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Agreements signed to enhance Qatar-US security co-operation



HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), has met with Christopher Wray, Director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), at the Bureau's headquarters in Washington, DC. During the meeting, agreements were signed to enhance security co-operation between Qatar and the United States, in the presence of Timmy T Davis, US ambassador to Qatar. A number of topics of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting.

Houthis vow major response to Israeli strike that killed 6

AFP
Hodeidah, Yemen

Yemen's Houthi rebels yesterday promised a "huge" retaliation against Israel following a deadly strike on the port of Hodeidah, as regional fallout widens from months of war in Gaza.

The Israeli strike, the first claimed by Israel in Yemen, came a day after the first fatal attack by the Houthis in Israel.

Israel said it intercepted a missile fired from Yemen and struck targets in southern Lebanon. Residents of southern Gaza reported combat in the Rafah area.

The fighting across the region comes as Washington, Israel's chief military supplier, says a deal to end more than nine months of war between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas is near the "goal line".

But Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry warned Israel's attack on Hodeidah "aggravates the current tension in the region and halts the ongoing efforts to end the war in Gaza."

Abdul Malik al-Houthi, chief of the Iran-backed group, said the strikes on Hodeidah would lead to "further escalation and more attacks targeting Israel."

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said earlier that the rebels' "response to the Israeli



Thick smoke billows from a raging fire at oil storage tanks a day after Israeli strikes on the port of Yemen's Houthi-held city of Hodeidah yesterday.

aggression against our country is inevitably coming and will be huge."

In Hodeidah, six people were killed and 83 wounded, health officials said in an updated statement carried by Houthi media.

Firefighters struggled to contain the massive blaze caused by the strike. A port employee said fuel storage tanks and a power plant were still burning yesterday.

Analysts say the strike on Hodeidah will likely only embolden the Houthis. Since January the rebels have already withstood repeated United States and British strikes aimed at deterring repeated Houthi attacks on shipping.

Nearly a decade of war against forces backing Yemen's internationally-recognised government has also failed to weaken the rebels' hold. **Page 7**

Biden ends re-election bid; endorses Harris

Reuters
Delaware

US President Joe Biden dropped his faltering re-election bid yesterday, amid intensifying opposition within his own Democratic Party, and endorsed Vice-President Kamala Harris to replace him as the party's candidate against Republican Donald Trump.

Biden, 81, in a post on X, said he will remain in his role as president and commander-in-chief until his term ends in January 2025 and will address the nation this week.

"It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek re-election, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Biden wrote.

His initial statement had not included an endorsement of Harris, but he followed up a few minutes later with an expression of support.

Biden's campaign had been on the ropes since a disastrous June 27 debate against former President Trump, 78, in which the incumbent at times struggled to finish his thoughts.

Opposition from within Biden's party gained steam over the past week with 36 congressional Democrats publicly calling on him to end his campaign.

Lawmakers said they feared he could cost them not only the White House but also the chance



Joe Biden (L) and Kamala Harris hold hands and gesture as they watch the Independence Day fireworks display from the White House on July 4, 2024.

to control either chamber of Congress in the Nov. 5 election, leaving Democrats with no meaningful grasp on power.

That stood in sharp contrast to what played out in the Republican Party last week, when members united around Trump and his running mate US Senator JD Vance, 39.

Harris, 59, would become the first Black woman to run at the top of a major-party ticket in the country's history.

Trump told CNN on Sunday that he believed Harris would be easier to defeat.

Biden had a last-minute change of heart, said a source familiar with the matter. The president told allies that as of Saturday night

he planned to stay in the race before changing his mind on Sunday afternoon.

"Last night the message was proceed with everything, full speed ahead," the source told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "At around 1.45 p.m. today: the president told his senior team that he had changed his mind."

Biden announced his decision on social media within minutes.

It was unclear whether other senior Democrats would challenge Harris for the party's nomination - she was widely seen as the pick for many party officials - or whether the party itself would choose to open the field for nominations. **Page 8**

Gaza genocide toll rises to 38,983

Reuters
Gaza/Cairo

Israeli forces struck areas in the centre of the Gaza Strip yesterday where thousands of Palestinians displaced from their homes have been seeking shelter.

Residents in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, said fierce battles raged between Hamas-led resistance fighters and Israeli forces, especially in the centre and in western areas where tanks advanced in the previous two days.

Israeli strikes in the previous 24 hours killed at least 64 and wounded more than 100 others, the local health ministry said. At least 22 were killed by strikes yes-



Palestinian boy Alaa, 14, salvages wood for a makeshift stove in their home in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

terday, according to the Hamas-run Gaza government media office.

Israeli strikes in areas of central Gaza in the past week have been

focused on the Al-Nuseirat camp, where dozens of people have been killed.

At least 38,983 Palestinians have been killed and 89,727 others injured in Israel's military offensive on Gaza since Oct. 7, Gaza's health ministry said yesterday.

Tensions are high in the region, with concerns remaining over a possible spread of violence.

Israeli jets struck Houthi military targets near Yemen's Hodeidah port on Saturday, a day after a drone launched by the Iranian-backed group hit Tel Aviv, and separate Israeli strikes targeted a depot storing ammunition belonging to Lebanese armed group Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, security sources said.

More than 100 farms to take part in Local Dates Festival

More than 100 local farms will take part in the 9th Local Dates Festival, which is to be held at Souq Waqif from July 23 to August 3.

Organised by Souq Waqif Management in cooperation with the Agricultural Affairs Department of the Ministry of Municipality, the festival will be held in the eastern square of Souq Waqif where it will have wide participation from the local farms.

Mohamed Abdullah al-Salem, director of Souq Waqif, said all necessary arrangements have been made at Souq Waqif to host the festival. An air-conditioned tent has been built. The festival

will be open to the public from 4pm to 9pm. On Friday, the festival will be held from 4pm to 10pm.

Al-Saleem said the management is keen to organise the exhibition annually in order to support the local farms. "Souq Waqif is distinguished as a prominent and important heritage and tourism destination for citizens, residents and tourists alike. Also, its distinguished location in the centre of Doha makes access to it easy for everyone," he explained adding that the current edition of the festival witnesses wide participation from local farms with all types of date products that are produced locally in addition to the sale of date syrup.



Mohamed Abdullah al-Salem, director of Souq Waqif

"The festival has a great reputation. The previous edition witnessed record sales of 220 tonnes and we expect to exceed this



number in this edition due to the high quality of Qatari dates," al-Saleem added.

Yousef Khaled al-Khulaifi, Director of the Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipality, said the exhibition, in its 9th edition, aims to promote date production and introduce its various types. "It encourages local farm owners to find an outlet to display and market their date produce directly to the public in a way that reflects positively. It increases their sales volume and enhances their ability to increase production and develop its marketing method," al-Khulaifi said. The organising committee also

set a set of conditions for participation in the exhibition. The dates must be good, clean and free of infection, insects, and impurities. A team of specialists from the Agricultural Affairs Department will also take samples of the wetlands of the participating farms for examination and analysis in order to ensure that they are free of toxic substances and any remaining traces of pesticides.

The festival underlines the great interest that Qatar shows in supporting and encouraging local production with the aim of supporting efforts aimed at achieving food security and prompting the agricultural sector.



Unesco Qualifications Passport workshop focuses on inclusion

◆ EAA, MoEHE and Unesco co-organise event

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in collaboration with Unesco, co-organised an orientation workshop for the Unesco Qualifications Passport (UQP).

This initiative aims to ensure access to tertiary and higher education for refugees and vulnerable migrants, contributing to their inclusion and integration.

The workshop's discussions, which brought together senior policymakers, international experts, academic institutions and professional organisations, focused on the recognition methodology pursued by UQP and successful practices applied in Europe and Africa.

Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Education and Higher Education Affairs at the MoEHE, Dr Hareb Aljabri, stressed the importance of the UQP initiative considering the current severe conflicts and attacks across the globe, and its role in supporting students affected by these conflicts and providing them with opportunities for learning.

Director of the Al Fakhoora Programme at EAA, Talal al-Hothal, said education is a powerful catalyst for change, driving social and economic development across the globe. Through initiatives like the Unesco Qualifications Passport, we are committed to enhancing educational opportunities and empowering individuals in crisis situations,

ensuring that every learner has the tools they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving world.

Director of the Unesco Doha Office, Salah Khaled, stated that globally, only 7% of crisis-affected youth have access to higher education, largely due to barriers related to recognition of prior learning. In other words, we are far off track in achieving the SDG4 goal by 2030.

He highlighted that the Unesco Qualifications Passport is driven by the vision that forcibly displaced persons are not a burden on societies, on the contrary, through their knowledge and skills, they can positively contribute to the inclusive and sustainable development of the world. In this sense, Unesco looks forward to partnering with Qatar and the Education Above All Foundation.

The workshop was a cornerstone event not only emphasising the role of education in crisis situations but also showcasing the collaborative efforts of international bodies and local authorities in fostering educational resilience and mobility.

The UQP is a universal tool for recognition of prior learning that contributes to ensuring the right to access tertiary and higher education for forcibly displaced youth in the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 4. Drawing on the successful model of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR).

Implemented by the Council of

Europe, Unesco has been pursuing the UQP initiative since 2019 to promote the inclusion agenda of forcibly displaced youth in the field of tertiary and higher education in close co-ordination, collaboration with national tertiary and higher education and refugee authorities, institutions and partners.

Considering that only 7% of refugee youth have access to higher education and that one of the principal barriers is the lack of documentation and insufficient conducive policy environment, the initiative effectively supports the transformation of the national higher education system as well as the pursuit of further learning and subsequently employment for vulnerable youth affected by crises.

UQP is one of Unesco's flagship initiatives contributing to the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration.

Qatar has played a pivotal role in this initiative, co-leading with Unesco to address educational challenges for refugees and vulnerable migrants.

The opening session of the workshop, moderated by Technical Manager of Higher Education at the EAA, Dr Amer Diaa, began with a welcome address by Acting Director of the Scholarships Department at the MoEHE, Noor al-Ansari. Alongside this event, a series of sessions were held to explore the scope of the UQP initiative and its international impact. (QNA)

Qatar students participate in Chief Science Officers programme in Kuwait

To promote scientific knowledge, a student team from Qatar under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education is participating in the "Chief Science Officers (CSO)" programme for 2024.

The programme is organised by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences at the College of Life Sciences, Kuwait University, and spans two weeks from July 21-August 1, 2024.

The programme targets eight students from the ninth and tenth grades, comprising five male students and three female students, who possess advanced skills in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). It aims to develop students' innovation and leadership skills, introduces them to scientific research fields, and prepares them to build local, regional, and



global partnerships. The programme focuses on motivating students and promoting scientific concepts related to STEM in schools and the community. It encourages them to pursue further studies in these fields for a professional future in various scientific disciplines. Additionally, it provides them with opportunities and activities to help them address the challenges of

the twenty-first century. The programme includes diverse activities, such as student training workshops conducted by specialised lecturers in various fields and field visits to research centres to learn about their operational methods. At the end of the programme, there will be a ceremony to showcase and judge the students' projects. (QNA)

Amir sends congratulations to Belgium king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of condolences to King Philippe of Belgium, on the anniversary of his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to Belgium Prime Minister Alexander De Croo on the occasion. (QNA)

Amir sends condolences to Vietnam president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the Vietnam President Dr To Lam, on the death of former president Nguyen Phu Trong. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a similar cable of condolences to Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. (QNA)

Palestinian ministers meet representatives of Qatari humanitarian, charity organisations



Palestinian Minister of State for Relief Affairs, Dr Basil Nasser, and Palestinian Minister of Planning and International Co-operation, Wael Zakout, met with representatives and officials of Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD), alongside its partners from Qatar Red Crescent Society, Qatar Charity and Education Above All Foundation. The meeting discussed ways to provide support and aid to the brotherly Palestinian people in Gaza. (QNA)

Transport ministry, Qatar Post sign postal services agreement



The Ministry of Transport (MoT) and Qatar Postal Services Company (Qatar Post) yesterday signed an agreement.

As per the agreement, a unique package of postal services will be made available for beneficiaries of MoT's land and maritime transportation digital services.

As per the agreement, Qatar Post will provide postal room and network services, and delivery service for senior customers, aiming for efficient and reliable postal solutions to MoT's beneficiaries, thereby fostering excellent performance, faster transactions, simpler procedures and less time and effort.

The agreement was signed by Hassan Hassan al-Hail, Adviser to the Minister of Transport and Hamad Mohamed al-Fahida, Chief Operating Officer of Qatar Post.

Al-Hail said the collaboration will further promote MoT's dig-



ital services system by creating the environment that best helps the public get their MoT-related services easily and efficiently.

He added that the agreement also supports the ministry's plans of improving its services by making them simpler, available and accessible anytime and at any place thereby triggering higher

customer satisfaction. "We are pleased to co-operate with MoT in enhancing the customer experience by providing advanced and efficient digital postal services to the ministry's customers. This collaboration will facilitate logistics and distribution operations in the land and maritime transport sectors," al-Fahida said.

MoI holds workshop on law protecting victims, witnesses

The Ministry of Interior (MoI), in co-ordination with the Public Prosecution, held yesterday a workshop on Law No 5 of 2022 regarding the protection of victims, witnesses, and those in similar circumstances.

The two-day workshop brings together a host of officers from the technical offices of MoI's departments, with officers from the protection department and a number of public prosecutors delivering lectures at this event.

The workshop shines a spotlight on the programme, operation mechanism, and electronic services related to the enforcement of victim and witness protection law, along with those in similar circumstances in diverse phases of the law that chiefly include gath-



ering evidence, conducting investigations and litigation stages.

Assistant director of the protection department at the MoI, Lt Col

Ghanem Khaled al-Hadaifi, said the workshop comprises several



themes and primarily intends to introduce Law No 5 of 2022 and the MoI's protection department and its purviews in enforcing protection measures issued from the Public Prosecution.

He highlighted that the work-

shop features the nature of co-operation with government bodies, as well as regional and international organisations concerned with any matter related to protection measures enforcement in several crimes. (QNA)



HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie



Snapshots from the ceremony.

Minister honours Summer Environmental Club programme participants

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie has honoured the participants in the first edition of the 2024 Summer Environmental Club programme, organised by the ministry between June 30 and July 18.

The ceremony yesterday was held in the presence of ministry officials and representatives of bodies participating in the programme.

The event included a panel discussion during which students reviewed what they learnt during the programme's activities, while affiliates of the club explained their vision of the programme.

HE Dr al-Subaie praised the students participating in the programme, saying that the programme achieved its objectives in familiarising students with the components of Qatar's environment and its biodiversity, environment conservation methods, the challenges facing the environment, in addition to elevating the level of environmental sustainability for youth.

The minister stated that the activities of the Environmental Club programme were designed with a focus on raising the community's awareness of the environment and nurturing a new generation of young men and women who play their role in protecting their local environment.

HE Dr al-Subaie affirmed that he aspires for further milestones to see youths undertake their duties and responsibilities toward their local environment, imparting knowledge to peers in schools and families.

He added that the ministry is making unwavering efforts to raise the awareness of all community members through programmes and initiatives that target new segments of the country's people.

The minister said that with the success of the first edition of this programme, an upcoming edition would be planned.

HE Dr al-Subaie commended the efforts of supporters from the public and private sectors, alongside the volunteers, organ-

isers, students, and parents towards the success of this programme.

He stressed that building human capital and knowledge are the most consequential type of investment, particularly in youth who represent the leaders of the future and hope of the nation.

Student representative Badr Abdulrahman al-Dafa affirmed that he and his colleagues are grateful for this event.

He said the activities had a significant impact on their understanding of the components of Qatar's environment, providing them a real opportunity to contribute to the conservation of natural resources and manage them diligently and sustainably.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, HE Dr al-Subaie distributed certificates and commemorative shields to the students, lecturers, representatives of participating bodies, and supervisors of the first edition of the programme.

Launched at the end of June, the programme comprised lectures, workshops and field trips that focused on familiarising students, both male and female, with the local flora and fauna, in addition to helping the programme's affiliates understand the challenges of climate change and its repercussions on the planet and how to combat climate change through expanding the green belts in the country. - QNA



Qatar Tourism conducts field visit to Barcelona Port

A delegation from Qatar, comprising of representatives from Qatar Tourism (QT), the Permanent Committee for the Management of Maritime Ports (Mwani), and the General Authority of Customs, recently conducted an official field visit to Barcelona.

During the visit, members of the delegation held meetings with management officials of the Spanish port to learn about best practices, workflow mechanisms, services provided to visitors, cruise arrivals, as well as port security and safety systems.

The three-day visit is part of efforts aimed at supporting cruise tourism in Qatar, with a focus on exchanging expertise and experiences, as well as enhancing the operational processes and logistical services necessary for the sector's growth in the country.

The first day of the visit focused on exploring the cruise ship terminal and ships, where the delegation met Spanish port officials to learn about operational systems, workload, and tourism activity levels at the port.

A portion of the programme was

centred around reviewing modern security measures, co-ordination between various port authorities (such as passports, customs, administration, and security), ship reservation procedures, and priority determination processes.

A workshop at the port brought together members of the delegation and Barcelona Port officials.

The workshop provided insight into passenger entry and exit systems, as well as innovative solutions aimed at managing tourist flows effectively at one of Spain's prominent landmarks.

A comparison was also made between the procedures and efficiency of the Spanish Port and Doha Port.

In a press statement, Omar al-Jaber, acting chief of Tourism Development Sector at the QT, said: "Qatar has emerged as a leading global destination for cruise tourism, featuring prominently on popular cruise itineraries in the region."

"The significant growth in Qatar's cruise tourism sector is a testament to the constructive co-operation and ongoing co-ordination with our partners," he said. "The

recently concluded 2023-2024 cruise season was a resounding success in terms of both cruise ship visits and total visitor numbers."

"Our visit to Barcelona Port was aimed at gaining insights into the latest systems and services for enhancing the tourism experience for visitors arriving at Doha Port," he added. "This aligns with our commitment to continuously improve and innovate in order to offer memorable experiences to tourists visiting Qatar."

Doha Port evolved into a pivotal departure and return point for numerous international cruise ships, especially following its extensive development in recent years.

This transformation included the establishment of a major passenger reception facility, enabling it to accommodate two large ships simultaneously and handle approximately 12,000 people daily.

The cruise sector has become a crucial component of the QT's strategy, consistently achieving robust growth rates in recent years.

During the 2023-2024 season alone, Doha Port welcomed 73 ships.



Representatives from Qatar Tourism, the Permanent Committee for the Management of Maritime Ports, and the General Authority of Customs took part in the field visit.

Ministry participates in CITES committee meetings in Geneva

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), represented by the Wildlife Development Department, participated in the meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), taking place in Geneva from July 8-19.

The meetings discussed and evaluated the status of species listed under the convention, in addition to deliberating upon measures and necessary action to protect these species from illegal trade and ensure sustainability in their natural habitats. - QNA

Qatar scout leaders take part in JAMSCOUT 2024

The Qatar Scouts and Guides Association concluded yesterday its participation in the European scout camp (JAMSCOUT 2024), held in the province of Soria, Spain, from July 13-21.

Twenty scout leaders (Scouters) from Qatar participated in the events of the camp, which featured educational and patrimonial activities.

More than 8,000 people participated in the closing ceremony.

Ghanim Abdulrahman al-Kuwari, head of the Qatari scout delegation, said that the participation was essential to share expertise with international associations in various scout territories and shine a spotlight on Qatar's inveterate culture and history.

Scouters Hamad Youssef al-Amri and Hizam al-Musleh highlighted their participation in the scouting camp, which achieved several objectives, notably raising Qatar's flag high in this European event, and



engaging in various contests that showcased the skills and capabilities of Scouters from Qatar, who had successfully addressed the challenges and interacted with scouts from different countries around the world.

They said that the association won numerous scouting badges in various scouting fields, and consider this participation a milestone in the history of every scout and leader. - QNA

Ashghal's D-Line project to pump some 22.5mn cubic metres of treated wastewater annually

Around 22.5mn cubic metres treated wastewater will be pumped annually through the Treated Sewage Effluent Transmission Main and Pumping Station (D-Line) project by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal).

According to an official statement, Ashghal continues to implement the project which will transfer treated wastewater from the Doha South Sewage Treatment Works in Nuaija area to the Seasonal Storage Lagoons.

Engineer Abdulrahman Mohamed al-Sulaiti, head of the Treatment Plants Projects and Treated Water Networks Section in the Drainage Networks Projects Department, said: "Ashghal pays great attention to reusing treated wastewater as part of its efforts to preserve the environment. The project will pump approximately 22.5mn cubic metres of treated wastewater annually."

Engineer Walid al-Ghoul, project manager at Ashghal's Drainage Networks Projects De-



Engineer Abdulrahman Mohamed al-Sulaiti

partment, said the project will balance the deficit and surplus of treated wastewater (treated sewage effluent, TSE) by storing the surplus during winter months when demand for TSE is high to supply feed farms with irrigation water, and thus reducing the use of groundwater.

The D-Line project consists of a 65km TSE transmission pipeline that runs at a depth of 2.5-5.5m underground.

This starts at the existing Doha South Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and is to be laid along the main service route of Salwa Road passing through the Rakhiya



Engineer Walid al-Ghoul

farms and surrounding areas and up to the TSE Storage Lagoons where excess treated wastewater is stored.

The project includes the construction of a pumping station with a capacity of 120,000 cubic metres/day which will pump the TSE flow from the Doha South STW to the seasonal storage lagoons.

This is in addition to the mechanical, electrical and related equipment works.

The treated sewage transmission pipelines are equipped with advanced automation technology and systems for monitoring, controlling and leak detection.

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NHRC to hold regional forum in Oman

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) has announced its upcoming regional forum titled 'The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Planning and Following Up on the Implementation of National Visions in Areas Related to Human Rights'. This significant event is set to take place in Oman on July 24 and 25.

The forum is being organised in collaboration with the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, headquartered in Doha, and the Omani Human Rights Commission. Additional support comes from prominent international entities such as the UN Development Program (UNDP), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, and the Arab Charter on Human Rights Committee.

Anticipated to draw 200 participants along with 50 organisations from the UN and other international and regional bodies, the forum aims to fortify the role of national human rights institutions in aligning national visions with human rights principles. This initiative seeks to identify and pri-

oritise human rights issues within national visions, harmonise laws and legislation with human rights standards, and enhance the capabilities of those responsible for implementing national visions.

HE the Chairperson of the NHRC, Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah, emphasised the forum's goal to activate adherence to the Paris Principles, which support and guide the implementation of national visions. She highlighted the importance of providing comprehensive data, information, and statistics to measure progress in human rights-related areas and ensure the integration of sustainable development goals (SDGs) within national frameworks.

Al-Attiyah elaborated that the forum aims to illuminate national visions concerning human rights, offering a platform for experts, specialists, academics, and decision-makers to identify priorities, review best practices, confront challenges, and share successful experiences.

This collaborative approach is intended to aid decision-makers in formulating appropriate strategies and plans that bolster the role of national human rights institutions in overseeing the implemen-

tation of national visions.

She further noted that national visions encompassing civil, political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and developmental rights serve as fundamental references for future planning across various countries. The development and execution of strategies, programs, and mechanisms based on integrated work systems are crucial for achieving the desired goals and outcomes, as well as for performance review and monitoring.

The forum will also focus on applying a human rights-based perspective in the planning and implementation of national visions, ensuring equality and non-discrimination, and incorporating UN human rights concepts. The inclusion of SDGs, transparency, accountability, and the establishment of indicators to monitor and track progress in human rights will be key discussion points.

The NHRC chairperson's remarks underscore the forum's dedication to enhancing the operational capacity of national human rights institutions, thereby ensuring that national visions are effectively aligned with global human rights standards. (QNA)

QU develops sustainable cooling system for poultry houses in hot, humid regions



The model of sustainable cooling system for poultry houses.

Qatar University (QU) has developed a sustainable air conditioning system for poultry houses in hot and humid regions. This project, led by Dr Djamel Ouahrani, associate professor of architectural engineering at the College of Engineering at QU, involves collaboration with Dr Nesreen Ghaddar and Dr Kamel Ghali from the American University of Beirut. The research, funded by the Qatar National Research Fund, aims to address the critical challenges faced by poultry farming in maintaining optimal indoor conditions for bird welfare and productivity. Commercial poultry houses commonly use conventional ventilation and cooling systems, such as direct evaporative cooling (DEC) systems, to maintain desired conditions. However, DEC systems become less effective

in highly humid climates, necessitating the exploration of alternative cooling methods. This research project proposes the Dew-Point Indirect Evaporative Cooler (DPIEC) as an alternative to DEC, which can provide cooling while maintaining constant humidity. Yet, its efficiency decreases in highly humid conditions. To overcome this limitation, a hybrid system combining DPIEC with a desiccant system is projected. This innovative system can reclaim water, enhancing sustainability. The experimental set-up at the Zero Emissions Lab at QU included key components such as the dehumidification system, evaporative cooling system, and water reclamation unit. The dehumidification system comprises solid adsorbent beads packed in cylindrical beds, operating out

of phase to ensure continuous dehumidification. The system operates based on outdoor air conditions and desired indoor conditions. During the dehumidification stage, outdoor air enters the system, and the required dehumidification level is adjusted based on outdoor humidity. Heat recovery is achieved by mixing hot and dry air with outdoor purge air. The evaporative cooling stage involves dividing outdoor air into two streams, with the product air cooled in dry channels and supplied to the space, while the working airflow absorbs heat and evaporates water in wet channels. Desiccant regeneration involves heating the pre-heated purge airflow to a regeneration temperature, desorbing water vapour from the desiccant bed, and collecting condensed water.

ACS Doha introduces Italian language, culture programme

ACS Doha has launched an Italian language and culture programme starting in September 2024. The programme is designed to support both new and existing families in Qatar who wish to embrace or learn Italian culture and language.

Led by Artemis Education, this initiative was created to include the communities in which the school surrounds by utilising ACS International's campus for the community after school hours.

The programme is open to anyone with an interest in Italian culture, including children and adults, regardless of their current enrolment at ACS. The programme provides a range of activities and courses tailored for both children and adults.

For students planning to attend universities in Europe, the Italian B for Graduands programme provides 150 hours of Italian language education per year, preparing students from beginner level to Grade 11 and 12 IB Diploma courses. The Italian A for Native Speakers programme offers an advanced 240-hour instruction per year for native speakers in Grades 11 and 12, enabling them to study at Italian universities with a full IB Diploma. The school is also applying to



be recognised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the perspective of becoming a stable component of the Italian education system around the globe.

Darren Acomb, director of education, Artemis Education said: "This programme is revolutionary in providing a structured and immersive approach to learning not only the Italian language, but culture, catering not only to students at ACS but also to the broader community. It truly positions ACS

International as a leader in educational pathways."

"We are happy to inaugurate, together with ACS School, the first comprehensive Italian language and cultural program in Qatar", said ambassador of Italy, Paolo Toschi. "Starting from September, the Italian community in Doha, as well as all of those who appreciate Italy, will have the opportunity to integrate our language and our culture in the school curriculum of their children."

Land Rover Discovery Sport, Mercedes models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Alfordan Premier Motors, Qatar's Land Rover dealership, has announced the recall of Land Rover Discovery Sport, 2015-2017 models, due to a possible defect in the inflator for the driver's airbag in some vehicles, as they may contain inflatable devices that are not dried, which may lead to excessive combustion if the airbag is activated.

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

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

The ministry urges all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through its channels: Call Center: 16001; e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa; The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's account across all social media channels @mociqatar and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's mobile application available on iPhone and Android devices MoCIQatar.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles, Qatar's Mercedes dealership, has also announced the recall of Mercedes C-Class, GLC, and EQS, 2023-2024 models, over a possible leak in the tire sealant bottle, it may also occur where the tire sealant is installed.


Aquatic Research Centre produces more than 3.2mn baby fish in 2023

The Aquatic Research Centre (ARC) of the Ministry of Municipality produced more than 3.2mn baby fish last year as part of its efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in fish production. Local Arabic daily *Arrayah* reported that the centre produced 3,275,000 baby fish weighing 2-32 grammes in 2023. These included 395,000 grouper, around 2,381,000 Sha'am, 5,000 sea bream, 9,000 fingerlings of Shaqra and 485,000 sea bream. ARC, during the year, transferred 600,000 baby fish to the floating cages, set up in

the sea as part of the Samkna project. This is part of the efforts to support fish farms that contribute to achieving food security. Around 1,981,000 shrimp larvae were produced in the hatchery here. In December 2020, the ministry announced the production of the first batch of shrimps at the centre. In an attempt to increase fish production, preserve marine wealth and promote research, the ministry opened ARC in January 2020. The centre focuses on the production of high quality fish as per the needs of the local market.

Nouaimi's new book out

The Ministry of Culture has issued a new book titled *Political Systems* by Dr Mohamed bin Nouaimi, writer, academic researcher and adviser in the office of HE the Minister of Culture. In 330 medium size pages, the book presents an academic analytical approach to political systems, across nine chapters. The first chapter reviews four topics; primarily a definition of political systems from a conceptual perspective, concepts related to political systems, the importance of political systems through their components and characteristics, and the relationship between political systems and other sciences. The other chapters focus on the origin and development of political systems; research methods in political systems from a scientific perspective; concepts of the state and forms of governments; constitution and official institutions; informal powers in political systems; election systems; the principles of hereditary systems; and the republican system of government. Dr Nouaimi holds a PhD in political science and worked as a faculty member at Qatar University. He also worked as a broadcaster on Qatar TV. He held several positions, and published several books, the most notable of which is *Qatari Foreign Policy*. (QNA)



مؤسسة قطر
Qatar Foundation

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-175	Provision of Transport Services (Supply of Vehicles with or without Drivers on Long Term and Short Term Basis) to QF on Call-off Basis for 5 Years	2,000.00	100,000.00	26 th August 2024, 2:00 PM
HBKU-RFQ-241	Supply of Consumables for Quantum Laboratory (HBKU)	500.00	N/A	20 th August 2024, 2:00 PM
PUE-RFQ-20	Siraj Season 5 Launch Events and Marketing	1,000.00	100,000.00	20 th August 2024, 2:00 PM

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


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

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

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

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 22nd until 28th July 2024.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
 - The commercial bid must be valid for 180 days from Bid Closing Date.
 - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for 180 days from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
 - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
 - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

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



قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy

The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

Important Notice: Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via Mushartyat Portal can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website (Mushartyat Portal).

Effective from 1st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Laws of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempt from this requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period Start Date	Tender Sale Period End Date	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	LT24105100	22.07.2024	29.07.2024	12.08.2024	100,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR

Title of Tender: INSPECTION AND MAINT. SERVICES FOR INFLATABLE LIFE JACKETS

Mid-Tender Meeting Location: **To be advised if required**

Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time: **To be advised if required**

* Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management-> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.

* Always refer to QatarEnergy Website (www.qatenergy.qa) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders.

* Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website/Mushartyat Portal only.

* Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website/Mushartyat Portal.

* Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushartyat Portal on urgent basis.

* No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.

* QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.

* Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - <https://icv.qa/en-US>

QMC, Media City discuss developing co-operation

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani al-Thani, CEO of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), received in his office Jassim Mohamed al-Khoury, Acting CEO of Qatar Media City. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance co-operation between the two institutions in order to achieve common goals related to developing national media and co-ordinating programmes and initiatives aimed at consolidating the position of Qatar. The country is a productive and attractive environment for quality media projects with favourable laws and an advanced digital infrastructure capable of fulfilling Qatari leadership in this sector.



QPC condemns assassination of Palestinian journalist and family

Mohamed Jasser, a journalist for the Palestine newspaper, was martyred on Saturday, as a result of the Israeli occupation targeting his house in the Gaza Strip, as part of the genocidal war waged by Israel against the Gaza Strip.

A medical source at Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip said: "Journalist Mohamed Jasser was martyred along with his wife and two children in an Israeli raid that targeted their house in the Jabalia camp in the northern Gaza Strip."

The Palestinian Wafa Agency quoted local sources as saying that the occupation aircraft targeted the journalist's house in Jabalia camp with heavy missiles, which led to the martyrdom of journalist Mohamed Jasser and all his family members, and their bodies were all transferred to Kamal Adwan Hospital.



The Qatar Press Center (QPC) renewed its condemnation of the Israeli occupation forces targeting journalists in Gaza with killing and abuse, the latest of which was the killing of Palestinian journalist Mohamed Jasser and all members of his family.

The QPC denounced the Israeli army's targeting of journalists' families,

homes, and locations inside Gaza, which is a blatant violation of international law and a heinous crime to silence free media and obstruct its transmission of the truth to the world.

The QPC called on the international community to condemn the targeting of journalists in Gaza by bombing their homes and the homes of their families, in addition to arrest and intimidation.

QPC also called for putting pressure on Israel to release detained male and female journalists and media professionals, who are languishing in Israeli prisons, in compelling circumstances, depriving them of the most basic prisoners' rights stipulated in the international laws and conventions.

With the martyrdom of journalist Jasser, the number of journalist casualties since the beginning of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, on October 7, rises to 161 journalists.

Att: All the Clients of NATIONAL EXCHANGE CO.WLL, DOHA, QATAR

Following unclaimed Remittance remains outstanding in our books completing 10 years. The purchasers are requested to contact us within 1 month from the date of this notice with relevant proof / document to claim the amount. After the notice period it will be transferred to "General Authority for Minors Affairs"

S.N	AMOUNT IN QAR	PURCHASER/PB	S.N	AMOUNT IN QAR	PURCHASER/PB
1	97.06	MOHAMED SIRAJ	26	2,990.00	DOPET CO
2	306.68	KALAIYARASAN MARIYAPPAN	27	790.00	DOPET CO
3	87.20	MANOHARAN KALIMUTHU	28	120.00	ZUBAIRAHMED IRSHADAHMED
4	286.99	DAYALA ROOBAN ANANDARAJAH	29	90.00	VALSALAN KANNIPOIL
5	2,987.26	SAMAN PALITHA A R GEDERA	30	84.00	MOHAMMAD ABDUL AZIZ NIZAR MOHD
6	859.74	MD MAMUN ULLAH	31	119.00	THAMJEED CHERIVANDIYAL
7	106.00	NAGEIB ABDALLA MOHAMED	32	115.00	GANESH PRASAD KALKAR
8	59.00	KAMEED AKBAR ALI	33	749.00	SHINE IYANI NAHAYAKKAT BALAKRISHNA
9	59.00	KAMEED AKBAR ALI	34	586.00	T S SHEETY
10	18.00	SOMASUNDARAN EDAMANA	35	60.00	RAM SAJIVAN
11	12.00	MECHERI KUNNATH BASHEER	36	1,839.00	STEVEN JOHN DSOUZA
12	3,990.00	MOHAMMED FAIZAN FAZLUR MALPA	37	240.00	ANSON ZAVIER
13	59.00	NAGARAJU BUPATHI	38	881.00	SUNIL KUMAR SINGH
14	72.00	AFSAR AHMED KHAN	39	166.47	CRISPIN E PEREZ30154093
15	18.00	MUNEER KHAN ALI NAWAZ KHAN	40	82.16	EJERCETO B TALION 77845378
16	61.00	SURESH NARAYAN NAIK	41	493.86	MOHAMMED SALIM MOHAMMED ARIF
17	1,358.00	ABDUL RAB MOHD ABDUL KARIM	42	293.71	MAMERTO . BALMORIA
18	62.00	RAMESH KUMAR	43	46.84	ARNIEL E. LAZARTE
19	62.00	REVANTH MANNANCHERY	44	211.23	EDWIN VIRAY GATCHALIAN
20	1,898.00	ABDUL RAB MOHD ABDUL KARIM	45	205.83	ABDUL MAHID S DALIDIG
21	122.00	SUBHEESH ARYAPPALLIVIL	46	966.65	ARIEL . BUNYI
22	60.00	SHANKAR PONNAN	47	163.66	REY P SANTOS
23	120.00	AHAMMED SHAHEEN KARNATH	48	254.28	MARISON F SARABIA
24	120.00	BOOMI PITTHAI	49	126.41	JULIUS . MANGKILALA
25	120.00	AHAMMED SHAHEEN KARNATH	50	879.03	CORNELIO M. VARON JR

P. O. Box 6318, Doha-Qatar, Souk Al Jabor Road, Tel: 44408999, Fax: 44431023

HEC Paris in Qatar graduate awarded prestigious prize

HEC Paris in Qatar has announced that an Executive MBA graduate from its Doha campus has been honoured with the leading business school's most prestigious prize – the Prix de la Fondation HEC.

This award recognises individuals who make significant contributions to management science. The prize was awarded to Sanjay Chowdhary for his business capstone project, 'The Edmission', which explores a digital platform that assists international students studying abroad with various issues they may face.

The capstone project is the final deliverable of the EMBA programme, allowing participants to either focus on a strategic project for their organisation or a new business venture. This project is particularly valuable due to its practical application and implementation in companies, leading to cost savings, innovation, and the development of new products and services.

"We are extremely proud of Sanjay's work and send him our heartiest congratulations. We believe this project will be relevant to students worldwide and particularly to Qatar, which is now home to many international students," commented Dr Pablo Martin de Holan, dean of HEC Paris in Qatar. "Sanjay's success exemplifies HEC Paris's commitment to nurturing leaders who drive positive change and highlights the cutting-edge



Sanjay Chowdhary with Dr Pablo Martin de Holan.

excellence of our school's research at all levels!"

"It was an incredible honour to be acknowledged in this manner among such esteemed peers," commented Sanjay. "This achievement is not just a personal victory, but a testament to the unwavering support and encouragement I received from everyone at HEC Paris, for which I am extremely grateful."

The HEC Foundation awards prizes annually to recognise the best work of HEC Paris students. Ten juries select the authors of theses, dissertations, or projects that are judged to have made the best contributions to management sciences.

PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE - Expression of Interest

Ref. No.	Description of Scope	Response Closing Date (Time)
CFT-2024-0073	Provision of Office Space for Project Teams	11:59pm on 05 August 2024

North Oil Company ("NOC") invites all prospective suppliers to provide expressions of interest for participation in a Call for Tender for Rental of Office Space Services.

Duration of Contract:

Three (3) years locked-in with an option to extend for additional two (2) years starting from 1st December 2024.

Scope of Service:

Provision of office space required to accommodate project teams.

General Requirements:

o The office space must be capable of holding capacity for one or more projects as detailed below (including private offices, open space, and meeting rooms).

Project	Estimated Lease Area (Sqm)
Project 1	732
Project 1	483
Project 1	366
Project 1	439
Project 1	1054

o The office space must have official and valid approval from the government entities such as Qatar Civil Defense authorities, Municipalities and meet all relevant international safety, security, healthy occupancy & environment codes, and regulations.

o Accepted locations are **Westbay, Pearl, Msheireb & Lusail**

Main office Requirements: to include but not be limited to following services:

- o Facility management & maintenance services
- o Water & sewerage management
- o Emergency evacuation and disaster recovery
- o External landscaping
- o Safety
- o Security
- o Facilities
- o Parking

Support Services (Optional):

o The inclusion of the soft services is optional (office helpers, cleaners, IT Equipment, and furniture) where the bidder must quote for each service separately. The quotation for these services shall not be included in the rent rate per sqm of the main office requirement.

Interested bidders should register their interest by providing supporting documentation, as per above stated requirements for expression of interest via e-mail to CPT.S-PublicTenders@noc.qa

Deadline for Expression of Interest:

Prospective suppliers shall register their interest by latest 05th August 2024. Following the registration of interest by e-mail, details of the next stage in the process will be communicated by NOC.

No queries will be considered from service providers who do not comply with the contents of this Notice or any other instruction pertaining to the referenced tender.

FREE VEHICLE RECALL



Mercedes C Class, GLC, EQS

Manufacturing Year: **2023 - 2024**

DEFECT Possible leak in the tire sealant bottle, it may also occur where the tire sealant is installed

PROCESS Contact the dealer for the free required repair

CONTACT Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles
Phone: 44624444
mercedescars@nbks.com

Katara Summer Camp 2024 kicks off

The Katara Summer Camp 2024 began yesterday, featuring a range of educational, entertaining, and cultural activities with the participation of various entities in the country.

Director of Public Relations and Communication at the Cultural Village Foundation – Katara, Salem Mukhouth al-Marri, said following the great success and positive feedback of the Katara Summer Camp 2023, Katara has decided to organise the camp for the second consecutive year, including more activities to ensure variety.

He added that each activity listed in the programme aims to achieve the intended goals of the camp, such as developing children's abilities



ties and skills, enhancing awareness of Qatari heritage and societal and national values, as well as

gaining more cultural knowledge.

The camp will run until August 7, with activities scheduled four

days a week. Participating entities include the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Endowments and

Islamic Affairs, Al Jazeera Media Institute, Sout Al Khaleej Radio, Al Rami Sports Club, Qatar Red Cres-

cent Society, Al Shaqab, Al Thuraya Planetarium, Poet Majles, and the Al Gannas Association. (QNA)

Beware of skimming at ATMs, cautions MoI

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has urged the public to be cautious against skimming while using ATMs. MoI, in an advisory on X, said skimming is illegally installing devices on ATMs, POS machines and other card machines.

"Skimming devices capture card data and record any entered PINs. Cyber-attackers install skimming devices to commit financial fraud," the advisory said. The ministry shared tips to prevent skimming. "Use ATMs inside bank branches whenever possible as they are less likely to be tampered with. Wiggle the card reader to check if it's loose or out of place. Look out for small, out-of-place attachments around the card slot. Block the keypad with your other hand when entering a PIN to prevent hidden cameras. Watch out for lingering individuals around ATM machines," the advisory said.

MoI further asked the public to contact the Economic and Cyber Crimes Combating Department at 6681 5757 or through Metrash 2 or e-mail cccc@moi.gov.qa to report cybercrimes.



Qatar Scientific Club participates in 'SkillFest' Festival

The Qatar Scientific Club (QSC) is participating in the 1st edition of "SkillFest" festival, which is taking place in Msheireb Galleria, Place Vendome, Mall of Qatar, and West Walk, and will run until August 15.

The QSC is holding a variety of scientific experiments and workshops for different age groups at West Walk.

Deputy Executive Director of the QSC, engineer Abdulrahman Saleh Khamis, told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the club, on Thursdays and Fridays, holds scientific experiments, along with a workshop on car mechanics and ways to diagnose minor faults, in addition to a permanent exhibition throughout the festival, offering daily interactive programmes and shows.

Regarding QSC's astronomical dome's current activities, Khamis clarified that the dome is part of the club's innovative talents programme and will run over these two weeks. He added that participants in the summer programme will have the opportunity to enter the dome and learn about virtual reality and programming. He also emphasised QSC's keenness on the ongoing developments in the fields of technology, artificial intelligence, and their various applications, aiming to enhance students' skills in this field. (QNA)

Doha Girls Center's summer activities programmes witness huge turnout

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE)'s summer centres, in co-operation with the Ministry of Sports and Youth, are witnessing great turnout by students.

A total of 23 summer centres and youth organisations across Qatar hold activities in the field of science, social, recreation, sport, art, creativity and technology as well as awareness-raising activities.

The centres aim to better develop students' talents, refine their potential and personalities, develop their abilities, and provide them the opportunity to contribute to their community.

The Doha Girls Center at Al Bayan First Primary Independent School for Girls has been receiving huge attention and demand for its summer activities from female students. It is organising various workshops focusing on raising awareness and technology aimed at different age groups.

Sheikha Hussein Abdullah

Babsil, president and director of the Doha Girls Center, said the slogan for the 2024 summer is "summer of excellence".

She highlighted the successful collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the MoEHE which benefited the students by developing their personal and social skills as the activities offer opportunities to enhance their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Taking part in such activities promote mental and physical health, allow students to discover new talents and hobbies as they dive into various kinds of activities, and enhances self-confidence and the ability to face new challenges, she said.

An integrated plan for activities, programmes and events was developed by the Doha Girls Center team so that it covers all areas.

The training programme and workshop themes include recycling, cooking, drawing, gift-making, proper nutrition, creative narrative thinking for children, frame decorating, self-defence, teamwork skills, as well as preserving the planet, targeted at the 7-12 years age groups.

As for the young adults, the

programmes and workshops address developing the best version of oneself, Arab Youth Day, the first year of marriage, leadership, decision-making, and expressing feelings.

The president and director of the Doha Girls Center praised the progress of the participants as well as their parents. Between 140 and 200 female students from the target groups participate daily in the centre's summer activities, which proves the success of its diverse and high-quality structure, Babsil stressed.

The five-week summer centres, launched on July 1, have become an annual event to take advantage of the summer vacation by immersing students in various diverse and impactful activities and programmes, thus providing them with different knowledge for the benefit of their academic and practical lives, helping them deal with modern requirements, and face challenges with wisdom and fortitude.

The centres are located in schools inside and outside Doha with trained administrative and educational staff managing these from 9am-1pm.

Sept 15 deadline for application to DFI's 'Made in Qatar' entries

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) continues to receive applications for participation in the "Made in Qatar" section, being held within the activities of the Ajyal Film Festival, until midnight on September 15.

The festival will return in its twelfth edition between November 16 and 23.

The festival, which will last for six days, seeks to bridge cultural gaps and bring together different generations through activities and events designed to enhance creative interaction between different sectors of the region's society.

The "Made in Qatar" programme receives applications for participation in feature or documentary films, regardless of their duration. To qualify the film's screenwriter, director, or producer must be Qatari or hold a valid residence permit in Qatar; or most of the film's scenes must be filmed in Qatar; or the film should revolve around the theme of Qatar.

The "Made in Qatar" competition committee consists of a group of professional filmmakers. The Ajyal Film



Festival was designed to encourage and enhance cinematic educational programmes in the region, providing an entertainment experience

for families and educators through group and individual communication through the medium of cinema, DFI announced on its website.

Don't respond to unknown calls and messages: Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has asked the public not to respond to unknown messages and calls asking for information. "To protect yourself from cybercrimes, do not respond to messages and calls from unknown sources asking for personal and financial information," MoI said in an advisory on X. The ministry asked the public to contact the Economic and Cyber Crimes Combating Department at 66815757 or register a complaint through Metrash 2 or send e-mail to cccc@moi.gov.qa



To prevent cybercrimes,

refrain from responding to calls and messages from unknown sources requesting your personal or banking information.

If you suspect any fraudulent activity,

Please reach out to:

Economic and Cyber Crimes Combating Department at 66815757
Metrash2, or via email at cccc@moi.gov.qa.

Your alertness ensures your safety

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ABRAHAM LUYAMBA
holder of

Uganda Passport No. A01070230
QID No. 29080000783

hereby change my name

from
ABRAHAM LUYAMBA
to
IBRAHIM LUYAMBA

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

WCM-Q study offers new insight into diabetes-CVD link

A new study by researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar (WCM-Q) has unveiled significant insights into the dysregulation of long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) gene expression pathways in monocytes of patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D) who also suffer from cardiovascular disease (CVD).

The research was conducted in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Weill Cornell Medicine in New York and led by Dr Charbel Abi Khalil, associate professor of medicine at WCM-Q.

Monocytes are a type of white blood cell that plays a pivotal role in the development of cardiovascular complications in T2D patients. The study investigated the changes in lncRNA genes induced by diabetes in patients with CVD, long-duration diabetes, and poor glycaemic control.

Researchers conducted paired-end RNA sequencing on monocytes from 37



Dr Charbel Abi Khalil, associate professor of medicine at WCM-Q.

non-diabetic controls and 120 T2D patients, 86 of whom had either macrovascular or microvascular disease, or both.

Monocytes were sorted from peripheral blood using flow cytometry, and their RNA was purified and sequenced.

Utilising advanced bioinformatics tools, the team analysed the data to identify differentially expressed genes (DEGs) and lncRNAs highly associated with diabetes-related expression networks.

The study found two significantly upregulated lncRNAs and one significantly downregulated lncRNA in T2D patients compared to non-diabetic controls.

Pathway analysis on DEGs revealed networks affecting cellular movement, growth, and development. Co-expression analysis identified a key diabetes network-associated lncRNA. Further analysis within T2D patients and CVD revealed one lncRNA upregulated in monocytes from patients with microvascular disease without clinically documented macrovascular disease. The study also identified specific lncRNAs associated with long-duration diabetes and poor glycaemic control.

"This research represents a sig-

nificant step forward in understanding the molecular mechanisms that link T2D with cardiovascular disease. Identifying these specific dysregulated lncRNAs and their associated pathways provides a clearer picture of the pathophysiology and opens up new possibilities for targeted therapeutic interventions," said Khalil.

The study was funded by the Biomedical Research Programme (BMRP) at WCM-Q and approved by the Institutional Review Board of WCM-Q (study 13-00023) and HMC (Study 14053/14).

The paper, titled 'Dysregulation of long non-coding RNA gene expression pathways in monocytes of type 2 diabetes patients with cardiovascular disease,' was published in the renowned medical journal Cardiovascular Diabetology. It can be accessed online at <https://cardiab.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12933-024-02292-1>



Members of security forces inspect the debris littering a loading dock a day after Israeli strikes on the port of Yemen's Houthi-held city of Hodeidah, yesterday.

Saudi urges 'maximum restraint' after Israel strikes Yemen

AFP
Riyadh

Saudi Arabia, a major foreign player in Yemen's nearly decade-long civil war, urged restraint yesterday in the wake of an Israeli strike that the Houthi rebels said killed six people.

The Israeli attack which hit the Houthi-controlled city of Hodeidah, "aggravates the current tension in the region and halts the ongoing efforts to end the war in Gaza," the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement.

It "called on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to distance the region and its people from the dangers of war." Efforts by the kingdom to broker a Yemen peace deal have faltered in the wake of an anti-shipment campaign by the Houthi rebels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The rebels have targeted nearly



Debris litters a loading dock a day after Israeli strikes on the port of Yemen's Houthi-held city of Hodeidah yesterday.

90 ships since November which they say is to signal their solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza war.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has engaged in a delicate balancing act as it tries to extricate itself from the war on its doorstep.

It has not joined a US-led na-

val coalition to deter Houthi attacks or participated in strikes on Yemen carried out by the US and Britain since January.

Yesterday's foreign ministry statement affirmed the kingdom's "continuous support for peace efforts in Yemen to spare its people more suffering."

Hezbollah fires rockets and drones at Israel



Smoke billows after a hit from a rocket fired from southern Lebanon over the Upper Galilee region in northern Israel, yesterday.

AFP
Beirut

Lebanon's Hezbollah said it fired Katyusha rockets and drones at Israel yesterday after strikes which the Israeli army said targeted Hezbollah weapons storage facilities.

Hezbollah has traded nearly daily cross-border fire with Israeli forces in support of Hamas since the Palestinian group's October first week storming of southern Israel triggered war in the Gaza Strip.

Six people were wounded in the overnight Israeli strike, ac-

ording to the official Lebanese National News Agency.

In retaliation, Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, said in separate statements that yesterday it targeted two Israeli military positions in northern Israel with Katyusha rockets and drones.

An earlier statement by the group had said its fighters also struck the Dafna area with Katyusha rockets "in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks that targeted civilians in the town of Adloun, injuring several of them".

Israel's military had said its air force "struck two Hezbollah weapons storage facilities in

southern Lebanon, containing rockets and additional weaponry" overnight Saturday to yesterday.

Hezbollah yesterday also said that three of its fighters had been killed in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese army also reported that two of its soldiers were wounded "moderately" yesterday when Israeli fire hit a watchtower in the south of the country.

The violence since October has killed at least 518 people in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally. Most of the dead have been fighters, but they have included at least 104 civilians.

Iran condemns Israeli attack on Yemen's Hodeidah port

AFP
Tehran

Iran has condemned Israel's deadly retaliatory strike on the Houthi-controlled port of Hodeidah in Yemen that the rebels say killed six people and wounded dozens more.

Late on Saturday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani "strongly condemned" the attack saying it was "an expression of the aggressive behaviour of the child-killing Israeli regime".

Israeli warplanes on Saturday struck the vital port of Hodeidah in response to a deadly drone attack by the Houthis on Tel Aviv, which killed one civilian.

The Houthi fighters have since threatened a "huge" retaliation against Israel.

Kanani added that Israel and its supporters, including the United States, were "directly responsible for the dangerous and unpredictable consequences of the continued crimes in Gaza, as well as the attacks on Yemen".

Aquarium attraction



A Lionfish swims in an aquarium at the Scientific Center of Kuwait, in Kuwait City, yesterday.

Sudan, Iran trade envoys after eight-year break

AFP
Port Sudan

Sudan's de facto leader, army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, received yesterday an Iranian ambassador and sent his own to Tehran, the government said, cementing a rapprochement after an eight-year rupture.

Sudan and Iran agreed last October to resume diplomatic relations, as the army-aligned government scrambled for allies during its war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The Sudanese government, loyal to the army in its 15-month fight against the RSF, announced in a statement that Burhan had received Tehran's new ambassador Hassan Shah Hosseini in Port Sudan. The Red Sea city has become Sudan's de facto seat of government since Khartoum became wracked by fighting.

This is "the beginning of a new phase in the course of bilateral relations between the two countries", foreign ministry undersecretary Hussein al-Amin said as Burhan sent off Sudan's new ambassador to Iran, Abdelaziz Hassan Saleh.

OPINION Ruto says Kenya demos must stop

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga yesterday insisted "justice" was a prerequisite for any talks with the government after deadly clashes, as President William Ruto warned unrest could "destroy" the country, AFP reported from Nairobi. Initially peaceful rallies that started last month against planned tax rises descended into violence with dozens killed after some marchers stormed parliament. Ruto shelved his tax reform and proposed a national dialogue. "Justice must come first before any talks," said Odinga yesterday, however. He demanded "compensation for every victim of police brutality" during the rallies.

Insect infestation ravages North African prickly pear

AFP
Chebika

Amor Nouira, a farmer in Tunisia's Chebika village, has lost hope of saving his prickly pear cacti, ravaged by the cochineal insect spreading across North Africa.

The 50-year-old has seen his half-hectare of cactus crops wither as the invasive insect wreaked havoc on about a third of the country's cacti after an outbreak in 2021.

"At first, I wanted to experiment with prickly pear production and gradually develop investments while looking for customers outside the country, especially for its natural oil," said Nouira.

"But... as the cacti became damaged, I abandoned the idea of investing and stopped thinking about it altogether."

Prickly pear is consumed as food and used to make oils, cos-

metics and body-care products. In Chebika, as in other rural areas in central Tunisia, many farmers' fields of prickly pear — also known as Opuntia — have been spoiled by the cochineal, which swept through North Africa 10 years ago, beginning in Morocco.

The insect, like the prickly pear, is native to the Americas and feeds on the plant's nutrients and fluids, often killing it.

The infestations have resulted in significant economic losses for thousands of farmers reliant on prickly pear, as authorities struggle to combat the epidemic in a country where its fruit is widely consumed as a summertime snack.

Tunisian authorities estimate that about 150,000 families make a living from cultivating Opuntia.

The North African country is the world's second-largest producer of its fruit, after Mexico, with about 600,000 hectares of crops and a yield of about 550,000 tonnes per

year, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Only production allocated for export — about a third of overall crops — has remained in good condition, said Rabeh Hajlaoui, head of the department of plant health at Tunisia's agriculture ministry.

"We're making every effort to save these plants, which are an important source of income to some locals," he explained, as one litre of extracted Opuntia oil can be sold for as much as \$4,200.

Farmers also plant prickly pear cacti for their resistance to drought and desertification, and sometimes use them to demarcate and fence property in Tunisia and neighbouring Libya.

In Morocco, where the first cases of cochineal were found in 2014, Opuntia is cultivated over a total of 160,000 hectares.

In 2016, the Moroccan government issued an "emergency plan" to combat cochineal infestation by



A man sprays prickly pear cacti infected by the cochineal insect, in the suburbs of Kairouan in northern Tunisia.

experimenting with various chemicals, burying infected cacti and conducting research on developing variants resilient to the insect.

Despite the plan, by August 2022, about 75% of Opuntia crops in Morocco had been infested, according to Mohamed Sbaghi, a professor at Rabat's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) and the

emergency plan co-ordinator.

In neighbouring Algeria, authorities recorded an outbreak in 2021 in Tlemcen, a city near the border with Morocco.

Prickly pear cultivation in the country covers around 60,000 hectares, and the fruit is so cherished that a festival dedicated to it is held every year in the eastern Ka-

bylia region. Neither the plant nor cochineal is native to North Africa, but the region's dry climate helped them spread, said Tunisian entomologist Brahim Chermi.

"Climate change, with increasing drought and high temperatures, facilitates their reproduction," he said. The region has experienced severe drought in recent years, with declining rainfall and intense heat.

Chermi believes it's a matter of "public safety" to combat cochineal infestation, requiring "strict border crossing monitoring and public awareness". The researcher fears total contagion, as "sooner or later, it will spread, with the help of many factors such as the wind and livestock".

Hajlaoui, from Tunisia's agriculture ministry, said the issue could even cause social unrest if it spreads to farms in marginalised areas, such as Tunisia's Kasserine governorate, where Opuntia is nearly the only source of livelihood for many.



US West braces for more days of record-breaking heat

The western part of the United States is sweating through another round of record-breaking heat as a wave is forecast to produce triple-digit temperatures in cities from Southern California to northern Idaho through the middle of the week.

Some 30mn people are under heat advisories or excessive heat warnings in effect through Wednesday, with some projections topping 110° Fahrenheit (43° Celsius), the National Weather Service (NWS) said yesterday.

Those states include parts of California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Central Oregon and parts of Washington are also under elevated threats of wildfires due to hot and dry weather conditions, the NWS said.

Firefighters are battling multiple wildfires in Oregon, including the Lone Rock Fire that has scorched more than 116,000 acres (470sq km) in the northern part of the state, according to the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

About 40% has been contained. Thunderstorms moving through the state could make the response more difficult, officials said.

The Malheur County Sheriff's Office on Saturday ordered some residents to evacu-

ate due to the Durkee Fire spreading in the eastern part of Oregon.

In western Canada, wildfires in Alberta and British Columbia also forced evacuations over the weekend.

Research shows fossil fuel-driven climate change is helping to produce dangerous heat waves across the world.

Officials are warning of major health risks associated with extreme heat, including heat stroke.

"At least for the next four days it looks pretty hot across a good part of the western US, and at least in the next two days there's definitely potential for some record high temperatures across parts of interior

Pacific Northwest and down towards the desert southwest," NWS meteorologist Bob Oravec said.

The northwest part of the US will experience the largest weather anomalies, including much of Washington state where temperatures are 20° higher than usual this time of year, according to Oravec.

Major cities like Seattle and Portland will be spared the extreme heat.

Temperatures are forecast to climb above 100F (38C) and break records in cities like Yakima, Spokane and Mack in Washington.

Boise, Idaho could tie a record of 107F (42C), Oravec said.

Much of the West Coast is expected to experience temperatures that are about 10° above normal.

Las Vegas could tie a record of 113F (45C), while Death Valley National Park in California is expected to rise above 120F (49C).

"For Monday, the records drop off, like the potential to break records, but it doesn't mean it's going to be any significantly cooler. They're still going to be well above average across the same general areas," Oravec said.

On Saturday, records were broken in Baker, Oregon and Alturas, California, Oravec said. - Reuters

'I took a bullet for democracy', Trump tells first rally since assassination bid

Donald Trump, at his first campaign rally since surviving an assassination attempt, rejected concerns that he is a threat to America's democratic system, triumphantly telling the crowd: "I took a bullet for democracy."

"I'm not an extremist at all," the newly-crowned Republican presidential nominee continued at the rally in swing state Michigan, dismissing his reported links to Project 2025, a shadow manifesto from figures close to him that has been characterised by opponents as an authoritarian, right-wing wish list.

In the fiery but typically rambling speech, the Republican ruffled on his headline immigration views, espoused falsehoods about migrant crime, and repeated his baseless claim that Democrats "rigged" the 2020 election.

He expressed admiration for foreign autocrats including China's "brilliant" Xi Jinping, whom he praised for controlling "1.4bn people with an iron fist".

And he evoked the seconds after a gunman tried to kill him at a rally in Pennsylvania, when, bloodied and surrounded by Secret Service agents, he raised a fist and yelled for his supporters to "fight!"

The crowd in Grand Rapids chanted the word back to him multiple times on Saturday, though some appeared to tire of the lengthy address after 90 minutes and began heading to the exits.

The rally represented a moment remarkable by any measure, with Trump back on the campaign trail exactly one week since the assassination attempt.

He wore a new, smaller, flesh-coloured bandage over his right ear, grazed in the attack by a 20-year-old gunman who also killed one bystander.

Trump referred to the assassination attempt several times on Saturday.

"I hope I don't have to go



Trump at his campaign rally at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Michigan. - AFP

through that again. It was so horrible," Trump said.

Security was tight inside Van Andel Arena, amid questions over Secret Service lapses at the Pennsylvania rally - though there were few visible signs of enhanced law enforcement in Grand Rapids.

Saturday was Trump's debut campaign appearance with running mate JD Vance, a 39-year-old US senator with blue-collar roots who could help win over critical Rust Belt battlegrounds like Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Vance warmed up the crowd, taking a swipe at Harris.

"I did serve in the United States Marine Corps and build a business. What the hell have you done, other than collect a cheque?" he said of the former US senator and California attorney-general.

Trump supporters had begun lining up in their dozens in Grand

Rapids a day before the rally began.

Edward Young, 64, was wearing a T-shirt showing the already iconic photo of Trump pumping his fist moments after being shot.

"They have turned him into a martyr and left him alive," he said. "Now he's more powerful than ever."

Trump's former physician, Ronny Jackson, said on Saturday that the former president is recovering as expected from the gunshot wound to his right ear, but noted intermittent bleeding and said Trump may require a hearing exam.

The bullet fired by the would-be assassin at the July 13 rally in Pennsylvania came "less than a quarter of an inch from entering his head", said Jackson, a Republican congressman from Texas who had served as physician to presidents Trump and Barack Obama.

Kamala Harris will be easier to defeat than Biden: Trump

Reuters/AFP
Washington

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said yesterday that he thinks Vice-President Kamala Harris will be easier to defeat in November's election than Democratic President Joe Biden, who earlier in the day stepped aside as his party's candidate.

CNN said the Republican former president made the comments to the network shortly after Biden announced his decision.

Trump also later attacked Biden on social media, saying that Biden was unfit to continue serving as president.

Biden ended his re-election campaign yesterday after fellow Democrats lost faith in his mental acuity and ability to beat Trump.

Biden endorsed Harris to replace him as the party's candidate.

Biden had faced growing doubts about his re-election chances after a weak and faltering performance in a televised debate against Trump late last month.

On his Truth Social platform on Sunday, Trump said Biden "was not fit to run for president, and is certainly not fit to serve".

Other top Republicans, including House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson, also said Biden was not fit to serve as president and finish his term if he was stepping aside as the Democratic presidential candidate.

Johnson explicitly called on Biden to resign.

Trump, in a post on his Truth Social platform, said: "We will suffer greatly because of his (Biden's) presidency, but we will remedy the damage he has done very quickly."

Trump and Biden had been mostly tied in polls, but after the debate some polls showed Trump narrowly ahead of the president in a match-up for the November elections.

The Trump campaign had already begun discussions about how it would redeploy campaign resources for the possibility of Biden's dropping out, a source



This picture taken in 2021 shows Vice-President Kamala Harris at a vaccine mobilisation event at Detroit's TCF centre. - Reuters

with direct knowledge of the matter said yesterday.

Given that any alternative Democratic candidate would likely have different strengths and weaknesses than Biden, that person said, the president's dropping out would require rethinking where to spend dollars and where to deploy resources more generally.

Publicly, Trump campaign advisers and allies have been telling reporters that they are not worried about facing Harris because they can simply tie her to Biden's record in office, particularly on immigration and inflation.

They say they will try to portray Harris, and any of the other candidates being suggested as alternatives for the Democrats, as being to the left of Biden on various policies.

Trump's campaign team lashed into Harris, saying that she would be "even worse" than the outgoing leader.

"Harris will be even worse for the people of our nation than Joe Biden. Harris has been the Enabler in Chief for Crooked Joe this entire time. They own each other's records, and there is no distance between the two," the campaign said in a statement.

Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr, said on social media after Biden dropped out that Harris "owns the entire left-wing policy record of Joe Biden".

Oil-tainted lake is a symptom, and symbol, of Venezuela's collapse

By Patrick Fort
AFP

A putrid smell hangs over the black-stained shores of Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela, where an oil slick is emblematic of the steep decline in the country's once-enviable petroleum industry.

Here, much like elsewhere in what was once Latin America's richest country, economic hardship drives much of the discussion ahead of July 28 elections, in which President Nicolas Maduro will seek a third six-year term.

"We suffer. Fishing from the shore is no longer possible because of the oil," fisherman Yordi Vicuna, 34, told AFP, adding that catches have fallen tenfold.

He said nets must constantly be washed or replaced after being soiled by oil that leaks from decayed pipes which the government cannot afford to fix.

Much of Venezuela's economic collapse - fuelled partly by a sharp international drop in oil prices after 2014 - has happened under the watch of Maduro, who has been in office since 2013.

Many Venezuelans - including Vicuna - blame US sanctions for the dire situation.

"The pipeline is damaged because of the (economic) blockade," the fisherman said, echoing the government's official line, as he and others shovelled oil-soaked sand from the lake shore.

"We ask the competent agencies, people from outside, to support the government in any way ... to fix the pipelines," Vicuna added.

More than a century ago, the hydrocarbon-rich Maracaibo Basin was the birthplace of a business that transformed Venezuela into one of the world's top 10 oil producers - fuelling a decades-long period of incredible prosperity.

The country, which has the world's largest proven oil reserves, was producing 3.5mn barrels of oil a day by 2008, with the United States as its main client.

However, in just 12 years this dropped to fewer than half a million barrels following the nationalisation of the industry and a crippling, months-long strike at state oil company PDVSA in protest against then-president Hugo Chavez.

Chavez sacked thousands of PDVSA staff and managers, who observers say were replaced mainly by non-expert loyalists.

As oil production dipped, Venezuela fell into an economic crisis marked by years of recession and hyperinflation that has seen an estimated 7mn people - almost a quarter of the population - flee the country in just under a decade.

Most analysts blame the industry's rapid decline on corruption and inept management at PDVSA, worsened by the toughening of sanctions on Venezuela after Maduro's 2018 re-election, which was not recognised by dozens of countries.

A few oil pumps still operate on Lake Maracaibo's polluted shore, but dozens of machines stand idle.

The Puyuyo beach near the Bajo Grande refinery is black with oil. It was once a popular swim spot but most small hotels and bars here are now closed.

"People used to come here ... families came from all over to visit, eat fish and swim but now there are 30cm (11.8") of oil" on the bottom of the lake, said Guillermo Albeniz Cano.

The 64-year-old owns a beach cafe but has no clients.

Instead, he barters rice and flour for the occasional fish or crab meat.

When AFP visited Puyuyo, only one table of the cafe was occupied - by crabbers playing dominoes



An aerial view of a fisherman sailing on Lake Maracaibo, in Maracaibo, Zulia State, Venezuela. - AFP

who said they would rather be working.

"Since there is a lot of oil in the lake, we could not go out today," said father-of-four Luis Angel Vega.

"Sometimes we don't eat for a whole day, the 26-year-old added. His colleague Alvaro Villamil, 61, tried his luck nevertheless.

"It's hard ... the lake is lost. There's a lot of oil," Villamil told AFP, his long-sleeved T-shirt stained with the stuff.

Maracaibo was a flourishing city in the 20th century, with its colonial buildings, Art Deco theatre and tramline.

Today, "for sale" signs on properties far outnumber election campaign posters, while tall grass

and crumbling walls abound in the industrial zone.

Some 200 companies, including the German firm Siemens, once had a presence in the area. Today there are about 30.

Yet there are signs that Venezuela's oil fortunes may be looking up again.

Despite the renewal of sanctions after Maduro reneged on negotiated conditions for elections, Washington is allowing companies such as Chevron and Repsol to apply for individual licenses to keep operating in Venezuela.

And Oil Minister Pedro Tellechea said in May that he was optimistic that Venezuelan oil production would reach 1mn barrels per day this year.

This will depend largely on what happens in next Sunday's vote, with widespread fear that Maduro will steal the election and unlock a new era of international pariahdom.

Evacuations ending as forest fires in east Canada come 'under control'

A forest fire in northeastern Canada that forced the evacuation of more than 9,000 people a week ago is now under control, allowing those displaced to begin returning home, authorities said on Saturday.

The risk to the towns of Labrador City and Wabush is now "very low", Premier Andrew Furey of Newfoundland and Labrador province told reporters.

"We're breathing another sigh of relief here," he said.

"As a result, we're in the good position today to be able to partially lift the evacuation order" for what the premier called the "largest evacuation in provincial history".

For now, only workers deemed essential - hospital employees, supermarket workers and government staff - will be allowed back as they prepare for the return of the remaining evacuees beginning today, he said.

The evacuation had been challenging. Residents from this remote region had to travel 300 miles (500km) to reach safety on the lone available road.

While the fire situation in eastern Canada is improving, the country's west has seen more

and more forest fires erupt in recent days.

More than 320 fires are now burning in British Columbia province on the Pacific coast, including three particularly large blazes.

Several thousand people remain on alert, ready to evacuate if necessary.

And in Alberta province, more than 5,000 people from isolated Indigenous communities were under evacuation orders, with out-of-control blazes threatening the only road providing access to each community, officials said.

The federal environment ministry has issued several smoke-related air pollution advisories in the Rockies and the north, where Edmonton, the province's second-largest city, is impacted by the smoke.

Authorities blame a deadly combination of thunderstorms and extreme temperatures of 86-104° Fahrenheit (30-40° Celsius) for the outbreak - conditions they expect to persist for several more days.

Experts say climate change has resulted in drier and hotter conditions in many regions, sharply raising the risk of major fires. - AFP

6.2-magnitude quake hits Guatemala

A 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Guatemala on Saturday, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said, with the tremor also felt in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

No casualties or damage were reported in the three countries. The tremor hit at 8.53pm (0253 GMT) with its epicentre 8km (five miles) southeast of Jalapa city, at a depth of 265.5km, according to the USGS.

The seismological institute in El Salvador recorded the quake at a magnitude of 5.9 while that of Nicaragua registered it at 5.2-magnitude. Civil protection authorities of the three Central American countries reported no casualties or damage to infrastructure.

Central America is on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a vast area of intense tectonic activity that runs along the west coast of the Americas and across the Pacific basin. - AFP

FALLOUT

Australia warns of malicious websites after cyber outage

Australia's cyber intelligence agency said "malicious websites and unofficial code" were being released online claiming to aid recovery from Friday's global digital outage, which hit media, retailers, banks and airlines. Australia was one of many countries affected by the outage that caused havoc worldwide after a botched software update from CrowdStrike. The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) - the country's cyber intelligence agency - said "a number of malicious websites and unofficial code are being released claiming to help entities recover from the widespread outages caused by the CrowdStrike technical incident".

LAW AND ORDER

Malaysia detains oil tanker involved in collision

Malaysia has detained a large oil tanker that collided with another vessel off its coast and fled the scene, the coast guard said yesterday. The Sao Tome and Principe-flagged Ceres I tanker had collided with the Singapore-flagged Hafnia Nile two days ago, causing both ships to catch fire, the coast guard said. The Ceres I then illegally left the location of the collision and turned off its tracking system, it added. A maritime air and sea search was immediately activated by Malaysian authorities. "Malaysia has successfully located and detained the Ceres I together with two tugboats that were towing it" off the country's eastern coast, an official said.

CONTROVERSY

S Korea's first lady grilled over Dior bag

South Korea's first lady Kim Keon-hee has been questioned over allegations of stock manipulation and graft involving a \$2,200 luxury handbag, the prosecution said yesterday. The questioning comes as the opposition calls for a special probe into the first lady, who has been under scrutiny for accepting a Dior bag in violation of government ethics rules, and for her alleged role in a stock manipulation scheme. Prosecutors conducted "face-to-face questioning" of Kim on Saturday, the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said. Hidden camera footage released last year appeared to show Kim accepting a \$2,200 luxury designer handbag.

PEOPLE

Myanmar figurehead president suffering severe health issues

Myanmar's figurehead president suffering severe health problems, adding to uncertainty. The nominal president of Myanmar is suffering from serious illnesses, state media reported, in a rare statement on the health of a key junta figure just weeks before an ongoing state of emergency expires. Myint Swe, 73, a former army officer, was vice president under Myanmar's quasi-civilian system who became head of state during a 2021 coup and immediately handed power to the military. He has been suffering from "psychomotor retardation and malnutrition," the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said.

Bangladesh court scraps most job quotas that led to deadly protests

Reuters
Dhaka

Bangladesh's Supreme Court yesterday scrapped most quotas on government jobs after nationwide action led by students spiralled into clashes that killed at least 139 people, but some organisers said the protests would continue. Dismissing a lower court order, the Supreme Court's appellate division directed that 93% of government jobs should be open to candidates on merit, attorney-general A M Amin Uddin said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government had scrapped the quota system in 2018, under which 56% of jobs were reserved for groups such as freedom fighters' families, women and people from underdeveloped districts. But the lower court reinstated it last month, sparking the protests and an ensuing clampdown that included an internet shutdown and a curfew with the army on the streets. The recent clashes followed similar violent protests ahead of January's national elections by Hasina's opponents in response to what they called her authoritarian rule, and by garment workers demanding better pay amid high inflation. "Students have clearly said they

are in no way part of the violence and arson that have taken place in Bangladesh since Monday," Amin Uddin said. "I am hoping normalcy will return after today's ruling and people with ulterior motives will stop instigating people," he added. Internet and text message services in Bangladesh have been suspended since Thursday, as security forces cracked down on protesters who defied a ban on public gatherings. At least four protest co-ordinators told BBC Bangla that they planned to continue their action until they secured the release of some detained student leaders and the restoration of internet and other cellular services. "The judgment of the Supreme Court seems unclear to us. There is no clear-cut solution for all types of quotas," said Abdul Quader, one of the co-ordinators. Soldiers have been patrolling the largely deserted streets of the capital Dhaka since the government ordered a curfew late on Friday. A tank was stationed outside the Supreme Court gates at the time of the hearing. Local media had reported scattered clashes earlier in the day between protesters and security forces. At least 139 people have been killed so far, according to data from hospitals. The government on Saturday ex-

tended the curfew indefinitely, according to local media. Restrictions were eased for two hours yesterday to allow people to shop for supplies. Tanvir Hasan, a grocer in Dhaka, said: "As curfew eased, people swarmed in like bees. We just had couple of very busy hours." The clashes have injured thousands across the country in recent days, as police used tear gas, rubber bullets and sound grenades to disperse protesters throwing bricks and setting fire to vehicles. Experts attribute the unrest to stagnant job growth in the private sector and high youth unemployment, making public sector jobs with regular wage hikes very attractive among the group who make up nearly a fifth of the population. Bangladesh also faces economic difficulties and secured a \$4.7bn bailout from the International Monetary Fund in January last year after struggling to pay for energy imports, which cut into its dollar reserves and fanned inflation. Hasina, 76, who won power for a fourth straight term in January, has been credited with turning around Bangladesh's economy and its garment industry. But critics also accuse her of authoritarianism, human rights violations, crackdowns on free speech and suppression of dissent, charges her party denies.



A patient, who according to medics is suffering from Nipah infection, is shifted to an ICU of Nipah isolation ward in Kozhikode Medical College in Kozhikode, Kerala, yesterday.

Advisory issued as Kerala teen dies from Nipah virus

Reuters
Kochi, India

Authorities in southern India's Kerala state are taking preventive steps after the death of a 14-year-old boy from the Nipah virus and the identification of 60 persons in the high-risk category, the state's health minister said yesterday. Parts of Kerala are among those most at risk globally for outbreaks of the virus, a Reuters investigation showed last year. Nipah, which comes from fruit bats and animals, can cause a lethal, brain-swelling fever in humans.

Nipah is classified as a priority pathogen by the World Health Organisation (WHO) because of its potential to trigger an epidemic. There is no vaccine to prevent infection and no treatment to cure it. "The infected boy died on Sunday after a cardiac arrest," Veena George, the state health minister told local TV reporters, speaking in the Malayalam language. Earlier, in a statement on Saturday, she said as part of Nipah control, the government has issued orders to set up 25 committees to identify and isolate affected people. Dr Anoop Kumar, director

of critical care medicine at Aster MIMS Hospital in Calicut, said one positive case of Nipah had been diagnosed in a school-going boy and persons who had been in contact with him were being watched. "There is a minimum chance of an outbreak of Nipah virus at this stage," he said, adding that the situation would be monitored for the next 7-10 days. There are 214 people on the primary contact list of the boy, the statement said. Among them, 60 are in the high-risk category, it said, and isolation wards have been set up at health institutions to treat patients.

Above-inflation pay rises for UK public sector workers likely

Britain's Finance Minister Rachel Reeves said she will consider giving inflation-busting pay increases for almost 2mn government employees later this month to avoid crippling public sector strikes. Two pay review bodies who advise the government have recommended a 5.5% wage rise for 460,000 teachers and 1.4mn staff in the state-run National Health Service, according to media reports. Asked if the government would approve those pay rises, Reeves said she valued public service workers and warned there is a "cost" to long battles with unions that undermined the last government's efforts to improve public services. "I really value public service workers, in our schools, in our hospitals, in our police as well," Reeves told the BBC. "There is a cost to not settling, a cost of further industrial action, and a cost in terms of the challenge we face recruiting." The Labour Party won the general election earlier this month promising a decade of "national renewal."

Fresh catch



People try to catch about two tonnes of fish released by the city during an annual event to thank for this year's fishing harvest at Gemblegan Reservoir in Klaten, central Java, Indonesia, yesterday.

Baby, dad killed as pram rolls in front of train

AFP
Sydney

A pram carrying twin two-year-old girls rolled into the path of an oncoming train in Sydney yesterday, police said, in an accident that killed one of the children and the "heroic" father who dashed to their rescue. One of the little girls survived only "through good luck" after she landed between the rails when the pram fell off a platform at southern Sydney's Carlton railway station, police said. She was "largely untouched" by the train that apparently passed above her on its way to central Sydney in the early afternoon, police said. The parents had taken a lift down to the station platform and as they exited, they took "their hands off the pram for a very, very short period of time";

New South Wales police superintendent Paul Dunstan said. "Whether it's a gust of wind or - we're not quite sure - but it appears that the pram has instantly started to roll in the direction of the train lines," he told a news conference. Though one of the children was unharmed, the other girl and her 40-year-old father had been killed. The father had "just gone into parent mode" and tried to save his daughters, Dunstan said. "In doing so it's cost him his life, but it's an incredibly brave and heroic act by the dad." The mother and her surviving daughter were taken to the local St. George Hospital, and were said to be in a stable condition. The 39-year-old mother was "in a state of shock and struggling with what's happened" while being supported by family and friends in their local Indian community, Dunstan said.

Manila, Beijing reach 'arrangement' on reef resupply missions

AFP
Manila

The Philippines and China have agreed on an "arrangement" for resupplying Filipino troops stationed on a South China Sea reef, Manila said yesterday, after a series of escalating confrontations in the disputed waters. A remote outpost on Second Thomas Shoal has been a focus of clashes between Chinese and Philippine ships in recent months as Beijing steps up efforts to push its claims to almost

the entire South China Sea. A Filipino sailor lost a thumb in the latest June 17 confrontation when Chinese coast guard members wielding knives, sticks and an axe foiled a Philippine Navy attempt to resupply its troops. Yesterday's announcement follows talks between the Philippines and China this month when they agreed to increase the number of communication channels to resolve maritime disagreements between them. "The Philippines and the People's Republic of China have reached an understanding on the

provisional arrangement for the resupply of daily necessities and rotation missions to the BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal," the Philippine foreign ministry, using the Filipino name for Second Thomas Shoal. The foreign ministry did not provide details of the arrangement, but said both sides recognised the need to "de-escalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation". China's embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A handful of Filipino troops are stationed on the rusty BRP Sierra Madre warship that was deliberately grounded on Second Thomas Shoal in 1999 to assert Manila's claims to the area. They require frequent resupplies for food, water and other necessities as well as transport for personnel rotations. Earlier yesterday, Manila said the resupply missions would remain a Philippine operation, after Washington vowed to "do what is necessary" to support them. "As far as the RORE (rotation and resupply mission) is concerned,

we're keeping it as a purely Philippine operation utilising Philippine ships, personnel and leadership," National Security Council assistant director-general Jonathan Malaya said. "That may change depending on the guidance from top management but that's the direction or policy at present." Malaya's remarks came after White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the US "will do what is necessary" to ensure the Philippines can continue to resupply its troops on the contested atoll. "We will continue to support the

Philippines and stand behind them as they take steps to be able to ensure that," Sullivan said during the Aspen Security Forum conference in Colorado. Malaya said the National Security Council appreciated the US offer and the Philippines would continue consultations as treaty allies. Manila has a mutual defence pact with the US which requires both parties to come to the other's defence in case of an "armed attack" against vessels, aircraft, military and coast guard anywhere in the Pacific theatre, which Washington says includes the South China Sea.



Field visits and exciting educational opportunities at Aspire Summer Camp

The Aspire Summer Camp kicked off yesterday at Aspire Zone Foundation, bringing together children of all ages in an environment full of enthusiasm and excitement. This event, filled with adventure, learning, and exploration, offers participants the opportunity to acquire new skills and form friendships. Its diverse programmes include sports, artistic and cultural activities, allowing young participants to discover their talents. Aspire Zone announced the details of the final schedule of field visits within the activities of Aspire Summer Camp, which aims to provide fun learning experiences for children between the ages of 6-12. The schedule of field visits will include important stops, most notably the Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

Visits also include the Rail station, which will introduce children to different aspects of public transportation in Qatar. In addition, Aspire Zone Foundation will provide children participating in the camp with the opportunity to visit the Target Shooting Range, where they will enjoy a unique entertainment and interactive experience. As part of the field trips, the camp includes a variety of educational activities in innovative ways, such as electronic games, learning drawing arts, football, volleyball, and basketball training, in addition to swimming lessons. This edition of the camp comes in partnership with 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, Rail Company, Sports Lab Academy, Get Started Sports Centre, Al-Hadaf Shooting Range, Marial Water Park, and Ocean Medical Centre.



The Aspire Summer Camp's diverse programmes include sports, artistic and cultural activities, allowing young participants to discover their talents.



Najma Street – a hub for practical solutions and community life

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

Najma Street's short stretch between C-Ring Road and Mansoura Street, spanning about 950m, functions as a practical destination for people seeking various services and solutions. When taking a light walk from the Gulf Cinema Complex towards the compact traffic signal of Mansoura Street, one will observe that Najma Street mirrors other similar thoroughfares in and around Doha's bustling communities. These streets, some of which are small arterial roads, are lined

with shops that serve the everyday needs of many people, particularly residents of adjacent communities and nearby neighbourhoods, who provide brisk business to these establishments. Najma and its parallel counterparts across the country serve as a testament to the government's strategic and well-executed urban planning, ensuring proper care and service for Qatar's growing population. One can immediately notice that when dusk settles over the mostly beige-coloured buildings, Najma transforms into a melting pot of people and cultures. Many bachelors and labourers

cap the working day with conversations over "Sulaimani" (black tea), coffee, or karak. These nightly get-togethers provide brisk business for the many cafeterias and small restaurants that populate the street. The colourful signage of business establishments that brightens Najma in the evenings gives its unique character and appeal to many customers – DIY enthusiasts and professionals alike – that troop the hardware stores, bicycle shops, building materials and contracting shops, and other small service-oriented enterprises. Looking for a mechanic for quick fixes and minor tune-ups?



Najma Street mirrors other similar thoroughfares in and around Doha's bustling communities. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

Najma has quite a number of auto repair shops. Not even a stone's throw away are electronic repair and computer shops that provide different solutions – from malfunctioning gadgets, and broken air-conditioning (A/C) units, to maintenance and overhaul of old washing machines. As the summer season progresses, the hot weather and sweltering heat puts a lot of stress on residential A/C units. Najma's A/C technicians are dispatched even at a moment's notice to ensure that one's daily comforts are swiftly restored. Barber shops, as well as currency exchange houses and pharmacies, are often busy with clients. There are also a few shops that offer specialised services, such as the replacement of house or vehicle keys, photocopying and printing, and studio photography. Grocery stores of varied sizes, a handful of candy shops, and fruit and vegetable stores also provide the necessities for everyone, thus



Repair shops come in handy for quick fixes.

the convenience of having these services so close by is invaluable. Some of the remaining shops fronting the small traffic signal at the end of the strip introduce motorists and pedestrians to nearby Mansoura Street, which is not only a haven for furniture and home accessories, but is complementary to the popular Souq Haraj. Earlier, *Gulf Times* reported the planned refurbishment of the historic Gulf Cinema Complex following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing between Qatar Museums and the Qatar

Cinema and Film Distribution Company. The plans include Qatar's first-of-its-kind Cinematique Museum and efforts "to restore its past grandeur while integrating contemporary advancements and technology." Not only is the revival and refurbishment of Gulf Cinema seen as a game-changer, but local business owners in the area are anticipating new and larger crowds, boosting business and adding a unique cultural dimension to Najma's offerings.



A man feeds a flock of pigeons along Najma Street.

QM announces special programme in Paris to coincide with Summer Olympics

Qatar Museums (QM) is celebrating the 2024 Summer Olympics with exhibitions and public events in Paris, beginning on July 24. Anchored by two exhibitions curated by the QM and 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum (QOSM), the programme includes Jiwan taking over Le Dalí at Le Meurice hotel as well as the launch of the first-ever Arabic translation of writings, *Textes Choisis*, by Pierre de Coubertin, the French historian and visionary widely regarded as the father of the modern Olympic games. The QM's summer programme reaffirms close ties between Qatar and France and establishes new links based on a shared love of sport. The programme is organised as a legacy of Qatar-France 2020 Year of Culture. "For more than a decade, we have worked closely with our colleagues in France to present the greatest riches of our respective cultures in Paris, Doha and beyond," HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani said. "This latest programme of events reconfirms our joint commitment to sharing our interests, values, and ideals." "As we look to the Summer 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, this slate of programs celebrates the power of sport to bring together cultures and serve as a bridge between nations," she said.

Esports | A Game Changer
Opening July 24
Résidence Cîteaux: 45, Boulevard Diderot
Organised by the QM and QOSM, the first-of-its-kind exhibition explores the evolution of competitive gaming from

its niche origins to a thriving cultural economy that supports mainstream mega events. Esports takes a sociological look at competitive gaming, defining it in relation to traditional sports and casual gaming, while looking at its governing organisations and economies. It includes a history of esports, stretching back to the invention of the first electronic pinball machine a century ago, and presents snapshots of some of competitive gaming's biggest contemporary stars. The final part of the show looks at the future of esports in the gaming landscape and beyond, focusing on its societal, educational, recreational, and occupational implications. The exhibition will be on view from July 24-September 8, and will be on view in Doha in 2025. The exhibition is curated by QM deputy director of exhibitions Dr Christian Wacker along with esports industry leaders Benjamin Buchtala and Jannik Radisch with support of 3-2-1 QOSM director Abdullah Yousef al-Mulla and QOSM head of exhibitions Aalia Khalid al-Khater. *Esports | A Game Changer* is organised as a legacy of Qatar-France 2020 Year of Culture.

Olympism: More Than a Dream
Opening July 31
Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris
As part of Qatar's contribution to Paris 2024, 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum is staging an exhibition in France's capital city from July 31 to August 25 at Le Royal Monceau – Raffles Paris Hotel. The exhibition, titled *Olympism: More*

than a Dream, records 40 years of Qatar's participation in the Olympics since 1984. In the elegant surroundings of the Raffles art gallery, the exhibition is divided into three parts: The first part is a tribute to Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the Modern Olympics, and celebrates Qatar's gift of the first translation of Coubertin's Selected Writings into Arabic for the first time. The exhibition features iconic Olympic objects from the Museum's collection, from Muhammad Ali's left boxing glove from Rome 1960, hand-inscribed by the most charismatic of athletes, detailing his victories, to a rare Innsbruck 1964 Olympic torch used on the first occasion that the Olympic flame for a Winter Games was lit in Olympia, Greece birthplace of the Ancient Olympic Games. The second part highlights key milestones in Qatar's progress as an Olympic nation, from its first participation at Los Angeles 1984 to Tokyo 2020. Foregrounding Qatar's continuous involvement in each subsequent Summer Olympic Games and Paralympics – featuring milestone moments, memorabilia and medals from Qatar's first medal in 1992 to one of the two Tokyo 2020 Golds – the exhibition shines a light on how the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship have been articulated in Qatar and across the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) region. On display is the bronze won by Qatar athlete Mohammed Suleiman in the 1,500m at Barcelona, the first medal in the history of the Olympic Games to be won by a Gulf Country. The gold medal won by the "Qatari Falcon" Mutaz Barshim at Tokyo 2020 is one

of the highlights of the exhibition. In the high jump final, Qatar's Barshim and Italy's Tamberi both cleared a height of 2.37m but did not progress. In one of the most heartwarming moments in Olympic history, Barshim then made history by suggesting that the pair share the gold. This rare instance of athletes of different nations agreeing to share the same medal is a shining example of Olympic values of "Excellence, Respect and Friendship". The third and final part explores Qatar's emergence as a global sporting leader and host, and its aspirations to host the Olympic Games in the future. Building on its track record as international sport host, Qatar now wishes to progress its Olympic dream. The exhibition is curated by Susan Hayward FMA, deputy director of Curatorial Affairs at 3-2-1 QOSM and led by museum director Abdulla al-Mulla and the 3-2-1 team in partnership with the Coubertin Family Association and Qatar Olympic Committee. **Book Launch: the Arabic translation of Textes Choisis by Baron Pierre De Coubertin, hosted by Qatar Olympic Committee**
August 1
Just after the opening of the exhibition, as a part of Team Qatar Reception by Qatar Olympic Committee held in Paris during the Games, the QM will for the first time present *Pierre De Coubertin: Textes Choisis, Volume 1*, the first translation from French into Arabic of selected writings by Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympic Games.

The book will become available to public through In-Q's website and the QM's gift shops. The publication, which draws on his voluminous archive of writings (totalling some 500,000 words) collects some of Coubertin's most important essays on the power of sport to bring people together. With the Summer Olympic Games opening in Paris, it serves as an introduction to Arabic-reading audiences of the values that undergird the modern Olympic movement. **Jiwan Brings Distinctively Doha Flavours to Paris**
Jiwan, the flagship restaurant of the National Museum of Qatar (NMQ), will take over Le Dalí at Le Meurice hotel in Paris from July 29-August 4 with a unique menu highlighting the vibrant flavours and rich heritage of Doha. As the world gathers in Paris, Jiwan invites guests to experience its "Distinctively Doha" cuisine inspired by Middle Eastern flavours and regional culinary traditions. This collaboration embodies the spirit of multiculturalism central to Jiwan's ethos, blending local traditions with a global perspective. Le Meurice, known as the "hotel of artists and thinkers", provides the ideal setting for this cultural and culinary exchange. The Jiwan takeover promises a dining experience merging elegant Parisian aesthetic with Doha's rich traditions. Diners will enjoy modern takes on Middle Eastern classics and exquisite desserts crafted by renowned pastry chef, Cedric Grolet.