Innovation in Multimedia Marketing', the other two were in the field of 'e-marketing'.

AJMI director Iman al-Ameri said: "These awards are not only a certificate of high appreciation



for good performance and quality, but it is an affirmation of team's commitment to excellence, development, and creativity in everything it offers. "The awards reflect the strategic vision adopted by Al Jazeera Media Institute, and reflects its deep commitment to excellence and continuous development, and its keenness to remain at the forefront of media and training institutions around the world."

Closure at Bani Hajer Interchange

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a full road closure at Bani Hajer Interchange for vehicles coming from Al Shahama Street towards Dukhan from 2am to 10am on Friday. The closure in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic is to carry out maintenance works. During the closure, road users coming from Al Shahama Street towards Dukhan are advised to continue through the Bani Hajer Interchange underpass, then use Al Shafi Interchange on Al Rayyan Al Jadeed Street to make a U-turn and proceed towards Dukhan via the designated route. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists



of the temporary closure and abide by the speed limit and has requested all to follow to ensure safety.

Newage Cables, Unique Trading host presentation



Newage Cables, in collaboration with Unique Trading Company, hosted a technical product presentation in Doha recently.

Newage Cables (Private) Limited, Pakistan's largest cable manufacturing company, has officially appointed Unique Trading Company as its authorised distributor in Qatar.

Unique Trading's senior business development manager Abdul Ahad Khan moderated the proceedings of the presentation.

Ameed Arfa Butt, export head at Newage Cables, introduced the extensive product range and took the guests through the company's rich history, which began in 1956.

"Newage Cables holds the distinction of being the first and only company in Pakistan to secure product approval for building wires from Kahramaa in Qatar. Having 13 international certificates from accredited labs, we take pride in being the first

and only manufacturer in Pakistan to achieve fire-rated certification from renowned UK and European laboratories," remarked Butt.

Unique Trading's general manager Imran Rafique highlighted the company's journey and achievements since its establishment in 2003. "Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of our chairman Abdul Rahman Mohammed M al-Muftah, the company has achieved remarkable progress, establishing itself as a trusted importer of high-quality building materials sourced from across the globe. To ensure excellence, we have undertaken regular visits to various countries, meticulously selecting only premium products for export to Qatar," added Rafique.

Al-Muftah said: "We extend our sincere gratitude to the management of Newage Cables for entrusting us as their authorised distributor. Having visited Paki-

stan on numerous occasions, I have witnessed first-hand the strength and quality of country's industrial sector. Qatar, with its dynamic and thriving economy, presents a wealth of competitive and attractive business opportunities."

Israr Malazai, president of PBCQ, welcomed the collaboration between Newage Cables and Unique Trading Company, recognising it as a significant step toward strengthening business ties between Pakistan and Qatar.

Serein Asad, Trade & Investment attaché at the Pakistan embassy, expressed confidence that partnership between the two companies would pave the way for increased economic co-operation, fostering new opportunities for businesses and strengthening the presence of Pakistani brands in Qatar. Afshan Shahid, sales and marketing manager at Newage Cables, was also present on the occasion.

Qatar's healthcare experience showcased by The View Hospital

During a recent academic engagement at University College London, UCL Global Business School for Health (GBSH) – the world's first business school dedicated to health and healthcare management, based in London, UK, Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul, CEO of The View Hospital, shared insights from Qatar's rapidly evolving healthcare system with a distinguished cohort of MBA students specialising in healthcare management.

Dr Gul, who was appointed as an Honorary Professor at UCL Global Business School for Health (GBSH), commented: "This exchange with the next generation of global healthcare leaders reaffirmed the importance of sharing real-world case studies from the Middle East. "Being appointed an honorary professor is not only a personal honour, but a reflection of our shared mission to advance health



Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul, CEO of The View Hospital, shared insights from Qatar's rapidly evolving healthcare system with a distinguished cohort of MBA students specialising in healthcare management.

systems through education, research, and innovation. At The View Hospital, we call this 'academic care' – a model that blends knowledge with impact." The collaboration also supports

The View Hospital's ongoing mission, in affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, to drive academic care and to be a hub for advanced clinical care and medical education in the region.

This milestone not only honours Dr Gul's distinguished leadership but also reflects the hospital's broader vision to integrate healthcare delivery with thought leadership and

global academic engagement. Founded in 1826, UCL is one of the world's top academic institutions, with more than 18,000 staff and 51,000 students representing over 150 nationalities.

UCL's Global Business School for Health offers a unique interdisciplinary platform for developing future leaders in healthcare management, a statement added.

'Esports Forum' strengthens Qatar's role as gaming hub

Media City Qatar, in collaboration with leading e-sports company SNRG, successfully concluded the second edition of the Media City Qatar Esports Forum yesterday.

The invite-only event welcomed over 300 attendees, including representatives from more than 200 government entities, international organisations, and key industry players.

The one-day event served as a platform to explore the future of e-sports through a series of expert-led panels and discussions.

Topics ranged from the business of e-sports events and AI-powered coaching and strategy to the evolution of e-sports media and the integration of gaming into education. By bringing together leaders from across media, entertainment, and technology, the forum reinforced Media City Qatar's commitment to building a thriving e-sports ecosystem that nurtures talent, drives innovation, and contributes to the growth of Qatar's creative economy.

Thair Khaled al-Anani, director of Business Development at Media City Qatar, said: "E-sports represents a powerful intersection of media, technology, and



culture. At Media City Qatar, we have been actively investing in this space because we see it as a strategic sector with long-term potential. This forum is part of our broader effort to build a competitive media ecosystem that contributes to Qatar's knowledge-based economy, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. Through initiatives like this, we are creating opportunities for content creators, developers, and investors to shape

the future of gaming from here in Doha."

Ibrahim Samha, co-founder and CEO of SNRG, said: "Partnering with Media City Qatar on the Qatar Esports Forum reflects our shared long-term commitment to building a world-class e-sports ecosystem in the region. This forum serves as a platform for strategic collaborations, exploring the latest innovations and unlocking opportunities for local and regional talent. By

bringing government, industry, and creators in one space, we are helping shape a thriving e-sports landscape and position Qatar as a hub for competitive gaming."

From hosting initiatives like Geekend Game Jam and the Geekdom Workshop to incubating local developers and supporting Arabic game publishers, Media City Qatar continues to foster meaningful connections across the industry and create opportunities for emerging talent, a statement added.

Intbau Qatar meet announced

The International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism in Qatar (Intbau Qatar) is set to hold its annual conference as part of the Earthna Summit 2025 on April 22 and 23 at Bin Jelmood House in Msheireb Downtown Doha.

The conference will bring together a distinguished group of architects, urban planners, policy makers, and academics from around the world to explore new directions in urban development rooted in the principles of traditional architecture.

Intbau is a global organisation with more than over 10,000 members and 42 chapters worldwide, promoting architecture, urbanism, and building crafts that are grounded in local heritage and cultural context.

The Qatar chapter was established under the patronage of Fahaad bin Mohammed al-Attiyah, as part of Caravane Earth Foundation, an organisation committed to social, cultural, and ecological transformation. The chapter is based at Heenat Salma Farm in Doha – a regenerative agriculture and community development initiative.

The programme will explore five themes underscoring the role of traditional architecture in shap-

ing modern urban landscapes. It will address the economic, social, and environmental value of tradition-based development, legal and policy frameworks that support traditional urbanism, and the importance of vocational training in preserving craft-based knowledge. It will also examine sustainable finance models for heritage architecture and highlight the role of architects in promoting culturally and environmentally responsible design.

Running alongside the conference, Intbau Qatar will present curated exhibits at Earthna Village in Barahat Msheireb on April 22-23. Highlights include traditional woodwork from Türkiye's Çiller Kündekari, known for its intricate Kündekari and Çitakari techniques and the crafting of Al-Aqsa Mosque's wooden minbar, and Andalusian-style gypsum carvings from Spain's Artesanía Nazari, famed for restoring the Alhambra.

A photography exhibition, Built by Many Hands: A Pavilion's Tale by Ganna Ostapenko and Caravane Earth Foundation, will document the collaborative construction of pavilions designed by Yasmeen Lari, showcasing the often-invisible craftsmanship behind sustainable architecture.

Role of women in academia discussed

The Excellence Center for Training and Consulting, in collaboration with the Human Rights Programme at the Doha Institute (DI), organised a panel discussion titled 'Women in Academia: Reality, Challenges, and Future Directions' on Tuesday.

The panel addressed several key themes, including educational and professional pathways, societal roles, and research contributions.

Lolwa bint Abdullah al-Misnad, a writer and consultant in institutional and community development, discussed the experiences of Qatari women in academic leadership. She highlighted the progress they have made, while also noting ongoing challenges in certain institutional environments.

Dr Amal Ghazal, dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, addressed the role of women in academia from a

research perspective. She emphasised the need to support women's presence in research settings and to increase their opportunities to lead scientific projects.

Dr Fatma Mohammed bin Humaid al-Suwaidi, Professor of Classical Arabic Literature and Cultural Criticism at Qatar University, explored the role of women in academia from an academic and cultural standpoint. She stressed that the education of Arab women should go beyond the acquisition of knowledge, serving instead as a "path" to empowerment and transformation. She also highlighted the significant challenges still facing women's education in the Arab world.

The panel was moderated by Dr Aya Randall, assistant professor in the Human Rights Programme, who concluded the session highlighting the importance of moving from theoretical discussion to practical planning in order to ensure a more inclusive and equitable future for women in academia.

QM unveils new art installations

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced the unveiling of 'Focus Points,' a major installation by renowned contemporary artist Nayri Baghramian, in the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park.

This stunning addition to Qatar's growing public art collection embodies Qatar Museums' mission to make exceptional contemporary art accessible to all, stimulating dialogue across multiple cultures, histories, and contexts, a statement said yesterday.

QM Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani unveiled the artwork in the presence of Iranian ambassador Dr Ali Saleh Abadi, and QM CEO Mohamed Saad al-Rumailhi. Artist Baghramian has achieved widespread acclaim for her sculptures, which draw inspiration from architectural elements and the human body to explore the intersections of time, space, and social contexts with language, memory, and contemporary life. Her works invite audiences to reconsider their relationship with the spaces around them and



reflect on how form and meaning evolve across different settings. Sheikha Reem al-Thani, acting vice president of Exhibitions, Public Art and Qatar Quartet at QM, said: "In 'Focus Points', Nayri Baghramian explores the concepts of space, balance, and matter in a way that resonates with its installation in the MIA Park. This work embodies our mission to enrich the public realm with bold and thought-provoking contemporary artworks that invite contemplation, challenge our perceptions, and

open up opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue. We are proud to add this important work to Qatar Museums' public art collection." 'Focus Points' sculpture was first exhibited in 2017 in Germany as part of the fifth edition of the 'Münster Sculpture Projects' exhibition, one of the world's most important public art platforms. It forms part of an ongoing series of sculptures that can be reconfigured in various arrangements and adapted to suit various locations.

'Focus Points,' installed in the MIA Park, consists of tubular bronze forms coated in a pastel lacquer, resting on bases resembling giant drops of paint. The use of muted colours and an organic composition allows the sculpture to interact with its surroundings in a form of harmony and dialogue. This work addresses traditional sculptural issues of mass and weightlessness, form and colour, balance and performance. Through its delicate harmony of balance and openness, 'Focus Points' combines ancient and contemporary influences, techniques, and materials. In doing so, it encourages audiences to explore the connections between cultures and times and to reflect on the shared creativity that shapes the human experience.

The unveiling of this artwork comes as part of Qatar Museums' ongoing investment in public art and cultural dialogue, transforming the country's natural and urban landscapes into vibrant platforms for creativity and exchange, the statement added.



Italian medical delegation visits Aspetar

An Italian medical delegation visited Aspetar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital yesterday.

Italian Minister of Health Prof Orazio Schillaci led the high-level delegation, which also included senior executives from 45 leading Italian companies in biotechnology. The delegation held talks with Aspetar's Acting Director General Khalid al-Mawlawi and several senior officials on the enhancement of bilateral relations and exploring opportunities for co-operation in the field of sports medicine. The visitors also had the opportunity to tour Aspetar's state-of-the-art facilities, gaining valuable insights into the innovative healthcare solutions and advanced medical technologies adopted by the hospital. (QNA)



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GULF TIMES

Oil price drop turns up heat on emerging market crude exporters

A steep drop in crude oil prices largely due to US President Donald Trump's tariffs will squeeze budgets of emerging market oil exporters, analysts said, while the potential economic slowdown could also curb any benefits for importers.

Concerns about the impact of a tit-for-tat trade war on global growth and demand for oil sent Brent crude prices plummeting by more than 20% within a week to a four-year low after Trump announced his sweeping tariffs on April 2.

Prices have since recovered some ground to around \$66 per barrel from below \$60.

Turkiye, India, Pakistan, Morocco and much of emerging Europe relying on oil imports are set to see some benefits from lower prices of crude. But oil exporting states including Gulf countries, Nigeria, Angola, Venezuela and to some degree Brazil, Colombia and Mexico will feel the pain of losing a chunk of hard-currency revenues, investors said.

"Losers will be hit relatively harder than the upside seen in importing countries," said Thomas Haugaard, portfolio manager for emerging market debt at Janus Henderson Investors.

"Oil exports often contribute considerably to public finances which will spill over into credit risk premiums."

On paper, emerging market oil importers should enjoy benefits from lower import bills

Current oil prices are well below the average budget assumptions of \$69 across main oil exporters' year-ahead projections, as calculated by Morgan Stanley, flagging Angola and Bahrain as the countries most sensitive.

Angola is already feeling the pinch.

It had to pay \$200mn last week after JPMorgan issued a margin call on the southern African nation's \$1bn total return swap, the finance ministry said. The total return swap is a loan issued by the lender last December, backed by Angola's dollar bonds.

"The current context has affected the commodities market and emerging market Eurobonds, including the trading level of Angolan Eurobonds, and has triggered a margin call. Angola fulfilled its obligation on time and in cash," the ministry told Reuters on Monday.

Angola opted for the collateralised loan to manage liabilities at a time when its Eurobond market access faced uncertainties due to high external debts to a range of foreign creditors including China and other commercial lenders.

Like other so-called frontier issuers, average yields on Angola's dollar bonds have surged to double digits in the selloff of risky assets following the US tariffs.

The International Monetary Fund classifies Angola's debt as being at risk of high debt distress, but the Angolan government said the country's debt trajectory remains solid and on a stable path.

The drop in the price of crude is also undoing frontier markets debt trades that had held up for at least a year, JPMorgan said in a research note.

It cited the Nigerian carry trade, which involved investing in the oil exporter's Treasury bills on bets the naira currency will not depreciate quickly against the dollar. Investors now risk incurring losses if the lower crude price hits the naira.

"The central bank has had to increase its dollar sales interventions in order to avoid convertibility risks and limit a disorderly move," JPMorgan said in a note to investors.

A sustained drop in the price of oil could undermine recent progress on economic reforms, and even reverse progress, said analysts.

Oil accounts for about 90% of Nigeria's exports and crude earnings were set to fund 56% of this year's budget. The government forecast oil at \$75 a barrel in the 2024 budget but has been forced to change its plan.

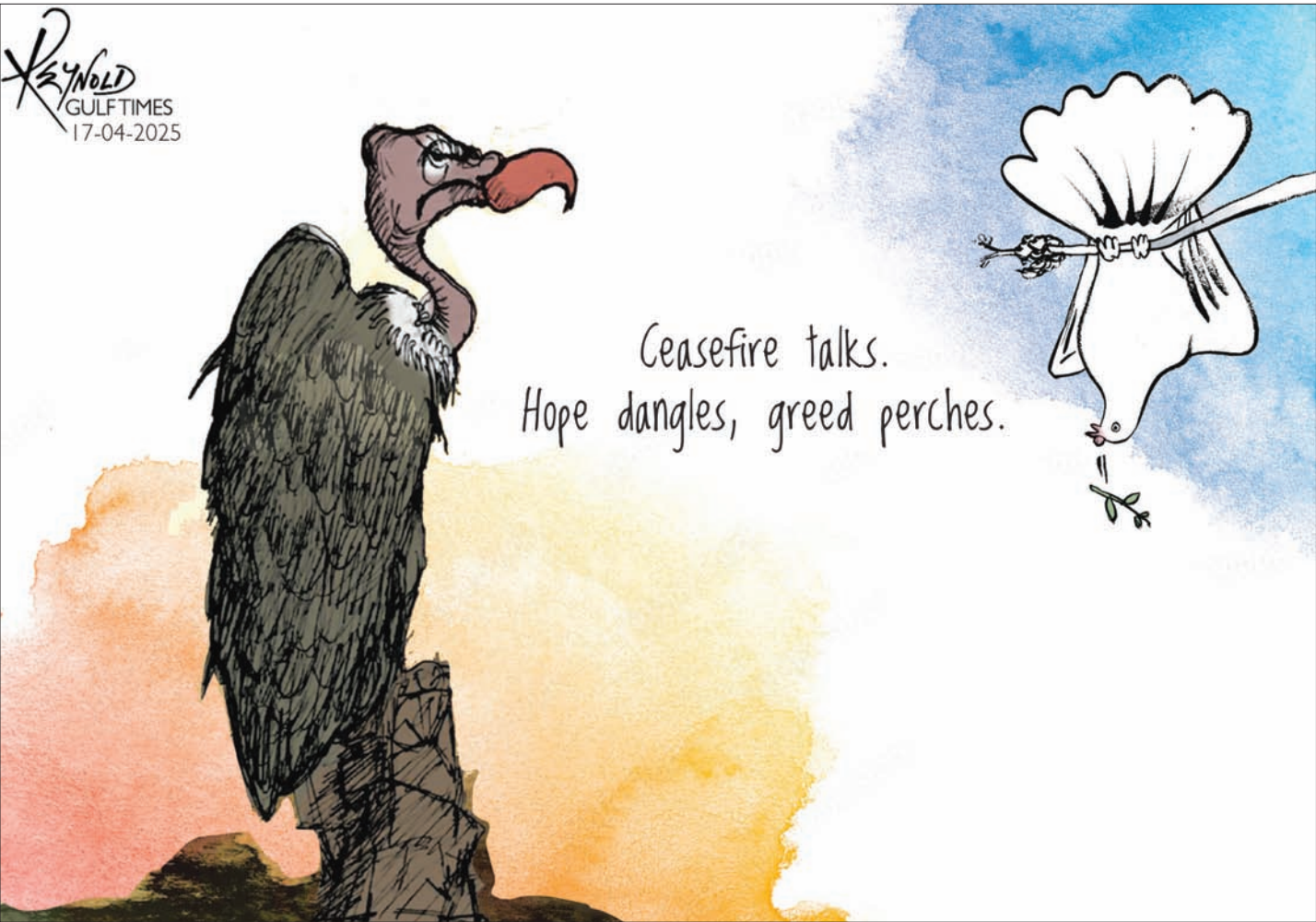
"We are going back to the drawing board to look at our budget all over again," Finance Minister Wale Edun told reporters last week.

Gulf oil producers like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates could weather the storm better given higher reserve levels, relatively low debt and some strides in economic diversification, economists said.

Still, a drop in revenue could complicate their ability to spend on new projects, including de facto Opec leader Saudi Arabia.

On paper, emerging market oil importers should enjoy benefits from lower import bills, improved current account deficits and a positive impact on inflation pressures — but they also face risks.

"The lower oil price outlook is positive for oil importers, albeit unlikely to counterbalance the significant headwinds from the trade war and the significant downside risks," said Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.



US renters fear raise, eviction over energy efficient homes



Policymakers focus on emissions from homes, buildings



Renters worry home rehabs can lead to displacement



Pennsylvania protects tenants alongside green push

By Carey L Biron
Washington

Renters and local officials across the United States are warning that the rising response to climate change could inadvertently aggravate the country's housing affordability crisis, driving up costs and even leading to evictions.

With homes and buildings contributing more than a third of US greenhouse gas emissions, policymakers have started pushing landlords to weatherise, improve energy efficiency and replace old fossil fuel appliances.

Yet there is growing concern that such incentives could also prompt landlords to raise rents and displace tenants in the name of green upgrades.

"Tenants need upgrades to their units, but landlords often use basic health and safety repairs as an excuse to hike rent," Tara Raghuveer, director of the national Tenant Union Federation, the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"This is why decarbonisation upgrades must come along with rent regulations and other protections to keep tenants housed."

Tens of billions of dollars in federal funding for building decarbonisation is set to become available, and related local mandates are being put in place in New York, California and elsewhere.

In Connecticut, tenants are already on edge as investors from nearby New York have flooded in.

Luke Melonakos-Harrison, vice president of the Connecticut Tenants Union, said "lots of evictions" had been caused as

owners have to repay loans that count on steep rent increases.

"We see landlords using anything imaginable to raise the rent - often they don't even come up with a reason!"

He and others are pushing a state bill that would expand "just cause" protections limiting the reasons for which a tenant can be evicted, and they want to ensure that covers green and other renovations.

Landlords, including the Connecticut Apartment Association, warn the bill would slow construction of new housing and exacerbate shortages.

Property manager Krystal Garcia told lawmakers in March that "the narrative that landlords use lapse of time to clear out a building, renovate, and increase rents is overblown - nobody wants to get rid of a good resident".

Yet tenants say they have reason to be concerned.

Connecticut Tenants Union chapter head Sarah Giovannello said a new landlord purchased her 70-unit, two-story apartment complex in New Haven in 2021 and made minor upgrades before seeking to double rents.

In February, the landlord installed four electric-vehicle chargers in the parking lot, despite just one renter having an EV, a situation Giovannello said made residents nervous.

"If it costs him money, he would pass that on to us," she said of the landlord.

"That means any upgrades they do to the property actually have more potential to harm tenants than help."

Local protections

Tenant protections vary significantly across the country, according to a March report that looked at the potential impacts

of decarbonisation efforts in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago.

Chelsea Kirk, a director with Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, an economic justice nonprofit in Los Angeles that co-published the report, said for years she had seen California renters get stuck with higher rents after construction, or worse.

"If a landlord does a \$15,000 retrofit, how much of that does the tenant have to pay? The answer is 100%," she said.

"I've seen landlords initiate construction work just for the purpose of evicting a tenant."

Kirk now foresees a similar pattern if the push for building decarbonisation is not accompanied by "foundational tenant protections" in communities across the country.

Raising the alarm about such needs has been complicated because housing and environmental advocacy had traditionally operated separately.

Amneh Minkara, deputy director of the environmental group Sierra Club's Building Electrification campaign, has been working to close that gap, including with a new policy briefing in October, co-published with the Climate and Community Institute.

It looks at the "good cause" eviction work in Connecticut, rent stabilisation in St Paul, tenants' right to organise in Kansas City and habitability standards in Los Angeles and others.

The tens of billions of dollars in federal funding is now up in the air due to President Donald Trump's policies, but the institute's housing policy director, Ruthy Gourevitch, said renter safeguards remained a local responsibility.

"Most of the tenant protections that I work on are typically done at the state and local level, and can happen through direct negotiations between tenants and landlords," Gourevitch said.

Pennsylvania models

In Pennsylvania, state Senator Nikil Saval's Whole-Home Repairs law is funding home upgrades, but with a stipulation: for a certain period, landlords cannot raise rents more than 3% above the base rent per year.

"We don't want costs for maintenance to be passed on to tenants and therefore put these apartments out of reach," Saval said in an interview.

The law has sparked similar efforts in other states, as well as a federal bill co-sponsored by Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman.

Philadelphia, meanwhile, the state's largest city, is offering forgivable loans for landlord repairs in exchange for 10 years of affordability, said Rachel Mulbry, a director with the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation.

That trade-off has been fine with Joseph Achenbach, who owns about a dozen properties in the Philadelphia area.

At a three-bedroom row house that qualifies for rental subsidies, he recently used the programme to install a new high-efficiency system to replace the old boiler and water heater, along with some other work.

"Green upgrades - that's my number two issue. My number one is safety," he said. "If I can save (my renters) money paying utilities, that's a good thing. I feel good, and they're happy."

- Thomson Reuters Foundation



Workers lift a solar panel onto a roof during a residential solar installation in Scripps Ranch, San Diego, California, in 2016. (Reuters file photo)

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Hailstorm havoc in Islamabad

Agencies
Islamabad

A powerful hailstorm struck Islamabad and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) yesterday unleashing chaos across the federal capital.

The 35-minute storm, accompanied by heavy rain and strong winds, left a trail of destruction, damaging vehicles, solar panels, and vegetation while disrupting power and traffic. The sudden weather event, which broke a spell of intense heat, brought both relief and significant losses to residents.

According to Geo.tv, the hailstorm pummelled Islamabad with large hailstones — in many areas the size of golf balls — smashing car windscreens and breaking tree branches.

The storm caused widespread traffic disruptions as fallen leaves and debris littered roads.

The *Express Tribune* reported a noticeable drop in temperature, offering temporary respite from the preceding heatwave. However, the cost was steep, with dawn.com noting that the storm triggered flash floods and caused extensive damage to vehicles and infrastructure. ProPakistani.pk highlighted the severity, quoting commuter Aadil Shadman



A view of an area bathed in hailstones in Pakistan's federal capital Islamabad yesterday.

on Margalla Road: "This is the most severe hailstorm I've seen in years."

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) had forecasted rain, wind, and thunderstorms for northern Pakistan, including Islamabad and Rawalpindi, from April 16-20, with a prior hailstorm recorded in the capital last April.

The storm also impacted the Islamabad Electric Supply Com-

pany (IESCO), with fallen poles and broken wires causing power outages in several areas, as per a utility spokesperson.

The Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, set to host a Pakistan Super League match between Islamabad United and Multan Sultans, escaped the hail but was affected by rain, leaving the outfield wet, according to CricWick correspondent Abu Bakr Tarrar. The National

Disaster Management Authority issued warnings of extreme summer conditions, heatwaves, and wildfire risks in KP, Balochistan, and other regions, signalling ongoing weather challenges.

Residents and officials are now assessing the damage as Islamabad recovers from the destructive storm, with social media reflecting both awe and concern over the rare weather event.



Golf ball-sized hailstones in the palm of a resident picked from a home lawn. **Pictures: X**



A broken windscreen of a car after the hailstorm.

UN: Iran 'not far' from nuclear bomb

AFP
Tehran

The United Nations nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi warned yesterday that Iran was "not far" from possessing a nuclear bomb, shortly before he arrived in Tehran for talks.

Western countries including the United States have long accused Iran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, an allegation Tehran has consistently denied, insisting that its programme is for peaceful civilian purposes.

"It's like a puzzle. They have the pieces, and one day they could eventually put them together," Grossi told French newspaper *Le Monde* in an interview published yesterday.

"There's still a way to go before they get there. But they're not far off, that has to be acknowledged," he said.

The UN watchdog was tasked with overseeing Iran's nuclear programme and its compliance with a 2015 nuclear deal which collapsed three years later when the United States withdrew from it during President Donald Trump's first term.

"It's not enough to tell the international community 'we don't have nuclear weapons' for them to believe you. We need to be able to verify," said Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He arrived yesterday in Tehran



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi meets with International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi in Tehran yesterday. **(Reuters)**

and met Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. He is also expected to meet Mohammad Eslami, who heads Iran's nuclear energy agency.

Grossi described his meeting with Araghchi as "important".

"Co-operation with IAEA is indispensable to provide credible assurances about the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme at a time when diplomacy is urgently needed," he said on X.

Grossi's visit comes ahead of a second round of talks between Iran and the United States on Saturday, a week after the two countries held their highest-level talks since Trump abandoned the nuclear deal in 2018.

Both sides called the first meeting "constructive".

Earlier, Araghchi said Iran's enrichment of uranium under its nuclear programme was "non-negotiable" after US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff called for it to end.

"Iran's enrichment is a real, accepted matter," he told reporters.

"We are ready to build confidence in response to possible concerns, but the issue of enrichment is non-negotiable."

His remarks came after Witkoff said on Tuesday that Iran must "stop and eliminate" enriching uranium as part of any nuclear deal. The day before, Witkoff had urged only that Iran return to the 3.67% enrichment ceiling set by its 2015 accord with major pow-

ers. In its latest report, the IAEA said Iran had an estimated 274.8 kilos of uranium enriched to up to 60%.

That level far exceeds the ceiling set by the 2015 deal, but still falls short of the 90% threshold required for a nuclear warhead.

After returning to office in January, Trump reimposed sweeping sanctions against Iran under his "maximum pressure" policy.

In March, he wrote to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, urging talks but also warning of possible military action if these fail to produce a deal.

Ahead of Saturday's new round of talks, Araghchi condemned what he called the Trump administration's "contradictory and conflicting positions".

"We will find out the true opinions of the Americans during the negotiation session," he said.

Araghchi said he hoped to start negotiations on the framework of a possible agreement, but that this required "constructive positions" from the United States.

"If we continue to (hear) contradictory and conflicting positions, we are going to have problems," he warned.

Yesterday, Iranian state media said Saturday's talks would be held in Rome with Omani mediation, as an Italian spokesman also confirmed the location.

However, US and Iranian officials have not officially confirmed the venue.

Tightening asylum rules, EU lists 7 'safe' countries of origin

AFP
Brussels

The European Union yesterday published a list of seven countries it considers "safe", in a bid to speed up migrant returns by making it harder for citizens of those nations to claim asylum in the bloc.

The list — which includes Kosovo, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Morocco and Tunisia — would need to be approved by the bloc's parliament and members before entering force.

The move, criticised by rights groups, is set to allow EU governments to process asylum applications filed from citizens of those countries more quickly — by introducing a presumption that such claims lack merit.

"Many member states are facing a significant backlog of asylum applications, so anything we can do now to support faster asylum decisions is essential," said Magnus Brunner, the EU's commissioner for migration.

Brussels has been under pressure to clamp down on irregular arrivals and facilitate deportations, following a souring of public opinion on migration that has fuelled hard-right electoral gains in several countries.

The commission said EU candidate nations would also in principle meet the criteria to be designated as safe countries.

But it also laid out exceptions, including when they are hit by a conflict — something that would for example exclude Ukraine.

The EU had already presented

a similar list in 2015 but the plan was abandoned due to heated debates over whether or not to include Türkiye, another candidate for membership.

The list published yesterday can be expanded or reviewed over time and was drawn up looking at nations from which a significant number of applicants currently come, the commission said.

Several member states already designate countries they deem "safe" with regard to asylum — France's list for instance includes Mongolia, Serbia and Cape Verde.

The EU effort aims to harmonise rules and ensure that all members have the same baseline.

States can individually add countries to the EU list, but not subtract from it.

Asylum cases will still have to be examined individually, ensuring that existing safeguards remain in place and asylum-seekers are not rejected outright, the commission added. The plan has to be approved by the European Parliament and member states before it can enter into force.

But it has already come under fire from civil society groups, with some lamenting the inclusion of countries with a patchy human rights record like Tunisia and Egypt.

"Anyone who applies for protection in the EU should have their individual claim assessed fully and on its own merits — regardless of where they are fleeing from," said Meron Ameha Knikman of the International Rescue Committee.

She described the proposal as

"part of a broader trend towards deterrence and hollowing out refugee rights".

The European Commission noted that Tunisia has detained political figures, lawyers, judges and journalists, while in Egypt rights and opposition activists may face arbitrary arrest and torture.

But the population as a whole did not "face persecution or real risk of serious harm".

"This is a flagrant violation of a fundamental human right, the right to asylum, as an individual right," the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, an NGO, told AFP decrying the EU plan. Irregular border crossings detected into the European Union were down 38% to 239,000 last year after an almost 10-year peak in 2023, according to EU border agency Frontex.

But led by hawks including Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands, EU leaders called in October for urgent new legislation to increase and speed up returns and for the commission to assess "innovative" ways to counter irregular migration.

Currently fewer than 20% of people ordered to leave the bloc are returned to their country of origin, according to EU data.

Last month the commission unveiled a planned reform of the 27-nation bloc's return system, which opened the way for member states to set up migrant return centres outside the EU.

Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi Wednesday hailed the EU's latest move as "a success for the Italian government".

Xi meets Malaysian leaders, vows to safeguard Asia allies

AFP
Kuala Lumpur

President Xi Jinping yesterday urged greater co-operation with Malaysia in the face of "shocks to the global order", during the Chinese leader's regional tour against the backdrop of a US trade war.

"China and Malaysia will stand with countries in the region to combat the undercurrent of geopolitical and camp-based confrontation, as well as the counter currents of unilateralism, and protectionism," he said.

"And together, we will safeguard the bright prospects of our Asian family," Xi added during a speech in Malaysia's administrative capital Putrajaya.

Xi embarked this week on a Southeast

Asia tour that has already taken him to Vietnam and will also include Cambodia, with Beijing trying to position itself as a stable alternative to US President Donald Trump's punitive tariff regime.

Malaysia premier Anwar Ibrahim said China has been "a rational, strong and reliable partner" amid the tariff turbulence. His nation will "remain an unwavering and principled friend to China", Anwar said as he hosted Xi for dinner at his official residence.

Xi was welcomed to Malaysia by the country's king, Sultan Ibrahim, in a colourful ceremony at the golden-domed palace. He later held talks with Anwar and witnessed the exchange of 31 co-operation agreements on sectors including emerging

technologies, artificial intelligence, media and tourism.

"It's not just about friendship, it's about realigning the regional centre of gravity towards Beijing," said Khoo Ying Hooi from Malaya University.

The visit was a calculated move to "test the waters for regional solidarity at a time when US trade measures are disrupting

global markets", said Khoo, an associate professor in the Department of International and Strategic Studies.

Malaysia is this year's chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) regional bloc, whose members have been among the hardest hit by US tariffs.

Malaysia, Southeast Asia's third-largest economy, was hit with a 24% tariff.



Malaysia's Minister of Education Fadhlina Sidek (centre, right) and President of China Media Group Shen Haixiong (centre, left) pose for photographs as Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (right) look on during an Exchange of Agreement session at the official residence of the prime minister in Putrajaya, outside Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. **(AFP)**

Palliative doctor accused of killing 15 patients

Prosecutors said yesterday they charged a Berlin palliative care doctor with the murder of 15 patients, alleging he acted out of a "lust" for killing. The 40-year-old suspect is accused of having killed 12 women and three men between September 2021 and July 2024 using a deadly cocktail of sedatives.

German press reports identify the suspect as Johannes M, but prosecutors have not released a name. The doctor allegedly "administered an anaesthetic and a muscle relaxant to his patients... without their knowledge or consent", the Berlin prosecutor's office said in a statement. The relaxant "paralysed the respiratory muscles, leading to respiratory arrest and death within minutes". The victims, who were all receiving care at the time, were aged between 25 and 94 years old.

On five occasions, prosecutors alleged that the suspect had "set fire to their apartments to cover up these killings".

On one occasion, the suspect is accused of having killed two patients on the same day. On the morning of July 8, 2024, he is alleged to have killed a 75-year-old man at his home in the central Berlin district of Kreuzberg.

"A few hours later" he allegedly struck again, killing a 76-year-old woman in the neighbouring Neukoelln district.



QATAR



Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser addressing the event.
PICTURE: AR Al-Baker



Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Georgetown University's interim president Robert Groves and other dignitaries at the event. **PICTURE:** AR Al-Baker



HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani and Robert Groves at the signing ceremony. **PICTURE:** Aisha Al-Musallam

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

QF, Georgetown University renew partnership for another decade

Qatar Foundation (QF) and Georgetown University signed an agreement yesterday in the presence of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, QF Chairperson, to renew their partnership for another 10 years.

At a celebratory event, marking the 20th anniversary of Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), the agreement was signed by HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO, QF, and Georgetown University's interim president Robert Groves.

At the event, Groves presented Her Highness Sheikhha Moza with Georgetown University President's Medal which is granted to a select few very distinguished global leaders and renowned academics for their meritorious service to the humanity.

Speaking at the event, Her Highness commented on the renewed partnership between QF and Georgetown University stating: "Qatar Foundation is committed to forging a path that leads to cross-cultural understanding, respect and collaboration, a commitment that is shared by Georgetown University. Together we will inspire and nurture those who will have the courage to build bridges between nations and lead our world into a better future."

Addressing the gathering, HE Sheikhha Hind said: "The longevity, impact, and success of our partnership with Georgetown University is a testament to collective vision, and a shared belief in what knowledge makes possible.



From left: GU-Q dean Safwan Masri, Robert Groves, Francisco Marmolejo and Soyica Diggs Colbert. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

"When Qatar Foundation embarked on its journey to provide world-class education to the youth of Qatar and our region, we sought international partners in education who not only offered academic excellence, but whose values aligned with ours. Georgetown University was one such institution with the foresight to recognise what such a partnership could achieve – contributing to the advancement of a nation and a region, while amplifying its own capacity for scholarly research and discovery.

"From the students it has nurtured to become agents of change and true global citizens in so many fields, to the wealth of new and regionally relevant academic thought it has produced, Georgetown University in Qatar exemplifies what can be achieved by partnering in the name of knowledge.



"We are proud that this partnership, which has already spanned 20 years, will continue to nurture leaders of the future and support human and social development on a national and regional scale – together, QF and Georgetown University aim to ensure that what we have achieved together over the past two decades is merely the beginning."

Also in attendance were HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, number of excellencies and other dignitaries, top leadership of QF and several leaders of Georgetown University, deans of various universities in Education City and leading academics from various organisations in the country among others.

Safwan Masri, dean of GU-Q welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of the partnership between the two great institutions. He said: "Georgetown University could bring its deepest convictions of diplomacy, justice and history into a new terrain and find them met with an enthusiasm that gives them fresh urgency and direction. From a single floor in a shared building, and a handful of faculty and staff who stepped into the unknown, came the beginning of something enduring. And today, GU-Q stands as an indelible part of Georgetown's identity and a vital force in Qatar's academic landscape."



Following the signing ceremony, seven distinguished GU-Q alumni who are making a meaningful impact in Qatar and internationally, were recognised with the Alumni Impact Awards, underscoring the far-reaching influence of the academic partnership. Salma Mousa (SFS'12); Mohammed AlSudairi



(SFS'11); AlJawhara Hassan al-Thani (SFS'11); Amna Mohammed al-Thani (SFS'11); Haajerah Khan (SFS'10); Ousaman Camara (SFS'20) and Haya al-Noaimi (SFS'09) were those honoured.

In his remarks, Groves noted that Georgetown University's 20 years of service in Qatar was made possible by the vision of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza.

"If we go back just over 20 years, this campus was just an idea. It was, however, a big idea. Her Highness Sheikhha Moza and the Royal Family of Qatar had a vision of a new kind of academic community, really unprecedented in the world, with multiple schools, a diversity of perspectives, various forms of expertise. All were gathered together with a unified purpose to help a region and indeed a global community of students," he pointed out.

Francisco Marmolejo, president of Higher Education at QF noted that Qatar Foundation has the genuine conviction that education is the key to unlock the human potential. He stated: "This conviction is the one that brings us together today and it will be what will continue to keep us together. The simple fact we are celebrating today is a stronger and more impactful partnership. Right from 2005, Georgetown University in Qatar has been a central pillar in Education City"

"Education at its best is transformative and the dedicated team at GU-Q has been making it easy to happen. This is a community of scholars deeply committed to contributing meaningfully to our global conversations," added, Soyica Diggs Colbert, interim provost at Georgetown University.

QF's ecosystem of education includes GU-Q, six other international partner universities, QF's homegrown Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and 13 schools, including specialised schools. In the 2024-25 academic year, over 4,000 students of 102 nationalities are enrolled in universities at QF, with 64% female and 47% Qatari. Over 9,900 students have graduated from these universities, a number that will rise next month when their Classes of 2025 graduate.

WEEKEND DEALS

العرض متاح في جميع منافذ سفاري
Promotion available at all Safari outlets on: 17-04-2025 at all Safari Outlets



لحم جاموس هندي ١ كجم
Indian Buffalo 1 kg



لحم ضائي هندي ١ كجم
Indian Mutton 1 kg



جمبري وسط سعودي ١ كجم
Fresh Prawns Medium KSA 1 kg



حبار عمان ١ كجم
Fresh Squid Oman 1 kg



سمك قاروص تركي ١ كجم
Fresh Sea Bass Turkey 1 kg



بيض أبيض ٣٠ حبة
Fresh White Eggs 30's Tray



فطر الدوحة ٢٥٠ جم ١ عبوة
Mushroom Qatar 250 gm 1 pkt



جزر عمان ١ كجم
Carrot Oman 1 kg



بصل هندي ١ كجم
Onion India 1 kg



بطاطس باكستاني ١ كجم
Potato Pakistan 1 kg



طماطم قطر ١ كجم
Tomato Qatar 1 kg



كمثري فلورا أفريقيا ١ كجم
Pear Forelle Africa 1 kg



برقوق أحمر أفريقيا ١ كجم
Plum Red Africa 1 kg



موز إكوادور ١ كجم
Banana Ecuador 1 kg



تفاح رويال جالا بولندا ١ كجم
Apple Royal Gala Poland 1 kg



أناناس فلبين ١ كجم
Pineapple Philippines 1 kg



أيو قوس حليب كامل الدسم اللتر ٣ حبة
Rainbow Rtd Organic Full Cream Milk 1 Ltr x 3 pcs



كوهينور نواب أرز برياني ٤ كجم - حبة
Kohinoor Nawab Biryani Rice 4 kg x 1 pc



ساديا دجاج شواية ١١٠٠ جم - حبة
Sadia Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc



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