

Choose your guiding star & win!

QIC
*Regulated by QCB

GULF TIMES

THURSDAY Vol. XXXV No. 13082
July 25, 2024
Muharram 19, 1446 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

Enjoy unlimited connectivity with Roam Like Home

Discover Prime Investment Explore Endless Opportunities

Camps Available at: Al Khor Industrial Area, Umm Birka, Al Shamal

Shops Available at: Al Murra, Doha, & Al Khor

Warehouses Available at: Al Khor Industrial Area

HABARI REAL ESTATE OF THE STRAITS
+974 3030 0880
+974 3341 9475

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a **BUSINESS PARTNER** for a Four Star Hotel Business.

If interested pls call us on
+974 66698828 / +974 33598672

talabat rewards

You deserve rewards!

Sky Vision Real Estate Offer

Labour Room 1,250/- per room @ Industrial Area, Street-38,43,44,47

Warehouse 300sqm - Qr.12,500/-

LOUNGE & CLUB / HOTEL STUDIO ROOM for Rent Inside a 4 Star Hotel

Call: 33598672, 52038746, 50576993

Amwaj

100% EDIBLE MINERAL WATER

"Pure water Refined taste"

Extra Minerals Added

LOW SODIUM

Available at: Dana

مصنع الدوحة للصناعات الغذائية
DOHA JUICE & FOOD FACTORY
Mob: 70614776, 77949967

Protest against Netanyahu's US visit



Demonstrators protest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the United States on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, US, amid Israel's ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza. **Page 11**

PM discusses Gaza truce with Blinken, French FM

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from Secretary of State of the friendly United States of America Antony Blinken.

The phone conversation dealt with the close strategic ties between Qatar and the friendly United States of America, and ways to develop and enhance them, in addition to discussing the latest developments in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories, along with the joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Strip.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received a phone call yesterday also from Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic Stephane Sejourne.

During the call, they discussed bilateral co-operation ties be-



HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani

tween the two countries, and ways to strengthen them, in addition to the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. Additionally, they discussed developments in the joint mediation efforts aimed at ending the war on the Strip and several topics of shared interest.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed, during the call, his wishes for the French Republic's success in organising the events of the 33rd Summer Olympic Games "Paris 2024".

Homes destroyed in new attacks on Khan Younis

Gaza massacre toll climbs to 39,090

Reuters
Cairo/Gaza

Israeli forces carried out new raids in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

The latest Israeli attacks destroyed homes in towns east of Khan Younis in southern Gaza and thousands of people were forced to head west to seek shelter, residents said.

The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said it had received distress calls from residents trapped in their homes in Bani Suhaila, east of Khan Younis, but were unable to reach the town.

Medics later said two Palestinians had been killed in an airstrike on Bani Suhaila.

Gaza health officials said Israeli military strikes in the past 24 hours had killed at least 55 people, the latest casualties in a war that health authorities in the enclave say has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians.

Local health authorities confirmed that the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli onslaught since October 7 has risen to 39,090 reported fatalities, with an additional 90,147 individuals sustain-



A distressed Palestinian woman and boy arrive at the Nasser hospital after Israeli forces targeted the northeastern district of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

ing injuries. The majority of the victims are women and children.

Residents said they had been ordered to head west towards a designated humanitarian area but that the area was now unsafe. The Israeli military issued the evacuation orders on social media, and some residents received orders to leave by phone.

Israeli forces also mounted airstrikes on several areas of central and northern Gaza, including

one on Al-Bureij camp in central Gaza which health officials said killed nine people.

In the southern area of Rafah, the military said it engaged in close-quarter combat with militants.

Some Palestinians who gathered at a hospital in Khan Younis before funerals criticised the United States, Israel's most important international ally, for welcoming Netanyahu.

HMC launches person-centred care roadshow

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has launched an innovative Person-Centred Care (PCC) Roadshow, a first of its kind initiative designed to engage patients, families, staff, and the wider community in the principles of person-centred care. HMC has invited the community to take part in this innovative journey.

The PCC Roadshow is a part of HMC's ongoing commitment to transforming into a person-centred organisation. This initiative aims to showcase the successful PCC best practices implemented across the organisation, raise awareness about the importance of person-centred care, and build a stronger sense of community within the healthcare system.

The roadshow is scheduled to take place across HMC from August to December this year, hosted by nine HMC facilities that are undergoing PCC certification and recertification processes:

The road show will be held at:
Ambulatory Care Center - August 4 to 6

Women's Wellness and Research Center - September - 8 to 9; Home Healthcare Services - September 15 to 16; Private Nursing Services - September 15 to 16; Heart Hospital - September 29 to October 1.

Al Wakra Hospital, the Communicable Disease Center, Enaya Specialised Care Center and Hamad General Hospital Emergency Department will also be participating.

Nasser al-Naimi, chief of Patient Experience at HMC and director of the Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute, said the theme of the roadshow is 'PCC: Our Journey, Our Care, Our Community!'

"This theme captures the experiential, branding, and community-building objectives of the event. It highlights HMC's collective journey towards person-centred care, emphasising the importance of prioritising personalised care in enhancing patient experiences and outcomes," he said. "Key leaders from HMC and partner organisations will take part in the event and their presence



highlights the collaborative and high level efforts and shared vision for a person-centred healthcare system."

Al-Naimi invited members of the community to take part in the series of events which will showcase the important work being done by HMC in its journey towards person-centred care.

"We invite all members of the HMC community, including patients, families, staff, and partners, to join us at the PCC Roadshow," he said.

Earthna joins Global Mangrove Alliance

In support of efforts to protect and enhance Qatar's mangroves, Earthna Centre for Sustainable Future (Earthna), a member of Qatar Foundation, has joined international conservation coalition, the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA).

The membership will enable Earthna to collaborate with other organisations that collectively strive to advance mangrove conservation initiatives, share expertise and resources, and collaborate on projects that preserve these vital coastal ecosystems worldwide.

Earthna's membership of the GMA coincides with the upcoming World Mangrove Day (WMD), which takes place on July 26 annually. WMD was established by UNESCO in 2015 to highlight the critical importance of mangrove ecosystems and promote their sustainable management and conservation.

Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata, executive director of Earthna, said: "Mangrove forests play an



incredible role in advancing global sustainability and the fight against climate change. They absorb high-levels of carbon, buffer against the impacts of climate change like storm surges and sea level rise, support biodiversity, improve water quality, and prevent coastal erosion. By working closely with the Global Mangroves Alliance and its partners, Earthna will leverage collective expertise and resources to help safeguard these critical coastal habitats here in Qatar, and worldwide."

The GMA unites technical experts, civil society organisations, governments, local communities, businesses, funding agencies, and foundations to accelerate coordinated global action to conserve and restore mangroves, with an aim to expand the global mangrove habitat by 20% by 2030.

Chaos as Morocco beat Argentina in Olympic opener

Chaos and confusion reigned yesterday as Morocco beat Argentina 2-1 in their opening game of the men's Olympic football tournament, but only after a late equaliser for the South American side was disallowed and the final minutes were played out in an empty stadium following crowd trouble. Argentina thought they had escaped from the Group B match in Saint-Etienne with a 2-2 draw when Cristian Medina scored in the 16th minute of added time. But as their players celebrated, projectiles including bottles and plastic cups rained down from the stands and several spectators entered the pitch, with the referee promptly blowing the whistle. The teams left the playing area, but the referee had not blown for full-time and the outcome of the match was completely unclear until the sides finally reappeared two hours later to play out three more minutes.

Sport Page 1

Today's Gulf Times includes an 8-page special report on **PARIS 2024**



استمع الرمز المزمعمة أو الرمز QR
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR LATEST
PROMOTION CATALOGUE
VIEW NOW



تفاح رويال غاللا صغبر
جنوب افريقي 1 كيلو
QAR 7.00
QAR 5.50
Apple Baby Royal Gala
South Africa 1kg



برتقال ابو صرة
جنوب افريقي 1 كيلو
QAR 5.00
QAR 2.75
Orange Navel
South Africa 1kg



أفوكادو هاس
استرالي 1 كيلو
QAR 26.75
QAR 18.50
Avocado Hass
Australia 1kg



بصل باكستاني
1 كيلو
QAR 3.00
QAR 2.25
Onion Pakistan
1kg



روبيان مزرعة متوسط
سعودي 1 كيلو
QAR 22.50
Farmed Prawns Medium
Saudi Arabia 1kg



لحم ماعز مقطع
تازاني 1 كيلو
QAR 32.75
QAR 27.75
Mutton Cuts
Tanzania 1kg



قطع لحم بقري
استرالي 1 كيلو
QAR 42.75
QAR 26.75
Beef Cubes
Australia 1kg



جبنة بيضاء قطرية
بالهالابينو/دبل كريم 1 كيلو
QAR 27.50
Qatar White Cheese
with Jalapeno/Double
Cream 1kg



بيض ابيض
متوسط 30 قطعة
QAR 7.75
White Eggs
Medium 30's



كادبوري ديري ميلك شوكولاتة
90 غرام / 3 حبات
QAR 17.25
QAR 10.00
Cadbury Dairy Milk
Chocolate
90gm X 3pcs



علي كافييه قهوة كلاسيكية 3 في 1
22 غرام / 22 قطعة
QAR 14.25
QAR 9.00
Alicafe Classic 3 in 1 Coffee
20gm X 22pcs



برايم مشروب الترطيب آيس
بوب/ميتا مون 500 مل / 1 حبة
QAR 3.50
Prime Hydration Drink
Ice Pop/Meta Moon
500ml x 1pc



الفا زيت دوار الشمس
5 لتر
QAR 24.50
Alfa Sunflower Oil
5Ltr.



سيارا دجاج
كامل 1.2 كيلو
QAR 12.25
Seara Whole
Chicken 1.2kg



أولوايز فوط صحية نسائية
32 قطعة
QAR 16.50
QAR 9.00
Always Clean & Dry
Maxi Thick 32's



إريال مسحوق غسيل
2.5 كيلو / حبتان
QAR 55.00
QAR 37.50
Ariel Washing Powder
2.5kg x 2pcs



بيرل منعقم أقمشة مركز منوع
1.5 لتر / حبتان
QAR 46.00
QAR 14.00
Pearl Fabric Softener
Concentrate Asstd
1.5Ltr x 2pcs



سانت آيفز
لوشن للجسم منوع
400 مل + 1
QAR 35.50
QAR 15.00
Stives Body Lotion
Asstd 400ml 1+1



بلوسوم ارز
بالياسمين 5 كيلو
QAR 24.50
QAR 14.75
Blossom Jasmine
Rice 5kg

تسوق واربح

SHOP WIN

السحب الكبير في اللولو
LULU MEGA LUCKY DRAW

1 مليون ر.ق. + 1 مليون نقاط الولاء
MILLION CASH PRIZES/GIFT VOUCHERS
MILLION HAPPINESS LOYALTY POINTS

SHOP FOR QAR. 50/- GET AN E-RAFFLE COUPON TO WIN WORTH QAR. 1 MILLION CASH PRIZES/ GIFT VOUCHERS & 1 MILLION LOYALTY POINTS

(For registering please visit customer service counter at luluhypermarket.com)
Promotion valid from 25.04.2024 to 03.08.2024, Draw Date: 05.08.2024, Lulu Hypermarket D-Ring Road.

CASH PRIZES / GIFT VOUCHERS	HAPPINESS
1 st Prize 100,000 QAR. x 1 Winner = 100,000/- (Cash 50,000/- + Voucher 50,000/-)	7 th Prize 100,000 Loyalty Points (1 Winner)
2 nd Prize 50,000 QAR. X 2 Winners = 100,000/- (Cash 25,000 + Voucher 25,000) x 2 Winners	8 th Prize 50,000 Loyalty Points (2 Winners)
3 rd Prize 25,000 QAR. X 4 Winners = 100,000/- (Vouchers 25,000 x 4 Winners)	9 th Prize 25,000 Loyalty Points (4 Winners)
4 th Prize 10,000 QAR. X 30 Winners = 300,000/- (Vouchers 10,000 x 30 Winners)	10 th Prize 10,000 Loyalty Points (30 Winners)
5 th Prize 5,000 QAR. X 50 Winners = 250,000/- (Vouchers 5,000 x 50 Winners)	11 th Prize 5,000 Loyalty Points (50 Winners)
6 th Prize 2,500 QAR. X 60 Winners = 150,000/- (Vouchers 2,500 x 60 Winners)	12 th Prize 2,500 Loyalty Points (60 Winners)

اشترى واحصل على مجاني

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

الصف الأقل سعراً هو المجاني
The lowest priced item will be free

بصري العرض من تاريخ 27.07.2024 وحتى 27.07.2024
Promotion Valid From 27.07.2024 Until 27.07.2024

sin ARROW
USA. 1851

DELIVERY WITHIN 2 HOURS

ON GROCERY PRODUCTS

Shop Online at
luluhypermarket.com

*Slot selection is not required (9am to 9pm)
Orders placed after 9pm will be fulfilled the following morning

LULU HYPER MARKET .COM

SHOP ONLINE

DOWNLOAD LULU APP

Download "Lulu Shopping" on the App Store, Google Play, or AppGallery

GET 5% BACK

with your Doha Bank shopping Co-branded credit card
Type 'LULU' & SMS to 92610 or visit any Doha Bank Branch

0% INTEREST
Buy now, pay over 6 months

Lulu
Where the world comes to shop

Aspire Summer Camp's first visit to 3-2-1 QOSM



Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) organised the first of a series of visits to the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum (QOSM). The children of Aspire Summer Camp learned about the different sec-



tions of the museum in a unique educational, cultural and entertainment experience. They also participated in fun sports activities that enhanced their skills and team spirit. Aspire Summer Camp



activities will continue until August 8 and include a series of field visits to various destinations in the country. This edition of the camp comes in partnership with

#3-2-1 QOSM, Rail Company, Sports Lab Academy, Get Started Sports Centre, Al-Hadaf Shooting Range, Marial Water Park, and Ocean Medical Centre.

Qatari innovator's smart prayer rug wins award

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Qatari innovator and entrepreneur, engineer Abdulrahman Saleh Khamis, has won the Arab Youth Excellence Award 2023 in the artificial intelligence sector. The prestigious award came for his innovative smart educational prayer rug "Sajdah".

Khamis received the award from Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports Ashraf Sobhy at a function, held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States (LAS) in Cairo.

"The Arab Youth Excellence Award 2023 in the field of Artificial Intelligence aims to highlight the distinguished efforts of Arab youth to achieve leadership in all different fields, demonstrate the distinguished performance of Arab youth, enhance competitiveness among them, frame it scientifically, share their success stories, encourage their distinguished initiatives and honour the creative and distinguished among them," Khamis told *Gulf Times* in a statement thanking everyone who supported him. Khamis is the CEO and co-founder of Qatari startup Thakaa Technologies, the company that markets Sajdah.

Described as the first of its kind, the rug helps new Muslims and children learn to pray with the help of technology while guiding prayer training and helping recite the Holy Qur'an. With a



Engineer Abdulrahman Saleh Khamis, CEO and co-founder of Qatari startup Thakaa Technologies, receiving the Arab Youth Excellence Award 2023 from Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports Ashraf Sobhy at a function, held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

built-in LED display, Sajdah supports Arabic, English, and transliterated Arabic. The text of the Holy Qur'an is displayed while a speaker helps the worshipper hear the voice of recitation and prayer while guiding him to the next action. Through the Sajdah mobile app the rug could be paired with smartphones and Apple Watch. Parts of the Holy Qur'an that the worshipper wants to display during the prayer could be set.

Khamis conceptualised the idea as he was driven by the desire to help worshippers easily and fairly perform prayers. The idea was se-

lected by Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) which supported Khamis to materialise his dream. It was displayed on QF's edutainment TV show Stars of Science. Khamis was one of the finalists of the show.

Also, Sajdah has so far several awards. These include Best Mobile App of the Year 2021 by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and gold medals in the International Invention Fair in the Middle East in Kuwait 2023, International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva 2023 and ITEX 2024 in Malaysia.

Katara Summer Camp activities galloping



The Katara Summer Camp 2024 activities yesterday featured a range of educational, entertaining, and cultural events with the participation of several entities in the state.

Participants enjoyed an educational trip to Al Shaqab, where they had the opportunity to explore and observe purebred Arabian horses in their natural environment. This aligns with the camp's goals to enhance cultural and environmental awareness among participants, as well as to improve their social and artistic skills through various activities.

Yesterday's programme included a lecture by the National Cyber Security Agency, as well as an awareness session from the Education and Media Department of the Studies and International Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Interior.

Participants expressed great appreciation for the diverse activities held throughout the week, praising the quality of organisation and the engagement of trainers and supervisors. They highlighted the contributions of the camp in fostering team spirit and teaching life skills in innovative ways.

The Katara Summer Camp 2024 will continue its activities with a new group of participants starting on July 28, offering a rich and distinctive programme. (QNA)

QM unveils Esports | A Game Changer Exhibition in Paris

Qatar Museums (QM) and 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum (QOSM) opened yesterday Esports | A Game Changer Exhibition in Paris.

This first-of-its-kind exhibition, on view until September 8 at Résidence Citéaux: 45, Boulevard Diderot and in Doha in 2025, explores the evolution of competitive gaming from its niche origins to a thriving cultural economy that supports mainstream mega events.

The exhibition takes a sociological look at competitive gaming, defining it in relation to traditional sports and casual gaming, while looking at its governing organisations and economies. It also includes a history of e-sports, stretching back to the invention of the first electronic pinball machine a century ago, and presents snapshots of some of competitive gaming's biggest contemporary stars. The final part of the show looks at the future of e-sports in the gaming landscape and beyond, focusing on its societal, educational, recreational, and occupational implications.

The exhibition is curated by Dr Christian Wacker, deputy director of exhibitions, QM, along with e-sports industry leaders Benjamin Buchtala and Jannik Rädtsch with support of 3-2-1 QOSM director Abdulla Yousef al-Mulla, and head of Exhibitions Aalia Khalid al-Khater. Esports | A Game Changer is organised as a legacy of Qatar-France 2020 Year of Culture.



The exhibition takes a sociological look at competitive gaming.



Esports | A Game Changer Exhibition in Paris.



Dr. Najeeb Al Nuaimi's Sci-Fi Novel "3100"

Now Available for Pre-Order

Renowned Qatari lawyer and former cabinet minister, Dr. Najeeb Al Nuaimi, has announced the pre-order availability of his latest science fiction novel, "3100." Known for his significant contributions as a human rights activist, Dr. Al Nuaimi ventures into the literary world with a story set in the year 3100, exploring a future transformed by scientific and technological advancements.

"3100" offers readers a thrilling narrative where even the most advanced civilizations grapple with nature's unpredictable forces. The novel introduces a groundbreaking discovery—a massive subterranean reservoir of water—that promises to change the Earth's fate forever.

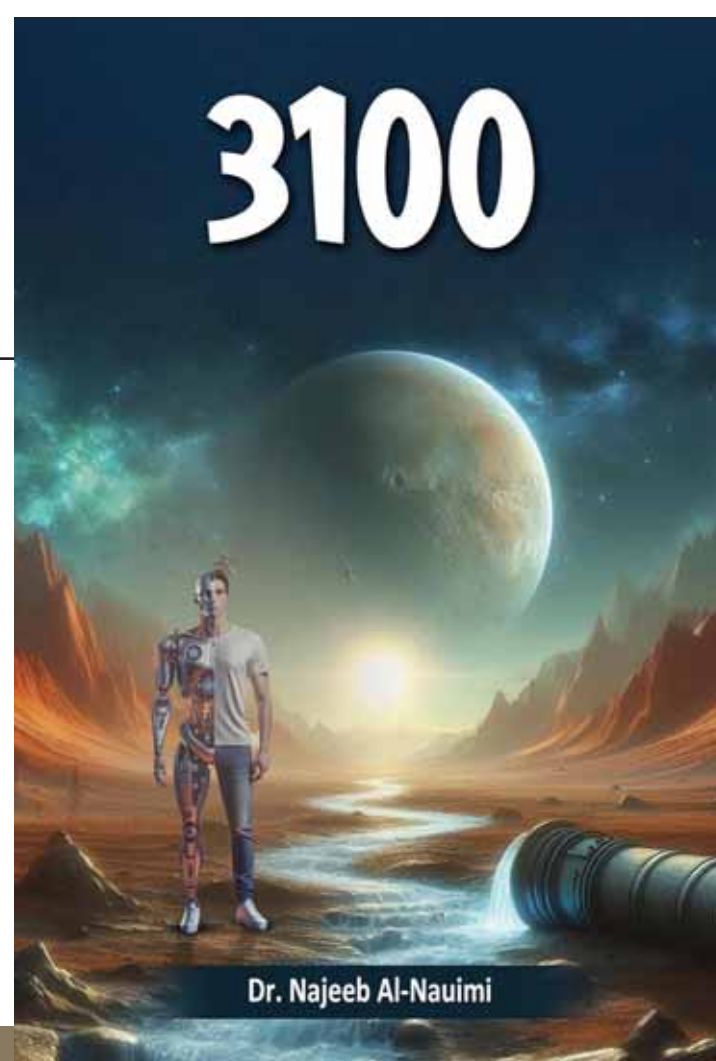
The plot follows a family navigating this new reality, addressing biotechnological advancements and the complexities of robot-human relationships. Set in a society where classical education intersects with high-tech innovations and robotic assistants are commonplace, "3100" presents a unique blend of the familiar and the futuristic.

As the story unfolds, both humans and robots encounter intellectual and ethical dilemmas, confronting the potential of the subterranean ocean as both a miraculous resource and a potential catastrophe. The novel delves into the profound consequences of their decisions, impacting generations to come.

"From underwater adventures to interplanetary crises, '3100' is not just a tale of survival but a profound exploration of the human spirit and the eternal quest for knowledge and security in an ever-changing universe," said Dr. Al Nuaimi in a statement.

Explore the future where the past and the future collide in "3100," a narrative as deep and vast as the hidden oceans beneath our feet.

Pre-order your copy now at: www.amazon.com



AMAN Center holds awareness campaign to curb violence

The Protection and Social Rehabilitation Center (AMAN), one of the centres governed by the Qatar Foundation for Social Work of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, organised an interactive awareness-raising campaign to underscore the importance of reinforcing protection and social rehabilitation to curb violence and familial disintegration.

Launched at Hyatt Plaza Shopping Mall on Tuesday, the campaign primarily intends to familiarise the public with the most critical services the centre offers to women and children, and victims of familial disintegration and violence, in addition to formulating the methods of capitalising on these services when potentially exposed to any forms of violence.

To mark this occasion, Executive Director of AMAN Center Sheikh Dr Nasser bin Ahmed al-Thani, affirmed the significant of this awareness-raising campaign in shining a

spotlight on the services the centre offers that comprise awareness-raising activities, protection, rehabilitation and including the targeted segments in the society.

He emphasised that the centre pursues an all-hands-on-deck approach to create awareness-raising programmes for women and children to protect them from violence.

He highlighted that the centre is keen to hold numerous training sessions in social protection, along with workshops to raise the awareness of kindergarten pupils, college students, as well as various state institutions and ministries, noting the role of the protection and rehabilitation department in providing the protection and rehabilitation services for the targeted segments, either through receiving potential cases at the centre's main premises, or referring them to the external branches and other bodies.

Sheikh Dr Nasser clarified

that the centre receives phone calls through the hotline 919 which operates daily around the clock, where social, psychological and legal counselling is offered, in addition to organising field trips and rehabilitative sessions, as there are a contingent of social workers, psychologists, and legal experts who conduct studies and evaluations of cases, developing rehabilitation plans aimed at including targeted groups back in their families and communities, and providing subsequent and ongoing care.

Director of Protection Department at the centre, Turkiyah al-Dosari, affirmed that the centre oversees the awareness campaign to introduce the services of 'AMAN' in commercial complexes and various sectors across the country.

The aim is to reach a wide audience to familiarise them with the centre's role, services, and initiatives it provides. (QNA)

Justice ministry says only authorised persons can deal in real estate transactions

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has posted on its official X account, the necessary conditions for advertising the sale or rental of real estate units.

The ministry stressed that "It is not permissible to advertise the sale, purchase or lease of a property or carry out any transaction on it, except by the property owner or a person authorised by the owner, or one of the authorised real estate brokers to deal with the property subject to the advertisement."

Accordingly, MoJ pointed out that Article No 24 of Law No 22 for 20217 on the

"It is not permissible to advertise the sale, purchase or lease of a property or carry out any transaction on it, except by the property owner or a person authorised by the owner, or one of the authorised real estate brokers to deal with the property subject to the advertisement"

regulation of the real estate brokerage works, stipulates that "without prejudice to any more severe penalty prescribed by another law, whoever practice real estate brokerage works without being licensed to do so, practiced it during the term of the validity of

the verdict or the decision issued to suspend the license, shall be punished by an imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months and a fine of not more than QR100,000 or any these penalties, besides deportation for non-Qatari persons."

Qatar condemns Israeli Knesset's endorsement of UNRWA designation

Qatar has condemned the Israeli Knesset's approval in first reading of a draft law designating the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as a terrorist organisation.

Qatar deemed this move as a flagrant violation of international laws and norms, and an extension of the systematic campaign that aims to disband the

agency, at a time when there is an increasing need for its humanitarian services due to the catastrophic consequences of the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed the necessity for the international community to stand resolutely against Israeli plans aimed at dismantling the agency and depriving millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West

Bank, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon of its critical services.

It underscored Qatar's full support for UNRWA, stemming from its unwavering and supportive position for the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, foremost of which are the rights to establish their independent State on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. (QNA)

Sudanese Sovereignty Council chairman meets al-Muraikhi



Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan met yesterday in Port Sudan with HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi. Discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and means to support and enhance them. (QNA)

AlKhatir meets Somali minister

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir met yesterday, with the visiting Somali State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Ali Mohamed Omar. The meeting dealt with discussing bilateral relations and ways to support development projects in Somalia, in addition to the outcomes of the Somali Diaspora Conference held in Doha, for harnessing the capabilities of Somalis in diaspora, for the prosperity and revival of Somalia.

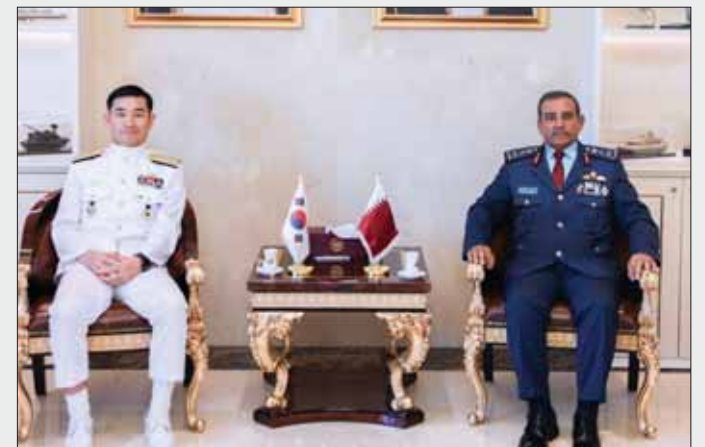
AlKhatir meets European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations director-general

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir met yesterday via video-conferencing technology with Director-General of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. The meeting dealt with discussing relations between Qatar and the European Union and ways to support and strengthen them. Developments in the Russian-Ukrainian crisis were also discussed, in addition to the development and humanitarian co-operation files in the Gaza Strip, Sudan and Afghanistan, as well as several regional and international issues of joint interest. The meeting was attended by Dr Christian Tudor, EU ambassador to Qatar. (QNA)



Chief of Staff meets Korean naval operations chief

HE the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nabit met yesterday with the visiting Chief of Naval Operations of Korea, Admiral Yang Youngmo, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed topics of common concern. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance and develop them. The meeting was attended by a number of Qatari Armed Forces senior officers. (QNA)



QNL offers diverse options for all ages this summer

With its ever-growing offerings, Qatar National Library (QNL) is providing both adults and young people the opportunity to unlock their potential this summer.

Artists, musicians and creators can use QNL's Innovation Stations to express themselves and bring their creative ideas to life. The music production studio with its range of musical instruments allows artists to record professional-quality audio and video, while the green screen room offers access to a high-resolution camera and a diverse set of light kits. There is even a digital production station, enabling creators and designers to bring their ideas to life at the 3D printing station.

Aspiring youth with a passion for discovery can also enjoy exploring and learning in the Young Adults' Library.

The inspirational learning space and its vast array of resources provide young adults from 12 to 18 years old with access to more than 30,000 fiction and non-fiction books, graphic novels and magazines, musical instruments, state-of-the-art computer labs, study rooms, and workshops.

Students can discover new interests, hone existing talents and prepare for the coming academic year in an interactive environment that combines learning and entertainment.

Likewise, QNL inspires children

to not only acquire a love of reading but also to explore their curiosity by engaging with the Children's Library's space and collections. Here they have access to a collection of more than 100,000 books and dozens of educational toys that foster sensorimotor skills through fun activities.

Children can also enjoy numerous other activities along with their parents and teachers, including interactive storytelling, creative workshops, early literacy programmes, book discussions, and science and arts programmes.

QNL hosts expert-led activities to empower children with special needs while parents, educators and caretakers have access to workshops on child development and learning.

During this time of year, children can participate in the library's annual Summer Reading Challenge held this year in collaboration with Kutube Interactive Reading Platform.

Young people are also invited to select and read a book from QNL's collections on the theme of a "journey" as part of another competition called the "Read & Reflect Video Challenge!"

QNL patrons can register for all these events, competitions and more by visiting the website and subscribing to the monthly newsletter or by downloading the QNL application from the App Store or Google Play.

NOTICE TO TYLER G. GALLAGHER

You have been named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation ("DFPI") in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The name of the case is CFTC v. Regal Assets LLC, et al., and it has a case number of 2:23-cv-08078-FMO-SK.

THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST YOU

The CFTC and DFPI have filed a Complaint alleging that, from at least November 2019 through at least October 2022, you and your co-defendants, Regal Assets LLC and Leah Donoso, engaged in a scheme to defraud people throughout the U.S. in connection with the purchase and sale of precious metals, and, as a part of that scheme, misappropriated more than \$21 million from more than 120 customers. As a result, the Complaint alleges that you and your co-defendants violated Section 6(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, 7 U.S.C. § 9(1), CFTC Regulation 180.1(a)(1)-(3), 17 C.F.R. § 180.1(a)(1)-(3), and Section 29536 of the California Corporations Code. The DFPI also alleges that you and your co-defendants violated Section 29520 of the California Corporations Code by unlawfully selling commodities in California.

SUMMONS

You are directed to contact Rishi Gupta, Senior Trial Attorney in the CFTC's Division of Enforcement, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581, 1-202-418-6773, rgupta@cftc.gov, so that you may be served with the Summons, Complaint, and related materials. If you do not contact the CFTC within 28 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the CFTC will seek entry of a judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, pursuant to Rule 55 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. You may obtain a copy of the Complaint by contacting Mr. Gupta or by reviewing CFTC Press Release No. 8791-23, which is available at <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/8791-23>, and accessing the link to the Complaint.

QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees Qrs.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/055/24	Four (4) years call off contract for Supply of Manpower, Equipment, Scaffolding, Insulation, Painting, Bolt Torquing & Tensioning Works for General Maintenance & Turnaround Works at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed	500/-	1,200,000/-	26 th August 2024
2	QTC/069/24	Engineering Services Agreement for a period of four (4) years	300/-	500,000/-	19 th August 2024

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender document as follows:

- **Collection Date** : From Thursday, 25th July, 2024 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- **Collection Time** : 08:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Location** : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- **Tender Fees** : As shown above, (*non-refundable*) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- **Validity** : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- **Bid Bond** : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- **Authorization** : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 1. Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 2. Proper Identification
 3. Copy of Company's Commercial Registration
 4. Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)
 5. Valid ICV Certificate (Mandatory)

Note: "Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of state of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that have been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV digital Portal :- <https://icv.qa/US>

QF-led study reveals genetic findings for advancing personalised healthcare

A significant study, conducted jointly by Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI), a national centre of research and implementation under Qatar Foundation (QF) and the College of Health and Life Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University has revealed important insights into the genetic basis of diseases in the Qatari population.

Researchers discovered that 3.5% of Qataris carry medically actionable genetic variants, a finding that could revolutionise personalised medical treatments in the region.

Published in the European Journal of Human Genetics, the study, 'Analysis of 14,392 Whole Genomes Reveals 3.5% of Qataris Carry Medically Actionable Variants', analysed the whole genome data of 14,392 individuals.

This research is the third in a series of genetic investigations, building on previous studies that reported 2.3% of Qataris with actionable variants in a smaller cohort of 6,045 individuals.

The study identified 248 distinct variants in 50 genes, with the most frequent variants found



Dr Chadi Saad



Dr Amal Elfatih



Dr Hamdi Mbarek

in the TTN, RYR1, and ATP7B genes. These variants are linked to cardiovascular diseases such as familial hypercholesterolaemia and cardiomyopathies, as well as various forms of cancer.

Notably, the TTN gene variants, which are associated with dilated cardiomyopathy, were among the most prevalent.

Dr Amal Elfatih, postdoctoral fellow from HBKU's College of Health and Life Sciences, and the study's first author, emphasised the importance of these findings: "Our research has expanded the catalogue of deleterious mutations in the Qatari population, providing a crucial resource for

developing targeted medical interventions that can significantly improve health outcomes."

Along with Dr Elfatih, Dr Chadi Saad, Bioinformatics lead at QPHI, contributed to the study as a co-first author.

The study's findings build on previous research that identified 60 genetic variants linked to cancer, heart disease, and high cholesterol, highlighting the potential for genomics to enhance health outcomes nationwide.

Dr Hamdi Mbarek, director, Research and Partnerships at Qatar Precision Health Institute, and the senior author of the study highlighted its broader im-

plications: "This study not only enhances our understanding of the genetic predispositions in the Qatari population but also establishes a solid foundation for personalised healthcare strategies in Qatar."

Considering these findings, QPHI and Hamad Medical Corporation are launching a project to return these genetic results to participants who consent to receive such information. This initiative aims to enable the prevention and early detection of associated health conditions, marking a significant step towards implementing precision medicine on a national scale.



National Command Centre wins international award

The Ministry of Interior (MoI), represented by the National Command Centre (NCC), has achieved a new milestone by receiving the Institutional Excellence Award for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) from the American Systems Research Institute (ESRI). Additionally, it received the Excellence Award in the field of Geospatial Intelligence for managing major events and activities.



This recognition, according to a statement by MoI on X, was part of the ESRI International User Conference held in the US from July 14-17, attended by leaders of institutions from around the world. The awards were accepted by Brig Arif Hassan Ibrahim, director of Technical Affairs at NCC and Ft Lt Saud Ali al-Marri, head of the Geographic Systems Technology Department.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils offers for summer shoppers

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has just launched their Golden Summer offers which will run until August 3 across its showrooms in Qatar to give customers the chance to get free gold coins on their diamond & precious gem jewellery purchases. As part of the Golden Summer offers, customers shopping for diamond or precious gem jewellery worth QR5,000 will get free 1gm gold coin and customers purchasing diamonds or precious gem jewellery worth QR3,000 will get 1/2gm gold coin. Additionally, as part of the offers, customers can also exchange their old 22K gold jewellery purchased anywhere, for the latest designs from Malabar Gold & Diamonds without any loss.



"We have introduced the Golden Summer offers to enhance the jewellery purchase experience of our customers, who are entering the last leg of their summer shopping. With diamond jewellery increasingly becoming the most preferred gifting article amongst

individuals and families, the exquisite collection of diamond jewellery that Malabar Gold & Diamonds offers makes it the perfect destination for jewellery shopping," commented Shamil Ahamed, managing director, international operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Safari second shop-and-drive promo draw winners named

The winners of Safari Hypermarket's second draw for MG cars were selected in the presence of Ministry of Commerce officials and Safari management representatives on July 24 at 10am at Safari Hypermarket, Salwa Road. The first prize winner, Kishna Ram (coupon No SND20062428) will get a Morris Garages RX 8 - 2024 model car. Second prize winners are Ziad A M (coupon No SND201137808), Agan Bahadur Ghatane (coupon No SND200409781) and Nabin Shah (coupon No SND200045066), each will get Morris Garages MG5 - 2024 model cars. The third draw of this shop-and-drive promotion will be held on September 8 at Safari



Safari announces winners of second draw.

Hypermarket, Al Khor branch. Anyone can participate in the promotion by entering the draw through the e-affle

coupon, which is available on purchase of items for just QR50 from any of the Safari outlets.

Vodafone Qatar launches most powerful ZTE MU5120 5G hotspot device

Vodafone Qatar and ZTE Corporation have launched the new 5G Hotspot MU5120 to deliver fast and secure internet access for customers. With its super compact design, the MU5120 combines 5G performance with dual-band Wi-Fi 6, enabling it to connect up to 64 users, including laptops, tablets, POS systems, smartphones, televisions, smart home systems, and gaming consoles, with a peak rate of up to 3.6Gbps (actual speeds experienced depend upon network availability and other factors). Featuring a 2.4-inch screen, users can directly set up the device through the touchscreen. The



MU5120 also boasts a 10,000mAh battery, is usable for up to 16 hours, and supports a power bank function. Through a dedicated

cable, maximum output charging power can reach up to 18W. Paired with Vodafone's 5G Plans, the device offers users speed,

simplicity, and security, all in a small and sleek design suitable for both business and home spaces. Vodafone Qatar is committed to delivering fast, reliable, and secure internet access for its retail and business customers alike. For QR1,099, customers can purchase the MU5120 online and from the following Vodafone retail stores: Villaggio Mall, City Center, Mall of Qatar, Landmark Mall, Doha Festival City, Place Vendome, Tawar Mall, LuLu D-Ring road, and Vodafone's Al Wakra branch. For more information on specifications, visit www.vodafone.qa/en/wifi

MoCI recalls Land Rover models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Alfordan Premier Motors, Qatar's Land Rover dealership, has announced the recall of Land Rover Defender 110 3.0i6 HSE 400PS, Discovery 2.0i4 R-Dynamic S, Range Rover Vogue 3.0 V6 SC, Range Rover Sport 3.0i6 HSE, and Range Rover Velar 2.0 R-Dynamic SE, 2024-2025 models, due to the possibility of cracks developing in the oil filter housing overtime if incorrect specifications were used during its manufacture. This could result to oil leaking into the engine and engine bay, potentially causing a fire. Additionally, the oil leakage could pose a slipping hazard for other road users. The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to

protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The ministry said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure the necessary repairs are carried out. The ministry urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: Call Center: 16001; e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa; the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's account across all social media channels @mociqatar and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's mobile application is available on iPhone and Android devices MOCIqatar.

International Collaboration: Family Food Centre Hosts Japanese Embassy Officials

In a gesture emphasizing international relations and local business dynamics, Mr. Yoshiharu Yamamoto, First Secretary and Head of Economic Section, and Mr. Kazuto Matsuda, Researcher/Advisor for Cultural & Economic Affairs from the Embassy of Japan in Qatar, recently visited Family Food Centre's Al Rayyan branch. Their visit showcased the ongoing connections between Japan and Qatar in economic and cultural contexts.

Since its inception in 1978, Family Food Centre has been a significant part of Qatar's retail sector. As the country's oldest organized supermarket chain, it has continually adapted to meet the evolving needs of its clientele. The visit by Japanese embassy representatives highlights Family Food Centre's role in the local economy and its contribution to Qatar's retail sector.

During their visit, Mr. Yamamoto and Mr. Matsuda explored the wide array of Japanese products available at Family Food Centre, including well-known brands such as KitKat, Pocky, Kewpie and more. These products represent the cultural and economic connections between Japan and Qatar.

Family Food Centre prides itself on featuring locally sourced Qatari products alongside imports from more than 35 countries, ensuring a distinctive variety that appeals to shoppers seeking quality and diversity. Fresh fruits and vegetables, flown in multiple times weekly to maintain peak freshness and quality, are among its standout offerings.



The Family Qatar App, a comprehensive online shopping platform available on both iOS and Android, offers a seamless shopping experience with over 50,000 products, ranging from fresh produce to department store items. Exclusive promotions and a loyalty program further enhance the shopping experience, making Family Food Centre a preferred choice for consumers.

Family Food Centre's evolution from a traditional supermarket to a modern, digitally equipped retail pioneer serves as an example of adaptation and growth in a dynamic market landscape. The visit highlights the importance of acknowledging and supporting local businesses that play a vital role in their communities.





Old Doha Port offers a strategic and picturesque setting for visitors.

Old Doha Port becomes premier tourist destination

Old Doha Port is a seamless blend of sustainability and innovation
Cruise Terminal hosted 81 cruise ship visits and approximately 350,000 passengers in 2024, the most considerable cruise season ever

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Old Doha Port has rapidly emerged as a premier tourist destination year-round, seamlessly blending sustainability and innovation to attract international visitors and the local community, Old Doha Port CEO Mohamed Abdulla al-Mulla told *Gulf Times*.

"The port features a world-class marina, the colourful Mina District, one of the world's most beautiful cruise terminals, reimagined shipping containers making up the colourful Containers Yard, the nation's largest slipway, and over 200,000sq m of greenery," he said, highlighting the key factors contributing to the port's success.

Centrally located in Doha and adjacent to popular landmarks such as the Doha Corniche, Souq Waqif, and Museum of Islamic Art, al-Mulla said Old Doha Port offers a strategic and picturesque setting for visitors.

Citing that the port has become a significant hub for cruise tourism in Qatar, he noted that it is home to the official seaport in Qatar, the Cruise Terminal, which hosted 81 cruise ship visits and approximately 350,000 passengers in 2024, making it its most considerable cruise season ever.

"This growth demonstrates Old



Old Doha Port CEO Mohamed Abdulla al-Mulla.

Doha Port's pivotal role in expanding and enriching Qatar's tourism landscape, aligning with our national vision to become a leading global tourism hub," al-Mulla said.

He added that the port's appeal extends beyond its maritime facilities as it offers more than 50 dining options, allowing visitors to enjoy the beautiful architecture and vibrant buildings while relaxing. For those seeking luxury accommodations, the CEO said the five-star Mina Hotel & Residences provides a perfect stay. Additionally, its walking and cycling tracks cater to visitors' active lifestyles, enhancing their overall experience.

He said the port's development has not only focused on modern amenities but also on preserv-

ing Qatar's rich cultural heritage, stressing its commitment to heritage preservation.

"We've built Old Doha Port with a deep commitment to promoting Qatar's cultural heritage and expanding the tourism sector. Cultural motifs are blended into the overall look of the port through the designs of the lamp posts, the patterns on the floors, the mosaics at Chabrat Al Mina, and carved traditional designs on the benches and bollards.

"These elements pay homage to the preservation of Qatar's rich maritime history and the port's historical significance," al-Mulla explained.

He said the Mina District, a lively hub nestled within the historic Old Doha Port, is easily accessible. Visitors can drive, hail a taxi, use a ride-hailing app, or take a 20-minute stroll from the National Museum Metro station on the Gold Line.

Entry to the Mina District is free, and ample parking is available both outside the district and at Box Park. This eye-catching development, built with colourful shipping containers, adds to the port's unique charm and offers ample photo opportunities.

Beyond the Mina District, nearby attractions have also become popular places such as the Flag Plaza, a vibrant gathering space, in addition to nearby public parks such as the MIA and Al Bidda Park.

Qatar welcomes Yemen govt-Houthis deal

Qatar welcomed the statement issued by the office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen regarding the agreement between the Yemeni government and the Houthis on measures to de-escalate tensions in the banking sector and Yemeni Airways.

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Qatar's hope that this step will

enhance regional and international efforts aimed at achieving sustainable peace, fulfilling the aspirations of the Yemeni people for security, stability, and development.

The ministry reaffirmed Qatar's stance calling for resolving the Yemeni crisis based on the Gulf Initiative, relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2216. (QNA)

Regional human rights forum gets underway in Oman

QNA
Salalah, Oman

A regional forum on human rights kicked off in Salalah, Oman, yesterday.

The event is the first regional forum that discusses the role of human rights institutions in planning and following up on the implementation of national visions related to human rights, and is co-organised by Doha-based National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) and Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRIs), alongside Oman Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the General Secretariat of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), and the Committee of the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

Addressing the inaugural session of the forum, HE the Chairperson of Qatar NHRC, Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah, said a global direction was developed throughout the past three decades on the human rights-based planning, culminating in the emergence of 152 national plans for human rights in 79 countries, in addition to the sheer number of sectoral plans concerned with specific rights such as labour or health.

HE al-Attiyah elucidated that the global recognition of the right to development as a human right, would have reinforced the human rights-based approach, par-



ticularly in the national vision for development, pointing out that the world has gone far beyond the traditional notion of development which is based on pure benevolence and economic dimensions, to the concept of human rights which deems development as an expansion of human's options, freedom and rights, in addition to extricating humans from the scourges of ignorance, disease and poverty.

She underlined the importance of the role undertaken by the national institutions in helping countries accomplish the human rights-based planning in multiple fields, foremost of which are assisting countries to uphold their obligations in the area of human rights, including the right to development, helping countries incorporate the human rights approach into digital technology and AI in building national plans and addressing new and emerging challenges.

Chairman of Omani Human Rights Commission Dr Rashid bin Hamad al-Balushi meanwhile emphasised the

importance of enhancing human rights in various dimensions to achieve national visions aimed at creating a better future through comprehensive and integrated strategies and effective implementation mechanisms.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt and President of ANNHRI Dr Moushira Khattab underscored the importance of planning in human rights and the role of relevant institutions in collaboration with states and civil society organisations to enforce human rights and make them a lived reality without discrimination. She explained that the forum aims to establish guidelines for Arab countries to fulfil their human rights commitments in alignment with international standards, societal norms, and national laws.

During the opening session, Governor of Dhofar Marwan bin Turki al-Said honoured HE al-Attiyah for her distinguished leadership and pivotal role in enhancing regional and international co-operation among human rights institutions.

Qatar Charity signs pact with Sri Lanka's health ministry

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health to supply medicines to public hospitals under the ministry.

The project, according to an official statement from QC, aims to benefit 47,000 patients focusing particularly on chronic diseases such as cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

A ceremony was held by QC's Sri Lanka office to mark the commencement of medication distribution, attended by Sri Lanka's Health Minister Dr Ramesh Ramitha, Director-General of Health Services Asela Gunawardena and representatives from the Ministry of Public Security and General Administration of Non-Governmental Organisations.

Mahmoud Abu Khalifa, QC's Sri Lanka office director, emphasised the project's significance amid the health ministry's challenges in medicine supply enhancing healthcare services for patients. He highlighted the project as a generous donation from the Qatari people to support public health and promote humanitarian values. In parallel with the medication



supply project for health ministry hospitals, QC is preparing to establish a primary healthcare centre in an underserved area of Sri Lanka. This initiative aims to improve early screening and preventive treatment services for communicable and non-communicable diseases, particularly chronic diseases like cardiovascular conditions. Additionally, QC plans to provide medical beds to hospitals facing shortages of medical supplies.

QC is also gearing up to cover costs for cataract surgeries for low-income individuals, amidst challenging conditions in Sri Lanka's healthcare system.

Inaugural Jr NBA League in Qatar concludes at Education City



The winning teams with the trophies.

Hundreds of young basketball players have developed both their sporting skills and their life skills during the inaugural Jr NBA League in Qatar and the NBA's Her Time to Play programme at Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Education City.

The league, hosted by QF in collaboration with the NBA, and supported by the Qatar Basketball Federation brought together nearly 450 girls and boys from schools and programmes across the country to learn the fundamentals and core values of the game. Each of the schools and programmes represented one of the 30 NBA teams throughout the competition.

Meanwhile, the NBA's Her Time to Play programme, which provides opportunities for girls and women to play basketball and pursue careers in coaching and athletic leadership, featured multiple workshops held over a series of weeks that were designed to help girls gain confidence, face challenges, and learn the values of the game, including teamwork, leadership and respect.

A highlight of the programme was a first-ever clinic held during Ladies Night at Education City Stadium, where participants could drop in to learn basketball skills on QBF half-courts set up on the world-class pitch. HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, attended

the conclusion of the league and the programme, with QF Recreation Qatar Academy for Science and Technology, part of the QF Community Basketball Programme, representing the New York Knicks, winning the girls' division, while the Qatar Basketball Federation, representing the Milwaukee Bucks, took first place in the boys' division.

Among the QF Recreation QAST team was 12-year-old Mira Hajor from Lebanon. Her team beat the Utah Jazz, from BE Basketball, 55-29 in the final game, which was refereed by Alaa Soliman, a professional basketball player for the Qatar Women's National Team and a FIBA Certified Referee. Speaking about the tournament, Hajor said: "I really enjoyed it, it's been a great experience. I've loved every moment with my teammates - and getting to know them better. I've created new bonds with my friends and new relationships."

Hajor also participated in the Her Time to Play programme and said: "The workshops were educational - I learned a lot from them. I learned how to socialise better, how to respect myself in order to respect my teammates, and also about camaraderie and self-respect." Several of the programme workshops were led by Sylvia Fowles, two-time WNBA champion, 2017 WNBA Most Valuable Player, eight-time WNBA All-Star, and four-time Olympic gold medallist.

Closure on Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced an eight-hour overnight traffic closure on Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor for traffic coming from HIA toward the North from 2am-10am on July 26. During the closure that will be implemented in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, the signal-controlled intersections and service roads will be kept open to traffic. During the closure, motorists can use alternative local and service roads to reach their destinations as per the map. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and has requested all to follow and abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.



ANNOUNCEMENT

I, TITILAYO BASIRAT AUWA

holder of

Nigeria Passport No. A12708643
QID No. 28056600011

hereby change my name

from
TITILAYO BASIRAT AUWA

to
BASIRAT TITILAYO AUWA

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, FATHIMA RAHNA MOHAMED MANSOOR

holder of

Srilankan Passport No. N11252262
QID No. 29614408316

hereby change my name

from
FATHIMA RAHNA MOHAMED MANSOOR

to
FATHIMA RAHNA MOHAMMED SIHAN

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

Burnt by Gaza strike, Palestinian boy suffers agonising pain

Reuters
Nuseirat

Four-year-old Mahmoud Abdel Athim al-Saafin wakes up screaming from pain caused by burns suffered in an Israeli strike on a school where his family had been sheltering in the Gaza Strip, his father Abdel Athim al-Saafin said.

His two-year-old sister, May-sar, was killed in the July 14 strike in Nuseirat refugee camp, Saafin said. Her body was so badly burned it resembled "a lump of coal", he said.

Both sides of Mahmoud's face were burnt, the skin raw and pink from his scalp down to his neck. Both of legs and one of his arms

were entirely bandaged, as he lay in a bed in a crowded hospital ward, where Reuters saw him fitfully sleeping.

The boy later sat up in bed against a pink pillow, visibly in pain as his father fanned air across his wounds with a piece of a cardboard box.

Saafin said the pain-killers being given to Mahmoud lasted a few hours before wearing off. "Then we beg to get an injection, a sedative or painkiller or sleeping (medication) so the child can sleep," he said.

Describing the July 14 attack, Saafin said he had been helping children who had been burnt by a first missile strike when a second strike caused "massive destruction". "When we began

to pull our children out from under the rubble, we found them all burnt," he said. Little Mahmoud saw the body of his sister. "My sister is burnt, father!" Saafin recalled the boy saying. Gaza health officials say 17 people were killed and 80 wounded in the July 14 Israeli airstrike on the Abu Oreiban school, sheltering displaced people in Nuseirat in central Gaza. The school is run by UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

The Israeli military declined to comment on the father's remarks.

It has said it launched the strike to target fighters who were operating in the area of the school, and took precautions including using precise munitions to reduce civilian casualties. Israel says Hamas fighters are to blame for harm to civilians for operating among them, which the fighters deny.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said in a July 17 statement on X that at least eight schools had been hit in the Gaza Strip in the preceding 10 days, six of them UNRWA schools. Schools must never be used for fighting or military purposes by any party to the conflict, he added.

"All rules of war have been broken" in Gaza, he wrote.

Israel has laid to waste much of Gaza since Hamas stormed southern Israel in the first week of October last year.



Palestinian boy Mahmoud al-Saafin, who suffers from burns caused by an Israeli strike, according to medics, is tended to by his father at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

APPROVAL Saudi Arabia welcomes deal between Houthis, Yemen govt

Saudi Arabia, a key player in Yemen's nearly decade-long war, yesterday welcomed a deal between Yemen's government and the Houthi fighters to halt tit-for-tat banking sanctions, AFP reported from Riyadh. The deal was announced on Tuesday by Hans Grundberg, the United Nations' envoy to Yemen, in a bid to end the warring parties' battle for control over the country's financial institutions. Saudi Arabia said it "welcomed" the agreement. A Saudi foreign ministry statement expressed "support for efforts aimed at achieving peace and security for Yemen", and said it hopes the latest deal "will contribute to reaching a comprehensive political solution" to the conflict. Grundberg had credited the kingdom with "significant efforts" to broker the deal, cautioning however that it did not guarantee progress to end the war in the country. The fighters and the government had in December committed to a UN-led roadmap to end the war, agreeing to work towards "the resumption of an inclusive political process". But Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping since November and subsequent US and British retaliation have put peace talks on hold.

'Miracle' baby born in Gaza after air strike kills pregnant mother

Reuters
Gaza

Nine months pregnant, Ola al-Kurd could not wait to hold her baby and bring new life to Gaza during a war which has killed over 39,000 fellow Palestinians and razed much of the enclave.

That special moment never came. An Israeli air strike smashed into the family home in Al-Nuseirat in central Gaza on July 19, according to her father Adnan al-Kurd. The blast threw Ola down several floors to her death in the house, whose inhabitants included women, children and the elderly, he said.

Somehow, her baby survived, as did her husband, who was hospitalised.

"It's a miracle that the fetus stayed alive inside of her when she was martyred (died)," Adnan al-Kurd said, contemplating a photo of his daughter's graduation. The explosion, like many others, killed several members of a single family, a daily tragedy

across Gaza since Israel began its offensive in Gaza in response to a storming of Israel by Hamas fighters in the first week of October last year.

Mediators from the US, Gulf and Egypt have failed in multiple attempts to secure a ceasefire. So it is highly unlikely that Israeli airstrikes and shelling will end anytime soon.

"She wanted to hold her child and fill our home with his presence," al-Kurd said. "She would say, 'Mom, hopefully, this will make up for the loss of my martyred brothers and bring life back to our home!'"

Entirely against the odds, surgeons at Al Awda hospital in Nuseirat — where Ola was first taken after the strike — managed to deliver the newborn, Malek Yassin. He was then transferred to Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir Al-Balah, where an aunt touched the baby's face as he lay in an incubator.

"Thank God, this baby's life was saved and he is now alive and well," doctor Khalil al-Dakran said at the hospital.



Palestinians attend the funeral of customs officer Abdul Nasser Sarhan who was killed during an Israeli special forces raid in Tubas, in the occupied West Bank, yesterday.

Troops shoot dead two Palestinians in West Bank raids

AFP
Ramallah

Palestinian officials said Israeli troops killed two men, including a customs officer, in separate raids in the West Bank yesterday, as the military confirmed a death and "hits" during its overnight operations.

The raids were carried out before dawn in the Qalandia refugee camp and the town of Tubas, residents and officials said.

Palestinian sources identified the men killed as Ahmad Nidal Aslan, 19, from Qalandia, and Abdul Nasser Muhammad Sarhan, 23, from Tubas.

In a statement to AFP, the Israeli military said it "apprehended two wanted fighters in the area of Tubas" during which a customs officer was killed and an Israeli soldier injured.

In Qalandia, the military said its soldiers responded "with fire"

to a violent riot, during which "hits were identified".

Residents of Qalandia said teenage Aslan was killed when Israeli forces shot him after they entered the town to demolish the home of Mohamed Manasra, who Israel accuses of being a fighter and carrying out an attack on a West Bank settlement in February.

Clashes erupted after the troops blew up the second floor of the building. Six men were wounded, they added.

"At dawn, the occupation soldiers fired two bullets at Ahmad. He was taken to hospital where he died," a resident said, declining to be identified for safety reasons.

Further north in Tubas, the Palestinian health ministry said Israeli troops shot dead Sarhan and wounded two others.

"The Israeli army raided the town of Tubas at dawn and arrested two young men," a resi-

dent of the town said, also declining to be identified.

"As they were leaving, they fired at Sarhan and another young man."

The Palestinian customs authority said Sarhan was one of its officers. The health ministry said the death toll from an Israeli raid on the town of Tulkarem on Tuesday had risen to six after a Palestinian shot by Israeli troops died of his wounds.

The Israeli military said its forces "eliminated" a local Hamas commander in the raid on the town's refugee camp.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967, and regularly carries out raids there.

Since the war in Gaza erupted with Hamas's unprecedented October first storming of Israel last year, violence has soared in the occupied territory, with at least 589 Palestinians killed by Israeli troops or settlers, according to the Palestinian authorities.

TRAGEDY Mauritania migrant wreck death toll hits 25

The death toll from the capsizing of a boat carrying migrants off Mauritania rose to 25 yesterday with dozens more missing, the country's news agency AMI said, AFP reported from Nouakchott. The Mauritanian coastguard "saved the lives of 103 illegal immigrants and recovered 25 bodies, following the sinking of their boat off the coast of the capital Nouakchott", AMI reported, citing a coastguard commander. Earlier, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said at least 15 people had died in the wreck.

GOVERNANCE Ruto names opposition leaders in cabinet

Kenyan President William Ruto yesterday named four heavyweight opposition politicians to join a "broad-based" cabinet in the wake of more than a month of anti-government protests. Ruto announced the names of 10 ministers to be part of a re-formed cabinet, including four who are close to veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga, after a list of another 10 was submitted to parliament on Tuesday. The embattled president had sacked almost his entire 22-person cabinet on July 11, and announced a new partial lineup on July 19 although it included some dismissed ministers to the annoyance of many protesters.

UNREST Suspected militants kill at least 17 in east DR Congo

Suspected rebels killed at least 17 people in an attack on civilians working fields in east Democratic Republic of Congo on Tuesday, a local official and a hospital worker said yesterday, Reuters reported from Beni, DR Congo. The attack targeted residents of the town of Oicha in Congo's North Kivu province, a mineral-rich area that has been plagued with militia violence. The victims were tending crops around 20km west of the town. Oicha Mayor Nicolas Kikuku blamed members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an IS-linked group originally from neighbouring Uganda that is now in east Congo and frequently attacks civilians.

Giraffes bring peace to Kenyan communities once at odds

AFP
Baringo

On a vast farm in Kenya's Rift Valley, a veterinarian carefully takes aim before shooting a tranquilliser dart and sending another giraffe sinking slowly to the ground before it is roped and blindfolded.

It is the first stage of a delicate operation by the Kenya Wildlife Service to move a group of the endangered animals to a conservancy around 140 kilometres to the east. The subdued giraffe is kept at the farm in Sergoit along with seven others for an acclimatisation period of about 10 days, before being transported to their new home.

The Rothschild's giraffes, a distinct subspecies, are being resettled in the Ruko Conservancy in Baringo County as part of a long-running initiative to ease communal tensions there.

While the East African nation is renowned for its spectacular wildlife, its northern counties such as Baringo are more often in the news for banditry and ethnic clashes.



A boy touches a baby giraffe roaming at the community celebrations to honour the arrival of several wild giraffes as part of a wildlife translocation exercise in Ruko Conservancy.

The rival Pokot and Ilchamus communities in Baringo had been at odds for decades, their feuds sometimes escalating into armed clashes.

In the mid-2000s, Pokot and Ilchamus elders took matters into their own hands, launching an initiative to resettle the Rothschild's, or Nubian, giraffes into the Ruko conservancy around 280 kilometres north of the capital Nairobi.

The goal was twofold: reintroduce an endangered species to a region it had previously deserted,

and restore peace to the two communities.

The elders hoped the world's tallest mammals would attract tourists and income, quelling tensions in the neglected region by providing employment in an area where many young people — like elsewhere in Kenya — struggle to find jobs.

And, said 34-year-old reserve manager Rebbey Sebei, it seems to have worked.

"Back 20 years before, Pokot and Ilchamus had a conflict that erupted



A herd of giraffes moves together during a translocation exercise for wild giraffes in a farm near Eldoret.

because of livestock theft and resulted in loss of life, loss of livestock and pushing people to move away from their homeland," she told AFP.

"This place became deserted, where we are now today was a battleground for the bandits." But now, she said, the gentle creatures are helping to "ensure that there is peace between the two communities". Giraffes have seen a dramatic decline in numbers in Kenya in recent decades, as a result of poaching and human encroachment on

their habitats. As the Sergoit giraffes — securely trussed in the back of trucks — made their way slowly towards the reserve, people from the Pokot and Ilchamus communities held welcome celebrations.

Sixteen hours after their departure from Sergoit, having navigated hazardous bridges and low-hanging electrical wires, the giraffes finally arrived at their new home. The group was to be acclimatised in a small pen before being released into the Ruko reserve, now home

to nearly 20 giraffes, both Rothschild's and Masai. As people sang and danced in celebration while awaiting the new arrivals, Douglas Longomo, a 27-year-old farmer, said he believed that his Pokot community had changed.

"It took time to understand that the conservancy is important to bring people together," Longomo said. Many could not see the point of ending the clashes that have scarred the Rift Valley area for decades, he added. "Now we are seeing we are living as one community, we can move freely without any fear." Longomo's views were echoed by 28-year-old James Parkitire from the Ilchamus community.

"I think (the conflict) is over now because we are interacting," he said. "I hope those giraffes will (create) great jobs for the communities," said Parkitire, a view shared by Longomo.

Sebei added a note of caution, however, saying that while an increase in tourism had helped, there were still some lingering disputes between the two ethnic groups.

But, she said: "There is peace, and we need to bring more giraffes."



OPINION

Australia confident Trump will back AUKUS sub deal

Australia Defence Minister Richard Marles yesterday said Canberra is confident a re-elected Donald Trump will back the AUKUS security alliance and associated nuclear submarine sales after talks with his camp. The possibility of a Trump victory in the November presidential election has US allies around the world scrambling to prepare for his diplomatic agenda, including his take on the A\$368bn (\$243bn) AUKUS deal to help Australia acquire nuclear powered submarines and deter China in the Pacific. The deal includes the sale of three to five US nuclear-powered Virginia Class submarines in the 2030s, a time when the US fleet will shrink to a historic low.

DECISION

Japan resumes funding Lanka after debt restructure

Japan will resume funding stalled infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka, including the expansion of the main international airport, government officials said, after the nation successfully restructured its foreign debt. Bilateral lenders including Japan had cut project funding when Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$46bn in foreign borrowings two years ago. "Japan is the first country to resume financing for the suspended projects," its ambassador to Sri Lanka Hideaki Mizukoshi said. A Sri Lankan finance ministry official said Japan will in the coming weeks release the first tranche of about \$75mn for 11 projects suspended after Colombo's sovereign default.

DISPUTE

North Korean sweet wrappers on Seoul streets

North Korean sweet wrappers and packets of crackers made at a factory once visited by leader Kim Jong-un littered streets in the South Korean capital yesterday. The North has sent thousands of balloons carrying bags of trash southwards since May, in a tit-for-tat propaganda war between the two Koreas, with Seoul blasting K-pop and anti-regime messages from loudspeakers along the border in return. South Korea's military warned of a fresh batch of balloons early Tuesday, including several that hit the president's downtown compound. "It's not right. It's inhumane," 72-year-old Joo Jung-rin said pointing to the garbage.

POLICY

Thailand unveils billion-dollar scheme to boost economy

Thailand's government yesterday unveiled a billion-dollar handout scheme that it hopes will boost the flagging economy but warned recipients would not be allowed to spend the money on marijuana, jewellery or lottery tickets. More than 50mn eligible citizens will be able to begin registering for a digital payment of \$277 from August 1, Deputy Finance Minister Julapun Amornvivat told a news conference. The money can be spent at registered shops and outlets but he said that those selling marijuana, jewellery or lottery tickets would not be eligible. Recipients will begin receiving the money in the fourth quarter of 2024, he said.

Bangladesh banks, factories reopen as curfew eased after protests taper off

Reuters

Dhaka

Factories, offices and banks reopened in Bangladesh yesterday after a nationwide curfew enforced by the army was eased and relative calm prevailed following days of deadly violence.

Rush-hour traffic returned to the capital Dhaka and broadband internet was largely restored, although social media continued to be suspended after student-led protests turned violent last week.

Almost 150 people were killed as security forces cracked down on gatherings against quotas in government jobs that were reinstated by a high court order last month during an unemployment crisis.

The quotas included reservations for families of fighters in the 1971 independence war.

Students paused their protests on Sunday when the Supreme Court agreed to scrap most quotas and ruled that 93% of jobs should be open to competition.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government yesterday eased the curfew it had imposed four days ago to contain the violence that spread across the country.

"For now, all social media will remain shut," Zumaid Ahmed Palak, a junior technology minister, told reporters.

People may have to wait until Sunday or Monday to get mobile internet, he said.

As curfew eased, the garment and textiles industries, which supply to major Western brands, began

reopening factories.

"All our factories have opened. Everything is going smoothly," said S M Mannan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The stock exchange opened too, as well as banks, after remaining shut the past two days.

Dhaka residents were out on the streets, some making their way to offices as buses also began running in some places.

News websites, which had stopped updating since Friday, were back online.

Data from hospitals showed at least 147 people have been killed and police said they have arrested nearly 3,000 for violence and arson.

The government said curfew restrictions would be relaxed for seven hours today too, and offices would also be open from 11am-3pm.

Analysts say the student action has given fresh impetus to Hasina's critics - who accuse her of authoritarianism - months after she won a fourth-straight term in power in January in an election boycotted by the main opposition party.

"The informal federation of government critics appears deeper and wider than before the election, which presents a serious challenge to the ruling party," said Geoffrey Macdonald at the US Institute of Peace. The earlier 56% job quotas included a 30% reservation for families of the independence fighters, which critics said favoured supporters of Hasina's Awami League.



Army personnel and other officials stand around the debris of a Saurya Airlines' plane after it crashed during takeoff at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu yesterday.

18 killed in plane crash at Kathmandu airport

Reuters

Kathmandu

A small passenger plane belonging to Nepal's Saurya Airlines crashed and caught fire while taking off from the capital Kathmandu yesterday, killing 18 people on board and leaving one survivor, the captain, officials said.

"Only the captain was rescued alive and is receiving treatment at a hospital," said Tej Bahadur Poudyal, spokesman for Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport.

The 50-seater plane, carrying two crew members and 17 technicians, was heading for regular maintenance to Nepal's new Pokhara airport, which is equipped with aircraft maintenance hangars, the officials said.

Eighteen of those on board the CRJ-200

aircraft were Nepali citizens, with one engineer from Yemen, Saurya said.

"Shortly after takeoff...the aircraft veered off to the right and crashed on the east side of the runway," the civil aviation authority of Nepal said in a statement.

The crash again focused attention on the poor air safety record of the nation. Nearly 360 people have died in plane or helicopter crashes in the country since 2000.

Nepal's Prime Minister, K P Sharma Oli, visited the crash site and asked people to "be patient" in a social media post, without elaborating. An emergency cabinet meeting was called to form a panel to investigate the incident, a government spokesman said.

Television footage showed fire fighters trying to put out the blaze as thick black smoke rose into the sky. Images also showed the plane flying a little above the runway and then

tilting to its right before it crashed.

Other visuals showed rescue workers examining the charred remains of the plane, strewn in lush green fields, and bodies being carried to ambulances on stretchers.

Kathmandu airport was closed temporarily following the crash but reopened within hours, officials said.

According to FlightRadar24 flight tracking, Saurya currently operates two CRJ-200 regional jets, a programme that was owned by Canada's Bombardier but which was bought by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in 2020.

Bombardier referred questions about the incident to Canada-based MHI RJ Aviation Group.

"We are committed to co-operate with the authorities in the investigation to get an understanding of the cause of this accident," MHI said in a statement.

China 'arrangement' on sea row does not include ship inspections: Manila

The Philippines has reached an agreement with Beijing on its resupply missions to soldiers aboard a grounded naval vessel in the South China Sea, but will not submit to inspections from China, a top security official said. The Philippines and China, which have sparred repeatedly at sea this past year, have reached a "provisional arrangement" on resupply missions to the ship at the Second Thomas Shoal, as both sides agreed to ease tensions. Philippine national security adviser Eduardo Ano said, however, the arrangement does not include agreeing to Chinese vessels conducting "on-site" inspections. China has long been irked by the Philippine missions to its small contingent of troops aboard the rusty ship Sierra Madre, which was intentionally run aground in 1999 to try to reinforce Manila's territorial claim to the shoal. "There's no such kind of on-site inspection. What the two sides agreed are really a common understanding," Ano told a forum.



People paddle a boat past a half-submerged passenger bus along a flooded street in Manila yesterday.

Philippine streets turn into rivers as typhoon blows past

AFP

Manila

Relentless rain drenched the northern Philippines yesterday, triggering floods in Manila and deadly landslides as Typhoon Gaemi intensified the seasonal monsoon.

Rescuers were deployed across the densely populated capital to help evacuate people from low-lying homes as downpours turned streets into rivers, trapping vehicles.

People clutched flimsy umbrellas as they waded through thigh-deep murky water or used small boats and shopping trolleys to move around.

"The disturbance it caused is great. The waters reached the second floor of our house," Nora Clet, a resident, said.

Restaurant employee Rex Morano said he was not able to work

due to the "very high" floodwaters.

A state of calamity was declared for Manila, unlocking funds for relief efforts, after the state weather forecaster warned of "serious flooding" in some areas.

Government offices were shut and classes suspended, more than 100 domestic and international flights were cancelled, and tens of thousands of customers lost power because of the weather.

Some shopping malls and churches offered temporary shelter to people affected.

"Many areas are flooded so we have rescuers deployed all over the city. There is an overwhelming number of people asking for help," a disaster official in Manila, said.

Typhoon Gaemi, which has swept past the Philippines made landfall in Taiwan later yesterday.

Taiwan closed schools and evacuated thousands from their homes ahead of typhoon.

New Zealand PM vows reform as probe finds 200,000 abused in care

Reuters

Wellington

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon apologised and promised reforms yesterday after a public inquiry found some 200,000 children, young people and vulnerable adults were abused in state and religious care over the last 70 years.

Nearly one-in-three children and vulnerable adults in care from 1950-2019 experienced some form of abuse, the report said, a finding that could leave the government facing billions of dollars in fresh compensation claims.

"This is a dark and sorrowful day in New Zealand's history as a society and as a state, we should have done better, and I am determined that we will do so," Luxon told a press conference.

An official apology would follow on November 12, he added.

Survivors and their supporters filled the public gallery of the country's parliament as the report was debated, while still more watched from a separate room.

After Luxon spoke, likening the abuse against children to torture at one state care facility, Lake Alice, many stood and sang an Indigenous Maori song about love and unity.

The report by a Royal Commis-

sion of Inquiry spoke to more than 2,300 survivors of abuse in New Zealand, which has a population of 5.3mn. The inquiry detailed a litany of abuses in state and faith-based care, including rape, sterilisation and electric shocks, which peaked in the 1970s.

Those from the Indigenous Maori community were especially vulnerable to abuse, the report found, as well as those with mental or physical disabilities.

Civil and faith leaders fought to cover up abuse by moving abusers to other locations and denying culpability, with many victims dying before seeing justice, the report added. "It is a national disgrace

that hundreds of thousands of children, young people and adults were abused and neglected in the care of the state and faith-based institutions," the report said.

It made 138 recommendations, including calling for public apologies from New Zealand's government, as well as the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, heads of the Catholic and Anglican churches respectively, who have previously condemned child abuse.

In a statement the Catholic Church in New Zealand said it was carefully reviewing the report.

"We will ensure that action follows our review of the inquiry's findings," the statement said, add-

ing it had previously acknowledged the abuse occurred.

The Vatican press office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Anglican Church in New Zealand said in a statement: "We acknowledge and take full responsibility for our failures to provide the safe, caring and nurturing environment those who have been in our care had a right to expect and to receive."

The Methodist Church of New Zealand said the injustices revealed by the inquiry could not be overstated and thanked survivors for the courage they showed in sharing their stories. It committed to

implementing the report's recommendations.

The Presbyterian Church of New Zealand said it would respond once it had read the report.

The report said the average lifetime cost to an abuse survivor was estimated in 2020 to be approximately NZ\$857,000 (\$511,200.50) per person, though the it did not make clear the amount of compensation available for survivors.

Luxon said he believed the total compensation due to survivors could run into billions of dollars.

"We're opening up the redress conversations and we're going through that work with survivor groups," he said.

POLITICS

Welsh Labour Party appoints Morgan as new leader

The Welsh Labour Party confirmed Eluned Morgan as its new leader yesterday, replacing Vaughan Gething who was forced to announce his resignation last week after several ministers quit in protest at his leadership. Morgan, 57, will eventually become first minister of Wales - leader of the semi-autonomous Welsh government - subject to confirmation in the nation's parliament at a date yet to be set out. At that point she will become Wales' first female leader. Morgan was most recently health minister in Wales and ran unsuccessfully to become party leader in 2018. She previously served in the European Parliament and also has a seat in Britain's House of Lords.

CRACKDOWN

UK fines TikTok over child safety data reporting

British telecommunications regulator Ofcom said it had handed video sharing platform TikTok a £1.9m fine for failing to timely make available safety data. Ofcom criticised the platform saying it communicated inaccurate information last year and failed swiftly to address that. "Ofcom yesterday fined TikTok £1.875m for failing to accurately respond to a formal request for information about its parental controls safety feature," the regulator said in a statement. In a statement, TikTok recognised it had furnished Ofcom with inaccurate data on the use of a parental controls tool that underestimated "considerably" the number of people using the tool.

DATA

Shoplifting surges 30% in England and Wales

Shoplifting offences in England and Wales increased 30% in the year ending March 2024 to the highest level in 20 years, official data showed yesterday. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said there were 443,995 shoplifting offences recorded by the police over the year, up from 342,428 in the year to March 2023. The figures continue the trend of persistent increases since the Covid-19 pandemic. Retailers say the true picture is much worse as thousands of shoplifting incidents, often in smaller stores, are not reported to the police because owners do not think the force will either respond or prosecute offenders.

TRAGEDY

Nine crew members dead in Falklands shipwreck

Nine crew members were dead and four missing after their fishing vessel encountered bad weather near the Falkland Islands. Rescuers have recovered nine bodies and 14 survivors who were "slightly injured", Spanish authorities said. The Falklands authorities have yet to provide an official toll. Those rescued and the nine people who died were taken on two ships to the archipelago's capital of Stanley. "According to the Falklands maritime rescue service, the weather conditions are very unfavourable," said Pedro Blanco, representative of Spain's government in the Galicia region, where several of the people on board were originally from.

UK police probe mental health of suspect held over soldier stabbing

AFP
London

Police probing the stabbing of a soldier near an army barracks in southeast England said yesterday that officers were investigating whether "mental health-related" issues motivated a suspect in custody.

Kent Police arrested a 24-year-old man late Tuesday on suspicion of attempting to murder the soldier, a man in his 40s, on the street in the town of Gillingham, south-east of London.

Emergency responders airlifted the victim to hospital, with his condition described yesterday as serious but stable.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was "shocked and appalled" by the incident.

"All our thoughts are with the soldier and our armed forces community, who serve to keep us all safe," he added. "I wish him a swift recovery"

In an update, Kent Police said officers had arrested the local man in nearby Rochester within half an hour of being called to the scene of the attack, near the British Army's Brompton Barracks.

He was reported to have left the scene on a motorcycle, and "a number of knives" have been seized, the force added.

"The motivation for the attack is currently unknown and forms part of our ongoing enquiries, although we are exploring the possibility that it may be mental

health-related," acting chief superintendent Richard Woolley said in a statement.

"We are also investigating any possible links between the location and the suspect," he added, noting investigators do not believe anyone else was involved.

"There is no further information at this time to suggest there are any wider threats to the local community including members of the armed forces," Woolley said.

The attack has echoes of the 2013 murder of British soldier Lee Rigby, who was hacked to death by two men on a southeast London street. Earlier on Tuesday, Anjem Choudary, the preacher whose proscribed group inspired that pair, was found guilty by a UK jury of directing a terrorist organisation.

A British Army spokesman said: "We're very sorry to confirm that a soldier has sustained serious injuries in an attack."

A witness who rushed to aid the wounded soldier told *The Sun* tabloid that the attacker had been on a moped before running at the victim and stabbing him repeatedly.

The soldier had "wounds all over his body," according to the witness.

"Blood was everywhere as I tried to apply pressure to his wounds until the police arrived," the witness added.

"When the guy's (soldier's) wife came out and started trying to pull the guy off he didn't even try to hurt her."

Starmer avoids grilling at first PM question session



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks during Prime Minister's Questions at the House of Commons in London, Britain, yesterday. Starmer's first experience of being on the receiving end of prime minister's questions passed without the typical barrage of hostile questioning yesterday, but he faced pressure over his new government's approach to child poverty.

UK minister arrives in India to push stalled free trade deal

AFP
New Delhi

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy began working yesterday to reinvigorate a stalled push for a free-trade agreement with India after arriving in New Delhi for his first official visit.

The two countries have spent more than two years negotiating what would be an important milestone for Britain as it seeks alternative markets following its 2020 exit from the European Union.

Lammy is travelling to India less than three weeks after taking office following the Labour

Party's election win under new Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"India is the emerging superpower of the 21st century, the largest country in the world with 1.4bn people and one of the fastest growing economies in the world," Lammy was quoted as saying in a statement by Britain's foreign office.

"Our free-trade agreement negotiations is the floor not the ceiling of our ambitions to unlock our shared potential and deliver growth, from Bengaluru to Birmingham."

Lammy will meet his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar and commerce minister Piyush Goyal during his two-day trip to Delhi.

He will also hold high-level meetings with

environment and business leaders to galvanise support for action on the climate crisis, with India being an "indispensable partner"

Lammy said resetting Britain's relationship with the Global South was a key part of the new government's agenda.

Labour came to power in a landslide victory over the Conservatives earlier this month.

The previous government had been seeking to secure the Indian trade deal since January 2022 but hit several roadblocks.

In exchange for lowering tariffs on British imports, India has pushed for more work and study visas for its citizens, in line with similar deals struck between Britain and Australia and New Zealand.

Indian soldier, militant killed in Kashmir

Separate firefights in Kashmir killed a soldier and a suspected militant near the region's unofficial frontier with Pakistan, India's military said yesterday.

The soldier was the 10th killed in the area this month following several deadly militant attacks on a southern part of the region.

He died after a clash with a group of militants attempting to cross over the Line of Control from the Pakistan side at Poonch early on Tuesday morning, the Indian military's White Knight Corps said in a post on social media platform X. The army offered its "deepest condolences" to the slain soldier's family.

The next morning Indian troops killed a militant in a separate clash near the frontier at Kupwara after they observed "suspicious movement", the army said in a statement posted on X. "In the ensuing fire fight one terrorist has been eliminated," the army said in a statement.

Tribute to Ukrainian athletes



Sporting equipment representing the disciplines of some of the 487 fallen Ukrainian athletes, are pictured in Parliament Square, opposite the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday, at an installation paying tribute to the Ukrainian athletes who have lost their lives due to the 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Ukraine is set to have only 140 athletes competing at this year's Olympic Games in Paris, the smallest representation ever in Ukraine's Olympic history.

India 'to move away from fiscal deficit targeting'

Reuters
New Delhi

India plans to move away from targeting a particular level of fiscal deficit after 2025-26, a senior finance ministry official said yesterday.

Instead, the government will use the ratio of government debt-to-GDP as the anchor for fiscal policy, T V Somanathan, finance secretary at the ministry of finance, said in an interview.

"We were moving away from this fiscal deficit targeting sort of framework, where after 2026 we will look at debt-to-GDP ratio as an anchor," Somanathan said.

Historically, India has targeted a fiscal deficit of 3% of GDP but has failed to achieve it. India's debt burden and the budget deficit ballooned dur-

ing the Covid-19 pandemic but have been brought under control since then.

The federal government aims to bring down its fiscal deficit to 4.9% of GDP in the year ending March 2025 and to below 4.5% by March 2026.

India can "afford a fiscal deficit above 3% and still be fiscally sustainable because our nominal growth rates are high," Somanathan said.

Rating agencies have cited India's high debt-to-GDP as a key weight on its sovereign rating.

Fitch Ratings estimates India's debt at around 80% of GDP till 2027-28.

"The government is committed to reducing the debt as a percentage of GDP," Somanathan said. After 2025-26, the fiscal deficit targets will be set in a manner that each year will see a reduction in debt, he said.

Nine arrests during London protest against Israel arms exports

Reuters
London

British police yesterday arrested nine people during a protest against arms exports to Israel that briefly blocked the street outside the foreign ministry, highlighting pressure on the new Labour government over its stance on the Gaza war.

Pro-Palestinian protesters in Britain have been campaigning for a government ban on arms sales to Israel following its offensive on Gaza.

Last week new Foreign Minister David Lammy, who has said he

wants a balanced position on Israel and Gaza, said a blanket ban on arms exports to Israel would not be right, but he would follow a quasi-judicial process in assessing whether sales of offensive weapons that could be used in Gaza could proceed.

London's Metropolitan Police said protesters arrived outside Britain's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and blocked pedestrian and vehicle access. Police then said the protest could only continue if it left the central arch of the street clear.

"When the group failed to comply with the conditions, officers intervened and made nine arrests,

quickly restoring access," a Met Police spokesperson said.

While in opposition, Lammy earlier this year said the government should suspend the sale of UK arms if there were a clear risk they might be used in a serious breach of humanitarian law.

Now in government, he said last week he requested on his first day in office an assessment of the legal situation and that he hoped to be able to communicate any decisions with "full accountability and transparency"

Labour was elected with a huge majority earlier this month, but lost some seats to pro-Gaza candidates.



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators from 'Workers for a Free Palestine' gather outside the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, in a protest against arms exports to Israel, in London, Britain, yesterday.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

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

GULF TIMES

Biden's exit could spur Trump-trade unwind but divided govt is apparent

US President Joe Biden's exit from the presidential race could prompt investors to unwind trades betting that a Republican victory would increase US fiscal and inflationary pressures, while some analysts said markets could benefit from an increased chance of divided government under the next administration.

The so-called Trump-trade, which presumes the former president's tax policies will lift corporate profits, while undermining the country's long-term budget health, gained ground following Biden's disastrous TV debate last month.

It was especially visible in US government bonds, with long-dated Treasury yields - which move inversely to prices - briefly rising on increased expectations that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump would regain the White House after the debate and last weekend's assassination attempt.

Although yields quickly retreated on signs of economic weakening, the move reflected investors' belief that a Trump presidency could lead to inflationary policies and a more fiscally expansive stance. But Biden's decision to step aside and endorse Vice-President Kamala Harris to replace him as the Democratic candidate casts doubt over a Trump victory and will likely prompt investors to pare those bets. Trump's team has said his pro-growth policies would bring down interest rates and shrink deficits. Many market participants believe deficits will keep deteriorating under a second Biden administration as well.

"This may be the catalyst for market volatility that is overdue"

"It does take some of the wind out of the sails of the Trump Trade," said Cameron Dawson, CIO of NewEdge Wealth in New York, although she said markets would be waiting for more clarity about who the nominee will be.

"That's when we might look for the reversal of the Trump Trade and other kinds of movements," said Dawson. A Reuters/Ipsos poll that closed on Tuesday found Trump had a marginal lead among registered voters - 43% to 41% - over Biden.

When accepting the Republican nomination on Thursday, Trump again pledged to cut corporate taxes and cut interest rates. Analysts also expect a Trump presidency would make for tougher trade relations, which could result in inflationary tariffs.

Lower tax revenues could widen the US federal government's budget deficit, which has risen steadily for much of the past decade, including under Trump's previous 2017-2020 presidency, although a spike in 2020 was mostly driven by Covid-19 government relief.

Many investors believe the deficit will keep deteriorating under a second Democratic administration too, but a more balanced election result could reduce the risk of the excessive fiscal stimulus expected if Republicans sweep Washington. Congress is currently divided, with the House of Representatives narrowly controlled by Republicans and the Senate by Democrats. A divided government is often seen by investors as positive for markets, because it makes it harder for either party to force through dramatic policy changes. Several Democrats had warned that Biden's initial refusal to step aside, which led some Democratic donors to shut the spigots, would wipe out Democrats in House and Senate races too. Biden's exit, however, would increase Democrats' chances of controlling at least one of those chambers, said Brij Khurana, fixed income portfolio manager at Wellington Management Company, speaking ahead of the announcement.

"A divided government, if it does materialise, would mean much lower yields than we currently have," said Khurana, as bonds would reflect a potentially more benign outcome for government debt issuance. Jamie Cox, Managing Partner of Harris Financial Group, said markets might now reprice what had previously been expected to be a sweep of Congress.

"The Senate is very likely to go Republican but the House of Representatives is very vulnerable to a Democrat takeover," said Cox. Jack McIntyre, portfolio manager, global fixed income, Brandywine Global Investment Management also referred to a divided government as a potential outcome and "a positive for the market".

Investors said that market volatility could increase as the uncertainty over the election continues.

"Biden stepping down is a whole new level of political uncertainty," said Gina Bolvin, President of Bolvin Wealth Management Group. "This may be the catalyst for market volatility that is overdue."

Swathes of the equities market, in particular small caps, have reacted favourably in recent weeks to the prospect of a Trump win. Cryptocurrencies have also rallied on inflation bets. The Cboe Volatility index - Wall Street's "fear gauge" - touched its highest level since late April on Friday.

"The market doesn't like uncertainty, and the added element of an unknown Democratic nominee will certainly add to investor discomfort," said Rafia Hasan, Chief Investment Officer, Perigon Wealth in Chicago. "We don't know what the market will do tomorrow and into the coming weeks with this news, so investors should sit tight." - Reuters

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621
☎ 44418811

Classified

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

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2024 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



A Hillbilly Elegy for Ukraine, West

By Carl Bildt
Stockholm

In a commentary published by the *New York Times* this past April, JD Vance, now the Republican vice-presidential nominee, proposed a strategy of "defence" for Ukraine that was nothing but a recipe for defeat. There can be no doubt that his words were closely read, and well received, in Beijing and Moscow. Appeasing Russia at Ukraine's expense would amount to a major strategic loss for the United States, and thus a victory for its adversaries.

Vance's advocacy for appeasement should surprise no-one. In a 2022 podcast with Donald Trump's (currently imprisoned) political guru Steve Bannon, he said: "I don't really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another." His argument essentially is that because Russia is larger than Ukraine, it can lob more bombs and missiles than the Ukrainians and their Western backers can handle.

Russia undoubtedly is bigger than Ukraine. But if that is grounds for Ukraine to accept defeat, the same argument could be applied to eight other neighbouring countries that were at some point part of the Russian/Soviet empire. Vance is effectively green-lighting Vladimir Putin's aspiration to resurrect the old empire through conquest. The only neighbour left would be China, Russia's "no-limits" partner.

A resurrected Great Russia, in alliance with today's China, would change the world order. In fact, this is precisely the outcome that both countries' leaders want. An America in strategic retreat - abandoning Kabul and then Kyiv - would encourage the Eurasian authoritarian bloc to go on the offensive. Taiwan's days would be numbered, and others might fold even before that happens.

The Prussian military theorist Carl von Clausewitz famously taught us that war is a contest of political wills. Armies and battalions certainly count, but they often are not what matters in the end. The outcome in Afghanistan was not decided by which side had more artillery ammunition. Again, if you believe that firepower is everything, you must also believe that Taiwan should just go ahead and surrender.



JD VANCE: In a 2022 podcast, Republican candidate Donald Trump's running mate said: "I really don't care what happens to Ukraine one way or another".

Putin has made no secret of his war aims. While "interviewing" the Russian leader this past February, the right-wing activist Tucker Carlson did us a great favour by letting his subject ramble on about his dream of wiping Ukraine off the map. The issue was never really about Ukrainians who speak Russian or Nato expansion or anything else. Rather, having resurrected the classic Russian imperialist view, Putin believes that Ukraine simply has no right to exist as an independent state.

Where this logic ends is anyone's guess. After all, Poland, Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan were all once part of the empire that Putin seeks to restore. If Ukraine can be defeated because the US decided to walk away, all bets are off. With so many countries that are smaller than Russia, Vance would have to repeat his facile argument ad nauseam.

The defence of Ukraine obviously rests primarily with the Ukrainians. It is their blood soaking into the battlefield, and it is they who have shouldered the awesome responsibility of defending the West despite the odds against them. When the war started, no one expected them to last more than a few weeks, if not days. But they did, inflicting grievous damage on Russia's military. That alone is a victory of sorts.

The price the rest of us are paying is minute. For EU member states, it amounts to around

0.3% of GDP, on average - a little more than one-tenth of our defence spending; for the US, it is significantly less. True, Europe has allowed its own defence industrial bases - the capacity to produce everything from artillery ammunition to air-defence missiles - to decay. But allowing Russia to swallow Ukraine would not relieve us of the burden of correcting that mistake. On the contrary, we would be left with an even more threatening strategic environment. The aggressor in the Kremlin would be on the march.

Vance is not wrong to argue that Ukraine's strategy now should be primarily defensive. Last year's counteroffensive made little headway and fell far short of its goals. But rather than withdrawing support for Ukraine, we should recognise that it is the only credible strategy for achieving some semblance of peace down the road. To stand by and let Russian bombers pulverise Kharkiv and Odesa would let loose the dogs of war for years to come.

Eventually, the guns will fall silent. But no true peace will be possible until Putin's imperial dream has been defeated. Russia must accept its role as a normal nation-state among others, and Ukraine's democracy and security must be secured through integration into the Euro-Atlantic institutions. Only then should the details of the relationship between Kyiv and Moscow be sorted out.

I agree with Vance that Europeans bear a huge responsibility here. But he should know that European financial support already exceeds that of the US, and that the European Union has started the process of making Ukraine a formal member. That is a huge, strategically important step.

But it is not just European security that is at stake. In his address to the US Congress this past April, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida did not mince words: "Ukraine today could be East Asia tomorrow." Will Vance advocate appeasement there, too? If so, and if the Republicans win the US presidency in November, we will find ourselves in a world where Western values and interests are fully in retreat. - Harris 'easier' to beat: Trump

• Carl Bildt is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.

Harris could bring shift in Gaza war policy

By Danny Kemp
Washington

Kamala Harris's outspoken stance on the Gaza war hints at a possible shift from Joe Biden's Israel policy as she eyes the Democratic presidential nomination - as Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to find out this week.

The US vice-president was conspicuously absent from the Israeli leader's address to the US Congress yesterday, in what analysts said was a clear signal about her concerns over civilian casualties in Gaza.

The 59-year-old has never contradicted Biden on Israel. Time and again, however, she has been the US administration official most loudly calling for a ceasefire in the conflict.

With Biden's shock exit from the White House race, Harris has a chance to make a "clean slate" on an issue where there has been a risk of alienating a swathe of Democratic voters ahead of November's election, said Colin Clarke, director of research at the Soufan Group.

"The Israel-Gaza issue is the one where there is the most daylight between Biden and Harris, and I think there's going to be people inside her camp that are going to push her to make that difference explicit," he told AFP.

Biden has strongly supported Israel's war on Hamas and kept up military aid despite tensions with Netanyahu.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed at least 39,090 people, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

While Harris has not broken from Biden on the issue, her statements on the conflict - which has



US Vice-President and Democratic Presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks at West Allis Central High School during her first campaign rally in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Tuesday. (AFP)

seen swathes of Gaza reduced to rubble - have been more nuanced.

In March, she made what were then the strongest comments to date by any US administration official when she called for a ceasefire deal to end the "immense suffering", and criticised Israel over insufficient aid deliveries to Gaza.

The message was underlined by the first Black US vice president's choice of site to deliver it: Selma, Alabama, where in 1965 a civil rights march was violently suppressed by police on what is known as "Bloody Sunday".

It followed a pattern of remarks where she pushed the envelope of what the White House was saying about the death toll and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The issue has now come to the fore with Netanyahu visiting Washington.

Reflecting the new reality of an outgoing president and his expected replacement as Democratic contender, Biden and Harris will hold separate meetings with the Israeli premier.

Harris's camp says that a previously

scheduled campaign trip to a Black sorority in Indianapolis means she cannot fulfil the usual vice presidential role of presiding over Congress during Netanyahu's visit.

Her staff moved quickly to dampen suggestions of a snub.

"Her travel to Indianapolis on July 24 should not be interpreted as a change in her position with regard to Israel," an aide told AFP, noting her "unwavering commitment" to its security.

Biden, whose tensions with Netanyahu have burst into the open in recent months despite the president's stalwart support for Israel, is also set to miss the speech.

Clarke said Harris's decision was not necessarily a "cold shoulder" but added that "clearly, if she wanted to be there, she could be... it's something of kind of signal that, hey, things are going to be different".

The Gaza war remains very much a factor in the US presidential election.

Biden's policy incensed large numbers of Democratic voters and threatened his party's hopes of winning the swing state of Michigan, which is home to a large Arab-American population.

Harris and her family have straddled the political divide on the issue.

The war was an area where Harris could "pick a bit of an orchestrated public dispute" with Biden, said Peter Loge, director of George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs.

It would also help differentiate her from Trump's "all-in" support for Israel, he added.

"Harris has an opportunity to have a bit of a more nuanced position that recognises those concerns - to create a bit of distance to make that group (those angered by support for Israel) feel okay," Loge said. - AFP

Trump shooter 'did online search for JFK assassination'

Reuters
Washington

The 20-year-old man suspected of trying to kill former president Donald Trump conducted an online search of the John F Kennedy assassination on the day he registered for Trump's rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, FBI Director Christopher Wray said yesterday.

"Analysis of a laptop that the investigation ties to the shooter reveals that on July 6, he did a Google search for 'how far away was Oswald from Kennedy?'" Wray said in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee.

"That is the same day that it appears that he registered for the Butler rally," he said, adding that suspect Thomas Crooks had become "very focused on Trump and his rally" at the time.

Former president Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, by Lee Harvey Oswald.

Wray said Crooks, a nursing home aide, fired at least eight rounds from his rooftop position near the July 13 rally, wounding the Republican presidential candidate in the ear, killing one rally attendee and wounding two others.

Crooks used an AR-15 assault-style rifle with a collapsible stock, "which could explain why it might have been less easy for people to observe," Wray said.

The motive for the shooting remains unclear. Wray said many people have described Crooks as a loner and the list of contacts in his phone was short.

Wray also told lawmakers that Crooks flew a drone about 200 yards from the stage where Trump spoke to the crowd and live-streamed footage for about 11 minutes, some two hours before the event.

He said the crude explosive devices recovered from Crooks' car and home were designed to be detonated remotely. Crooks had a transmitter with him at the time of the shooting, Wray added. But he said the FBI believes the suspect would not have been successful had he tried to detonate the devices.

The hearing also focused on the increasingly tense political atmosphere surrounding the presidential campaign.



SHOOTER: Thomas Crooks

"I have been saying for some time now that we are living in an elevated-threat environment. And tragically, the...assassination attempt is another example, particularly heinous," Wray testified.

Kimberly Cheatle resigned as director of the US Secret Service on Tuesday after bipartisan demands to quit over the failure to prevent the attempted assassination.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan said he expected Wray to answer questions about what happened before, during and after the incident but expressed doubt about the FBI director's answers even before questioning began.

"I'm sure you understand that a significant portion of the country has a healthy scepticism regarding the FBI's ability to conduct a fair, honest, open and transparent investigation," Jordan said.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, the panel's top Democrat, condemned the Trump shooting "unequivocally and unabashedly" but pointed to years of political threats and violence, and violent rhetoric from Republicans including Trump himself.

"If you think that this one assassin's bullet was a bolt out of the blue, and not part of a wave of violence that has threatened this nation for years, then you have missed the point," the New York Democrat said.

Wray has long faced opposition from hardline Republicans, some angered over the arrest of Trump supporters who stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, as Congress certified President Joe Biden's 2020 election victory.

In Pakistan, too hot to study

Over 100,000 schools closed

School summer holidays will be extended by two weeks in southern Pakistan because of high temperatures, affecting more than 100,000 schools, an education official said. Pakistan is increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change, including heatwaves that are hotter and more frequent and monsoons that are heavier and longer. "We decided to close schools for an additional 14 days for the children's well-being," Atif Vighio, a spokesperson at the education department in

Sindh province, told AFP. Planned power cuts, also known as load-shedding, happen frequently in Pakistan due to an ongoing power supply crisis. The load-shedding varies from city to city, but in rural areas of Sindh they can last for more than 12 hours a day, leaving schools without fans.

"As a teacher, I am worried about how I will complete the curriculum, but as a mother, I am concerned about kids going to school in this heat," a public school teacher told AFP, asking for her name not to be used. "It is the load-shedding we are worried about, not just the heat." The government has said more than 26mn children are out of school due to poverty.

France ready for Olympics; so too Paris drug dealers

France has declared itself prepared for the deluge of Olympics visitors — and so have Paris's drug dealers.

The dealers have promised a steady supply of wares, but warned prices may go up and delivery wait times too under the weight of tens of thousands of security forces and heavy demand.

From Parisians renting out their apartments, to a transit system that has boosted its ticket prices, everyone is looking to make a buck during the Games — and that includes the underworld.

"We're always ready in this business," a Parisian dealer told AFP, echoing French leader Emmanuel Macron's judgment this week that his nation is all set for the Games. "There will always be somebody ready, that's how it is when there's money to be made," said the dealer, on condition of anonymity. With up to 45,000 security forces policing the streets, experts expect delivery services will see a bump in clients seeking to avoid getting busted.

In fact, France has already had a boom in messaging app and social media-driven drug deliveries since pandemic lockdowns pushed the trade off the street and onto



Olympic rings on Eiffel Tower ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. (AFP)

smartphone screens.

At the same time, the country has voiced increasing alarm over a flourishing drug trade and deadly violence between rival gangs.

"There is a kind of Uberisation of drug trafficking, with the development of digital offerings on applications like Telegram, or promotional deals," said criminal attorney Adrien Gabeaud.

In the run-up to the Games, dealers have been updating their clients on feeds with what to expect during the competition that

opens Friday and runs through August 11. "The prices of our services will be adjusted due to challenging road traffic conditions and heavy demand," one seller wrote to customers.

Swathes of central Paris are blocked off during the festivities, snarling car and pedestrian traffic enough that the Parisian dealer said it wouldn't be worth the trouble, even to see the events.

In one exchange between a seller and customer, seen by AFP, the dealer warns that transactions cannot happen in the open.

"The police are on the lookout," the message read. Yet other dealers are sending out messages to assure clients, like one that wrote: "I inform you that despite the Olympics, the delivery service will remain the same."

It's too soon to gauge whether or how much prices could rise, but criminal lawyer David Curiel predicted they're on their way up. "In Paris a gram of cocaine costs €50-60 (\$55-65), but now it could probably go up to €80 a gram," he said.

"They (dealers) can't wait, for them this is like the sales," he added, referring to

France's government-set promotion periods when shoppers flock to stores.

France has pledged to crack down on digital drug sales and has deployed massive amounts of police to patrol Paris during the Games that are expected to attract 15mn people.

But will there be a boom? An AFP check of drug sales prices advertised on messaging apps did not reveal an immediate spike, and police sources were also sceptical.

"No 'Olympics effect' so far" on boosting drug sales, a narcotics investigator told AFP, again on condition of anonymity.

"There's already an incredible amount (of drugs) on offer," the investigator noted. On that much, the police and dealers seem to agree.

"During Covid it was different. There was an incredible spike in prices, by two or three times. It was a fight to find anything," the Parisian dealer said. "It's been fine ahead of the Olympics." The real effect on Paris's — and France's — drug market won't become clear immediately but researchers have begun pondering the impact.

Thousands protest Netanyahu's speech



Protesters demonstrate on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC yesterday.

Thousands of protesters opposed to Israel's war in Gaza, some carrying Palestinian flags, gathered near the US Capitol yesterday ahead of a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to members of Congress.

A stage decked with banners included one declaring the Israeli leader a "Wanted Joe Criminal" in reference to an arrest warrant sought by International Criminal Court prosecutors.

Oscar-winning actor Susan Sarandon took to the stage and

condemned the death toll. "No-one is free until everyone is free," Sarandon said.

Nearby, demonstrators placed nearly 30 human-size cardboard coffins wrapped in Palestinian flags in memory of those killed in the war in Gaza. Traffic was barred from several roads near the Capitol.

"I want all aid (to) be suspended to Israel due to its actions in Gaza," said Bradley Cullinan, who said he travelled to the area from Columbus, Ohio, 400 miles away. Dozens of Democratic lawmakers

planned to skip Netanyahu's speech to Congress, expressing dismay over the thousands of civilian deaths and the humanitarian crisis from Israel's campaign in Gaza.

Members of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group carried Palestinian flags and signs reading "Free Palestine" and "Anti-Zionism is not antisemitism", while a group of younger protesters danced to Arabic music and carried large banners reading "Stop Arming Israel" and "Stop War Crimes in Gaza".

Pro-Palestinian groups and university students have for months protested in the US against Israel's offensive in Gaza, a Hamas-ruled enclave where health authorities say nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed and nearly all of its 2.3mn people have been displaced. ICC prosecutors say there are reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant bear criminal responsibility for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Harris urges Black women to help power campaign

US Vice-President Kamala Harris called on a rally of more than 6,000 Black women yesterday to help her revitalise the Democratic presidential campaign, ahead of her Republican rival Donald Trump's return to the campaign trail.

Harris has emerged as the Democratic presidential candidate in the November 5 election after President Joe Biden, 81, ended his re-election bid on Sunday in the face of intense opposition from fellow Democrats who questioned his ability to win or to serve for another four years were he to do so.

The 59-year-old vice president, the first Black woman and Asian American to serve as vice president — who would also be a historic first as president if she prevails over former President Trump, 78 — has shaken up a staid race and sparked new energy among Democrats.

That surge was not to go unanswered yesterday, with Trump holding his first rally since Biden ended his campaign — in the battleground state of North Carolina.

The Trump campaign has insisted it is prepared for Harris' candidacy, arguing she serves as a proxy for Biden on the economic and immigration policies that contributed to his sinking popularity with voters. Harris spoke at an event in Indianapolis hosted by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, which was founded at Howard University, the historically Black college she attended. She hopes to tap sororities' multi-generational network of Black women — who



US Vice-President Kamala Harris during the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc's Grand Boule event in Indianapolis, Indiana, yesterday. (Reuters)

played an important role in Biden's 2020 victory — to deliver strong voter turnout for Democrats again in November.

"I thank you. And now, in this moment, our nation needs your leadership once again," Harris said. Harris and Trump are closely competitive, public opinion polls showed this week.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on Tuesday showed Harris with a marginal two-percentage-point lead over Trump, 44% to 42%. A CNN poll conducted by SSRS showed Trump leading Harris, 49% to 46%. Both findings were within the polls' margins of error. Biden, who came back to Washington after isolating at his home in Delaware with Covid, was to address the nation from the Oval Office last night to explain his decision to drop out after a disastrous June debate with

Trump raised questions about his ability to win the election, or to serve another four years if he succeeded.

On Tuesday, Trump took the unusual step of speaking to reporters on a conference call to underscore his campaign's line of attack on the border, saying Harris was partially responsible for a record flow of migrants.

Biden put Harris in charge of working with countries in Central America to help stem the tide of migration, but she was not made responsible for border security. "She's a radical left person, and this country doesn't want a radical left person to destroy it," Trump said on the call. "She wants open borders. She wants things that nobody wants." Harris has not called for the removal of border controls. Trump, coming off a triumphant

week in which his party unified around his presidential bid after a failed assassination attempt two weekends ago, has had to watch as Biden's sudden departure from the race dramatically shifted the narrative and sparked a surge of attention toward Harris at his expense.

Harris campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon said in a memo made public yesterday that Democrats would aim to compete in the swing states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada, opening up a map that in the final weeks of Biden's campaign had appeared to be more focused on the Midwest.

"This race is more fluid now — the vice president is well-known but less well-known than both Trump and President Biden, particularly among Dem-leaning constituencies," O'Malley Dillon wrote. Democrats will formally nominate their new ticket at next month's convention in Chicago after an August 7 virtual vote.

Roy Cooper, North Carolina's Democratic governor, is considered to be on the short list to serve as Harris' running mate. Harris and her campaign have worked at breakneck pace to consolidate support among Democrats in Congress and delegates across the country. Candidates who could have been potential rivals for the nomination have fallen in line and endorsed her. The Harris campaign yesterday said it has raised \$126mn since Sunday, with 64% of donors making their first contribution of the 2024 campaign.

Polish divers find 19th century shipwreck

Polish divers said yesterday they had discovered a 19th-century shipwreck in the Baltic Sea off the Swedish coast, its hold replete with crates of beverage and porcelain. The group said it was thrilled to find rare "treasure" on board when it came upon the presumed merchant vessel last week.

"The whole wreck is loaded to the brim with crates of beverage, mineral water and china," Tomasz Stachura, the Baltictech diver group leader, told AFP. He said the divers counted around 100 bottles among the discovered items. "I have been diving for 40 years and it often happens that there is one bottle or two...to discover a wreck with so much cargo, it's a first for me," Stachura added. The discovery, made around 20 nautical miles south of the Swedish island of Oland, was largely a coincidence.

Ship tour a new fillip in Turkish-Qatar relations

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Turkiye enjoys strong and friendly relations with Qatar and co-operation between the two countries has considerably grown over the years in all fields, said Turkish ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu.

Speaking on the occasion of the two-day visit of the TCG Kinaliada Corvette, a ship of the Turkish Navy, to Doha Port, Dr Goksu pointed out that the arrival of this vessel underscores the strong diplomatic and defence relations between Qatar and Turkiye. He noted that TCG Kinaliada arrived in Doha on July 23, and will depart today to resume its trip to other friendly countries, showcasing the advanced achievements of the Turkish defence industry. He explained that this ship is fully made in Turkiye with all its components and elements manufactured in the country.

He noted that the Ada Class Corvette TCG Kinaliada set sail from Izmir in April to mark the 100th anniversary of Turkish-Japanese diplomatic relations and the 134th anniversary of the date the Ottoman frigate Ertugrul set sail for Japan. The mission aims to enhance the visibility of the Turkish Naval Forces, introduce national platforms, and strengthen bilateral relations with the countries to be visited during the four-and-a-half-month voyage.

TCG Kinaliada's port calls include following countries: Japan, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Somalia, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, China, South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, India, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, and Jordan. It is set to conduct port visits to 24 ports in 20 different countries.



The ambassador pointed out that "Turkiye has achieved self-sufficiency with a special focus on domestic and national character in its defence industry. While Turkiye's domestic production rate in the defence industry was below 20% in 2000, it increased to 85% in 2023."

Accordingly, he saw that co-operation between Qatar and Turkiye in all fields has great potential and a brighter future to enhance the security of both countries and expand mutual investment in key areas.

He further stressed that Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition (Dimdex) Conference is an important venue to deepen the co-operation between Turkiye and Qatar. Besides, during the last Dimdex Conference to be held during March 21-23 in Doha, a number of important deals and contracts were made by several Turkish companies that would further cement the already excellent relations with their Qatari counterparts.

Eventually, the ambassador further stressed that Qatar and Turkiye will always stand by each other to enhance their mutual stability and security.

Qatari Forum for Authors organises cultural session to mark World Youth Skills Day

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatari Forum for Authors held a discussion at the House of Wisdom Hall in the Ministry of Culture, focusing on the novel *Zahra* by Iraqi writer Maysoun Fakher, coinciding with the World Youth Skills Day. The session was moderated by Mohamed al-Shabrawi and attended by writers, intellectuals, and enthusiasts.

The novel addresses the challenges faced by an Arab asylum seeker in Europe, specifically Sarah, the protagonist, who grew up in Swedish society. Sarah's

tragedy begins when she is taken from her biological parents and placed with another family. This traumatic event fills her with anxiety and obsessions, rooted in the fragmented nature of her experience. Her life is marked by a mixture of secret and public suffering, leading her to confront burning questions in a world filled with chaos, numbness, and indifference.

Sarah grapples with feelings of inferiority imposed by the dominant perspective of the other side. She is caught between brutal wars and the pressures of Westernisation, which aim to destroy, disorient, and sever her connection to her roots. This results in a sharp

decline and confusion within her displaced world, leaving her complicit in the devastation. She is haunted by a sense of shame, seen as primitive and degraded through Orientalisation, while simultaneously being pressured by the madness of Westernisation.

Sarah is portrayed as intolerant and supportive of her roots, despite the challenges she faces in Stockholm. Since childhood, she has endured ostracism, abuse, and the conflict of her paths intersecting with fatalism. She suffered from coercive care procedures, including the termination of her biological parents' rights and her placement in alternative care.



Promotion available at all Safari outlets on: 25-07-2024 at all Safari Outlets سفاري في جميع منافذ سفاري بتاريخ: 25/7/2024 في جميع منافذ سفاري

 <p>24 QR.75 خميري متوسط عمان 1kg Fresh Prawns Medium Oman 1kg</p>	 <p>27 QR.50 سمك فاروس تونس 1 كجم Fresh Sea Bass Tunisia 1kg</p>	 <p>17 QR.50 لحم بقرى باكستاني بالعظم 1 كجم Pakistan Beef With Bone 1kg</p>	 <p>1 QR.25 جوزهند هندي احبة Coconut India (Whole) 1pc</p>
 <p>2 QR.25 بصل باكستاني 1 كجم Onion Pakistan 1kg</p>	 <p>3 QR.25 خيار عمان 1 كجم Cucumber Oman 1kg</p>	 <p>3 QR.50 موز اكوادر 1 كجم Banana Ecuador 1kg</p>	 <p>5 QR.75 تفاح رويال جالا افريقيا 1 كجم Apple Royal Gala Africa 1kg</p>
 <p>7 QR.75 نكتارين ايران 1 كجم Nectarine Iran 1kg</p>	 <p>2 QR.00 بطيخ الاردن 1 كجم Watermelon Jordan 1kg</p>	 <p>17 QR.00 WAS QR 24.50 Per Customer 2 Set Only* ابو فوس حليب كامل الدسم اللتر 3 حبة Rainbow Rtd Organic Full Cream Milk 1Ltr x 3pcs</p>	 <p>10 QR.00 WAS QR 13.00 Per Customer 2pcs Only* هلال دجاج شوية 1200 جم احبة Hilal Chicken Griller 1200gm x 1pc</p>
 <p>7 QR.00 WAS QR 10.00 بيض ابيض 30 حبة Fresh White Egg 30's Tray</p>	 <p>18 QR.75 WAS QR 25.50 كوهينور اريز بسمتي يومي 4.5 كجم Kohinoor Everyday Basmati Rice 4.5kg</p>	 <p>2199 QR WAS QR 3099 Per Customer 2pcs Only* آبل ماك بوك اير APPLE MGN63AB/A MACBOOK AIR M1 13" 256GB SSD 8GB RAM</p>	



DELIGHTFUL WEEKEND DEALS

Shop n' Drive WIN 25

MG RX8 & MG5 2024 CAR

Spend QR 50/- & get an E-Raffle coupon to Win 25 MG 2024 Car

Win 4 Car in Every Lucky Draw
(First Prize: MG RX8 2024 Car x 6 Winners, Second Prize: MG5 2024 Car x 19 Winners)

Third Lucky Draw on: 08-09-2024
at Safari Hypermarket, Al Khor

Purchase limit may apply. Offer valid until stocks last. الكمية متاحة للمشتريات العرضية سفاري حتى ينفذ العرض. الكمية متاحة للمشتريات العرضية سفاري حتى ينفذ العرض.