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Michelin Guide to elevate Qatar's dining scene and hospitality sector: QT

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Qatar's culinary landscape is poised for a major transformation as the Michelin Guide arrives in Doha for its 2025 selection, promising to elevate the country's dining scene and hospitality industry to unprecedented heights, a Qatar Tourism (QT) official said.

"This recognition acts as a powerful catalyst for tourism, attracting discerning travellers who rely on the Guide to discover exceptional dining experiences. Many travellers plan their visits around Michelin-starred establishments, underscoring Doha's appeal as a destination committed to culinary quality and innovation," Omar al-Jaber, Acting Chief of the Tourism Development Sector at QT, told *Gulf Times*.

He noted that the Michelin Guide unveils Doha's diverse culinary landscape, inviting travellers to embark on a gastronomic journey. From authentic Arabic and Middle Eastern flavours to a world of international cuisines, it promises enriching experiences that will leave a lasting



Omar al-Jaber, Acting Chief of the Tourism Development Sector at QT

impression on every visitor.

QT recently announced the Guide's expansion to Doha, marking the Guide's commitment to highlighting global culinary scenes and promoting travel culture, a mission it has maintained since its founding in 1900.

GT Exclusive

Al-Jaber said the Guide's arrival will stimulate healthy competition within Qatar's culinary landscape. This, he added, will encourage restaurants to constantly innovate and enhance

their offerings, leading to a more diverse and sophisticated dining scene for both residents and visitors.

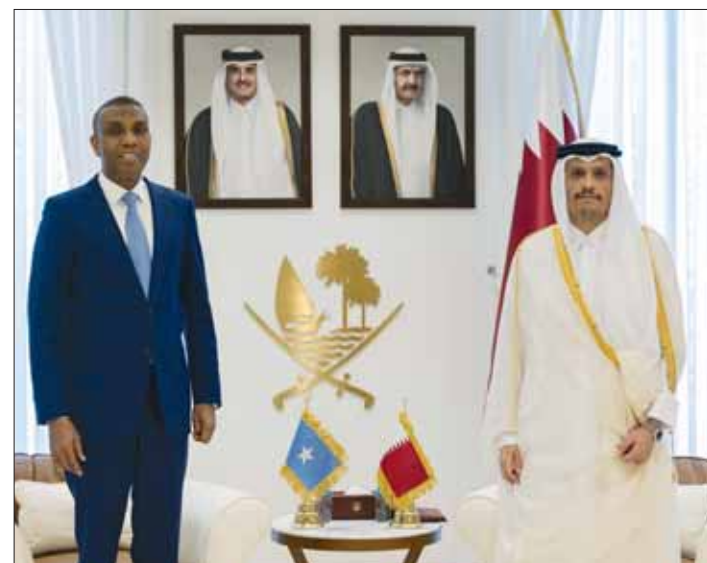
He added that service excellence across the sector will further complement the Guide's influence, ensuring that every aspect of a visitor's dining and hospitality experience in Doha meets the highest standards.

"We are particularly proud of this partnership as it signifies Qatar's commitment to nurturing culinary talent and promoting luxury and quality. Doha has become a magnet for skilled chefs and professionals who see our city as a hub of opportunity for their creative expression and career advancement," he pointed out.

The QT official expressed confidence that this international acclaim will undoubtedly draw more tourists seeking memorable dining experiences, thereby boosting the local economy and hospitality sector.

"This growth not only supports local employment but also encourages skill development and career advancement for individuals passionate about culinary arts and hospitality," al-Jaber added. **To Page 12**

PM meets Somali counterpart



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia Hamza Abdi Barre, who is visiting Qatar. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, in addition to the latest developments in Somalia. HE Sheikh Mohamed reiterated Qatar's unwavering support for Somalia, as well as its support for state institutions and all efforts aimed at achieving security and stability, and ensuring the country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. **(QNA) Page 2**

PM receives phone call from UK foreign secretary

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy. During the call, the two sides reviewed cooperation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the latest developments in the joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Strip, in addition to several topics of common interest. HE the Prime Minister congratulated Lammy on his appointment as foreign secretary of the United Kingdom. **(QNA)**

Iraq hangs 10 'terrorists'

Iraqi authorities yesterday hanged 10 people convicted of "terrorism", security and health sources said. Under Iraqi law, terrorism and murder offences are punishable by death. A health official said 10 Iraqis "convicted of terrorism crimes and of being members of the Islamic State group were executed by hanging" at Al-Hut prison in the southern city of Nasiriyah.

'Secret Service failed to protect Trump'

US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle admitted to Congress yesterday that she and her agency failed when a would-be assassin wounded Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, but rebuffed bipartisan calls to resign. "We failed," Cheatle said in testimony before the House of Representatives Oversight Committee. "The assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump on July 13th is the most significant operational failure at the Secret Service in decades." **Page 8**

Ethiopia landslide kills at least 55

At least 55 people were killed in a landslide in a remote area of southern Ethiopia yesterday, local authorities said, warning that the death toll could rise. The landslide occurred around 10am following heavy rains in the mountainous area of South Ethiopia regional state. Women and children were among the casualties.

FIDE honours Qatar Chess Association president



The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has honoured President of Qatar Chess Association Mohamed al-Mudahka during the celebration of International Chess Day, which commemorates the founding of FIDE. Arkady Dvorkovich, FIDE president, presented al-Mudahka with a special shield as well as to the international master Jo Shen, the star of the Qatari national team and former world champion, who is financial secretary of the FIDE, in appreciation of their efforts in supporting and developing the game of chess in Qatar as well as at the continental and international levels. **Sport Page 1**

70 massacred as Israeli tanks attack Khan Younis

Reuters
Cairo/Gaza/Jerusalem

Israel sent tanks back into the greater Khan Younis area after ordering evacuations of some districts and at least 70 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, Gaza medics said yesterday.

The Palestinians were killed by tank salvos in the town of Bani Suhaila and other towns fringing the eastern side of Khan Younis, with the area also bombed from the air, they said.

Residents of the densely built-up area of southern Gaza said the tanks advanced for more than two kilometres into Bani Suhaila, forcing residents to flee under fire.

The Gaza health ministry said the dead included several women and children and that at least 200 other people had been wounded.

The Israeli offensive since October 7 has killed at least 39,006 Palestinians as of yesterday, Gaza health authorities said.

Around 400,000 people were living in the targeted areas and dozens of families had begun to leave their houses, Palestinian officials said, adding they were not given time to get out of harm's way before the Israeli strikes began.



Displaced Palestinians leave Khan Younis towards the west, after the Israeli army issued a new evacuation order yesterday.

Some families fled on donkey carts, others on foot, carrying mattresses and other belongings.

Talks in Doha on Thursday

AFP adds from Doha: An Israeli delegation will travel to Doha on Thursday to discuss new demands for a Gaza truce and hostage-prisoner exchange, a source with knowledge of the talks said. The delegation would meet with mediator Qatar's Prime Minister HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. Qatar, along with Egypt and the United States, has been engaged in months of behind-the-scenes efforts to broker a Gaza truce and a hostage-prisoner swap.

Democrats unite around Harris after Biden exit

AFP
Washington

Democrats rapidly coalesced around Vice-President Kamala Harris yesterday as she raced to secure the party's nomination to take on Donald Trump in November, in the wake of President Joe Biden's sensational exit from the race.

Armed with Biden's endorsement, the 59-year-old won the backing of a flood of Democratic leaders on her first full day of campaigning.

Harris won the crucial backing of Democratic heavyweight Nancy Pelosi, the former US House speaker and a prime mover in moves to oust the 81-year-old Biden.

"With immense pride and limitless optimism for our country's future, I endorse Vice-President Kamala Harris for President of the United States," Pelosi, 84, said in a message on X.

"I have full confidence that she will lead us to victory in November."

Earlier, a slew of heavyweight governors, including leaders once seen as potential hopefuls for the party's presidential nomination, added their backing.

"Let's win this," posted Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, announcing her support in tandem with the governors of Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The governor of Kentucky, Andy Beshear, also declared his support, making him one of the favourites to be picked as Harris's vice presidential running mate.



A supporter holds a sign as members of the San Francisco Democratic Party rally in support of Kamala Harris, at City Hall in San Francisco, California yesterday.

Harris also secured the backing of California Governor Gavin Newsom and Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, both touted as top presidential contenders.

But she still needs to persuade key hold-outs and convince some donors who are urging for an open contest to select the Democratic candidate that will take on Republican challenger Donald Trump.

Among major names to back Harris were LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, who wrote on social media: "I wholeheartedly support Kamala Harris and her candidacy for President of the United States in our fight for democracy in November."

Harris must still win over some key hold-outs if she is to wrap up the nomination, which could happen as early as August 1. **Page 8**

Conference 'offers opportunity to discuss ways to build Somalia, strengthen economy'

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi has underlined that the Somali Diaspora Conference, currently in session in Doha, constitutes an important opportunity to discuss how to employ the expertise and capabilities of Somali communities abroad in building and developing Somalia and strengthening the economy through investors and entrepreneurs and capacity building through training and development programmes.

In addition it will help review potential challenges and opportunities for Somali expatriates to participate in the development of their country, and highlighting their success stories in this context.

In his speech during the opening of the three-day conference, HE al-Muraikhi said that the conference, which is being held for the first time in an Arab country, is a forum that includes members of Somali communities abroad, who have faced many challenges in the diaspora countries, such as the difficulty of integrating into new societies, adapting to the different cultures of diaspora countries, the difficulty of maintaining cultural



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi.

identity, unemployment and difficult economic conditions.

He added that despite these challenges, the members of the Somali community in the diaspora have been able to overcome these obstacles, which reflects the great ability of the Somali community to adapt and integrate with local communities, while preserving its cultural identity, in addition to overcoming difficult economic circumstances.

He stressed the importance of concerted international efforts and the contribution of Somali expatriates in building their country, noting that Qatar will

remain supportive of Somalia. HE al-Muraikhi pointed to the important role played by Qatar in implementing many vital development, reconstruction, and rehabilitation projects in Somalia, including; building roads such as the Mogadishu-Afgooye Road Project, and the Mogadishu-Johar Project, in addition to Qatar's contribution to the rehabilitation and construction of the headquarters of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, and the construction and rehabilitation of the Mogadishu Municipality Building, besides its support for security capabilities,

Somali Diaspora Conference opens in Doha



Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre and HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, opened in Doha yesterday, the Somali Diaspora Conference on harnessing the capabilities of Somalis for the prosperity and revival of their country. The two-day conference discusses the developments in Somalia and issues facing education, entrepreneurship, culture and identity, youth empowerment, and encouraging return and investment in Somalia, as well as a range of crucial topics. (QNA)

economic empowerment programmes, and creating jobs for youth in Somalia.

He added that Qatar is also implementing many development and sustainable projects in Somalia to enhance stability, security and peace, emphasising that Qatar will spare no effort in supporting Somalia to achieve prosperity and stability.

For his part, Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to Qatar for hosting this important conference, noting that this hosting reflects the strong fraternal relations between the two countries.

In his speech during the opening of the conference, the Somali prime minister appreciated Qatar's continuous and generous support for the Somali people in various fields, praising its giving during the ordeal of the conflict in Somalia, and its great efforts through which it sought to bridge the rift and bring the views of the Somali parties closer together.

He said that this conference reflects the aspirations and goals of the Somali people to achieve development and prosperity, through discussing ways of fruitful co-operation between Somalis abroad and their country of origin, in a way that contributes to achieving the comprehensive renaissance of their country.

He pointed to the prominent role played by the Somali community in the diaspora in various fields.

The Somali prime minister said that economic partnerships are one of the most important means of achieving sustainable growth, calling in this regard for the establishment of strategic partnerships that contribute to the development of various aspects of life, especially in the fields of education, health, insurance, and finance.

He said that enhancing production capabilities and opening new markets for national products are considered vital steps towards achieving economic stability, noting his country's endeavour to en-

hance trade exchange with various countries of the world to improve the national economy.

He said that utilising Somali natural resources sustainably is essential for achieving sustainable development, expressing his hope that Somali expatriates would contribute to establishing companies in the field of renewable energy.

He also highlighted the need for their role in managing national resources, including fisheries, livestock, and agriculture, and in implementing best practices in these areas.

He highlighted the most prominent challenges facing his country, such as; environmental challenges, poverty, and building productive societies, noting the Somali government's efforts to improve security and stability in the country, as enhancing security is a basis for creating an attractive environment for investments, which contributes to achieving sustainable economic development. (QNA)

Civil Defence appeals for functioning fire safety equipment in buildings

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

In the wake of the fire outbreak at Al Abraj Area in West Bay, the Civil Defence authorities have urged owners of high-rise buildings, towers and residences to ensure that the safety equipment is properly functioning.

"To avoid similar fire incidents in the future, owners should ensure the functionality of alarm and firefighting systems, security and safety systems throughout the building. Their validity should be tested on an ongoing basis," direc-

tor of Operations at the General Directorate of Civil Defence Lt Col Abdullah Mohamed al-Hail told Qatar TV in a telephonic interview on Sunday.

He said rescue operations were successfully carried out to contain the fire without any casualties with co-ordination from various entities.

"The emergency services at the National Command Center received a report of a fire at 3:22pm and the fire force moved to deal with the fire that extended from the building's exterior facade and reached its roof. Work was done to evacuate the residents of the

building, as the teams present were divided into three teams for evacuation, rescue and firefighting, and the fire was controlled in a short time without any injuries. All means and mechanisms were used to control the fire. The Civil Defence team arrived with the participation of the security departments, including the departments of Al Fazaa, Traffic, Criminal Investigation and Ambulance, along with other departments concerned, in addition to the Search and Rescue team from the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and the Ministry of Municipality," al-Hail explained.

Education ministry launches student support programme for scholarship procedures

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched a student support programme, which will continue until the end of August and aims to facilitate scholarship procedures, familiarise students with them, and resolve any issues they encounter during the application for the government scholarship programme.

Director of the Scholarships Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Noora Mohamed al-Ansari stated that by launching and implementing the government scholarship plan for the academic year 2024/2025, the department aims to apply new visions to facilitate student application procedures. So far, the number of scholarship applications has reached 2,200 across various disciplines offered for domestic and international scholarships, she noted. Al-Ansari emphasised the importance of student attendance at the interviews as a fundamental requirement to complete the scholarship procedures, as it aims to achieve the desired benefit of linking scholarship students with future employers they will join after university studies.

She noted that public service is available daily throughout the registration period through dedicated committees to support students, and to follow up on services provided to them. These services include

registration procedures, activating new application services, uploading required documents, and responding to scholarship-related inquiries.

External Scholarship Officer at the Ministry of Education Samia Nasser al-Ansari, highlighted students' and parents' significant interest in public service, with the daily number of beneficiaries of the services ranging between 70 to 75 students and parents.

She assured that the Scholarship Department effectively addressed students' inquiries about university registration procedures, primary election and scholarship conditions, and technical support to resolve electronic issues, thereby facilitating and expediting the registration process. (QNA)



Kuwaiti PM meets Qatar's envoy

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah met with Qatar's ambassador to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations. (QNA)



Foreign ministry official meets GRULAC countries' ambassadors



The Acting Director of the Department of American Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Muhammad bin Ali al-Hammadi met at the Mexican embassy in Doha, with ambassadors of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) countries. The meeting discussed prospects for co-operation between Qatar and Central and South American countries. (QNA)

MoEHE releases new list of 763 accredited universities for self-funded study

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has announced the new lists of accredited universities for self-funded study.

The number of universities certified for self-funded study reached 763, including 16 universities in Arab countries. The new lists have witnessed a significant expansion in Arab universities, considering their academic rankings according to the ministry's approved academic ranking sites. The number of Arab universities has reached 16, distributed across six countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Kuwait, Tunisia and Iraq.

The new lists were meticulously prepared for distinguishing universities according to academic tracks. This classification system facilitates access to the most suitable universities for study by specialisation, providing students with a clear path

to their educational goals. The lists included five tracks: engineering and technology, medicine and biological sciences, natural sciences, law, accounting, education as well as social and humanitarian sciences and management. Director of the Certification Equivalence Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Jaber al-Jaber, said that the lists were prepared considering university classification standards and meeting the needs of all student groups wishing to complete university studies at their own expense. Al-Jaber emphasised that all students must adhere to the lists according to the tracks and obtain prior approval to study abroad. This is to ensure the equivalence of university degrees after graduation. To view lists of universities accredited for study at own expense visit: <https://www.edu.gov.qa/en/university/scholarship> (QNA)

Cyber security agency hosts meeting with National Digital Safety initiative partners

The National Cyber Security Agency hosted an introductory meeting with partners of the National Digital Safety Initiative to streamline efforts and distribute roles and responsibilities to achieve the desired outcomes of the initiative.

This includes enhancing awareness of cybersecurity and digital safety concepts among various segments of society.

This significant event, attended

by distinguished officials, experts from the National Cyber Security Agency, and representatives from partner organisations, featured insightful presentations on the initiative's core objectives and operational framework. Attendees had the opportunity to delve into the experiences and projects of partners dedicated to advancing digital safety. Moreover, discussions included the initiative's pivotal role in supporting the realisa-

tion of digital aspirations outlined in Qatar's National Vision 2030 as well as the partners' role in implementing the Awareness and Digital Safety Objective.

Dalal al-Aqeedi, director of the National Cyber Excellence Department at the National Cyber Security Agency, emphasised that the introductory meeting represents the actual launch of the National Digital Safety Initiative, serving as the cornerstone upon

which subsequent activities will be built. She highlighted the importance of the initiative as a strategic national project.

Al-Aqeedi added, "The strategic dimension of this project is evident through the participation of a large number of organisations, with each organisation undertaking tasks and responsibilities that align with its core focus, aiming to integrate efforts positively impacting the initiative's outcomes."



Dalal al-Aqeedi speaking at the event.

Sustainability Conference launches under auspices of Qatar's Permanent Mission to UN in Geneva



Under the auspices of Qatar's Permanent Mission to the UN Office in Geneva, the International Sustainability Conference 2024, organised by the World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD), began yesterday at the UN headquarters in Geneva.

The conference runs from July 22-25 and focuses on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 goals, highlighting the crucial role of educational institutions.

In her opening speech, Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, HE Dr

Hind bint Abdulrahman al-Muftah, detailed Qatar's efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs), highlighting the involvement of Qatar's academic institutions in supporting national development strategies through innovation, scientific research, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up.

She said that education is a top priority for Qatar and a key tool in its pursuit of the SDGs, pointing out that investment in quality education remains a cornerstone for economic development, societal advancement, and achieving growth and prosperity.

HE Dr al-Muftah also noted

that Qatar leverages research, development, and innovation to implement the 2030 SDGs and boost productivity, guided by Qatar National Vision 2030.

Additionally, Qatar has heavily invested in information and communication technology to enhance sustainability and expedite SDGs implementation.

She affirmed that universities play a vital role in achieving the SDGs by disseminating knowledge, generating ideas, assisting governments and policymakers, and equipping them with the tools needed to devise strategies and address various crises and challenges.

Heart Hospital hosts event to thank Awqaf for financial support

The Heart Hospital at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has felicitated the General Administration of Endowments at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs for their continuing support to the hospital.



According to an official statement from Awqaf, the honouring ceremony comes in gratitude for Awqaf's Nabd initiative supporting heart patients.

Sheikh Dr Khaled bin Mohamed al-Thani, the director of the General Administration of Endowments, received the memento from Heart Hospital chief executive and medical director Dr Nidal Asaad in the presence of Cardiothoracic Surgery Department head Dr Abdul Wahed al-Mulla and officials from the two sides at a function held at the headquarters of the Heart Hospital.

"This support benefits many patients," Dr al-Mulla said, noting that there has been a steady increase in the number of beneficiaries year after year.

He praised the Nabd initiative.

Sheikh Dr Khaled hailed the efforts exerted by the Heart Hospital to utilise the endowment.

He said that more than 114 heart

patients benefited from the Nabd initiative last year.

The General Administration of Endowments director also announced the continuation of the existing partnership with the Heart Hospital to support and assist critical cases of heart patients in need under the Endowment Bank for Health Care.

The Endowment Bank for Health Care is one of the six endowment banks and was established to reinforce the historical role of health

endowments in Islamic history.

The bank is one of the forms of community participation and support for this important sector, assisting low-income patients in need of treatment and providing appropriate health services to them, co-operating with the competent authorities to create joint health programmes, holding educational training courses in the healthcare sector, and making use of the media to spread health awareness.

QIB launches 'Request to Pay' feature on Fawran instant payment service

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has announced the launch of the "Request to Pay" feature on its Fawran instant payment service, available through the QIB mobile app.



The Fawran "Request to Pay" service enables customers to request a payment from a registered Fawran user instantly through the QIB mobile app.

By entering the payer's alias and the amount needed, the request is sent via Fawran to the payer in any bank in Qatar. Once the payer approves, the transfer is executed instantly.

As part of the QIB's efforts to align with Qatar's Third Financial Sector Strategy, the "Request to Pay" feature enhances the payment and transfer processes by integrating advanced security protocols and improving accessibility.

Fawran, which means "instantly" in Arabic, streamlines the payment and transfer process for new and existing customers.

It uses alternative identifiers for account details, empowering customers to instantly send and receive funds without the need for inputting traditional beneficiary details making the process fast and easy.

By facilitating instant transfers, Fawran offers a rapid and secure electronic payment solution, accessible 24/7.

The service allows customers to transfer up to QR50,000 per transaction.

Fawran also offers customers the options to

manage the linkage of alias names to their desired accounts and track their transactions through its payment history.

"We are pleased to launch the 'Request to Pay' feature, yet another useful feature in our continuous quest to enhance customer convenience," said QIB general manager (Personal Banking Group) D Anand. "This new addition empowers our customers, affirming our commitment to delivering innovative solutions that meet their evolving financial needs and offer them speed, convenience and more control and flexibility."

Available on App Store, Google Play, and Huawei AppGallery, customers can download the QIB mobile app and easily self-register using their active ATM/debit card number and PIN.

For more information, visit www.qib.com.qa/en-Fawran

QMC to launch 2nd phase of summer training programme

The Qatari Media Center (QMC), affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, is preparing to launch the second phase of its summer training programme, starting on August 1, for the age group of 8-16.

The programme encompasses training, educational and entertainment activities.

"The programme includes a series of training courses and workshops that suit the age group and provide them with many skills in a distinctive and desirable way," said QMC director Iman al-Kaabi.

The official said that the second phase of the summer training programme includes the two-day "Anime Drawing" workshop (August 4-5) and the "Summer Bracelets with Beads" workshop on August 6-7.

The QMC is also launching a training course on *The Little Media Person* on August 11-14.

The programme will conclude with various entertainment activities between August 25-29.



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The Chairman of the Board, Board Members & Staff of Ooredoo Extend Their Heartfelt Condolences To Their Colleague

Aziz Aluthman Fakhroo
(Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Group)

On the sad demise of his beloved

Father

We pray to Allah to help the bereaved family to bear this great loss.

Daam, Teach For Qatar sign agreement to support Summer Institute 2024

The Social and Sport Contribution Fund (Daam) has signed a financing agreement with Teach For Qatar to support the 2024 Summer Institute. Under the agreement, Daam will provide funding to support the six-week Summer Institute training and activities, empowering participants to enter the education field as full-time teachers. This agreement reflects the developmental role and sustainable impact played by both Daam and the joint stock companies

listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange in supporting social activities in the country, in accordance with established plans and in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. This year's Summer Institute involves a new batch of 120 Fellows and 60 Fellows from the 2023 Cohort. They will receive exceptional training by experts in leadership and education, in addition to attending various workshops and individual support sessions. The Summer

Institute also includes training at Camp Qatar, where participants will practice teaching by implementing what they learned during the first couple of weeks. Teach For Qatar is a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded by HE Sheikhha

Hind bint Hamad al-Thani in 2014. Its mission is to work as part of the solution to help solve the challenges faced by Qatar's students, by reinvesting exceptionally talented leaders into the government school system to create positive change in classrooms, schools, and society. To date, it has attracted 317 Fellows who have taught Arabic, English, mathematics, and science to more than 40,800 students in the primary and preparatory stages.

Since its establishment in 2010, the Social and Sport Contribution Fund (Daam) has laid the groundwork for numerous vital projects and initiatives spanning the cultural, sports, and social domains. The contributions from joint stock companies listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange are considered one of the most important financial resources of the Fund, making them a key partner in achieving community development. (QNA)

QNL trains Omani students in cutting-edge librarianship



Students undergo a five-day training programme.

Qatar National Library (QNL) recently hosted students from the Sultan Qaboos University in Oman for a comprehensive five-day training programme titled 'Emerging Librarians'.

QNL offers the programme as part of its continuous initiatives aimed at empowering information specialists across the region. This effort has intensified since last year when QNL was designated as the inaugural Mena Regional Office for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), marking a historic first for the region.

The training programme featured introductory sessions to familiarise students with QNL's various departments, including a tour of the Heritage Library, Digitisation Centre, Children's Library, and the Preservation and Conservation Centre where students were briefed on the conservation techniques and processes used to preserve heritage items and QNL's role since 2015 as IFLA's Regional Preservation and Conservation Centre.

Eiman Saleh Alshamari, head of Young Adults' Library, and the manager of the IFLA Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, said: "The training reflects the library's firm commitment to equip the next generation of librarians and information specialists in Qatar and the region with the necessary knowledge and skills to embark on their librarianship careers. As IFLA's regional

office we are actively contributing to wider efforts to preserve and disseminate the region's cultural heritage for generations to come."

Additionally, the programme included field visits to cultural monuments and institutions across Qatar, such as the Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar University, and the Doha Institute Library.

Students also toured the Amiri Diwan-affiliated National Archives of Qatar in Msheireb, an institution dedicated to the collection and preservation of documents and archives related to Qatar.

Prof Khaleesa al-Barashdi, training supervisor at the Department of Information Studies in the College of Arts and Social Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University said: "We were privileged to engage in this unique training initiative, held in collaboration with the IFLA Regional Office at QNL. The training programme was notably effective, blending theoretical instruction with practical application, supplemented by field visits that significantly enhanced students' learning. These components not only enriched their knowledge, but also provided them with hands-on experience at one of the most advanced libraries in the region."

Impressed by the well-designed programme, the students highlighted the enriching and educational nature of the training delivered by experts who made complex information accessible and engaging.

QU educational sciences journal expands as a premier academic platform

The College of Education at Qatar University (QU) has announced the advancements of its *Journal of Educational Sciences*, a peer-reviewed periodical dedicated to publishing high-quality educational research.

Spearheaded by Prof Hissa Sadiq, professor of educational sciences and editor-in-chief, the journal has solidified its reputation as a distinguished scientific platform since its inception in 2002.

Published by QU Press, the *Journal of Educational Sciences* now issues three editions annually – in April, August, and December – up from its previous biannual schedule. This expansion reflects the journal's growing influence and the increasing number of submissions from researchers worldwide.

The journal features authentic theoretical and applied research in both Arabic and English, covering a broad spectrum of educational fields.

The journal's mission is to serve as a reliable source for disseminating authentic educational knowledge, adhering to international publishing standards and quality. It aims to enrich educational knowledge by providing



a scientific platform for authentic research dissemination.

By sharing successful educational experiences from diverse educational and cultural contexts, the journal strengthens communication networks among researchers globally, fostering collaborative research teams.

The *Journal of Educational Sciences* has made notable strides in enhanc-

ing its academic stature. According to the ARCIF report (Arab Citation and Impact Factor for Arab Scientific Journals), an initiative of the Knowledge Database for Scientific Production and Content, the journal has met international accreditation standards, achieving an impact factor of 0.381 for 2023. This accomplishment underscores the journal's commitment to high-quality research and its significant influence in the academic community.

The journal benefits from the expertise of over 200 arbitrators from prominent Arab universities, ensuring rigorous review and high-quality published research.

An editorial board comprising members from QU's Faculty of Education and other Arab faculties of education oversees its operations. Additionally, the advisory board includes distinguished scholars from Arab and international universities, further elevating the journal's academic rigour.

In 2023, the journal received 142 research articles, accepting 89 with an acceptance rate of 63%. This highlights the journal's selectivity and commitment to publishing impactful research.

Auto spare part prices seeing considerable rise, say retailers

Original auto spare part prices in the local market have increased considerably over the past few months, a number of retailers in Doha disclosed.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, retailers said the parts mostly in demand included brake pads, different types of filters, control arms, axels, radiators, alternators, and air conditioner spares, especially condensers and compressors.

Retail prices of spares have climbed 10%-20% over last year, they said. However, prices of aftermarket parts have remained almost stable for non-mechanical spares such as replacement bumpers, doors, lights, mirrors and others.

A number of retailers attributed the hike to the high demand for parts from used and old car owners given that prices of new vehicles have risen. More people are opting to hold on to their older cars for longer periods instead of buying new ones, the retailers claimed.

Demand for different types of auto spares is constant all year round, said auto spare parts salesman Eric. However, there are some parts more in demand during the summer such as AC compressors, he said adding that the price tags for the original brand manufactures' range from QR2,000-4,000.

Condensers and radiators too witness high demand as these parts usually fail during excessively hot weather. Auto spare parts salesman



Mohamed Salem stressed that vehicle owners should pay more attention to regular maintenance of their vehicles to avoid expensive

repairs. Changing oils and lubes at regular intervals, replacing brake pads before these are completely worn out and maintaining car AC and cooling systems at regular periods can prevent costly repairs, he said. Failing to do so could lead to more damage to the vehicle and will need expensive parts replacement, he pointed out. Faisal Bishr, auto spare parts salesman, stressed that more and more customers turn to aftermarket auto parts due to the reasonable prices. Some of these brands have excellent quality, especially for non-mechanical parts, he said pointing out that an aftermarket bumper sells for around QR300 versus the original part for QR2,000 for a sedan. Another retailer, Hanif Mohamed, said demand for auto spare parts, whether aftermarket or original, has become considerably high throughout the year, as many car owners prefer to keep their older vehicles.

9th Local Dates Festival opens today

Local date palm farm owners are all geared up to participate in the 9th Local Dates Festival, starting from today until August 3.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, they stressed the festival has contributed to increasing market share for Qatari dates and provided a direct outlet for farmers to reach consumers. More than 25 types of Qatari dates produced locally will be marketed, alongside the display of rare palm seedlings from various countries around the world, during the festival.

Youssef Ahmed al-Taher said the date production process this year was proceeding as expected, and his farm has started offering dates in various markets and outlets since the start of this month. It is participating in this year's exhibition with 25 types of dates produced by 1,200 palm trees within the farm. The produce include Zaghoul, Deglet Noor, Khalas, Khenazi, Shishi, Rezizi, Zahidi, Anbara, Hilali, Barhi, Khudri, Bishi, Sagai, Sukkari,

Mabroom, Shahal, Tanajim, Ghur, Umm Rahim, and Sultana dates.

The date varieties produced locally appeal to Qataris and residents alike, he said, adding the farm is always keen to participate at the Local Dates Festival organised annually by the Ministry of Municipality.

Nasser al-Kuwari said early dates have started to appear, especially varieties such as "Ghar," followed by Khenazi, Khalas, and Shishi. These types are distinguished by their excellent taste, he added.

"We started supplying dates in moderate quantities to the local markets for some time and expect the quantities supplied to gradually increase. The farm's production volume varies from year to year, especially since the process of planting palm offshoots and expanding this type of cultivation is ongoing and significantly increasing in the farms, producing 30 tonnes annually."


He pointed out that prices are usually somewhat high at the beginning

of the season, but gradually drop with increasing quantities available at the markets. It all depends on the supply and demand, he said.

Nasser Ahmed al-Khalaf, CEO and owner of Agrico Farm, pointed out that production at his farm has increased by almost 200% this year compared to their first participation three years ago in the annual dates exhibition held at Souq Waqif. This came as a result of growing various types of palm trees and adopting modern methods and techniques to increase production.

Hamad Khalifa al-Kuwari said his participation in the 9th edition of the Dates Festival at Souq Waqif involves selling rare palm seedlings from various countries known for their high-quality production, and exceptional properties.

He further stressed that the annual dates festival is an opportunity for farm owners to market their products and introduce Qatari dates to the consumers.



Doha Golf Club
Qatar

INVITATION TO TENDER

Doha Golf Club is pleased to announce the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Bond (OAR)	Tender Fee (OAR)	Last Date to Issue RFP	Tender Closing Date	Email Address
DGC/TC/24/007	Medical & Life Insurance	5% of RFP Value	QAR 2000	04 August 2024	13 Aug 2024	<p>Doha Golf Club To: zaib@dohagolfclub.com</p> <p>Aon Qatar LLC CC: Zeina.najjar@aon.com.qa shahid.areekkadan@aon.com.qa</p>

DGC is keen to invite reputable companies to Tender for Medical & Life Insurance for Doha Golf Club through the appointed broker; Aon Qatar LLC.

Who should respond to this invitation?
Local companies that have relevant experience in aforementioned insurances.

Tender Process:

- Applicant/s should register and submit their Expression of Interest letter, along with accompanying copy of valid Commercial Registration and Computer Card by email to the relevant email address listed in the table above.
- Upon receipt, the applicant/s will receive an email with attached Confidentiality Agreement (CA).
- The Applicant/s should then pay the non-refundable tender fee to below DGC Bank Account.

DOHA GOLF CLUB
Bank: Commercial Bank of Qatar
Account No.: 4580-583247-004
IBAN: QA24CBQA00000004580583247004

- Applicants will return a completed CA and Tender fee payment slip with bank stamp to DGC by email to the relevant email address, and submit a hard copy of the CA (in 2 copies) and Tender fee payment slip to the address below:

DOHA GOLF CLUB
West Bay Lagoon
P.O. Box 13530
Doha, Qatar

- Upon Receipt of a conformant CA and proof of payment of the tender fee, the applicant will be issued a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) through the appointed broker; Aon Qatar LLC.
- Requests for RFP documents after **04 August 2024** will be rejected.
- The decision to issue RFP documents to an applicant rests solely with DGC.
- Technical and Commercial Offers should be submitted by hand in separate sealed envelopes with two (2) copies of each to Doha Golf Club as per the above mail address.
- Tender Bond must be included in separate sealed envelope and submitted along with technical and commercial offers, otherwise Doha Golf Club will not consider documents for further review.
- Any queries in relation to this tender should be addressed in writing to the email addresses above.



Yemen firefighters struggle against port blaze after air strikes

AFP
Hodeidah

Firefighting teams yesterday struggled to contain a massive blaze at Yemen fighters-held Hodeidah port, days after a deadly Israeli strike damaged oil storage facilities and endangered aid ships in the harbour.

Heavy flames and black smoke spiralled into the sky for a third consecutive day following the strike on Saturday, said an AFP correspondent in Hodeidah.

Firefighters appeared to have made little progress, with the blaze seemingly expanding in some parts of the port, the correspondent said, amid fears it could reach food storage facilities. The strike on Saturday was the first by Israel on the Arabian Peninsula country and came in response to a Houthi fighters' drone strike that breached Israel's air defences, killing one person in Tel Aviv the day before.

High-resolution satellite images taken by Maxar Technologies showed flames consuming a heavily damaged fuel storage area at the Hodeidah harbour.

Analysis of satellite imagery from Planet by Dutch peace organisation PAX showed at least 33 destroyed oil storage tankers,

said Wim Zwijnenburg, a project leader with the organisation.

"We expect (to find) more damage, as not all storage tanks are visible because of heavy smoke" from the fire and burning fuel, Zwijnenburg said.

The fuel depot is run by the Yemen Petroleum Company which said late Sunday that the six people killed in the Israeli strike were its employees.

The Houthis say more than 80 others were wounded in the attack, many of them with severe burns. With black smoke billowing overhead, a funeral ceremony was held yesterday for the victims of the strikes. Their coffins were carried through the streets of Hodeidah, flanked by crowds and led by a Houthi marching band.

The Houthis, who are fighting Israel as part of a regional alliance of groups, have pledged a "huge" response to the strikes and threatened to once again to attack Tel Aviv. Yemeni port authorities said Hodeidah "is operating at its full capacity", the fighters' Saba news agency reported.

"We are working around the clock to receive all ships and there is no concern about the supply chain and supplies of food, medicine, and oil derivatives," port official Nasr al-Nu-

sairi was quoted by Saba as saying on Sunday.

But the US-based Navanti Group said the strikes on Hodeidah destroyed five cranes.

The attack also decimated most of the port's fuel storage capacity of 150,000 tonnes, leaving the Hodeidah governorate with an overall capacity of 50,000, the Navanti Group said.

The World Food Programme yesterday told AFP that there had been "minor" damage to a crane on one of its aid vessels in the port and that its fuel storage facility was impacted.

The ship "remains operational," but "all 780,000 litres of fuel stock was likely destroyed," said Pierre Honnorat, WFP's Yemen country director. Hodeidah's port is a vital entry point for fuel imports and international aid for fighters-held areas of Yemen, a country where the UN says more than half the population relies on humanitarian assistance.

"Yemenis living in Houthi-controlled territories are already suffering from widespread hunger," Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

"Israeli forces' attack on one of the country's main ports for humanitarian aid entry will only serve to exacerbate their suffering," Niku Jafarnia, HRW's Yemen researcher told AFP.



Palestinians queue to fill containers with water in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday, amid the ongoing conflict.

Desperate search: Gazans scour ruins for water

AFP
Jabalia

To get his family the water they need for drinking, bathing and laundry, Ahmed al-Shanbari steels himself for a lengthy search through the north of the Gaza Strip.

Shanbari said most of the wells near his makeshift shelter in the Jabalia refugee camp have been destroyed.

And the water distribution network barely works after more than nine months of war that has devastated Gaza's infrastructure.

Water was already scarce before the conflict erupted in October, and most of it was undrinkable. The 2.4mn population relies on an increasingly polluted and depleted aquifer, humanitarian agencies say. To collect what little of the fetid supply remains can take Shanbari four hours in sweltering heat.

He sets off with his three children, buckets in hand, weaving through mounds of rubble and trash in search of a working spigot or an aid agency hose connected to a water truck.

"We are suffering greatly to obtain water," he said.

Shanbari said the situation has worsened since heavy fighting broke out in Jabalia in May between the Israeli army and Hamas. "After the last incursion, not a

single well remains," he said.

The UN humanitarian office OCHA said most of Gaza's groundwater was contaminated with sewage even before the war. More than 97% was unsafe to drink. Today, many aid groups describe the situation in Gaza as "catastrophic".

For weeks, Palestinians in Gaza have said journalists about the intense thirst that drives them to delirium, their dreams of a cup of tea and the humiliation of being unable to wash.

For the Shanbari family, water is so precious they try not to spill a single drop after finding it.

From the jerrycans they haul home, they carefully transfer the water into basins for cleaning dishes and pitchers for bathing.

The parents say they are "exhausted" by the constant struggle to get the barest of necessities, and their children are sick.

"All my children have fallen ill, they're suffering from kidney failure, jaundice, itching, cough," said Shanbari. "I don't know what to say, and there aren't even medicines available in the north." Not far from the Shanbari home, huge puddles of sewage, sometimes as big as ponds, cover the roads.

INOPERABLE

Even if he could locate a well with water, Shanbari said there is no fuel in the north to run the pumps needed to extract it.

Wastewater treatment plants

are also reportedly shutting down because of the lack of fuel.

An expert on water infrastructure in the Gaza Strip described the territory's water distribution system as effectively inoperable.

Only a ceasefire could get it back up and running again, he said, given the need for spare parts and experts to access the stations and wells. The Israeli military on Sunday maintained that water collection points were accessible in the Al Mawasi humanitarian zone, to which it has ordered hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to move.

But people are afraid to go there after Israeli strikes on Al Mawasi killed at least 92 people and wounded 300 on July 13, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Israel, UN agencies and the Palestinian Authority have all raised the prospect of resupplying electricity from Israel to a desalination plant and a water treatment plant in Gaza.

But the local electricity distribution company said the line was still too damaged to distribute power.

The Gaza war was triggered by Hamas's October first week storming of southern Israel.

Israel's retaliatory military campaign in Gaza has killed at least 39,006 people, also mostly civilians, according to data from the Gaza health ministry.

MARITIME

UAE-managed tanker 'intercepted'

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have intercepted a Togo-flagged, UAE-managed products tanker carrying 1,500 tonnes of marine gas oil, British security firm Ambrey said yesterday, Reuters reported. The vessel had loaded marine gas oil off the coast of Iraq and was destined for UAE's Sharjah when it was intercepted on Sunday 61 nautical miles southwest of Iran's port of Bushehr. The interception was likely a counter-smuggling operation by the IRGC, as the vessel's "trading behaviour was consistent with previous IRGC target profile."

Playtime



Boys play table football at a street in the Palestinian refugee camp of Shatila in Beirut's southern suburb, Lebanon, yesterday.

Doha's Music Lovers Treated to Stunning Indian Classical Fusion at Beats & Tunes Event

The music lovers of Doha were treated to a spectacular evening of Indian classical music at Al Thuraya Hall in Pullman Doha Hotel. The 'Ganga Cauvery' event, hosted by Beats and Tunes Events, featured an exceptional fusion performance by the President of India Awardee Purbayan Chatterjee on sitar, Ambi Subramaniam on violin, Phalgun Parupalli on mridangam, and Tanay Rege on tabla.

The event was a resounding success, drawing an audience of nearly 450 music enthusiasts. The presence of a receptive audience included the ambassadors of six countries, and representatives from 18 different nationalities, namely India, Qatar, the UK, Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon, Tanzania, the Central African Republic, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and the Philippines.

Prominent community leaders, entrepreneurs, influencers, intellectuals, media representatives, owners/CEOs of annual sponsors of Beats and Tunes, and families—all bound by the "love for music"—were present in the audience. Music transcends languages, nationalities, regions, and professions, as evidenced by the presence of various nationalities and the spontaneous standing ovation from the audience at the end of the concert. The dignitaries stayed until the end of the concert, soaking in the melody, which speaks volumes about the program.

The amalgam of Hindustani and Carnatic music was beautifully showcased in the choice of the raga Latangi for the Ragam Thanam Pallavi, which enthralled the audience in the latter part of the concert. This was a fitting



tribute to the confluence of the gigantic Ganges and the gracious Cauvery. The concert, titled "Ganga and Cauvery," saw the artists doing full justice to these two most revered rivers of the Indian subcontinent.

Purbayan Chatterjee and Ambi Subramaniam portrayed the raga Latangi in all its beauty, akin to a slender, delicate lady, meandering through the raga with an elaborate exposition in the Ragam section. The chosen pallavi, "Taamralochani Latangi," meaning "Oh! the wide lotus-eyed one! Oh the slender delicate-waisted one!" was rapturously captured by Ambi on the violin and

complemented by the swara delineation by Purbayan on the sitar. It was truly goosebump-inducing.

Earlier in the concert, Ambi Subramaniam set the tone for the day with a captivating Bilahari performance. The chosen kriti, "Paridanamacchite" by Patnam Subramaniam Iyer, was an appropriate and delightful choice. One could simply revel in the Bilahari raga and feel the mind untangle its tensions.

This was followed by a bouquet of Malhaars by Purbayan Chatterjee. The first in the list was Ramdasi Malhaar, evoking the pensive

mood of the onset of monsoons. Like the dark clouds gathering and the thunderous downpour that follows, the sitarist carried us away with him, only to bring us the joy of the rains and happiness with Des Malhaar. The audience was captivated, applauding nonstop!

Purbayan Ji showcased his vocal prowess by singing the Bandish and explaining the significance of the Malhaar raga to the audience in an interesting and lucid manner. He wished for the rains to pour and cool Mother Earth. While it may not have rained outside, inside the hall, the music continued, drenching the eager listeners in its beauty.

This was followed by a short and crisp Thillana on the violin in Rag Kaapi, and its compatriot Rag Pilu in Hindustani on the sitar. It was quick, short, and heart-touching. Purbayan meandered through, weaving a beautiful "Raghupathi Raghava Rajaram" into the presentation.

Next, the solo section of the percussionists, the Thani Avarthanam, by Shri Phalgun and Shri Tanay, had the music enthusiasts tapping their feet and hands to the rhythmic cycle of the Taal. The audience was entranced, only to wake up to the announcement of a short break.

It was just like the great Ganges flowing from the greater Himalayas, fertilizing the delta belt along the way until she merges into the Bay of Bengal, and the Lady Cauvery, originating from the Western Ghats and flowing down deep south to merge into the same Bay of Bengal. This was the amalgam talked about earlier in the Jugalbandi of the sitar and the violin—a friendly and jovial presentation by the artists. Purbayan beautifully captured the sentiment of this amalgam, saying, "It is not Ganga versus Kaveri, but Ganga AND Kaveri that make up the land."

The ambience was amazing, and the audience was very receptive. The audience repeatedly tapped their feet and nodded along, soaking in the mellifluous melody from the most beautiful string instruments exclusive to Indian classical music.

"Beats and Tunes Events is committed to showcasing the richness of Indian culture to the multinational community residing in Qatar, and this was one such event," remarked the happy and contented Gopal Balasubramaniam, Chief Coordinator of Beats and Tunes Events.





Police and troops block Ugandan opposition HQ

Reuters
Kampala

Soldiers and police sealed off the headquarters of Uganda's biggest opposition party yesterday in what a police spokesperson called a precautionary move ahead of anti-government protests planned for today despite a ban.

In posts on social media platform X, National Unity Platform party chief Robert Kyagulanyi, popularly known as Bobi Wine, said security personnel had surrounded NUP headquarters in the capital Kampala, barring anyone from entering or exiting.

Wine said several NUP leaders had been "violently arrested" and also showed pictures of military personnel at the premises alongside parked army trucks.

"The military and police have raided and surrounded the National Unity Platform offices..." he said. "The cowardly regime is so afraid of the people

because they know how much they have wronged them!" Police spokesperson Kituuma Rusoke did not immediately respond when sought for comment about the reported arrests.

Wine, 42, a pop star turned politician, has in recent years emerged as the biggest challenger to veteran President Yoweri Museveni, 79, who has led the East African nation since 1986. Ugandan youth who have spearheaded recent protests are planning to march to parliament today in defiance of a ban on the demonstration, which is intended to denounce alleged widespread corruption and human rights abuses under Museveni's long-time rule.

Wine said his party was not organising yesterday's protests, but it supported them.

Rusoke said security forces had taken precautionary steps against what he called NUP "mobilisation for the protest".

"We have been monitoring (this). Their activities raised a red flag and we took precaution measures," he said.

UNREST Scores killed in clashes between Somali forces and Al Shebaab

Dozens of fighters were killed in clashes yesterday in the southern tip of Somalia when Al Shebaab militants tried to overrun three army bases, officials and the insurgent group said, Reuters reported from Mogadishu. A local security official said government forces repulsed the attacks and safely detonated four car bombs around 80km southwest of the port city of Kismayo in Jubaland state. Videos posted by Jubaland officials on social media showed at least 35 bodies in a mix of military fatigues near the village of Buulo-Xaaji.

Unregistered Senegal youth struggle for legal status

AFP
Dakar

It was only when 12-year-old Senegalese schoolboy Lassou Samb prepared to sit his end-of-year exams that his lack of any legal documentation finally caught up with him.

Like many young people in the West African country, Samb was never registered at birth, an oversight with potentially profound consequences for his education.

Hundreds of thousands of Senegalese pupils are sitting exams until Wednesday to mark the end of their school year.

But Samb almost did not take the test needed to move onto the next grade because he lacked the required birth certificate.

Every year, the exam period highlights a major failure to register births, not just in Senegal but across Africa.

Of the more than 300,000 students registered for the end of elementary school exams, almost 70,000 had no civil status documents, the examinations department said.

The issue has potentially serious consequences ranging from the protection of rights, access to public services and government policy planning.

Samb, one of six children born in a village in central Senegal, was the only one in his family not to be registered.

"Our (school) director often calls me into his office to remind me that I haven't brought my birth certificate yet, but I don't know what to tell him," he said.

Samb "was born with a fractured hand at a time when things were hard for us," said his father Malick, a factory worker.

"The priority then was to treat him".

Like previous administrations, Senegal's new government this year ignored the rule requiring a birth certificate for exams and allowed children to sit them without.

UNREGISTERED CHILDREN
"There is no question of sacrificing these children twice," said Moussa Bala Fofana, Minister for Local and Regional Authorities.

"Firstly by not declaring them at birth, and secondly by preventing them from sitting their exams because they have no papers, even though they have nothing to do with it," he said.

While 98% of births are registered in Europe, the number stands at just 44% in Africa, according to a 2024 WHO report.

More than half of the world's unregistered children live in Af-



Municipal official Yaya Diedhiou consults civil registers at the archive storage of the Parcelles Assainies town hall in Dakar.

rica, totalling around 91mn, the UN children's agency Unicef said in 2022.

Birth registration is a critical first step in access to healthcare, education and justice, and is also an essential tool in government planning for public health and development.

But long distances to registry offices, a lack of knowledge, local customs and, in some countries, discriminatory practices and fees can prevent parents from registering a birth, Unicef said.

Some parents neglect or ignore the importance of birth certificates even though they have up to a year to register their child free of charge, said Aliou Ousmane Sall, Director of Senegal's national civil status agency.

After this deadline, a court has



A drone view of the complete piece covering over 1,000 square metres created by Fola David, a Nigerian medical doctor and artist, at Onikan stadium in Lagos. **Right:** Hannatu Musa Musawa, Minister of Art, Culture, and Creative Economy shakes hands with Fola David in Lagos.



Nigerian artist aims at world record for largest individual drawing

Reuters
Lagos

Nigerian artist Fola David is seeking the Guinness record for the largest drawing by an individual after spending six days on his piece in a stadium in the commercial capital Lagos.

David, also a medical doctor, said his 1,050 square metre "Unity in Diversity" artwork showing two giant hands holding Nigeria's map was meant to show-

case the country's cultural heritage. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is made up of about 250 ethnic groups, split roughly equally between two religions.

"Our diversity should be seen as something that unites us, as something that strengthens us, rather than something that should create that divide between us," David said after completing his work on Sunday night. The Guinness World Record body has been informed and will need to certify his work if he is to surpass the record set in 2021 by Indian artist Ravi Soni who drew a 629.98 square metre piece.

Mark Your Calendar

Recharge and Rejuvenate for International Self-Care Day!

Don't let your well-being fall by the wayside! July 24th marks International Self-Care Day, a global nudge to prioritize our physical and mental health. In the whirlwind of deadlines, obligations, and the ever-present "shoulds," self-care often gets pushed aside. But neglecting it can have a ripple effect on our entire lives.

This year's theme, especially relevant in our fast-paced world, is likely to focus on building resilience. But what exactly is self-care? It's any activity we do deliberately to improve how we feel, both physically and emotionally. It can be as simple as getting enough sleep, spending time in nature, or enjoying activities that bring us joy.

Why is Self-Care Important?

Think of self-care as the foundation for a thriving life. When we prioritize it, we're better equipped to

• **Manage stress:** Feeling overwhelmed? Self-care practices like meditation or yoga can help promote relaxation and manage stress levels.

• **Boost our mood:** Activities we enjoy can elevate our mood and combat feelings of anxiety or depression.

• **Increase our energy levels:** Nourishing our bodies with healthy



Alka Meera Sunny
Global Chief Strategic Officer
Micro Health Laboratories

foods and getting enough sleep provide the fuel we need to tackle daily challenges.

• **Improve our overall health:** Prioritizing self-care can lead to healthier lifestyle choices and a stronger immune system.

• **Simple Steps for Daily Self-Care:** While International Self-Care Day is a great starting point, incorporating self-care into your daily life is essential. Here are some straight forward ways to begin:



• **Prioritize sleep:** Aim for 7-8 hours of quality sleep each night.

• **Fuel your body:** Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

• **Move your body:** Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week.

• **Connect with nature:** Go for a walk in the park, breathe in the fresh air, and soak up the sunshine.

• **Nurture your relationships:** Spend time with loved ones who make you feel good.

• **Do something you enjoy:** Make time for hobbies or activities that bring you joy and relaxation.

• **Unplug and unwind:** Schedule time away from screens and technology to de-stress.

• **Set boundaries:** Learn to say no to things that drain your energy or time.

• **Seek professional help:** Don't hesitate to seek help from a therapist if you're struggling with your mental health.

Investing in self-care isn't a luxury; it's a necessity. By making self-care a priority, you're investing in your physical and mental well-being, ultimately leading to a happier and healthier you.

So this International Self-Care Day, take a step towards a better you and start incorporating these practices into your daily routine. Remember, self-care is a journey, not a destination. Find what works for you and create a life that resonates with your well-being!

take several years due to the difficulty of accessing the necessary services, obsolete equipment and poorly trained officials.

"For most of our African countries, we had to make a transition from the colonial state to the post-colonial state," said Oumar Ba, president of the country's mayors' association.

"As a result, many measures were not taken in time. Our states inherited a civil registry that was not well structured," he added.

The shortfalls are conducive to fraud, with concerns about identification number trafficking widespread in Senegal.

Seydina Aidara, 23, said he was about to sit his final high school

exams when he discovered that his civil registration number had been stolen, preventing him from taking the test.

For Lassou Samb, a birth certificate would later allow him to get an identity card, passport or driving licence. But his father said that despite his efforts, he had not been able to complete the registration process. The government has launched a plan to modernise and digitise the civil registry in a bid to improve access and minimise fraud. Nineteen million records have already been digitised, said Sall, of the national civil status agency. "With this programme, the problems will soon be over," he said.

Obtaining a birth certificate can

fraud, with concerns about identification number trafficking widespread in Senegal.

Obtaining a birth certificate can

LG Electronics unveils Dual Inverter Dehumidifier with Ionizer

A dehumidifier removes moisture from the air preventing issues such as damp, mold and condensation while maintaining a healthy relative humidity level in your home. Removing excess moisture from the air can make a significant difference to your life. Too much moisture in the air means more likelihood of damp and mold - anyone who has experienced condensation on windows can relate to this. Using a dehumidifier means you can be in complete control of moisture levels, helping to reduce those problems and giving you a better quality of life.

Keeping in mind the consumers need to reduce & control humidity levels in their homes, LG Electronics has launched a perfect solution LG Dual Inverter Dehumidifier with Ionizer. It's an easy to operate appliance, where a desired humidity setting can be set. In terms of dehumidification performance, the LG dehumidifier has a water tank capacity of 5.3 litres. It can dehumidify up to 30 litres daily which is equivalent to 120 pieces of 250ml bottles. Emptying the water tank is quite easy, you hold the top handle of the water tank and take it out. It helps that the water tank is transparent as you can gauge when to empty it before it is full, in which case, the dehumidifier will send you a prompt on the LG ThinQ app to



inform you it's time to empty the water tank.

The top of the LG dehumidifier has touch-based controls, so operating it is a breeze. Its Push-and Pull handle design along with 360-degree caster wheels make it very easy to move around the house to utilize in various places.

LG Dual Inverter Dehumidifier can be easily controlled via LG ThinQ app while you are on the go. The clean interface makes it easier to navigate and straightforward

to use. The home screen of the LG ThinQ app shows the status of the dehumidifier (whether it is turned on or off, the mode it is operating at), the indoor humidity (you can opt to activate the sensor whenever the dehumidifier is turned on, or have it always on), Schedule (to turn on/off, OFF time, add schedule) and Ionizer.

While most dehumidifiers are used for drying laundry and/or keeping a room dry, the LG dehumidifier goes the extra mile with Spot drying.

Spot drying is exceptionally convenient to use whenever you want to dry your shoes, drawers, and closets. This can be done by attaching the extension hose with the Shoe Dry Y-hose or Closet Dry T-hose. LG dehumidifier can operate at 33dB in Silent mode. Normal modes such as Smart and Laundry are not as noisy at 39dB, which is similar to a quiet library.

By now, you can tell that I've had a good experience using the LG Dual Inverter Dehumidifier, but what is its performance like? To put it to the test in harsher environments, I convinced my peer to get a unit too since I've had a great experience, and he stays near the reservoir. Here's his account from using it which brings about a stronger understanding of how useful this purchase has been.

"This product is ideal for regions prone to high humidity levels, the LG Dual Inverter Dehumidifier demonstrates rapid effectiveness, significantly reducing humidity levels within just a few hours of operation. Resulting in a more comfortable living environment where the impact of excessive humidity is minimized, enhancing overall quality of life" opined Director & CEO of Video Home & Electronic Center, Mr. C.V.Rappai.

LG Dual inverter Dehumidifier is available at all leading hypermarkets across Qatar. LG brand shops & Jumbo electronics stores. Product can also be bought thru www. Jumbosouq.com



Optimise Family Bonding with ZULAL WELLNESS RESORT BY CHIVA-SOM'S 'KIDS ON US OFFER'



Complimentary stays and free dining for under 16s during school holidays

The Middle East's first and largest full immersion wellness destination, Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som, is helping families use the school holidays to maximise bonding and develop healthy habits at its dedicated family offering, Zulal Discovery - including an exclusive 'Kids on Us' offer*.

Zulal Wellness Resort encourages guests to embark on a cross-generational journey by offering an additional complimentary room and free dining for up to two children (under 16), when two adults book a full retreat each and one room.



cognitive development through physical and brain training exercises, focussing on creativity through arts and crafts. Base camp for nine to 12s is The Falcon Studio, signifying wisdom, vision and protection, with activities crafted to support self-esteem, mental cognition and physical abilities. Conceived to support teens (13 to 17 years) The Oryx Workshop incorporates music, indoor games and lounge areas and supports development, confidence, and wellbeing during this important life stage.

The Discovery Oasis is supported by a team of qualified child and family psychologists, ensuring every family member is well looked after and experiences are crafted to truly support child development, parenting skills and

Designed to balance active family time with the space for individual members to focus on their own wellness journey, the Discovery Reconnect retreat catalyses intergenerational connection and long-term health. Following a health and wellness consultation on arrival, each family member will be provided with their own personalised plan, entwining individual activities and treatments with others designed to be enjoyed en famille. Drawn from a carefully curated list of over 400, activities could include anything from organic gardening, kayaking, SUP and adventure walks to falconry, meditation, music and dance. All guests enjoy three Wellness Cuisine meals per day, use of the resort's Discovery Oasis family wellness centre facilities, and one age-appropriate treatment per person day.

Distinct from the resort's adults-only Zulal Serenity offering, Zulal Discovery features family-friendly accommodation and is home to the Discovery Oasis, which offers dedicated family wellness facilities and age-appropriate spaces for four specific age-groups.

Zulal Discovery embodies the resort's family wellness philosophy, centred on the belief that individual wellness is intrinsically linked to fulfilling family life and the ability to build meaningful relationships. Here, holistic wellness also means wellness for the whole family. By encouraging an active lifestyle, normalising good nutrition and introducing and developing mindfulness, breathing techniques and meditation, children are inspired to engage with and explore healthy and sustainable lifestyle habits. This is complemented by intergenerational activities that forge and strengthen familial bonds between children, parents and grandparents; age-appropriate therapies and treatments including Reiki, head massages and manicures; and the vast array of activities.

Within the Hedgehog Nursery, the youngest guests, aged up to three years old, are encouraged to open their minds to the wonders of creative play and discovery of the world around them, while the while The Fox's Den is designed for children between four and eight to build



familial bonds. As well as nurturing sustainable habits for overall wellbeing, Zulal Wellness Resort's counsellors provide expert guidance and tools to help families replicate and incorporate new healthy habits into their daily routines at home, from focusing on healthy meal choices and mindful mealtimes to active family experiences.

Further enhancing their family stay, guests can also enjoy diverse family-friendly healthy cuisine, fire pits and the expansive outdoor family swimming pool.

*Terms and conditions apply. The booking and stay period are valid until 31 December 2024. The offer is valid for families with 2 adults and maximum 2 children aged up to 16.

For more information or reservations, email Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som at reservations@zulal.com, call/WhatsApp +974 4477 6555 or visit www.zulal.com



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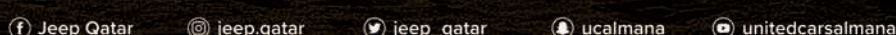


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Rwanda migrant plan 'shocking waste': UK minister

AFP
London

Britain's new interior minister yesterday branded the previous UK government's plan to deport irregular migrants to Rwanda as the "most shocking waste of taxpayer money I have ever seen".

Yvette Cooper, home secretary since Labour's landslide election win over the Conservatives earlier this month, said the UK had spent £700m (\$900m) on the controversial scheme.

But she said only four people were sent to the east African country before Labour scrapped the relocation pro-

gramme - and they went voluntarily.

Cooper said ex-prime minister Rishi Sunak's Tory government had planned to spend over £10bn on the scheme in total.

The costs included "£290m payments to Rwanda, chartering flights that never took off, detaining hundreds of people and then

releasing them, and paying for more than a 1,000 civil servants to work on the scheme".

"A scheme to send four people, it is the most shocking waste of taxpayers' money I have ever seen," Cooper told parliament.

Conservative home affairs spokesman James Cleverly, who touted the plan when he was home

secretary, accused Cooper of citing "made up numbers" and criticised Labour's "discourtesy" to the Rwandan government.

Sunak said the scheme would stop tens of thousands of migrants from risking their lives every year crossing the Channel in small boats from France to Britain's south coast.

"Stop the boats" was at the heart of his failed bid to win the July 4 election.

New Prime Minister Keir Starmer declared the scheme "dead and buried" on his first full day in office.

Rwanda then said it was under no obligation to return any of the £240m Britain had paid it.

Bangladesh student group suspends protests over death toll

AFP
Dhaka

The Bangladeshi student group leading demonstrations that have spiralled into deadly violence suspended protests yesterday for 48 hours, with its leader saying they had not wanted reform "at the expense of so much blood".

What began as demonstrations against politicised admission quotas for sought-after government jobs snowballed into some of the worst unrest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's tenure.

A curfew has been imposed and soldiers are patrolling cities across the country, while a nationwide internet blackout since Thursday has drastically restricted the flow of information.

The streets of the capital Dhaka remained largely quiet yesterday, and the army chief said the law and order situation had been brought "under control" since the military was deployed.

Nahid Islam, leader of the main protest organiser Students Against Discrimination, said "we are suspending the shutdown protests for 48 hours".

Nahid said he was hospitalised after being beaten by people he claimed were undercover police.

"We demand that during this period the government withdraws the curfew, restores the internet and stops targeting the student protesters."

On Sunday, the Supreme Court

pared back the number of reserved jobs for specific groups, including the descendants of "freedom fighters" from Bangladesh's 1971 liberation war against Pakistan.

"We started this movement for reforming the quota," Nahid said.

"But we did not want quota reform at the expense of so much blood, so much killing, so much damage to life and property."

At least 163 people have died in clashes, including several police officers, according to an AFP count of victims reported by police and hospitals.

Sporadic violence continued yesterday, with four people brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries, but the flow of casualties was much lower than on previous days.

Government officials have repeatedly blamed the protesters and opposition for the unrest.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruk Hossain said "at least 532" people had been arrested in the capital since protests began, including some leaders of the opposition Bangladesh National Party.

Ali Riaz, a professor of politics and leading Bangladesh expert at Illinois State University, described the violence as "the worst massacre by any regime since independence".

"The atrocities committed in the past days show that the regime is entirely dependent on brute force and has no regard for the lives of the people," he said.



A protester holds a placard as their march to congress is blocked by police during a demonstration coinciding with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos' State of the Nation Address, in Manila, yesterday.

Manila cannot yield its South China Sea position: Marcos

Reuters
Manila

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr yesterday said his country cannot yield or waver on its position in the South China Sea, but will find ways to de-escalate tensions in the contested waters.

In his State of the Nation Address, Marcos said maritime disputes must be settled through diplomatic channels under the rules-based international order. "In the face of challenges to our territorial sovereignty, we will assert our rights and interests in the same fair and pacific way that we have always done," Marcos said.

Marcos' remarks, which received a standing ovation from Congress, came after the Philippines said on Sunday it reached a "provisional arrangement" about its resupply missions to the contested Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea. While neither China nor the Philippines provided details

of the arrangement, Manila yesterday said "will not prejudice our respective national positions".

"In our desire to de-escalate the situation in the South China Sea to manage differences in a peaceful manner, we emphasise that the agreement was done in good faith and the Philippines remains ready to implement it," the Philippines' department of foreign affairs said in a statement. "We urge China to do the same."

The Chinese foreign ministry confirmed a "provisional agreement" with the two sides agreeing to jointly manage maritime differences and de-escalate the situation.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, including the Second Thomas Shoal, where the Philippines maintains a rusty naval ship, the Sierra Madre, that it deliberately grounded in 1999 to reinforce its maritime claims. Manila regularly sends supply missions to sailors stationed at the shoal, turning it into a flashpoint with Beijing. During a mis-

sion last month, a Filipino sailor lost a finger after what the Philippine military described as intentional ramming by China Coast Guard vessels against its boats.

China, which has maintained its actions in the waterway were lawful, reiterated its demand yesterday for the Philippines to tow away the grounded warship, and said it would not accept Manila shipping large amounts of building materials to the shoal.

"Between now and when the warship is towed away, should the Philippines need to send living necessities to the personnel living on the warship, China is willing to allow it in a humanitarian spirit if the Philippines informs China in advance and after on-site verification is conducted," the Chinese foreign ministry in a statement. The Philippine has previously said it was against informing China in advance about its resupply missions, which it maintains are lawful, and said this had not changed under the new deal despite the statement from the Chinese ministry.

Indian economic adviser backs more Chinese investment

India's annual economic report card has backed more Chinese investment in the country, even as investments worth billions of dollars from China suffer disruption due to increased geopolitical tensions between New Delhi and Beijing since 2020. India's chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said in the annual economic survey tabled in the Parliament yesterday, that to boost its global exports New Delhi can either integrate into China's supply chain or promote foreign direct investment (FDI) from China.

"Among these choices, focusing on FDI from China seems more promising for boosting India's exports to the US, similar to how East Asian economies did in the past."

The report said choosing the FDI strategy "appears more advantageous than relying on trade" as it can arrest the growing trade deficit New Delhi has with Beijing, the top exporter for India.

Chandigarh drenched



A child playfully jumps on a puddle of water along a street after rains lash Chandigarh, India.

India court blocks order for eateries to display owners' names

Reuters
New Delhi

India's top court yesterday ruled that restaurants cannot be forced to display the names of their owners, suspending police orders in two northern states that critics had said could foment discrimination against Muslims.

Police in the two states, both ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist party, gave oral orders in at least two districts requiring restaurants to put the names of their owners on display boards.

Police said this would help avoid disputes for thousands of travelling Hindu pilgrims many of whom follow dietary restrictions.

But a Supreme Court bench ruled yesterday that while restaurants could be expected to state the type of food they serve, including whether it is vegetar-

ian, they "must not be forced" to display the name and identities of owners.

The court suspended orders by police in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand states and issued a notice to them seeking their response on petitions challenging the move.

More than a third of India's 1.4bn people are estimated to be vegetarian - the world's largest percentage of people who don't eat meat or eggs - as they follow diets promoted by groups within Hinduism and other religions.

Some vegetarians choose not to eat in restaurants that also serve meat and don't rent out houses to meat-eating tenants.

A few allies of Modi and leaders of opposition parties had criticised the police orders, saying they feared they would deepen the communal divide and lead to Hindus avoiding restaurants employing Muslims.

Taiwan remodels war games in the face of China's threats

AFP
Taipei

Taiwan yesterday launched annual war games aiming to more realistically simulate an attack from China, dropping drills deemed to be out-of-touch with the growing threat of conflict.

Taiwan's military has discarded exercises "that were more for demonstration purposes", such as live-fire drills laid on for the media on the main island, said new Defence Minister Wellington Koo.

Officials have said such drills will now be held on Taiwan's outlying islands, where Chinese vessels and warplanes have edged

closer in recent months, and that troops would now take part in "im-promptu" exercises. The changes come as Beijing, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has increased its military presence in the skies and waters around the island.

"Nowadays the situation is more threatened than before, so this type of public relations exercise is useless," Ou Sifu of Taiwan's Institute of National Defence and Security Research said of previous drills.

He said Koo "is putting pressure on our conservative military, forcing them to conduct exercises that are more realistic to actual war".

Koo has eliminated goose-step marching and bayonet training

for the military in the two months since he was appointed, saying they were ineffective in modern situations.

Another major change for the drills is the new focus on decentralising the command structure, which the ministry said would familiarise troops with "the increasing complexity and uncertainty of the battlefield". Participants were previously briefed on every scenario they would face but "this year the troops are not told in advance and they have to respond spontaneously", said military expert Su Tzu-yun.

"This is more in line with the real situation," he said, calling it "the most crucial point for the re-

form of Taiwan's military".

"It can improve the morale and self-confidence of the participating troops," Su said.

The navy conducted an "emergency departure" off the coast of Taiwan's northern Yilan yesterday morning, while Koo - wearing military fatigues - oversaw a drill in northwestern Taoyuan registering reservists for rapid mobilisation.

Military tanks later drove through the streets of Taoyuan as night fell, passing civilian drivers commuting home and curious on-lookers.

Major drills were also expected this week in eastern Hualien county, home to an airbase for fighter jets, and on the island of Penghu

in the narrow waterway separating Taiwan from China. China has said it would never renounce the use of force to bring Taiwan under Beijing's control.

Beijing launched war games three days after President Lai Ching-te took office in May as "punishment" for an inauguration speech it called a "confession of Taiwan independence". Chinese coast guard ships have also ramped up their presence around Taiwan's outlying islands and Chinese aircraft are more frequently sighted near the main island, according to daily reports from Taipei.

The military could become "less sensitive" with such actions being "normalised", said retired major

general Richard Hu. "This 'boiling frog syndrome' could really trigger catastrophic consequences when (China) decides to launch its full-scale invasion of Taiwan someday in the future," Hu said. Japan has reportedly concluded that a ground landing in Taiwan by Chinese troops would now be "possible in less than a week" instead of the previous estimate of a month.

The International Crisis Group's Amanda Hsiao said it was "critically important" for Taiwan to accelerate its defence reforms, which would require dividing the attention of its troops between "the everyday challenges of Chinese military pressures" and a potential invasion.



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How SC sabotaged the US economy

Contrary to conventional wisdom, the Supreme Court's reversal of the four-decade-old "Chevron deference" doctrine is potentially one of its most anti-business rulings yet. The damage to companies – especially highly innovative firms – could be profound, with serious long-term consequences for the US economy.

In essence, the recent decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v Raimondo* means that when Congress has been either silent or ambiguous on specific rules to enforce a statute, courts need no longer defer to executive-branch agencies' interpretation of that statute. This may sound arcane, but the real-world effect is dramatic. Courts, rather than regulators, will now be the final rule-makers in the United States on everything from drug approvals and transportation regulations to food safety – all without the requisite scientific and domain expertise.

Before this ruling, most US companies could simultaneously launch new products in all 50 states. The sheer size of this market, combined with a uniform set of regulations, created enormous economies of scale and allowed for an efficient allocation of capital. It is one reason why the US became such a powerful magnet for innovators.

By restricting the executive branch's ability to craft and enforce regulations, the Supreme Court has opened the door to the Balkanisation of the US economy. The rulemaking vacuum at the federal level will mean that important issues are increasingly addressed by the states. Instead of a large and cohesive economy of 330mn people subject to the same rule of law, the US will likely end up with smaller regional and state economies, often organised around ideology and local business interests. That might work for an issue like schooling; but for economic policy, it is a recipe for inefficiency. Massachusetts may wind up with completely different standards than Florida for household appliances, food that is deemed safe in Texas may be deemed unsafe in California, and so on.

The Supreme Court's decision also could slow economic development

least informed – by experts and scientific authorities. This matters because when an issue in dispute is put to experts, one can anticipate with a reasonable degree of accuracy what the outcome will be. That is not the case when the same question is left to judges and juries.

Under *Chevron* deference, a federal rule might have been objectionable, but at least it was the same for all economic actors. Now, whenever a court finds a federal rule to be disagreeable, it could trigger a flurry of disparate rulemaking at the state level.

Innovation will be the first casualty. Imagine trying to launch a new Food and Drug Administration-approved product in this climate of uncertainty. Claimants – perhaps bankrolled by a company with a competing, inferior product that's already on the market – are now empowered to second-guess career scientists and challenge the product's safety. Litigation always seems to favour incumbents over innovators.

And the problem doesn't stop there. Imagine if federal agencies decide, post-*Chevron*, that they lack the authority to create guidelines for the acceptable level of "forever plastics" in packaging. One state might respond by banning such packaging, whereas another state, home to many large plastics manufacturers, might ban the packaging favoured by the first state. Companies would then have to produce two different products or exit certain markets.

The Supreme Court's decision also could slow economic development. Very few business leaders consider the federal government to be efficient at approving large projects. But with the reversal of *Chevron*, litigation challenging federal permitting decisions could make the process even worse; it certainly makes the process less predictable.

It is no accident that the least innovative industries in the US are those that are already regulated at the state level: health-care services, utilities, and financial services. State-level enterprises don't enjoy economies of scale, because companies must offer different products in each state. Legislation and rulemaking at the state level is often even more opaque than it is at the federal level. When there is more state-level regulation, the US economy will come to look like Europe, where innovation is undermined from the start by the complexity of differing standards and requirements.

The reversal of *Chevron* poses an existential threat to the core pillars of the American economic miracle: uniform rule of law and a cohesive national economy. The decision hurts businesses, especially entrepreneurial ones, and the downstream costs will be borne by all American workers and consumers. – Project Syndicate

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Trump imperial presidency looms amid party takeover

By Tim Reid, Nathan Layne and James Oliphant
Milwaukee

Five days after narrowly escaping assassination, Donald Trump accepted his presidential nomination on Thursday before an adoring crowd of supporters, the final act in his transformation of the Republican Party into the party of Trump.

His brush with death has fuelled the growing quasi-religious fervour among the party faithful, elevating him from political leader to a man they believe is protected by God.

"Trump, Trump, Trump" attendees roared at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee when he appeared each night this week, his right ear bandaged, to listen to speaker after speaker intone reverentially about him and reference God's hand in his survival from a would-be assassin's bullet.

Republicans are uniting behind him this week. With most dissent quelled and his grip on the party never tighter, Trump will be in a much stronger position than in his 2017-2021 term to follow through on his agenda if he wins the November 5 election.

Untrammelled by the internal divisions that sometimes stymied him in his first term, Trump would be freer to pursue hard-edged policies that include mass deportations as part of a crackdown on illegal migration, aggressive trade policies, and dismissing government officials seen as insufficiently loyal.

"You need a strong leader at the top," said Bill Dowd, a 79-year-old lumber business owner who was a guest of the Colorado delegation in Milwaukee.

"I'm a very, very big Ronald Reagan fan. Ronald Reagan pulled the party together also," Dowd said.

Dowd acknowledged that some of his Republican friends feared that Trump might try to abuse his power. He said while he did not share that fear he believed that dissent should not be stifled in any party.

For Trump's critics and political opponents, this is a dark and disturbing moment: they see the modern Republican Party as a cult of personality, a base from which Trump could pursue extreme policies and create America's first truly imperial presidency, threatening the future of its democratic norms.

"Donald Trump has called for the 'termination' of the Constitution, promised to be a 'dictator' 'on day one,' and now his Supreme Court justices say he can rule without any checks on his power," said Ammar Moussa, campaign spokesman for incumbent President Joe Biden, Trump's Democratic rival.

"Trump is a liar, but we believe him when he says he will rule as a dictator," Moussa said.

Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said Democratic assertions that Trump threatens American democracy and could become an autocrat if re-elected were "fear mongering" and a "blatant effort to deceive the American people."

An unrestricted Trump

In Milwaukee, nearly all of the 30 delegates, guests and elected Republicans interviewed by Reuters for this story acknowledged that their party had become the party of Trump but dismissed any suggestion that it had become cult-like.

"I believe that President Trump is a transformational figure, a man of destiny who God saved from death on Saturday," Louisiana delegate Ed Tarpley said. "He's been given a special mission in our country."

Those interviewed said they

wanted a President Trump who was not constrained by bureaucracy or Congress to execute his agenda. They were in favour of more expansive use of executive action – decisions made by a president that do not need congressional approval.

They want nothing to stand in the way of his plans to deport millions of people in the country illegally and to reduce the size of the federal bureaucracy. In his first term Trump often complained of "deep state" bureaucrats he said were seeking to thwart him.

"The president... must be able to implement his policies free of a bureaucracy resistant to them and unelected officials who do not agree with them," Tarpley said.

There are constitutional limits to what Trump can do through the power of his office, however, and any policies could still face lawsuits.

Half of Republican respondents to a Reuters/Ipsos poll this week said they agreed with the statement that "the country is in a crisis and needs a strong president who should be allowed to rule without too much interference from the courts and Congress."

That was substantially higher than the 35% of Democrats and 33% of independents who agreed with the sentiment.

Only one convention attendee interviewed by Reuters, a senior Republican from a southern state, said he was worried about a second Trump administration. He said he feared Trump would become an autocrat, fill government agencies with yes men, and seek revenge on his political enemies.

Referring to Trump's pledge to supporters that he will be their "retribution," the Republican, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "That effort will be horrendous."

Trump was widely criticised for saying during the campaign that should he win, he will be a "dictator" – if only for a day, a comment he later said was a joke.

Democrats have rebuked him for promising to pardon his supporters imprisoned for the deadly January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol that was triggered by his refusal to accept his 2020 election loss.

Trump, who was convicted for making hush money payments to a former raunchy star and faces charges related to his efforts to overturn Biden's victory, has threatened to use the Justice Department to pursue his opponents, including Biden.

Former Republican presidential candidate Asa Hutchinson said he was concerned about the lack of constraints on Trump in a second term.

"The Department of Justice is probably the perfect example of that. Clearly, a President Trump would have a close hand at directing the activities of the Justice Department," Hutchinson, a former governor of Arkansas, told Reuters.

Making 'Nixon blush'

The implications of a second Trump term are profoundly disturbing for America and the world, said presidential historian Timothy Naftali, a former director at the presidential library of Richard Nixon, who resigned from office in disgrace in 1974 after the Watergate scandal.

Naftali said a recent Supreme Court decision granting sweeping immunity to a president for most acts while in office, combined with a pliant Republican Party, means there are limited constraints on Trump should he act maliciously and exploit the office for his own personal power and political retribution.

"He can gut the Justice Department and engage in a revenge tour that would make Nixon blush," Naftali said.

To be sure, Trump would not be the first president to test the limits of executive power. Leaders including former Democratic presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Barack Obama have taken an expansive view of their authority.

Even with the July 1 ruling by the high court on presidential immunity, Trump ostensibly would still be bound by the US Constitution's separation of powers that reserves key functions to Congress and the judiciary.

Lara Trump, the Republican National Committee co-chair and Trump's daughter-in-law, acknowledged this week that governance by executive action – which can be overturned in the courts or by a successor – was not ideal.

"That's why it was crucial for Republicans to hold onto the House of Representatives in November and take the Senate from Democrats, she said, "so we don't have to rely on executive actions and we can actually see some lasting change?" – Reuters



Former US first lady Melania Trump joins former US president and 2024 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump onstage after he accepted his party's nomination on the last day of the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Thursday. (AFP)

France ready to rumble

Macron speaks of 'working for years' to see Olympics return to Paris

AFP
Paris

President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday that France was ready to host the Paris Olympics as he visited the Athletes' Village four days before the Games begin.

"We are ready and we will be ready throughout the Games," Macron said.

"We have been working on these Games for years now and we are at the start of a decisive week which on Friday will see the opening ceremony and then the Olympiad which will be held in Paris, 100 years since the last one."

He added: "This is the fruit of an immense amount of work which has profoundly changed the country, in particular the area" of Seine-Saint-Denis, where the Athletes' Village is situated.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach also visited the Village to the north of the French capital, where thousands of athletes and officials are arriving, with up to 14,500 expected there at the peak of the Games.

Comprising 40 different low-rise housing blocks, the complex has been built by employing innovative construction techniques

using low-carbon concrete, water recycling and reclaimed building materials.

It was also intended to be free of air-conditioning with a natural cooling system, but some Olympic delegations are unconvinced and have ordered around 2,500 portable cooling units for their athletes.

Seine-Saint-Denis, where the main athletics stadium for the Olympics is also situated, is the poorest area in France and is hoping to reap benefits from the sports extravaganza.

Macron promised the area would not be forgotten after the Olympics.

"I will come back after the Games to see the legacy with you and to see how life has changed," he said.

Meanwhile, France's foreign minister said Israeli athletes were welcome at the Paris Games after a hard-left member of the French parliament sparked outrage by urging them to stay away because of the conflict in Gaza.

"The Israeli delegation is welcome in France," Stephane Sejourne said in Brussels ahead of talks with his Israeli counterpart, adding that the call by France Unbowed (LFI) lawmaker Thomas Portes for the country's exclusion had been "irresponsible and dangerous".

"We will ensure the security of the delegation," Sejourne added.

Meanwhile, French security forces were continuing preparations for the unprecedented opening ceremony on Friday, the first time a Summer Olympics has

opened outside the main stadium.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 athletes are to sail down the river on 85 barges and boats, with a backdrop of world-famous monuments including Notre-Dame cathedral, currently being renovated after a devastating fire in 2019.

The athletes will disembark for the culmination of a ceremony at the Trocadero opposite the Eiffel Tower that organisers promise will be spectacular.

Up to 300,000 ticketed spectators will watch from stands and on the river banks and another 200,000 are expected to watch from the overlooking apartments.

Turning to the sport, Slovenian cyclist Tadej Pogacar is setting his sights on Olympic gold in the road race after winning the Tour de France for the third time on Sunday.



French President Emmanuel Macron (left) gestures as he delivers a speech next to International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach during a reception for international journalists accredited for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris yesterday. (AFP)

Failure to accredit some Russian journalists unacceptable: Kremlin

The Kremlin said yesterday that a decision by France to refuse to accredit some Russian journalists for the Paris 2024 Olympics over security fears was unacceptable and accused the French authorities of undermining media freedom. France's caretaker interior minister said on Sunday that French security services had rejected more than 4,000 applications for Olympics accreditations, including over espionage and cyberattack concerns. Gerald Darmanin, who said close to one hundred applications had been rejected over espionage fears, said some of those turned down were from Russia and Belarus, a staunch ally of Moscow's.

When asked about the refusal to accredit some Russian journalists for the Olympics, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call: "We consider such decisions unacceptable. We believe such decisions undermine the freedom of the media. And they certainly violate all of France's commitments to the OSCE (The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and to other organisations," he said. "And of course we would like to see a reaction to such decisions from relevant human rights organisations, from organisations focused on ensuring all the foundations and rules of media freedom."

The West on Friday accused Russia of riding roughshod over media freedom after a court found US reporter Evan Gershkovich guilty of espionage and sentenced him to 16 years in a maximum security penal colony. His employer, the *Wall Street Journal*, called the ruling "a disgraceful sham conviction," saying he had merely been doing his job as a reporter accredited by the Foreign Ministry to work in Russia. The Kremlin said the case and the trial arrangements were a matter for the court, but stated before the verdict and without publishing evidence that Gershkovich had been caught spying "red-handed".



Police secure the crime scene in Daruvar, Croatia, yesterday. (Reuters)

Croatia in shock as 6 dead in nursing home shooting

AFP
Daruvar

Croatia was in a state of shock yesterday after a gunman opened fire in a nursing home, killing at least six people in a rare instance of gun violence in the Balkan country.

Five residents and one employee were dead after the gunman entered the private nursing home in the eastern town of Daruvar and went on a killing spree, according to police.

The gunman then fled the scene and was later arrested at a cafe, where he was carrying unregistered firearms.

The man had a previous police record for disturbing public order and domestic abuse, said Croatian national police chief Nikola Milina. Officials first reported that five people had been killed during the shooting, but Milina said a sixth victim died after being transported to a hospital.

"We are appalled by this heinous crime," Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic told reporters.

"It is a monstrous act, the murder of several people, the mother, people around 90 years of age."

Police have not confirmed if the gunman's mother was among the victims, as the prime minister suggested.

In the shooting's wake, police sealed off the private nursing home located along a quiet street in Daruvar, where a small crowd gathered and watched as a forensic team entered the residence.

Police said they were informed of the incident at 10:10am local time and confirmed the suspect

had entered the nursing home and used a firearm.

Local media reports later described the suspected shooter as a retired military police officer who had fought in Croatia's war of independence during the bloody breakup of Yugoslavia from 1991 to 1995.

"I heard something that sounded like gunshots, but I wasn't sure," Antonio Demeter, an employee of the bookstore just across from the home, told AFP.

Then "two employees of the home ran into the bookstore and asked me for help. I called the police and ambulance.

"I was stacking the medicines and then I heard gunshots," a visibly shocked employee told state-run HRT television.

"We hid under a bed, the boss escaped through the window and then (we fled) through the window to the bookstore," the woman said through tears while sitting in a car.

As news of the shooting spread, shock rippled through Daruvar — a quiet town of some 7,000 — that has long been a popular spa destination thanks to the area's thermal springs.

"It's hard for me to understand that this can happen in our town, country," mayor Damir Lnenicek told N1 regional broadcaster.

Around 20 people lived in the nursing home at the time of the shooting, according to the mayor.

"What is the trigger? It's difficult to say, it will be determined by the investigation" Lnenicek added.

Following the shooting, Croatia's President Zoran Milanovic took to social media where he called the shooting "savagely".

Macron praises Biden's 'courage'

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday praised US counterpart Joe Biden's "courage" and "sense of duty", and called for the "spirit of partnership" between the two countries to continue beyond the next presidential election.

Biden, 81, announced on Sunday that he was dropping out of the US presidential race following intense pressure to step aside after a dismal debate performance last month. He has since endorsed Vice-President Kamala Harris as candidate. "I appreciate the courage, the spirit of responsibility and the sense of duty that led you to this decision," wrote Macron in a letter to Biden, extracts of which were made public by the Elysee Palace. "At a time when we have just celebrated the 80th anniversary of D-Day together, I hope that this spirit of partnership between the two sides of the Atlantic will continue to drive the historic relations between our two countries," Macron said.

Headquarters of Khan's party raided a week after ban move

AFP
Islamabad

Pakistan police raided the headquarters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party yesterday, a week after the military-backed government announced a shocking move to ban the political movement.

An AFP journalist at the scene saw the headquarters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sealed off by officers, who led a number of party workers into waiting vans.

The Interior Ministry said PTI's digital media wing was raided by Islamabad police who arrested Raouf Hasan, a founding member of the party and head of its press department.

"PTI is involved in anti-state propaganda," the ministry accused in a statement without giving further details.

Party chairman Gohar Ali Khan, a barrister, said he accompanied Hasan to the police station, after local media and PTI initially reported that he had also been arrested.

"I was there for Raouf Hassan, he is our senior and I had to be there for him," the MP told media.

"We are always ready for an arrest," he added.

Pakistan's ministry of interior



Police officers taking the arrested female workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from the party's headquarters into police van after the security raid in Islamabad yesterday. (AFP)

identified the detained aides as Hasan and Ahmad Waqas Janjua, the party's coordinator for international media coverage. The ministry did not mention Gohar Khan in its statement.

The ministry said the two detained men were being investigated but did not say whether they had been charged.

PTI had said over the weekend that Janjua was picked up by police from his house in Islamabad.

The ministry also said the secretary's digital media wing had been raided by the police and the country's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

At least 10 members of PTI or their relatives have been rounded up in the past two months, Hasan told AFP on Saturday.

He said they had "disappeared" with "no trace".

"Seven of them are from my department alone, which they want to cripple because we refuse to stay silent," he said.

The government's information minister said last week it would ban PTI, just days after the Supreme Court made a crucial ruling that restored the party's reserved seats in a blow to the government.

Khan has been in jail for about

one year, even though all four convictions handed down to him ahead of a parliamentary election in February have either been suspended or overturned.

If the Supreme Court verdict is implemented in letter and spirit notwithstanding controversial moves to upend it, it will make the PTI the largest party in the National Assembly.

It would be a major blow to the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who seized a parliamentary majority after February elections by forming a coalition.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan called the attempt to ban PTI "an enormous blow to democratic norms" and said it "reeks of political desperation".

"If pushed through, it will achieve nothing more than deeper polarisation and the strong likelihood of political chaos and violence," Chairman Asad Iqbal Butt said in a statement.

Khan, who says the many cases against him have been orchestrated to prevent his return to power, is languishing in jail on fresh but disputed charges of inciting protests and graft.

A United Nations panel of experts found this month that Khan's detention "had no legal basis and appears to have been intended to disqualify him from running for political office".

Ukraine in deal to restructure debt

Kyiv said yesterday it had struck a preliminary deal with international creditors to restructure government debt worth more than \$20bn, giving the war-torn country some financial breathing room. Ukraine's economy has been decimated by Russia's invasion and the government is reliant on international aid to help it fund both its military and day-to-day government spending. The government was up against the clock as a deal to freeze repayments on a series of international bonds — agreed after Moscow invaded the country in February 2022 — were set to end on August 1.

In a filing with the London Stock Exchange, the Ukrainian government said it had "reached agreement in principle" on a debt restructuring. The deal will see creditors, a group that includes BlackRock, Pimco and other major institutional investors, write billions off the nominal value of their holdings, and agree to a new payment schedule on terms more beneficial to Kyiv. "We are on the path to restoring debt sustainability," Prime Minister Denys Shmygal said in a post on X.

Russia jails journalist for over 6 years

A Russian court has sentenced Alsu Kurmasheva, a Russian-American journalist (pictured) for US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), to 6-1/2 years in prison for spreading false information about the Russian army, the court revealed yesterday.

A spokesperson for the court in the southern city of Kazan said Kurmasheva had been sentenced on Friday following two days of court proceedings. Her lawyer did not immediately reply to a Reuters question about whether she would appeal and the US embassy did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Friday was also the day a separate court in Yekaterinburg sentenced another US citizen, Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, to 16 years in prison for espionage, following a three-day trial held behind closed doors. His newspaper and the United States have called the trial a sham, and Washington says it is working to secure his release. RFE/RL President and CEO Stephen Capus called Kurmasheva's trial and conviction "a mockery of justice".

"The only just outcome is for Alsu to be immediately released from prison by her Russian captors," Capus said in a statement. "It's beyond time for this American citizen, our dear colleague, to be reunited with her loving family." Kurmasheva, 47, is based in Prague and has been held since October 18 when she was arrested while visiting family in her native Russian region of Tatarstan. She had first been detained briefly earlier last year while trying to leave Russia, and her passports were confiscated. A court initially found her guilty of failing to declare that she had a US passport, mandatory under Russian law, and fined her. A week later, she was charged with failing to register as a "foreign agent", to which she pleaded not guilty.

Her husband, Pavel Butorin, who also works for RFE/RL, wrote on X: "My daughters and I know Alsu has done nothing wrong. And the world knows it too. We need her home."



EU moves key meeting from Budapest to Brussels

The EU will hold its next meeting of foreign and defence ministers in Brussels instead of Budapest in a "symbolic" slapdown to Hungary for its "rogue" diplomacy on Ukraine, foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said yesterday.

The shift of location for the August 28-30 meeting is a reputational blow to Hungary just weeks after it took up the rotating European Union (EU) presidency. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has infuriated almost all his EU partners by conducting breakaway diplomacy with Moscow to explore the path to ending Russia's war in Ukraine. Orban — who is Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest ally in the bloc — has also accused the EU of having a "pro-war policy" by maintaining military and financial support for Kyiv. He has repeatedly stalled Brussels' efforts to punish the Kremlin and to aid Ukraine in its fight against the invading forces. "I can say that all member states — with one single exception — are very much critical about this behaviour," Borrell said after chairing an EU foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels.



Snapshots from the event.



Graduation ceremony at Police Academy highlights achievements, training excellence

In the presence of HE the Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who is also Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Police Academy, the Police Academy celebrated multiple significant milestones yesterday.

The ceremony marked the graduation of the ninth mandatory qualifying course for male graduates of civil universities, the second mandatory qualifying course for female graduates of civil universities, and the fourth group of graduates from the fifth edition of the "Police of Tomorrow" programme.

The ceremony featured a film detailing the journey of the graduates from recruitment through to the completion of their training.

This integrated programme included both theoretical and practical aspects of police work.

Graduates took an oath, committing themselves to the responsibility of defending and serving the nation.

The minister presented certificates to 96 male and female officer candidates from the Ministry of Interior and Lekhwiya Force.

Course commander Major Eid Bulayhin Hazam al-Qahtani highlighted the comprehensive nature of the training, which covered theoretical, scientific, legal, and practical police training.

He emphasised the programme's aim to equip officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the challenges of modern policing.

In a speech on behalf of the graduates, Officer Candidate Abdulaziz al-Ansari commended the training programme and acknowledged the efforts made to prepare the students for their professional roles in the police force, aligning with international training standards.

HE Sheikh Khalifa also attended the

graduation ceremony of the fourth group of the fifth edition of the "Police of Tomorrow" programme (Summer 2024), which included around 400 students.

The event showcased films on the "Police of Tomorrow" programme, the importance of cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrimes, and the efforts of security personnel in combating drug trafficking.

The ceremony featured live demonstrations of self-defence and shooting skills, reflecting the advanced training received by the "Police of Tomorrow" participants.

The programme comprises military

and sports exercises such as infantry, shooting, swimming, and self-defence, along with educational lectures and field visits.

The programme aims to instil a deep sense of national identity and authentic Arab and Islamic values, enhance the spirit of loyalty and belonging among the youth, and develop self-confidence through an integrated training and educational programme.

This event underscores the commitment of the Police Academy to producing well-rounded, highly skilled officers capable of meeting the evolving demands of modern policing. - QNA



Engaging activities at the Qatar Toy Festival 2024.



Young participants at the Aspire Summer Camp 2024.

Summer heat no dampener to enjoying Doha activities

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The summer heat failed to dampen Doha's vibrant spirit as various events and activities for different age groups unfold at various locations.

From summer camps to cultural celebrations, it is learnt that the city is offering residents and visitors opportunities to learn, explore, and be entertained.

Launched on July 15 and running until August

15, an initiative titled "Skillfest" showcases the beauty and diversity of the arts, crafts, and culture scene in Qatar.

Held at four key locations across Doha - Msheireb Galleria, Place Vendome, Mall of Qatar, and West Walk - this event offers visitors to opportunity to immerse themselves in local traditions and sustainable artistry inspired by Qatar's marine environment.

Visitors can enjoy Arabic calligraphy demonstrations, astronomy exhibitions, manuscripts and anecdotes, pavilions dedicated to marine creatures, and photography exhibitions by renowned Qatari artists like Azzam al-Mannai.

Skillfest also features artisan markets, where 24 artists are showcasing their creations, and competitions with prizes for participants.

The Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) launched its Aspire Summer Camp 2024 on Sunday, for children aged 6-12.

The camp offers a diverse range of activities, from sports and artistic endeavours to cultural experiences, allowing youngsters to develop new skills, discover their talents, and build friendships.

Field trips to the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum and the Rail station offer valuable learning opportunities about Qatar's history and public transportation systems.

The camp includes interactive entertainment

at the Target Shooting Range and educational activities like electronic games, drawing lessons, football, volleyball, basketball training, and swimming lessons.

The Katara Summer Camp 2024, which also opened on Sunday and running until August 7, is another initiative aimed at providing children with a unique summer experience.

Hosted by Katara - the Cultural Village, the camp offers a variety of educational, entertaining, and cultural activities, with participation from various entities across the country, including the Ministry of Interior, Al Jazeera Media Institute, and Qatar Red Crescent Society.

This year's edition builds upon the success of the previous year, featuring a four-day-a-week schedule packed with engaging programmes.

The second edition of the Qatar Toy Festival, taking place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre until August 14, is attracting visitors from across Qatar and the GCC.

Organised by Visit Qatar, the festival offers a wide range of live shows, exclusive activations, and educational entertainment for children and adults.

This year's festival features an expanded footprint, with 10 themed zones including Anime, Movie Land, and Retail, alongside returning favourites like Preschool, Girls, Boys, Family, Stage, F&B, and Theming Area.

Qatari inventor honoured at model Arab Youth Parliament meeting in Cairo

QNA
Cairo

Qatar is participating in the 2024 model Arab Youth Parliament, held under the theme "Towards Sustainable Community Participation," taking place in Cairo from July 21-27, with the participation of 100 young men and women from 15 Arab countries. Hosted by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab, the 2024 model Arab Youth Parliament meeting took place with the participation of the permanent mission of Qatar to the Arab League, represented by Saad al-Dosari and Nasser al-Hanzab, along with a delegation from the Ministry of Sports and Youth led by Rashid Mubarak al-Khayarin.



The activities featured the honouring of Qatari inventor Abdulrahman Saleh Khamis, joint third place winner of the 2023 Arab Youth Excellence Award

on Artificial Intelligence, for his invention 'Sajdah', which is a smart education prayer rug, to teach new Muslims and children to learn to pray correctly.

The model focuses on three main pillars: political, economic, and social and aims to raise the awareness of Arab youth about the common challenges facing Arab states, ways to address them, enhance awareness mechanisms related to youth parliamentary diplomacy, and raise a future Arab youth leadership, capable of transferring the Arab League's experience to Arab youth.

Organised by the Arab League's Secretariat General, the event is held in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports, under the patronage and attendance of Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports Dr Ashraf Sobhy, who also serves as Chairman of the Executive Office of the Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports Council.

Michelin Guide to elevate Qatar's dining scene and hospitality sector

From Page 1

He said Doha's inclusion in the Michelin Guide's global restaurant selections is expected to have a ripple effect throughout the region, promoting travel culture and culinary experiences in Qatar and the wider Middle East.

Sharing a glimpse into the Michelin inspectors' journey during their review process, al-Jaber said that they have likely encountered a variety of unique culinary trends and an eclectic mix of dining experiences that

showcase the city's diversity and innovation in gastronomy.

He said the inspectors have been immersing themselves in both high-end restaurants and hidden gems across different neighbourhoods, ensuring a thorough and independent evaluation.

By adhering to Michelin's rigorous evaluation criteria, al-Jaber said such collaboration ensures that Doha remains at the forefront of culinary excellence, offering fresh and enticing experiences to visitors.

According to al-Jaber, the decision to expand the Michelin Guide to Doha was driven by a number of compelling factors, demonstrating Qatar's commitment to culinary excellence.

"Qatar is rapidly emerging as a prominent global travel destination, blending rich Arabian traditions with a welcoming atmosphere that has captivated visitors worldwide for decades," he said. "This unique cultural tapestry provides an ideal backdrop for showcasing diverse culinary experiences, making Doha a natural

choice for the Michelin Guide's expansion."

Highlighting QT's key role in supporting the arrival of the Michelin Guide through several strategic initiatives, al-Jaber said: "This partnership ensures that our finest dining establishments are prominently recognised for their exceptional quality and service."

"By showcasing these venues, we aim to elevate their profiles on a global stage, attracting discerning travellers who seek unparalleled culinary experiences."

Katara Summer Camp features diverse educational and recreational activities



The Katara Summer Camp highlights Qatar's heritage.

The Katara Summer Camp is drawing a substantial number of visitors and seeing effective participation from children in its activities.

The camp offers an integrated programme that boasts of a broad range of educational and recreational programmes aimed at advancing children's innovative and social capabilities through awareness-raising lectures and field trips to cultural sites.

The event is also aimed at providing an environment conducive for children during summer vacation to help them take advantage of their leisure time to enjoy practical education and constructive social interaction.

The children's field trip to Al



Thuraya Planetarium has had an impact, as expressed by participants who learned about space and astronomy, and watched 3D movies that piqued their curiosity.

The second day of the programme featured a field trip to the Radio Voice of the Gulf.

The children experienced radio recording and programme hosting. - QNA