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September 12, 2024  
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SPORT | Page 1

## Lopez optimistic despite Qatar's sluggish start



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## Amir receives credentials of five new ambassadors

QNA  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received yesterday, in his office at the Amiri Diwan, the credentials of five new ambassadors to Qatar. His Highness the Amir received the credentials of **ambassador of the State of Palestine Fayez Majed Abu al-Rab**, ambassador of the Republic of Peru Gonzalo Voto Bernales Gatica, ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus Andreas Nicolaides, ambassador of the Republic of Chile Patricio Diaz Bruton, and ambassador of the Republic of Estonia Maria Belovas.

His Highness the Amir welcomed the new ambassadors,



wishing them success in their missions, and the relations between Qatar and their countries further development and growth. For their part, the ambassadors conveyed to His Highness the greetings of the leaders of their

countries and their wishes for continued progress and prosperity to the Qatari people.

Earlier, the ambassadors were accorded official reception ceremonies upon arrival at the Amiri Diwan. **Page 4**

## Amir honours Polish envoy



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at his Amiri Diwan office yesterday with ambassador of the Republic of Poland Janusz Janke, who called on the Amir to greet him on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the country. His Highness the Amir granted Al Wajbah Decoration to the ambassador in recognition of his role in contributing to the enhancement of relations between Qatar and Poland, wishing him success in his future missions, and the relations between the two countries further development and progress. Ambassador Janke expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir and to the state officials for the co-operation he received that contributed to the success of his work in the country. **(QNA)**

## PM, US official discuss ties, Gaza

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from Chairperson of US House Foreign Affairs Committee, Michael McCaul. They discussed the strategic relations between the two friendly countries and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. The call also dealt with the key regional issues and ways to de-escalate and to support international efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region. **(QNA)**

## Biden blasts Israel for US citizen's death

President Joe Biden yesterday called the Israeli military's killing of an American activist in the West Bank "totally unacceptable" and said Israel must do more to make sure it never happens again. Israel has taken responsibility for the death of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, 26, and Biden said the US government expects continued access to the criminal investigation into the shooting.

## Allies lament Trump's debate performance

Some Republican officials, donors and advisers said Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate, had botched his debate with Democratic Vice-President Kamala Harris although Trump himself praised his performance. Harris, 59, controlled the debate from the start, getting under her rival's skin repeatedly and prompting a visibly angry Trump, 78, to deliver a series of falsehood-filled retorts.

## No breakthrough on strikes into Russia

The US and British foreign ministers met President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday on a visit interrupted by air raid warnings, unveiling new support but no breakthrough on the long-range strikes into Russia that are desperately wanted by Ukraine. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British foreign minister David Lammy, in Kyiv said they talked about Ukraine's war goals and what they could do to help.

## Qatar, Saudi to bolster ties in security field

Interior ministers hold talks; agreements signed

QNA  
Doha

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, held yesterday an official talks session with Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud.

The talks, held at His Excellency's the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) office, covered several topics of common interest, bilateral se-

curity co-operation relations and ways to boost them.

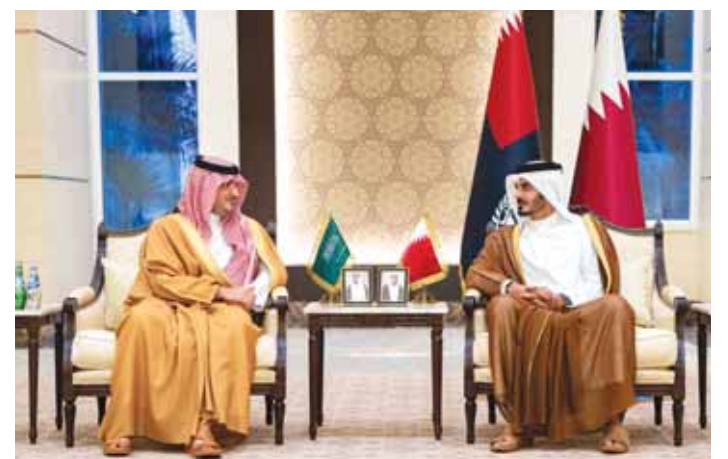
At the beginning of the session, HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Lekhwiya Force welcomed the Saudi minister of interior and his accompanying delegation, appreciating the keenness of the leadership in the two brotherly countries to work to strengthen bilateral relations in all areas, especially the security field.

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and the Saudi minister of interior attended the signing of a co-operation

agreement to exchange personal data and information for security purposes, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for scientific, training and research co-operation between the ministries of interior in the two countries.

The agreement and the MoU were signed by Undersecretary of the Qatari Ministry of Interior Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab al-Kaabi and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Dr Hisham bin Abdulrahman al-Falih on the Saudi side.

Earlier upon arrival at Doha International Airport's Amiri Terminal, the Saudi minister was welcomed by HE the Minister of



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, holding an official talks session with Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud in Doha yesterday.

Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud is accompanied by an official delegation.

Senior Ministry of Interior and

Lekhwiya officials were also present.

Also present were ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Doha Prince Mansour bin Khalid bin Abdullah al-Farhan al-Saud and ambassador of Qatar to Riyadh Bandar bin Mohammed al-Attiyah.

**Page 4**

## Israeli strike on Gaza UNRWA school kills 14

AFP  
Gaza Strip

An Israeli air strike yesterday hit a central Gaza school, with the territory's civil defence agency reporting 14 killed in the facility-turned-displacement shelter.

The vast majority of the Gaza Strip's 2.4mn people have been displaced at least once by the war, with many seeking safety in school buildings.

The Al-Jawni school in Nuseirat, already hit several times during the war, was struck again, civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said.

A medical source at Nuseirat's Al-Awda health centre in central Gaza said that 15 people killed in the strike had been brought to hospitals in the area.

AFP journalists saw several unconscious men and women brought to Al-Aqsa hospital on stretchers, and children arriving in the arms of medics.

The media office of Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said about 5,000 displaced people were sheltering at the school when it was hit yesterday.



Palestinians inspect a school sheltering displaced people, after it was hit by an Israeli strike, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

The school used to be run by the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

Israel's military offensive since the war began on October 7 has

killed at least 41,084 people in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.

Israel's military meanwhile reported the deaths of two soldiers and another eight soldiers injured when an army helicopter crashed in the area of Gaza's southern city of Rafah.

## 8 killed in West Bank

Israeli strikes yesterday killed eight Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry and Red Crescent said separately, with the Israeli military confirming air raids in two locations.

In Tubas, a witness said that Israeli forces were "storming the city" and the nearby town of Tamun.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said five people were killed "as a result of Israeli air strikes" in Tubas.

At the end of August, Israel launched a large-scale offensive that left widespread destruction across the northern West Bank, including in the Tubas area.

An Israeli air strike last week in Tubas also killed five people, Palestinian medics said at the time.

Later yesterday, the Palestinian health ministry reported three killed near Tulkarem city "as a result of an Israeli air strike on a vehicle".

Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967 and has ramped up deadly raids in the territory since October 7.

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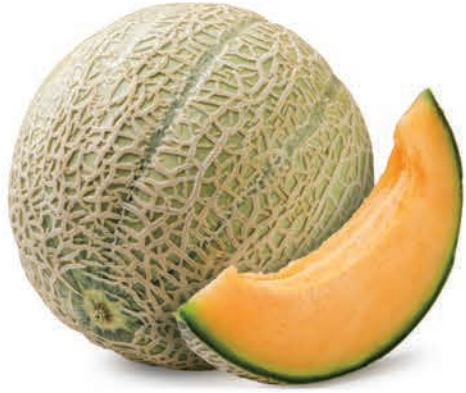
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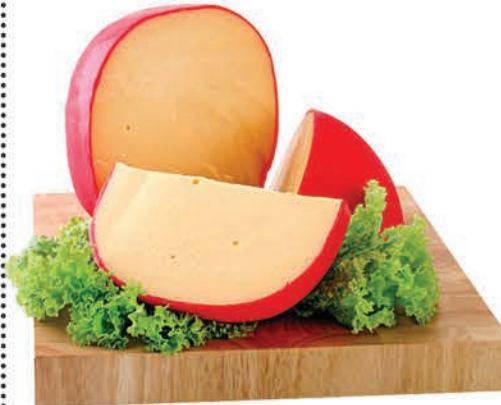
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## Amir receives credentials of new ambassadors



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received yesterday at his Amiri Diwan office the credentials of new ambassadors to Qatar: Gonzalo Voto Bernales Gatica of Peru, Andreas Nicolaides (Cyprus), Patricio Diaz Bruton (Chile) and Maria Belovas (Estonia). (QNA)

# Cabinet hails outcome of Amir's European tour

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

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi issued the following statement: At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet applauded the outcome of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's European tour from Sept 2 to 5, which included official visits to Sweden, Norway and Finland.

The Cabinet emphasised that the fruitful talks the Amir held with leaders and senior officials of the three friendly countries, and the memorandums of understanding signed during the tour, affirmed the keenness on elevating the existing friendship ties between Qatar and three countries, and opened up promising prospects for developing the relations and expanding investment partnerships, as well as promoting mutual understanding on various regional and international issues, thus establishing a new and advanced phase for bi-

lateral co-operation across various fields.

The Cabinet then considered the topics listed on its agenda.

First, the Cabinet approved the following draft laws, and decided to refer them to the Shura Council.

1- Draft law amending some provisions of Law No 20 of 2018 regulating tourism.

2- Draft law amending some provisions of Law No 21 of 2018 regulating business events.

The two draft laws aim to enable Qatar Tourism to implement the new tourism strategy.

Second, the Cabinet approved a draft law on extending the concession granted to the Qatar Ports Management Company.

Third, the Cabinet approved a draft Amiri Decision amending some provisions of Decision No 15 of 2021 establishing Qatar Tourism.

The draft decision aims to strengthen the functions of Qatar Tourism to support and develop the tourism sector, and invest in the tourism sector in partnership with the private sector.

Fourth, the Cabinet approved a draft decision of the Minister of Labour regarding the regulation

of the conditions and procedures for licensing the recruitment of workers from abroad on behalf of others.

Fifth, the Cabinet reviewed the proposal put forward by the Shura Council regarding the disadvantages of the use of technology by young people, and the views of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in this regard, and took the appropriate decision thereon.

Sixth, the Cabinet took the necessary measures to ratify a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in public prosecution between the Public Prosecution in Qatar and the Office of the Attorney General in El Salvador.

Seventh, the Cabinet approved: 1- Draft MoU on co-operation in crime prevention between the General Department of Public Security at the Ministry of Interior of Qatar and the Las Vegas Police Department in the US.

2- Draft MoU on conducting political consultations on issues of common interest between the ministries of foreign affairs of Qatar and Haiti.

3- Draft MoU between the Ministry of Communications and

Information Technology of Qatar and the UN Development Programme.

Eighth, the Cabinet reviewed the following topics and took appropriate decisions thereon: 1- The 9th annual report on the results of the work of the National Explosives Affairs Committee during the period from 1/1 to 31/12/2023.

2- Two reports on the results of the work of the Artificial Intelligence Committee.

3- Report on the results of the visit of Qatar's delegation headed by HE the Minister of Transport to China, to discuss aspects of co-operation in transport, communications and infrastructure.

4- Report on the results of the participation of Qatar's delegation headed by HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry in the 7th session of the Qatar-Iraq Joint Committee for Economic, Trade and Technical Co-operation.

5- Report on the results of the participation of Qatar's delegation headed by HE the Minister of Municipality in the 38th session of the General Assembly of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development. (QNA)

## Amir sends condolences to Kuwaiti Amir

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshaal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah on the death of Sheikh Bader Nasser al-Humoud al-Jaber al-Sabah. (QNA)

## Saudi interior minister arrives



Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud arrived in Doha on an official visit. HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani welcomed him upon arrival at Doha International Airport's Amiri Terminal, along with his accompanying delegation. Senior Ministry of Interior and Lekhwiya officials were also present. (QNA)

## Attorney General meets US official



HE the Attorney-General Dr Issa bin Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi met yesterday with Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing of the US Anna Morris. The meeting discussed several topics of mutual interest, in addition to ways to enhance co-operation between Qatar and the US in combating terrorist financing and money laundering. (QNA)

## QRDI, MATAR to enhance passenger experience

THE Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council in collaboration with MATAR, the Qatar Company for Airports Operation and Management, has announced a new open innovation opportunity as part of its flagship programme, Qatar Open Innovation (QOI).

The opportunity is focused on technologies that provide an interactive digital signpost that can be integrated with MATAR's AI Smart technology, creating a seamless and enhanced experience for passengers that will meet wayfinding expectations of the future.

The deadline for proposal submissions is October 2, 2024.

Through this opportunity, QRDI Council and MATAR are seeking solutions that will complement the existing way of finding solutions and integrate with MATAR's AI Smart technology which harnesses the potential of Generative AI, to surpass customer service expectations by delivering an innovative, useful, and enjoyable customer experience.

Proposals from startups, SMEs, and corporates will be evaluated based on practicality, creativity and potential impact on airport operations and passenger experience.

Marking the occasion, Enterprise Innovation Programme Director at QRDI Council Oscar

Barranco Liebana said: "At QRDI council, we aim to foster innovation across the country by connecting the local strategic entities with the pool of innovators and technical experts, while also leveraging the latest technologies in the market. This not only drives increased ROI, but also aligns with our commitment to achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030. This opportunity is a prime example of that mission."

For his part, Senior Vice-President of Technology and Innovation at MATAR Suhail Kadri said: "Part of our digital transformation strategy, is our mission to evaluate, research and introduce cutting-edge solu-

tions that will enhance passengers' airport journey, including navigating through our expansive airport. Customer demand is constantly evolving and through our partnership with QRDI, we can access a pool of solutions and global talent that accelerates our plans to redefine the benchmarks of airport excellence and customer experience."

The Qatar Open Innovation programme has been the primary platform for startups and innovators to engage with potential government and corporate buyers to co-create market-ready solutions that address the nation's most pressing challenges in the five national priority areas. (QNA)



## QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/OFS/6543/24 Provision of Underwater Inspection and Geophysical Survey on Call Off Basis	12/09/2024 to 19/09/2024	0	2,430,000	14/10/2024

### Scope of Work:

The objective of this tender is to establish long term Contract(s) on call off basis for (i) Inshore pipeline & submarine cable survey, (ii) Offshore pipeline and submarine cable surveys, (iii) Offshore jacket structure surveys (iv) Air and saturation diving activities (v) Minor rectification works and (vi) Marine surveys and ROV services for drilling and environmental support. The duration of the awarded Contract (s) shall be five (05) years tentatively from 18 Jul 2025 with a sole option for Company to extend it further for up to two (02) years.

**Bid Validity:** Bid should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

### Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

**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 has 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/en-US/>

## Qatar, Yemen sign MoU for legal ties



The Ministry of Justice yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in the judicial and legal fields with Yemen's Ministry of Justice. The MoU was signed by HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi and Yemeni Minister of Education Dr Tariq Salem al-Akbari on behalf of the Yemeni Minister of Justice. The MoU aims to enhance co-operation in judicial and legal affairs and training, exchange of expertise and information, and organising scientific meetings and seminars related to judicial and legal affairs.

The MoU also enhances co-operation between the two ministries in exchanging various judicial and legal experiences and expertise, in the field of documentation, and exchanging expertise and best practices in legal professions and various judicial procedures and services. (QNA)

## The Transport Company MOWASALAT (KARWA)

### Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-034-HR-2024	Provision of Travel Agency Services	QAR 2,000	12 to 18 September 2024	QAR 100,000	10 October 2024

### CONDITIONS:

- Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:
- Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: [tenders@mowasalat.com](mailto:tenders@mowasalat.com)

Beneficiary Name	MOWASALAT-KARWA COMPANY
A/C No.	0013 - 011272 - 060
IBAN	QA07 QNBA 0000 0000 0013 0112 7206 0
Swift Code No.	QNBAGAGA
Branch Address	Corporate Branch, P.O Box 1000, Doha - Qatar
Currency	QAR
CR No.	26887

- Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested (i.e., 19 September 2024)
- Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents. **Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.**
- Tender validity:** Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.
- Tender documents submission:** Bids must be submitted in 3 separate sealed (IN RED WAX) envelopes addressed to **Secretary - Tender Committee** clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
  - Envelope 1# must include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB)
  - Envelope 2# must include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied in a USB)
  - Envelope 3# must include the Tender Bond (1 Original)
- Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is 12.00 noon Doha Local Time as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Tel.: 4458 8724 Fax: 4458 8850



# Qatar hosts screening of *The Evidence* on Israeli crimes against Palestinians

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir attended the screening organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Qatar Museums (QM) of the documentary film *The Evidence* that documents the war crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian population at the National Museum of Qatar yesterday, and a discussion panel with the makers of the film produced by the 'Anadolu' Agency, amidst a large attendance.

Ibrahim bin Sultan al-Hashmi, director of the Media and Communication Department at the MoFA, said in the opening speech that the justice of the Palestinian cause is beyond reproach and has no gray areas.

Stressing that "either we are on the side of the truth or we are not, and the truth does not harm it if people hide from it, but a person loses part of his humanity and his message on this earth if he hides from the truth."

Al-Hashmi stressed Qatar's firm position in support of the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mohamed Abdel-Aleem, CEO of the International Organisation for Humanitarian Assistance and Development, and Abdel-Qader Karakel, the film's director, participated in the discussion panel on the film, moderated by Sami Hermez, Head of the Liberal Arts Programme and Associate Professor in Residence of Anthropology at Northwestern University in Qatar.

On the sidelines of the screening of the film, Abdel-Qader Karakel, the director and executive producer of *The Evidence* told *Gulf Times* that: "In this documentary



HE Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir, Turkish ambassador and dignitaries.



Ibrahim bin Sultan al-Hashmi



Mohamed Abdel-Aleem



Abdel-Qader Karakel, the director of *The Evidence*.

film we showcase the violations of humanitarian law committed by Israel in Gaza. This has been going on for more than seven decades, this is just one brick in the wall, one documentary is not enough, but we have to change peoples' mindset and politicians' mindset to help the Palestinians get their rights.

"We focused on the use of white phosphorous by Israel in the film because it undeniable, as Israeli politicians and military officials always deny that they bomb civilian areas, but when it comes to white phosphorous, they cannot deny it because it has been reported by the media."

Mohamed Abdel-Aleem, CEO of the International Organisation for Humanitarian Assistance and Development, who signed an agreement with the 'Anadolu' Agency, to distribute the film in the US, told *Gulf Times* that: "We are distributing the film in the US and we are going to show it around the world also. This film is an objective documentation of

war crimes committed by Israel against the people of Gaza. We want to bring people closer to the truth by grassroots work through universities, and organisations in the US, so that people can understand the reality of the situation in Gaza. Now, the truth is not being told and information is lacking, and distorted. We want to make sure that people receive the correct information from our own perspective, where we see the truth also. So, that is our objective in promoting this film in a new way and to the new generation.

"We are creating experiential events around this film also, people will see in an App if someone is exposed to white phosphorous what they will look like. Or if a child has been malnourished for three to four months plus, what his face would look like. We will try our best to make sure that the film is widely available to everyone. We are one of the oldest Islamic websites, it is available at <https://www.Islam.org> or <https://www.islamicity.org/>"

## LuLu Hypermarket's Mega Special Offer launched

Customers can save 25% & 50% on many products



LuLu Hypermarket, Qatar's leading retail destination, has announced its first-ever Mega Special Offer, giving customers a fantastic opportunity to save 25% and 50% on a vast selection of products.

Running until September 18, the promotion allows shoppers to take advantage of unbeatable discounts on daily essentials, electronics, fashion, and more.

Shoppers can expect amazing deals on everything from groceries and fresh foods to bakery products and other household staples. Electronics enthusiasts will have huge discounts on gadgets, televisions and home appliances, while fashion lovers can enjoy up

to 50% off on branded clothing, accessories, footwear, sportswear and bags. As families return from their summer holidays, LuLu Hypermarket has carefully curated a selection of offers across all categories. The Tech Deals feature prominently, offering the latest smartphones, laptops, and other gadgets, available both in-store and online.

With over 5,000 items at 25% off and more than 1,500 items at 50% off, the promotion covers a wide variety of products cat-

tering to diverse communities, including Arabic, Filipino, European and Indian favourites.

In addition, LuLu is celebrating the 'LuLu Awesome Onam Festival', where shoppers can find special discounts on Onam-themed fresh foods, groceries and festive attire for all ages, ensuring a joyful celebration for the Malayali community in Qatar.

This Mega Special Offer is the biggest promotion of the year, making it the perfect time to stock up and save.

## Ooredoo Qatar is 'Official Telecom Partner' of ConteQ Expo 2024

Ooredoo is the 'Official Telecom Partner' of ConteQ Expo 2024, which will be hosted by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI), Ministry of Labour (MoL) and Public Works Authority (Ashghal) at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) from September 16 to 18.

ConteQ Expo 2024 will spotlight the latest advancements in the construction and services industries, featuring over 60 industry experts who will address key topics, such as automated construction, autonomous vehicles, data sovereignty, and risk management. This innovative event is expected to draw a distinguished audience of investors, scholars, NGOs, and government officials, providing a platform to explore the transformative power of technology in enhancing productivity, delivery, quality, and regulatory compliance.

Ooredoo Qatar director of PR, Partnership and CSR Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari said: "We are proud to be the Official Telecom Partner of this year's ConteQ Expo 2024, a significant event that brings together industry leaders to showcase Qatar's achievements in these vital sectors. The focus on sustainable growth, cutting-edge solutions, and digital transformation aligns perfectly with Ooredoo's mission to drive a digitally empowered future for Qatar."

Ooredoo Business will have a significant presence at ConteQ Expo 2024 with a prominent booth showcasing a comprehensive range of innovative products and services across three key focus areas:



smart solutions, enterprise connectivity, and digital technologies. The booth will feature advanced IoT applications, including fleet management, smart lighting, and waste management, all designed to enhance operational efficiency.

Visitors can explore cutting-edge collaboration tools like Cloud Phone and IdeaHub, as well as state-of-the-art mobile technologies, such as Tetra, Push To Talk, and 5G Connectivity. Also on display will be robust fixed solutions like 5G Fixed Wireless Access, and Multi-Cloud Local Connect, alongside comprehensive cloud & security offerings, including DDoS protection and Security Operations Centre, tailored to meet the ever-evolving demands of modern enterprises.

The partnership further strengthens Ooredoo Qatar's track record of promoting innovation and accelerating digital transformation in Qatar, building on initiatives, such as its recognition by Qatar Development Bank (QDB) as a key institutional investor.

# Bridging Distances and Connecting the Future: The Global Impact of GWM at the 2024 Chengdu Motor Show

In today's rapidly changing global automotive industry, Chinese car brands are emerging with remarkable speed and strength, becoming an influential force in the global market that cannot be ignored. On August 31st, at the Chengdu Motor Show, Great Wall Motor (GWM), representing China's independent automotive brands, showcased its theme "Intelligent GWM, Off-Road GWM, Global GWM." The event featured six of its major brands—HAVAL, WEY, TANK, ORA, POER, and GWM SOU—coming together at the 2024 Chengdu Motor Show. Over 20 flagship models were displayed, highlighting GWM's unparalleled product strength, intelligent technology, and off-road capabilities, while also demonstrating its remarkable achievements in global expansion. Nearly a hundred international guests from regions including the Middle East, ASEAN, Australia, South Africa, and South America attended the event, experiencing GWM's robust ecosystem and witnessing its rapid growth in the global market.

### Joint Press Conferences Highlight GWM's Global Expansion

On the opening day of the Chengdu Motor Show, GWM hosted two joint press conferences to comprehensively showcase GWM's global market strategy and strengths: one featuring the GWM Group, TANK, and WEY brands, and another showcasing HAVAL and GWM Pickup. These press conferences not only unveiled GWM's latest products and technologies but also underscored the brand's solid progress and ambitious vision in its journey toward global expansion.

During the press conference for the GWM Group, TANK, and WEY brands, GWM showcased several standout models, including the TANK 300, TANK 500, and the all-new WEY 07,



capturing the attention of numerous media representatives and attendees.

At the joint press conference for HAVAL and GWM POER, GWM showcased its extensive experience and diverse offerings in both the consumer and commercial markets. Models like the HAVAL H6 and HAVAL DARGO have become favorites among family users, thanks to their exceptional safety features and comfortable driving experience. HAVAL has successfully broken traditional boundaries by creating the new "Family Off-Road" category with the launch of the second-generation HAVAL H9.

In recent years, GWM has adhered to its dual-drive strategy of "Intelligent GWM" and "Off-Road GWM," continually driving technological innovation and product upgrades to earn the trust of users worldwide.

### GWM's Global User Strategy: A Balanced Focus on Products and Services

GWM's "GO WITH MORE" brand philosophy is not only reflected in its pursuit of superior products and technology but also in its commitment to deeply rooting itself in local markets, respecting local cultures, and forging strong connections with users. In recent years, GWM has actively expanded its presence in international markets, earning the trust of global customers through outstanding product quality and locally tailored market strategies.

The media, users, and key opinion leaders (KOLs) have showered GWM with praise and positive feedback. Through the collection and sharing of user stories, GWM has showcased the deep emotional connections that users from diverse countries and cultural backgrounds have with the brand.

GWM further strengthens its emotional connection with users through various interactive activities, such as encouraging them to participate in different stages of product development, design, and promotion. This co-creation model

not only enhances the market competitiveness of its products but also boosts users' brand recognition and loyalty. At the motor show, GWM set up a user experience zone where attendees could personally experience the latest intelligent technologies and new energy products.

### Fusion of Chinese Culture and Brand: An Immersive Hotpot Experience

At this year's Chengdu Motor Show, GWM hosted a unique hotpot feast, blending Chinese culture deeply with the brand. For the international users and media representatives, this hotpot banquet was undoubtedly an unforgettable cultural experience.

As the global automotive market continues to evolve and develop, GWM will remain committed to its "Craftsmanship in Car Manufacturing" philosophy. Guided by its dual-engine strategy of "Intelligent GWM" and "Off-Road GWM," the company will continue to drive technological innovation and product upgrades, delivering superior products and services to customers worldwide. Looking ahead, GWM will further deepen its user co-creation model, working hand in hand with global users to explore the endless possibilities of future mobility.

Mr. Mohammed Yousaf, Deputy General Manager of Teyseer Motors, the authorized dealer for GWM in Qatar, remarked that the GWM brand has seen an exceptional response since its launch in Qatar. Off-road vehicles like the Tank 300 have been particularly popular among adventure enthusiasts. The Tank 500, representing the pinnacle of luxury, is favored by customers with a refined taste. Additionally, the Haval range of cars from GWM has quickly become the preferred choice for families. He also mentioned that Teyseer Motors has ensured a robust service backup & availability of spare parts to ensure highest levels of customer satisfaction.

The GWM showroom in Qatar is located at Airport Road.





# Fun, adventure and deals for S'hail 2024 exhibition visitors

By Ayman Adly  
Staff Reporter

The 8th edition of Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition (S'hail 2024) continues to draw visitors including tourists to the country to explore its various sections that address hunting and falconry games and their tools and equipment.

The exhibition yesterday welcomed a visit from HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, alongside a number of high-ranking officials, dignitaries, and ambassadors.

Among the main participants is the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), which offers a number of e-services related to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) permit.

These include CITES Application Permit, Permit Pass Document for a falcon, Export or Import Application for wildlife.

Besides, MoECC has launched its e-portal for the Wildlife Development Department services, which gives users easy access to process all transactions related to the export and import of wildlife, in addition to the related services without the need to go to the headquarters of



MoECC to issue or handle such documents.

One of the main highlights of the exhibition is the daily auction on a number of falcons.

On the first day the highest price paid for a young wild Mongolian falcon was QR120,000. The highest price for a mature wild Mongolian falcon was QR180,000. Both falcons were sold through an open bidding to the highest bidder.

The exhibition has also become a hot destination for artists and sculptors, in addition to the antique businesses that handle works related to falconry and wild hunting with displays from different world countries. Painters from Qatar paint various scenes and images related to the topic for visitors. Artists and arts dealers see the exhibition as an excellent opportunity to broaden their network and gain more audience and clients.



There are also a number of small businesses from Qatar, the GCC region and other nations displaying their own unique traditional formulas for falcons' drugs and nutrients, in addition to products related to the care and maintenance of falcons.

There are quiet a large number of pavilions that market and sell various innovative products to be used in falcon and hunting training starting from simple tools to the most advanced technical solutions.

Mohamed bin Abdul Latif al-Misnad, vice-president of the Supreme Organising Committee, stressed that "S'hail supports the local economy through attracting different local and international businesses, creating new job opportunities and boosting commercial activity in Qatar. It offers a platform for local traders to display their products, enhancing the visibility of Qatari goods and fostering international partnerships."

As part of the activities that encourage children to such traditional games, the second day of the exhibition saw 10 winners at a draw for children aged 10 to 16 years old, offering them a chance to win falcons. To enter the draw, participants need an exhibition ticket and must be present during the draw. The draws are held on the second, third, and fourth days of the event at 8pm.

The exhibition is considered an amazing destination for nature and wildlife lovers, where a number of natural reserves have some unique pavilions with displays of their wild animals and fauna.

In addition, camping and adventure enthusiasts can explore a wide selection of the necessary tools, gear and equipment there, in addition to good number of top off-road vehicles and the related accessories.

## Qatar chairs meeting of GCC Directors General of Criminal Investigation



Qatar yesterday chaired the 40th meeting of the Directors General of Criminal Investigations of the GCC countries. The conference, according to a post by the Ministry of Interior (Moi), was held via video conference. Brig Mohammed Ibrahim al-Jufairi, Director General of Criminal Investigation, presided over the meeting. The Moi delegation was represented by Brig Ibrahim Abdullah al-Binali, Director of the Forensic Laboratory Department, along with several officers. The meeting discussed agenda items aimed at enhancing security co-operation and combating crime across the GCC states.

## Lincoln Nautilus models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, Qatar's Lincoln dealership, has announced the recall of Lincoln Nautilus, 2020-2023 models, as mobile phones may produce electromagnetic interference if placed in the control unit area (car console) near the accessory software module, which may affect the rear-view camera and result in a blurred image or a flashing rear view while reversing the vehicle in affected vehicles. The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The ministry said that it

will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The ministry 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 centre: 1600; E-mail: info@moci.gov.qa; the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's account across all social media channels @mociqatar and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's mobile application available on iPhone and Android devices.

## Closure of tunnel at Al Rayyan Palace Interchange



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a temporary northbound closure of the tunnel on Al Rayyan Palace Interchange at Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor to traffic coming from HIA towards Al Gharrafa from 2am to 7am on September 13 and 14. The closure, that will be implemented in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, has been announced in order to enable maintenance works. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and has requested all to follow them and abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.

## Closure at Ras Abu Aboud Expressway

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced a temporary closure in one direction on the Ras Abu Aboud Expressway from Corniche towards G Ring Road near Air Cargo Intersection from 12 midnight on September 12 until 11pm on September 14. The closure, that will be implemented in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, has been announced to carry out road maintenance works. Road users can use adjacent alternative roads to reach their destinations. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and requested all to follow them and abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.



## HBKU, Geneva Graduate Institute launch executive programmes

Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) College of Public Policy (CPP) and the Geneva Graduate Institute kicked off the 2024-2025 edition of the Executive Programmes in Development Policies and Practices (DPP) for the Middle-East North Africa region and its thematic branch focused on Conflict and Fragility Management (DPP-CFM).

Florence Tinguely Mattli, ambassador of Switzerland and other distinguished guests attended the opening ceremony at Minaretein, which marked the start of the DPP-MENA and DPP-CFM programmes in Doha.

Dr Leslie Pal, dean, CPP, and Dr Alexandre Dormeire Freire, programme director, Geneva Graduate Institute, gave key-

note speeches to welcome the programme's participants, all of whom are established development professionals looking to become leaders in their field.

"Our successful partnership with the Geneva Graduate Institute is built on a mutual dedication to fostering the advancement of development across the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond. By leveraging our combined expertise, we have designed comprehensive curricula that give participants the opportunity to learn from esteemed experts, expand upon their capabilities and aid the livelihood of communities in need," said Dr Pal.

The DPP-MENA and DPP-CFM programmes are separated into three modules and run for a total of six months. Both pro-



grammes' first modules of the 2024-2025 academic year took place in Minaretein, after which

the participants will undertake a second module held entirely online.

The final module, held in Geneva, Switzerland, will convene participants from both pro-

grammes, as well as the cohorts from the five other international hubs (Bangkok, Bishkek, Accra, Ouagadougou and Lima), giving them the opportunity to reflect on their learnings and exchange with others as they complete their coursework together.

To design the curricula for both programmes, CPP and the Institute selected contemporary case studies that highlighted prominent regional and global development challenges in order to test participants' strategic analysis and leadership skills. By the end of their chosen programme, each participant is required to develop a professional thesis tied to their field of work and demonstrate how it addresses their current organisations' needs.

# Visit Qatar hosts event for brand ambassador Barshim

Visit Qatar hosted an honorary event yesterday for its brand ambassador, Mutaz Barshim, for his achievements at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

The special event was attended by Qatar Tourism chairman and Visit Qatar's Board of Directors chair HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, and Visit Qatar CEO Eng Abdulaziz Ali al-Mawlawi.

Barshim secured the first medal for Qatar at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 by winning the bronze medal in Men's High Jump.

As a brand ambassador, he has been featured in several key campaigns, including Shop Qatar and Visit Qatar's stopover campaign.



During the honorary event, Visit Qatar and world champion Mutaz Barshim signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), extending their partnership for another year.

The MoU outlines Barshim's collaboration with Visit Qatar as a brand ambassador, including appearances at Visit Qatar events, collaborations on social media,

and ongoing efforts to promote Qatar worldwide.

In a press statement, al-Mawlawi said: "Mutaz Barshim is the most decorated Qatari athlete in Olympic history. His exceptional athletic achievements reflect Qatar's growing aspirations on the global stage. We are honoured to have Barshim as a brand ambassador for Visit Qatar, as he represents Qatar's boundless potential!"

Qatar has rapidly emerged as a global sports hub over the past few decades. Visit Qatar aims to leverage Qatar's sporting legacy to increase collaborations and attract investment across the sports tourism market.



Visit Qatar held an honorary event for Olympic medallist Mutaz Barshim, who is also its brand ambassador.

# Emerging designers showcase bespoke creations at Zwara exhibition

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

M7 unveiled an exhibition yesterday, showcasing the unique work of four emerging designers who took part in the fourth edition of the Zwara programme.

The exhibition, on display at M7's Learning Space until December 18, highlights the culmination of a 10-month mentorship journey that saw these designers push the boundaries of contemporary furniture design.

The opening was attended by dignitaries, including Qatar Museums CEO Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi, along with prominent figures from the creative industry, students, and aspiring designers.

In a press statement, M7 director Maha al-Sulaiti underlined the programme's commitment to nurturing local talent, saying: "Zwara highlights not only their process but also captures the collaborative spirit, creativity, and innovation that resulted from this programme. It's a testament to the incredible craftsmanship that characterises our local design community."

Curated by Jumanah Abbas, the exhibition features a collection of four distinct pieces, each embodying the individual styles and inspirations of the participating designers.

Stephen Amoyo, a multidisciplinary designer, presents "The Waiting Chair", a striking contemporary piece that blends the design philosophy of Virgil Abloh with the iconic works of Jean Prouvé.

Amoyo describes the chair as a fusion of Prouvé's silhouette and Abloh's creative ethos, encouraging further contributions from future designers and the wider community.

Abdul Basit, an interdisciplinary designer, unveils "WeaveO", a console that seamlessly blends traditional Sadu weaving techniques with the Dutch Art Movement. This piece reinterprets the history of Bedouin society, transforming geometric patterns and motifs into a modern form. Basit underscores the



Abdul Basit



Hammam al-Abdulla



Galyiah al-Mohannadi



Stephen Amoyo

adaptability of the design, weaving historical influences into a contemporary narrative.

Nusj by Hammam al-Abdulla, an interior designer, draws inspiration from Marcel Breuer's iconic Wassily Chair for his piece "Nusj".

The chair, named after the Arabic word for "weave", redefines the classic design with asymmetrical lines that wrap around a reimaged structure, reflecting both personal and communal use.

Saraab by Galyiah al-Mohannadi, an interior and furniture designer, presents an experimental bookcase that invites interaction with its rotating structure.

Inspired by Charlotte Perriand's "Bibliothèque," al-Mohannadi reinterprets the design with locally sourced polychromatic glass, creating distinct modular units for flexible configurations.

The Zwara Programme, tailored and facilitated by M7, provides a

platform for emerging designers to hone their skills under the guidance of industry leaders. This year's programme saw participants engage in a week-long trip to the prestigious Vitra Design Museum in Germany, offering invaluable insights and inspiration.

Apart from the individual pieces, M7 noted that the exhibition offers a comprehensive exploration of the designers' creative processes. Visitors have the opportunity to explore research notes, sketches, material samples, and final products, gaining a deeper understanding of the journey from concept to creation.

A special highlight of the exhibition is the student-led "Miniatures" display where aspiring interior designers from Virginia Commonwealth University Arts in Qatar crafted visionary furniture designs, pushing the boundaries of materials, trends, and manufacturing.

# Malabar Group's 'Hunger Free World' project wins CSR Times Award 2024

Malabar Group has been honoured with the prestigious CSR Times Award 2024 for its transformative 'Hunger Free World' project.

The CSR Times Award is a national recognition in India given to corporate organisations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to social responsibility with a focus on the welfare of the people.

The award ceremony, organised in collaboration with the government of Goa, India featured Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant as the chief guest.



Malabar Group official receiving the award.

Fanzeem, head of retail expansion & regional head - West India, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Shabeer PK, head of CSR and Milind Umate, business head - Corporate Gifting, accepted the award on behalf of Malabar Group.

The event also saw the participation of distinguished guests, including Air Marshal VPS Rana, Delhi CSR Times editor, Harish Chandra, Goa CSR Authority Joint CEO, Vijay Saxena, and Goa CSR Authority principal adviser, Dr MB Gururaj, among others.

Malabar Group's 'Hunger Free World' project is the cornerstone

of its CSR activities, aimed at combating hunger by providing nutritious meals to those in need.

Currently, the project distributes 41,000 food packets daily across 69 cities in 16 Indian states. In addition, 10,000 food packets are distributed daily to school students in Zambia, Africa.

In Zambia, Malabar Group's efforts are particularly impactful, with 10,000 food packets being delivered daily to students, including those at John Laing Primary School in the capital city of Lusaka.

The group has committed to distributing 3.6mn free food packets to children in Zambian schools.

"We are deeply committed to addressing hunger and poverty through our 'Hunger Free World' initiative," said M P Ahammed, chairman of Malabar Group. "This award is a testament to our continuous efforts to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. We believe that true success is not just in business growth, but in contributing to the well-being of the communities we serve."

# QC performs heart surgeries and kidney transplants in Yemen

This week, Qatar Charity carried out catheter-based repairs for congenital heart defects in children, open-heart surgeries, and kidney transplants for needy patients in Yemen.

This comes as part of Qatar Charity's global health interventions.

The efforts were carried out in partnership with the Humanitarian Development Programme and the Cardiovascular Centre in the Taiz City.

A dedicated team of volunteer doctors, both local and international, performed 54 surgeries, with plans to continue more kidney and open-heart surgeries in the coming period.

The first transplant was performed on 62-year-old Qasim al-Banna. Over the next two months, the project aims to assist 30 patients.

Under its 'Compassionate Hearts' initiative, Qatar Charity, in collaboration with its partners, successfully performed 41 catheter-based procedures to repair congenital heart defects in children and young adults, surpassing the target of 30 by 11 surgeries.

In a related effort this week, 12 open-heart surgeries were performed, continuing the first phase of a project that began last Ramadan.

To date, 29 surgeries have been completed, with plans to conduct the remaining procedures over the next three weeks, aiming to reach a total of 70 open-heart surgeries by the project's end.

Prof Abudhar Alganadi, director of the Cardiovascular and Kidney Transplant Centre in the Taiz city, em-



Qatar Charity carried out catheter-based repairs for congenital heart defects in children in Yemen.

phasised the significance of this medical initiative for heart and kidney patients, calling it a vital opportunity and a first in the Taiz Governorate.

He highlighted its role in saving lives and alleviating suffering, especially amid Yemen's ongoing humanitarian crisis.

He thanked Qatar Charity and the donors of Qatar for their support and urged for the expansion of such efforts into sustainable projects.

# Grace period to regularise driving licences extended

The General Directorate of Traffic has extended the grace period for companies and institutions to regularise their status regarding public driving licences for taxi, limousine, bus and public transport vehicle drivers.

The announcement came from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) yesterday. According to a post by MoI on X, the extension started yesterday and will last for 90 days.

On September 1, the General Directorate of Traffic announced the extension of a 50% discount on the fine for traffic violations for all vehicles, including those of citizens, residents and visitors, in addition to citizens and residents of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries. The extension is effective from September 1 until November 30, 2024. The discount applies to violations recorded over a period not exceeding three years.



# UDST hosts sustainability-themed 'Clubs Festival'

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) held its "Clubs Festival," an interactive event designed to showcase the university's vibrant student life, providing students with an engaging platform to explore their passions, discover new hobbies, and become more involved in the enriching campus community.

The festival celebrated the diverse talents and passions of students while reinforcing the university's commitment to holistic development. Through the promotion of active participation in extracurricular activities,

UDST has established a dynamic campus environment that nurtures both personal and academic growth, setting students up for future success.

This year's festival took on a vibrant new theme sustainability. In a spectacular display of creativity and commitment to environmental stewardship, students were encouraged to design their club booths using recycled materials, a challenge they embraced with enthusiasm and innovation.

Aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Qatar Vision 2030, the festival served as a dynamic platform



for students to demonstrate how small actions can lead to substantial impacts.

The theme not only showcased the clubs' ingenuity but also highlighted the university's dedication to fostering a culture of sustainability across campus.

With over 32 clubs on display, each club presented an engaging booth, highlighting the diverse activities they offered, from photography and art to anime and filmmaking.

The "Clubs Festival" significantly contributed to developing a supportive and inclusive campus culture at UDST by creating opportunities for expression and

community building.

A standout aspect and cornerstone of the festival is its "by students, for students" approach, a concept promoted by the Student Engagement Department. It empowers students to take charge of managing their club booths, allowing them to display their leadership skills and inventive ideas.

On another note, UDST has also opened the Student Clubs Hub, a dedicated space for students to continuously showcase their talents, collaborate on projects, and engage with the university's vibrant community beyond the festival. (QNA)

# Studio 18 showcases urban development to QU students

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

The Studio 18 at the Urban Planning Sector headquarters recently hosted students from the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning at the College of Engineering of Qatar University (QU).

The visit was organised as part of the 'Knowledge Road Initiative' by Studio 18. The students, during the visit, toured Studio 18 while exploring the history and future of urban development in Qatar.

Assistant Undersecretary for Planning Affairs Office Jassim Salem al-Ansari interacted with the students.

Al-Ansari, who explained the 'Knowledge Road Initiative' by Studio 18, said the initiative assumes much significance as it connects communities and enables information sharing for the betterment of the society.

He added that the initiative is aimed at promoting co-op-



Training and Research Consultant – Head of Studio 18 Prof Dr Ali Abd al-Raouf during an interactive session with QU students at Studio 18.

eration in development sector and transmitting the good practices to the younger generations. He also explained the idea of Al Andalus Road which revives the legacy of Andalusia by implementing various initiatives in Spain and the Arab-Muslim world.

"The students came here to explore the reality of the architecture and urban planning

and designing. The visit lent them insights about the historical background of the population, the current scenario of urban planning and the future projects," said Assistant Professor at QU's College of Engineering Dr Sultana al-Nabit. She added that the co-operation between QU and Studio 18 will continue.

Training and Research Consultant – Head of Studio 18 Prof Dr Ali Abd al-Raouf explained the features of Studio 18 to the participants. He led the tour and spoke about the historical development, demographics and future urban projects in Qatar while shedding light on the contemporary architecture and trends in the Arab world and preservation and conservation practices in Qatar. He said Studio 18 is a place for creativity and inspiration and it acts as a source of information for experts, researchers, urban planners and students.



# Philippine embassy unveils exhibit on 'Marine Protected Areas'

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Qatar recently held an exhibit on marine protected areas on the sidelines of the '2nd Philippine Choral Festival' at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

Titled 'Marine Protected Areas: A Gallery', the exhibit featured some of the maritime and archipelagic features in the Philippines designated as protected areas.

Speaking during the event, Philippine ambassador Lilibeth V Pono said: "The sites in this exhibit include natural and national parks, marine reserves, as well as protected landscapes and seascapes – a gallery that displays the continuing efforts undertaken by the Philippines to protect its maritime and archipelagic heritage."

The exhibit was mounted as part of the Philippine embassy's observance of the Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo) throughout September. MANA Mo is a platform that synchronises the celebration of all maritime-related events and activities in a single month to achieve a sense of unity and pride among Filipinos in addressing the threats to the coastal and marine environment toward preserving the Philippine maritime heritage.

Part of the preservation of the country's maritime heritage is the designation of marine protected areas. This falls within the Philippine regula-



Titled 'Marine Protected Areas: A Gallery', the exhibit featured some of the maritime and archipelagic features in the Philippines designated as protected areas.

tory regime as outlined under Republic Act No 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by Republic Act No 11038, or the Expanded NIPAS (ENIPAS) Act.

The NIPAS Act, as amended, provides for the establishment and management of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas to protect and maintain the natural, biological, and physical diversities of the environment, notably in areas with biologically unique features to sustain human life

**"The sites in this exhibit include natural and national parks, marine reserves, as well as protected landscapes and seascapes – a gallery that displays the continuing efforts undertaken by the Philippines to protect its maritime and archipelagic heritage"**

and development, as well as plant and animal life.

For more information, visit [dohape.dfa.gov.ph](http://dohape.dfa.gov.ph), [facebook.com/PHinQatar](https://www.facebook.com/PHinQatar), or [instagram.com/phinqatar](https://www.instagram.com/phinqatar)



HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai and Engineer Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani, president of CRA, alongside the heads of delegations and participants.

# Key issues to be discussed at UPU Strategy Forum for Arab Region

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), in collaboration with the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) Regional Office for the Arab Region in Doha, hosted the two-day UPU Strategy Forum for the Arab Region under the patronage of HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai.

As the global postal landscape continues to evolve, the forum brings postal leaders and representatives from telecom regulatory authorities across the Arab region to strengthen regional co-operation and shape the future strategy for postal services.

Engineer Ahmad Abdulla Al-Muslemani, president of CRA, stated: "The proposed strategic framework for the Universal Postal Union's 2026-2029 cycle will play a crucial role in addressing the emerging trends and challenges facing the global postal community."

"This framework will provide an essential platform to explore key issues, including digital transformation, the integration of advanced technologies, and the

enhancement of sustainability in postal operations. As Arab nations, we have a unique opportunity to contribute to these global discussions, ensuring our priorities are acknowledged and our needs met within the Universal Postal Union."

He added: "Qatar has recently embarked on a transformative journey to advance the postal sector through the issuance of the Postal Services Regulation Law, which establishes the legal framework for the gradual liberalisation of the sector."

"CRA has developed a comprehensive Postal Sector Strategy, to be issued shortly, that aims to foster competition and innovation, aligning with Qatar National Vision 2030 and positioning the country as a regional leader in communications and postal services."

In line with this strategy, a series of public consultations have been initiated to review the Postal Licensing Framework, complemented by workshops for postal Service Providers aimed at fostering effective participation and ensuring transparency towards the

development of the sector.

The forum aims to present a new strategic framework for 2026-2029, focusing on enhancing global connectivity, promoting technological innovation, and emphasising co-operation among member states to develop postal services in line with global digital and economic transformations.

Throughout the event, participants will explore key topics such as global connectivity, the critical role of digital infrastructure, and the innovations transforming the postal industry.

An interactive session will delve into UPU technologies and their potential to address emerging market demands. The forum will culminate in a summary of the key outcomes and a roadmap outlining the future direction of postal strategies at both the regional and global levels. The UPU's Regional Office for the Arab Region, inaugurated in Doha last year, further strengthens Qatar's position as a central hub for regional postal co-operation and innovation, reinforcing the country's commitment to driving the growth and development of the Arab postal sector.

# Domasco organises GCC launch of GAC AION EV brand

Domasco GAC held the GCC launch of the GAC AION, the new energy vehicle company of GAC Group.

The official unveiling took place at the GAC Showroom in Doha, in the presence of GAC AION and Domasco senior management, and other guests. The introduction not only marks GAC AION's arrival in the region but also represents a pivotal moment in Domasco's strategic expansion.

By adding GAC AION – a brand at the forefront of technology and green mobility solutions – to its line-up, Domasco reinforces its role as a key player in the region's automotive market.

Besides the brand launch in Qatar, Domasco GAC also introduced the all-new AION Y, an innovative all-electric crossover that combines sophisticated technology with eco-friendly features. Domasco GAC's first electric vehicle in this exciting series, the AION Y is designed to meet the demands of modern consumers looking for stylish, sustainable transportation. As Qatar aims to become one of the most progressive economies by 2030, models like the AION Y will be pivotal in realising this goal, offering luxury and performance while minimising environmental impact.



New energy vehicle company of GAC Group launched in Qatar.

A diversified business conglomerate, Domasco's dedication to pioneering eco-conscious solutions is a testament to its dynamic leadership across core economic sectors in Qatar, including automotive, and the company's long-standing commitment to sustainability.

Marco Melani, managing director at Domasco and regional managing director of Al-Futtaim Automotive, said: "Domasco is proud to be the first to introduce the GAC AION brand to the GCC, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to innovation and sustainability in the region's automotive

sector. Year-on-year Domasco GAC has seen exceptional growth, with our market share almost doubling in 2023 (vs. 2022) and volumes surging almost 1.8 times as of July 2024."

The AION Y is designed to make sustainable driving more accessible and appealing than ever before. This sophisticated, fashion-forward all-electric crossover boasts an array of features designed to redefine the electric driving experience within the nation. GAC AION is exclusively distributed in Qatar by Domasco, a leading multi-brand company in Qatar, part of the Al-Futtaim Automotive group.

# HMC to raise awareness as it marks World Sepsis Day

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) is marking World Sepsis Day by raising awareness about this life-threatening condition that affects millions of people worldwide.

Held annually on September 13, the theme for World Sepsis Day 2024 is "Sepsis Prevention: Save Lives, Stop Suffering".

Sepsis is a life-threatening complication of an infection and arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. Sepsis can lead to shock, multi-organ failure, and death, especially if not recognised early and treated promptly.

Chief medical officer at HMC, Dr Abdulla al-Ansari said: "Sepsis is a condition that affects millions of people and claims lives worldwide. Our medical teams are trained to recognise the early warning signs of sepsis and implement life-saving interventions without delay. At HMC, we have integrated cutting-edge diagnostic tools and evidence-based protocols to ensure that patients receive the most effective treatment as quickly as possible."

"However, fighting sepsis is not solely the responsibility of healthcare providers. Public awareness is crucial as 80% of sepsis occur

outside the hospitals. We urge everyone to familiarise themselves with the symptoms of sepsis and to seek immediate medical attention if they suspect sepsis. Today we stand united with the global health community in our mission to reduce the burden of sepsis," added Dr al-Ansari.

Mariam al-Mutawa, acting chief nursing officer at HMC, stated that it is imperative to recognise the pivotal role of nurses as part of the multidisciplinary team in the sepsis programme. "Nurses are often the first healthcare professionals to identify the early signs of sepsis. Their ability to quickly

recognise these signs and initiate life-saving interventions is crucial in reducing mortality rates associated with sepsis. Healthcare professionals need to recognise the early warning signs of sepsis and to carry out treatment in severe cases within one hour following diagnosis."

Qatar's National Sepsis Programme remains an important initiative to enhance healthcare professionals' knowledge of sepsis detection and treatment, based on international best practice.

Dr Abdulsalam Saif, HMC Sepsis lead, and division head

of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at HMC explained: "This initiative brings together the major healthcare providers in the country under the umbrella of the Ministry of Public Health to work together to develop the best practice guidelines and protocols. We continue to fight sepsis as one of the most important causes of admission to our healthcare system, particularly in the categories of patients at risk due to their underlying conditions such as immunosuppressed patients or patients with chronic conditions like diabetes, kidney, lung or heart diseases."



Dr Abdulla al-Ansari.



# Dhaka seeks \$5bn in emergency support to boost forex reserves

Reuters  
Dhaka

Bangladesh is appealing urgently for \$5bn in financial aid from major international lenders to stabilise its dwindling foreign exchange reserves, the head of the interim government Muham-

mad Yunus said yesterday. The Nobel Peace laureate's administration was sworn in last month with the aim of holding elections after the ousting of prime minister Sheikh Hasina following deadly protests.

"We are also negotiating for lower interest rates and extended loan tenures from Russia and China," Yunus said in a televised address

to the nation, as the government grapples with mounting foreign payments. The \$5bn request includes \$3bn from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), \$1bn from the World Bank, and an additional \$1bn from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), as the government seeks to navigate the economic fallout of rising global

prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The country's \$450bn economy has been struggling since the war sharply increased the cost of fuel and food imports, forcing it to seek financial support from the IMF last year in the form of a \$4.7bn bailout. Bangladesh is under immense pressure to clear overseas purchase bills,

particularly for essential imports. In response, the finance ministry has entered discussions with Russia to settle both advance payments and outstanding balances related to the Rooppur nuclear power plant project. The interim administration's primary goal is to guide the nation through a peaceful transition, culminating in new elections. However, the eco-

nomical turmoil, exacerbated by global pressures, has put additional strain on the nation's financial stability. Yunus also announced plans to establish six new commissions aimed at reforming critical sectors, including the constitution, the electoral system, the judiciary, the police, the Anti-Corruption Commission and public administration.

# UK economy stalls, dealing blow to new government

AFP  
London

Britain's economy stalled again in July, official data showed yesterday, dealing a blow to the new Labour government that has put growth expansion at the top of its priority list.

Gross domestic product showed zero growth in the reported month compared with June, when output also flattened, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

Analysts had predicted a slight uplift in growth for July, while previous data showed the UK economy grew at a slightly slower pace in the second quarter compared with the first.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government won power at the start of July, ending 14 years of Conservative rule.

"I am under no illusion about the scale of the challenge we face and I will be honest with the British people that change will not happen overnight," Finance Minister Rachel Reeves said in response to yesterday's data.

"Two quarters of positive economic growth does not make up for 14 years of stagnation.

"That is why we are taking the long-term decisions now to fix the foundations of our economy," she added in a statement.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Reeves has pledged to impose "iron discipline" over public finances to claw back what she says is a £22bn (\$29bn) black hole inherited from the previous Conservative government. She has indicated that some taxes will be raised in her maiden budget at the end of October to help fund the gap.

The government has already announced a plan to end fuel benefits for millions of pensioners.

The government was boosted by news that US tech giant Amazon is to invest £8bn (\$10.5bn) in Britain over the next five years, creating thousands of jobs via its web services arm.

"We are taking the long-term decisions now to fix the foundations of our economy, including today's announcement... from Amazon Web Services, that will help rebuild Britain and make every part of the country better off," Reeves added.

The investment - to build, operate and maintain data centres in the UK - could contribute £14bn to the country's GDP and support more than 14,000 jobs annually across the supply chain, Amazon said.

The government "persuading players like Amazon to continue to invest in tech services is a sound strategy," noted Danni Hewson, head of financial analysis at AJ Bell.

"But with so many rumours swirling about next month's budget, getting more businesses to inject cash into the UK will require a deft hand."



The Kanlaon volcano spews gas into the air in Canlaon City in Negros Oriental province, central Philippines, yesterday.

# Hundreds flee as alert over Philippine volcano sounded

AFP  
Manila

Hundreds of people fled their homes in the Philippines yesterday after a volcano spurted harmful gases, an official said, as experts warned of a potential eruption.

About 300 residents of villages within 4kms of the Kanlaon volcano crater in the centre of the country were evacuated as a precaution, the local government of nearby Canlaon City said.

The evacuees have taken temporary shelter at schools and community centres away from

the volcano, city information officer Edna Lhou Masicampo said.

"People from villages near the foot of the volcano have been complaining about the strong smell of sulphur," Masicampo said, adding most of the residents were farmers.

Classes were suspended and some tourist spots in the city of around 60,000 people were closed yesterday due to the volcano warning. Kanlaon's daily average emission of sulphur dioxide almost tripled to 9,985 tonnes on Tuesday.

"This is the highest emission from the volcano recorded since instrumental gas monitoring began," the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement.

"Current activity may lead to eruptive unrest," it added, putting residents of the four villages at risk from red hot, swiftly moving ash clouds, "ballistic projectiles, rockfalls" and other hazards.

The area was rocked by 337 volcanic quakes in the past 24 hours, the institute said in a later update, which also included photos and videos of plumes rising 1,000 metres into the sky from the volcano's peak.

Rising more than 2,400 metres above sea level on the central island of Negros, Kanlaon is one of 24 active volcanoes in the Philippines.

It has erupted 15 times in the past nine years.

## Indian soldiers kill two militants in Kashmir

Indian soldiers in Kashmir killed two militants yesterday, the army said, the latest clashes during campaigning for local elections in the region.

Kashmir is gearing up for the first local assembly elections in a decade, with voting in the three-phased poll beginning on September 18. The army said "two terrorists were neutralised", a term they use indicating the men had been killed.

The clashes took place Kathua, in the territory's southern district of Jammu. About 500,000 Indian troops are deployed in the region, battling a 35-year insurgency that has killed tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers and rebels since 1989. On Monday, the army said it had killed two gunmen on the Indian side of the heavily militarised de facto border with Pakistan.

The territory has been without an elected local government since 2019, when its partial autonomy was cancelled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and it was brought under New Delhi's direct rule.



Pedestrians walk past an Indian security personnel along a street in Srinagar.

# Samsung India workers vow to continue strike

Reuters  
Sriperumbudur, India

Workers at Samsung Electronics' southern India plant will remain on strike until their demands for better wages and working conditions are met, union leaders said, as output at the consumer appliances unit was disrupted for a third straight day.

The industrial unrest at the plant in Sriperumbudur, near the city of Chennai, is one of the biggest such strikes in recent years in India.

The plant, which makes products such as televisions, refrigerators and washing machines, contributes between 20% and 30% of Samsung's annual \$12bn revenue in India, a key growth market for the company.

"The strike will continue until a settlement is reached, with the next round of talks (planned) tomorrow evening," union leader

E. Muthukumar said.

"As things stand, the strike will continue till tomorrow."

The Samsung factory is next to units of other global giants such as Foxconn and Dell in an area popular for automobile and electronics manufacturing.

On the first day of the strike on Monday, 50% of daily production was disrupted, while 30% was hit on Tuesday as some temporary workers have been roped in to keep production going, said a source with direct knowledge of the matter.

The workers want Samsung to recognise their union, as well as increase their wages and improve their working hours.

Samsung Southwest Asia CEO, J B Park, and other senior executives have travelled to the factory to try to resolve the protests. "They (Samsung) will soon have to talk to us, just like they had to engage with the Korean union there," Muthukumar said.

# UK orders public inquiry into N Ireland lawyer's 1989 murder

Reuters  
Belfast

Britain yesterday announced a public inquiry into the 1989 murder in Northern Ireland of human rights lawyer Pat Finucane, whose death remains a lightning rod for anger over state collusion with pro-British paramilitaries.

Finucane, who had represented leading Irish nationalists, among others, was shot dead at his home in front of his wife and three children

by pro-British "loyalist" militants. An independent review in 2012 found the militants had colluded with British security forces.

Britain's Northern Ireland minister Hilary Benn told parliament that a statutory public inquiry was the "only appropriate way forward", given the unique circumstances of the case and previous government commitments to take such a step.

In an announcement welcomed by Finucane's family and the Irish government, Benn said it was important "to seek transparency, to help provide answers to families

and to work together for a better future for Northern Ireland".

A statutory public inquiry is a major investigation that has special powers to compel testimony and the release of other forms of evidence.

Finucane's son John, a member of the British parliament for the Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein who do not take up their seats, said the family welcomed news of the inquiry.

"Led by my mother Geraldine, we have campaigned for decades to uncover the truth behind my fa-

ther's murder," Finucane wrote on X. "After 35 years of cover-ups, it is now time for truth."

During three decades of sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland, the Protestant-dominated security forces were dogged by accusations of collusion with pro-British paramilitaries. A series of separate reports confirmed some of those accusations.

A judge-led review in 2004 had concluded that a public inquiry was required. Britain's Northern Ireland minister at the time said such an inquiry would be held.

However, Britain decided in 2011 to only hold an independent review. In 2012 then-prime minister David Cameron said this review had shown "shocking" levels of state collusion in the murder.

The UK Supreme Court ruled in 2019 that Finucane's wife had the legitimate expectation of a public inquiry but Britain said this would risk prejudicing a review of the case by Northern Irish police.

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris welcomed yesterday's announcement on "an issue that has been going on far too long".

However Gavin Robinson, leader of the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), said the decision was unfair to the many other grieving families in Northern Ireland whose murdered loved ones had not received the same degree of attention.

A 1998 peace deal largely ended bloodshed in the British-controlled region between mainly Catholic Irish nationalists seeking union with Ireland and predominantly Protestant unionists who want to remain part of the United Kingdom.



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**GULF TIMES**

## Brazil's hydropower faces risk from drying river basins

Soil moisture in Brazil's main river basins used for hydropower generation has fallen to nearly two-decade lows, data collected by the London Stock Exchange Group shows, threatening a prolonged impact from a serious drought even after rains return.

Tropical rains feeding Brazil's vast network of rivers typically allow hydropower plants to generate around two thirds of Brazil's electricity but years of weak rainfall have hurt the sector, pushing up energy costs and stoking inflation that has led economists to forecast a fresh round of interest rate hikes.

Analysts warn that even if seasonal rains arrive next month as expected, hydroelectric reservoirs may be slow to fill because so much moisture will be absorbed by the soil.

The Paranaiba, Grande and Tocantins hydroelectric basins, stretching across southeast, centre-west and north Brazil, make up a large part of the sector's capacity. LSEG data shows they hit the lowest level of soil moisture for September since 2005.

Claudio Vallejos, an LSEG analyst, said the parched soil is a troubling result of a decade with just one year bringing rainfall above the long-term average.

"The soil ends up acting as a kind of memory of the rains, with the moisture levels reflecting the entire bad history," he said.

The worst effects of the current drought have hit run-of-the-river generators, including the partial shutdown of the Santo Antonio plant in northern Brazil, one of the largest in the country, which relies on the Madeira River.

Brazilian grid operator ONS has struggled to operate the system at peak load times, leading to the activation of expensive thermoelectric plants in recent months.

**Rains feeding Brazil's rivers typically allow hydropower plants to generate around two thirds of the country's electricity**

Growing wind and solar capacity in the north and northeast has offered uneven relief, as transmission bottlenecks led ONS to cap how much power it takes from those generators.

Those energy sources have allowed Brazil to somewhat reduce its reliance on hydropower, drawing reservoirs down more slowly than in previous droughts. Reservoirs at Brazil's major hydropower dams are at 53% capacity – well above the depths of the 2021 water crisis when they hit 16%.

But Vallejos said the soil moisture data reflects Brazil's precarious situation, especially if next year is another dry one.

"The reservoirs themselves store energy, but what really collects the rain to bring it to the reservoir is the soil in the basins," he said.

Alexandre Nascimento, managing partner at weather forecaster Nottus Meteorologia, said seasonal rains are expected to arrive at the end of this month, but they may be spotty until the second half of October.

"Before it gets better it's going to get a lot worse," he said.

"We continue to have extremely high temperatures and very low relative humidity, which ends up speeding up the depletion process of the reservoirs even more." Sergio Romani, chief executive officer at Genial Energy, a power trader and generator, said electricity prices will remain high until abundant rains arrive.

"The baseline scenario is for prices to be a little more stressed for the last quarter," he said.

"We have fat to burn in the reservoirs," Romani said, while noting that metrics for the potential energy of September's rains hit an all-time low. "It's frightening. I've never seen that happen to Brazil's electricity system." Genial Energy forecasts that Brazilians will keep paying the top 'red flag' power rates through the end of the year in its baseline scenario.

Warren Rena, a local broker, forecasts that the high power rates will remain only until October, followed by cheaper 'yellow flag' rates for the rest of the year. If the year ends with the 'red flag' rates, Warren Rena calculates that it could add an additional 14 to 32 basis points to its 2024 inflation forecast.

Banco Daycoval has also forecast 12-month inflation could end the year around 30 basis points higher if power rates remain at 'red flag' levels instead of falling to the cheapest 'green flag' tariffs by December. — Reuters

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International Day for South-South Cooperation



Global village!  
But lines drawn in the sand!

## QSTP playing key role in fostering entrepreneurship, innovation among youth

**A**head of the 41st IASP World Conference on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation, taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, from Sept 24-27, Dr Jack Lau, President of Qatar Foundation's Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), shared insights with Gulf Times on why he feels that QSTP is central to playing a role in advancing entrepreneurship and innovation amongst youth in Qatar, in line with the country's national priorities.

**Q1. Why is it so crucial, particularly in countries across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), that a focus is placed on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship amongst youth?**

A. Many countries across MENA can count themselves as having some of the highest proportions of young people in the world. Yet some nations could be confronted with a demographic disaster if their social and economic infrastructure is ill-prepared to set the next generation on the pathway to success.

Access to quality education, skills development, and meaningful employment opportunities are vital for socio-political stability, which itself is a key driver of national and regional progress.

Particularly worrisome is the stagnation and cuts in education, along with declining enrolments in higher education, especially among lower and lower-middle economies which will only widen the development gaps and exacerbate socio-economic instability.

At the same time, developed economies are not immune to this crisis. As enrolments decline in public and private universities, their budget deficits increase. Additionally, the future workforce is deprived of quality graduates who could be equipped with skills to cope with increasingly technical demands.

Elsewhere in emerging economies with large populations, there just aren't enough high-value jobs to absorb skilled graduates. This fundamental challenge has the potential to undermine the achievements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Despite these fears, governments are taking the initiative to incorporate innovation as a key contributor to economic growth and diversification. In parallel, large corporations are investing in both corporate and academic research and development (R&D) across most major sectors to capture market share and build strengths in leading technology trends that will shape the world of tomorrow.

Advancements in digital technologies across various sectors have spotlighted Artificial

**"Technological entrepreneurship can unlock potential in today's youth, create a more cohesive society and provide sustainable economic growth"**



Dr Jack Lau, President of Qatar Foundation's Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP).

Intelligence (AI) as an axis around which all manner of developments, whether social, industrial, or economic, are being based. How significant a contributor it will be to real growth and impact will remain unknown in the short term.

**Q2. How is Qatar building a future-ready workforce?**

Qatar's roadmap for the future, the Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030, sets an ambition to become an advanced society that is capable of sustaining its development and providing a high standard of living for its people. The aim of comprehensive yet sustainable development seeks to find a balance between economic growth, societal needs, and the conservation of natural resources. This balance is well represented by four interconnected pillars: human, social, economic, and environmental development.

In relation to the workforce of tomorrow, the human development pillar is focused on the holistic development of its people, equipping and enabling them to sustain a prosperous society. Central to this is the development of an educated population emerging from a world-class education system meant to equip the youth with necessary skills through various educational programmes.

Qatar aims to develop a globally competitive national talent base by strengthening early childhood education, enhancing the quality of education at schools, colleges, and universities, and increasing the proportion of graduates in STEM disciplines. It is also achieving this mission by building higher education pathways aligned with current and future market needs, and implementing large-scale upskilling programmes to enhance workforce competencies, productivity, retention, and satisfaction. The

focus is on building a culture of lifelong learning, high-quality professional training opportunities, and ensuring a fair and equitable labour market.

**Q3. With a focus on Qatar, how are Science and Technology Parks (STPs) playing a role in advancing entrepreneurship and innovation among youth?**

The foundations for the continued development of Qatar as a hub for cutting-edge research, development, and innovation across energy, health, and digital technology run deep due to significant investments in education, scientific research, and associated infrastructure for over two decades. The aim has been to nurture the country's talent base and fully unlock their potential to effectively contribute toward national growth.

By leveraging these RDI facilities and capabilities, Qatar is well-positioned for a new technology-driven era. Its RDI ecosystem is geared toward enhancing the nation's resilience and prosperity by fostering a stronger base of domestic and international RDI talent, who can address national and global challenges through RDI-based solutions.

Furthering Qatar Foundation's (QF) commitment to empowering Qatar's community, especially its youth, to effectively contribute toward social progress, Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) provides a dynamic ecosystem of applied research, technology development, and tech entrepreneurship, which is helping our youth entrepreneurs transform their ideas into meaningful technological solutions that address local and global needs.

Spread across about 91.27 hectares, QSTP is deeply interconnected with the QF ecosystem of education, research and innovation, and community development, sharing the common goal of

helping advance Qatar's global standing in science, technology, and innovation. Being situated within Education City gives QSTP companies and start-ups access to the expertise and resources of QF's universities and research institutions, enhancing collaboration and knowledge transfer. QF's universities graduate highly skilled individuals who are equipped to work for the startups as well as multinational national companies located within QSTP. This creates a vibrant innovation ecosystem with a skilled workforce and establishes a strong pipeline for innovation, where promising ideas from Qatar's academic institutions can be nurtured and realised with specialised support from QSTP.

Working alongside other entities such as Qatar Development Bank, Qatar Financial Centre, Invest Qatar, and Digital Incubation Center, among other governmental organisations, QSTP is actively advancing the national agenda to secure a sustainable and innovative digital future for the country.

• QSTP President Dr Jack Lau will be speaking at a breakout session titled 'Digital transformation and education innovation' on Sept 26, day two of the 41st IASP World Conference on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation. He will appear alongside other panellists Harriet Kinya from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, Kenya, and Zhidan Li of Beijing Zhongguancun International Incubator, China.

The session will focus on how STPs foster innovation and entrepreneurship among youth. With insights from China, Kenya, and Qatar, it will examine the critical role of these parks in supporting young entrepreneurs through infrastructure, resources, and professional services, highlighting their impact on economic development.

# Bridge partially collapses in Germany, no injuries

AFP  
Dresden

A bridge partially collapsed in the eastern German city of Dresden early yesterday, with authorities saying that no one was injured but that there was a risk of further sections crumbling.

A roughly 100-metre (330-foot) section of the Carola Bridge, which connects Dresden's historic old town to other parts of the city, plunged into the Elbe river around 3:00am (0100 GMT), the Dresden fire brigade said.

The bridge and the surrounding area were sealed off, causing major disruption to city traffic.

Officials warned that other parts of the bridge could yet come crashing down.

"There is still an acute danger to life and risk of collapse," fire brigade spokesman Michael Klahre said. The German weather service (DWD) warned that storms in the next days could cause the level of the Elbe to rise, with authorities fearing this could cause further damage.

Nobody was on or under the bridge at the time of the incident.

The last tram had crossed the bridge at around 02:50am, mere minutes before the collapse and narrowly avoiding catastrophe.

"I am very, very happy that based on what we know, no one was hurt," Klahre said at a press conference alongside other officials.

Police spokesman Thomas Geithner said officers who happened to be stationed just 50 metres away "described hearing

a loud, heavy noise, the ground shook". Rescue services and other experts were deployed at the scene to assess the damage and secure the bridge.

The cause of the collapse is still being investigated.

The concrete structure may have suffered from corrosion caused by chloride contamination in the past, Holger Kalbe, head of the bridges and civil engineering structures department for the city of Dresden, told reporters.

But he added that this was just a first "assumption" and experts would have more certainty on what happened in the coming days.

The part of the bridge that fell contained the section dedicated to tram lines and foot and cycling traffic. It was scheduled for maintenance work next year.



View of the the partially collapsed Carola Bridge (Carolabruecke) over the Elbe river in the city centre of Dresden, eastern Germany, yesterday.

The other two sections of the bridge, for road vehicles, had already been renovated, Kalbe told reporters.

The partial collapse also damaged two major heating pipes, cutting off district heating in the

city and temporarily leaving residents in some neighbourhoods without hot water, Klahre said.

Police said the partial collapse was being deemed an accident, and warned against spreading fake news on social media.

"There is zero indication" to suggest any criminal behaviour at this point, Geithner said.

On X, Saxony state police urged people not to share "any false reports" about the incident, adding that there "is no evidence so far of third-party interference".

The Carola Bridge, one of Dresden's main crossings, was constructed when the region was part of communist East Germany and completed in 1971. It is named after the wife of King Albert of Saxony.

Germany counts around 130,000 bridges, many of which were built decades ago when traffic was lighter.

Concerns have long been raised about the need for repairs and for more investment to modernise the ageing structures.

# Harris and Trump attend 9/11 memorial after brutal debate

AFP  
New York

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump shook hands yesterday at New York's 9/11 memorial to mark the anniversary of the attacks, briefly putting politics aside hours after they clashed in a fiery presidential debate.

The solemn display of unity was a stark contrast to the scenes from the previous evening, when the Democratic vice-president forced the rattled Republican former president onto the defensive in a bruising encounter in front of tens of millions of viewers.

Any sense of harmony from the commemoration of the 2001 Al Qaeda attacks is likely to be short-lived, with the election still on a knife-edge with just two months to go, despite polls showing a crushing debate win for Harris.



(From left) Democratic presidential nominee, US Vice-President Kamala Harris, US President Joe Biden, former Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg, Republican presidential nominee, former US President Donald Trump and Republican vice-presidential candidate Sen J.D. Vance (R-OH) join family and friends at Ground Zero honouring the lives of those lost on the 23rd anniversary of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center in New York City, yesterday.

The 78-year-old Trump came out swinging even before the ceremony, claiming in an interview with Fox News — without evidence — that the ABC News debate in Philadelphia was "rigged" against him.

"It was a rigged deal, as I assumed it would be, because when you looked at the fact that they were correcting everything and not correcting with her," he complained — referring to pushback from the moderators to some of his more brazenly false statements.

Trump later appeared to reject the Harris campaign's call for a second debate, comparing the 59-year-old Harris to a beaten boxer demanding another chance and saying on social media: "Why would I do a Rematch?" The rivals kept their animosity hidden at the Ground Zero memorial however, in an extraordinary encounter that also included President Joe Biden, who dropped out of the race in July.

Biden, 81, looked on as Harris and Trump shared their second handshake in the space of a few hours — having also done so at the start of the debate in an unexpected move prompted by Harris.

It also marked just the second time Trump and Harris have ever met in person, with their first encounter coming at the debate in Pennsylvania. Trump passed up an earlier opportunity when he refused to attend Biden's 2021 inauguration, due to his false claims that he had won the 2020 election.

Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg appeared to initiate the greeting in New York, touching Harris on the arm to get her attention before she and Trump shook and exchanged a few words.

Wearing commemorative blue ribbons, they all then watched as the names of the almost 3,000 victims of the attacks on the Twin Towers were read out.

"We stand in solidarity with their families and loved ones. We also honour the extraordinary heroism on display that fateful day by ordinary Americans helping their fellow Americans," Harris said in a statement.

Harris and Biden — who have

appeared several times together at political events since Biden bowed out following a disastrous debate against Trump — headed later to the site in Pennsylvania where a hijacked plane crashed on 9/11. A third was flown into the Pentagon outside Washington.

The solemn atmosphere could not have been more different to last night's debate, the biggest night so far of the shortest and possibly the most dramatic election campaign in modern US history. Both candidates declared victory but it was former prosecutor Harris who landed blows on issues including abortion, and repeatedly managed to bait convicted felon Trump into angry remarks on past grievances.

Trump also boosted a debunked claim about migrants eating pet cats and dogs in Ohio, earning a correction from the ABC moderator.

A CNN snap poll said Harris performed better than Trump by 63% to 37, while a YouGov poll

said Harris laid out a clearer plan by 43 to 32%.

US media and commentators broadly agreed that Harris had come out on top — but that it may not move the dial much in a deeply polarised and entrenched electorate. Republican strategist Liam Donovan said Trump "largely whiffed" in his efforts to tie his opponent to Biden. "It will surely boost morale at a time when Democrats are getting anxious," he told AFP.

Harris got another boost with US pop megastar Taylor Swift offering her backing minutes after the debate. Trump said Swift would "probably pay a price for it in the marketplace." But the race remains neck-and-neck going into the final stretch, and America's first female, Black and South Asian vice-president insists she is the underdog.

Harris heads today to North Carolina and Trump is due on stage in Arizona, two of the half-dozen swing states expected to decide the election.

AFP  
Kyiv

The United States and Britain yesterday committed to nearly \$1.5bn in support for Ukraine and promised to consider quickly requests to ease restrictions on weapons to strike deeper into Russia.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy paid the rare joint visit to Kyiv in a show of solidarity as concerns mount.

Russia's alleged acquisition of new short-range Iranian missiles threatens to ramp up Moscow's firepower and the US election could dramatically shift the stance of Ukraine's top backer.

Blinken, who took a nine-hour train ride to Kyiv alongside Lammy, said the United States would offer \$717mn in new economic help to Ukraine.

About half of it will consist of US support to strengthen Ukraine's electricity infrastructure, which has been pounded by Russia just as winter sets in.

Blinken accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of dusting off "his winter playbook" to "weaponize the cold against the Ukrainian people".

"Our support will not wane, our unity will not break," Blinken told a joint news conference in Kyiv.

"Putin will not outlast the coalition of countries committed to Ukraine's success, and he is certainly not going to outlast the Ukrainian people."

Lammy recommitted his two-month-old Labour government to providing 600bn pounds (\$782mn) in economic assistance to Ukraine.

He said that Britain, which has consistently pushed to ease restrictions on Ukraine's use of weapons, would provide hundreds of new air defence missiles to Ukraine this year.

Russia has been advancing on the key logistics hub of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region, a month after Kyiv launched a shock counter-offensive into Russia's Kursk region.

President Volodymyr Zelensky

has ramped up his requests over recent months to the West to provide weapons with more firepower and fewer restrictions.

"It is important to lift any restrictions on the use of US and British weapons against legitimate military targets in Russia," Ukrainian foreign minister Andriy Sybiga told the joint conference with his counterparts, who earlier met Zelensky.

Blinken said that the United States would look at the requests "with urgency" and that they would be discussed Friday in Washington when President Joe Biden meets UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Biden, asked in Washington on Tuesday whether he would let Ukraine use longer-range weapons for strikes on Russian targets, said: "We're working that out right now."

Biden, while strongly supportive of Ukraine, has previously made clear he wants to avoid devolving into direct conflict between the United States and Russia, the world's two leading nuclear powers.

Asked how Moscow would respond to expanded missile ranges, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday the response "will be appropriate," without providing specific details.

He said the authorisation of Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory would serve as "further proof" of why Moscow launched its offensive, which he said was itself an "answer" to the West's support for Ukraine.

The United States said it believes that Russia could start firing short-range missiles into Ukraine within weeks.

The Iranian shipments have raised fears that Moscow would be freed up to use its long-range missiles against comparatively unscathed areas in western Ukraine. The United States earlier this year gave its blessing for Ukraine to use Western weapons to hit Russian forces when in direct conflict across the border.

British media reports said Biden was set to end objections to letting Ukraine fire long-range Storm Shadow missiles into Russia.

## Pakistan charges Khan party lawmakers with terror offences

Reuters  
Islamabad

Several lawmakers and leaders of jailed former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan's party arrested after a rally they held to demand his release have been charged with terrorism offences, according to police yesterday.

The lawmakers have been in police custody since being arrested after Sunday's rally turned violent, and will remain in custody until September 18 for investigation, said police officer Zafar Khan and a party official.

Former cricket star Khan, 71, has been in jail for over a year since his overthrow in 2022 after a falling-out with powerful military generals which has spawned the worst political turmoil in decades in the nation of 241mn people.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur of northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where Khan's party leads a majority government is among those facing the charges,

the police report of the offences seen by Reuters showed.

An Islamabad police spokesman said the charges included law and order violations and attacking law enforcement officials, which constitutes a terrorism offence. He did not give the number of those held in custody or elaborate further.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has said nearly a dozen of its parliamentarians have been picked up in Islamabad. Others had sought refuge in parliament to evade police, which entered the building to arrest some of them, the party said. The party has announced countrywide protests for Friday against the crackdown. Candidates backed by the PTI won the most seats in a general election in February but fell short of the majority required to form a government. Khan's rivals cobbled together a coalition instead to set up a bloc under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI says the elections were manipulated to keep Khan out of power — a charge the Pakistan Election Commission denies.

## Mexico adopts world-first judicial reforms after protesters storm Congress

AFP  
Mexico City

Lawmakers in Mexico approved controversial reforms yesterday that will make it the first country to allow voters to elect all judges, hours after protesters invaded the Senate to disrupt debate.

Outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had pushed hard for the reform, criticising the current judicial system as serving the interests of the political and economic elite.

The leftist leader hailed the bill's approval, saying Mexico would be an "example to the world."

"It's very important to end corruption and impunity. We will make great progress when it is the people of Mexico who freely elect the judges, the magistrates, the justices," the 70-year-old told a news conference.



Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks during his press conference in Mexico City, yesterday.

The reform was approved with 86 votes in favour and 41 against in the early hours of the morning, garnering the two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution, in an upper chamber dominated by the ruling Morena party and its allies. The reforms have sparked mass demonstrations, diplomatic tensions and investor jitters.

Senate leader Gerardo Fernandez Norona had declared a recess after demonstrators stormed the upper house and entered the chamber, chanting

"The judiciary will not fall."

Lawmakers were forced to move to a former Senate building, where they resumed their debate as demonstrators outside shouted "Mr. Senator, stop the dictator!"

Lopez Obrador, who wanted the bill approved before close ally Claudia Sheinbaum replaces him on October 1, accused protesters of protecting the interests of the political elite.

The reforms have the full support of Sheinbaum, who said yesterday they would strengthen the justice system.

"The regime of corruption and privileges is becoming more and more a thing of the past," she wrote on social media platform X.

The plan, which had already cleared the lower house, must now be approved by 17 of 32 state congresses — considered a formality given the ruling coalition's political dominance — before being signed into law by the president.

## Mpox kills two, six other Cameroon cases reported

Cases of the mpox virus have killed two people in Cameroon since April with six further and 40 other suspected cases, the health ministry said yesterday, AFP reported from Yaounde.

"Since the resurgence of this disease in April 2024, the country has recorded 46 suspected cases of mpox, six of which are confirmed, with two deaths reported," Health Minister Malachie Manouada said. However, the epidemic is "not linked to the new, more virulent strain (Clade 1b)", the ministry said. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared an international emergency over mpox four weeks ago after a surge in cases of the Clade 1b strain in DR Congo which spread to neighbouring countries.

Since then, "Cameroonian authorities have strengthened surveillance, vaccination and awareness measures to prevent a possible local outbreak," the ministry said. At the end of last month mpox was recorded as present in 14 African countries.

# A satirical journey across America

● *America Outside the Box* airs today on Alaraby TV

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

The highly anticipated satirical documentary series *America Outside the Box* (America Kharif Alsondog) will air its first episode today.

Hosted by the renowned Palestinian-American comedian and academic Amer Zahr, the series will take the Arab audience on a bold journey across America, exploring political, social, and cultural aspects in a way that blends thought and humour.

The series offers a critical perspective on the United States as it approaches one of the most consequential elections in modern history. Through a comprehensive examination of various topics, Amer Zahr invites viewers to rethink assumptions and consider the role of the US on the global stage from a different angle.

According to its producers at Alaraby TV, *America Outside the Box* is no ordinary documentary series. Each episode humorously tackles a specific subject, painting a broader picture of America as seen by the world. From the formation of the US political system to the struggles of minority groups, the series presents sharp, insightful commentary on key issues impacting the nation's political scene as the 2024 presidential election approaches — a contest marked by unprecedented tension between the main candidates, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris, who is running in place of outgoing President Joe Biden.

Each episode of *America Outside the Box* takes place in a different US state, with topics carefully selected to reflect some of the most pressing and impactful issues in American society.

The Michigan episode explores



Palestinian-American comedian and academic Amer Zahr



the deep history of Arabs in America and their growing influence in the 2024 presidential election. The Washington, DC episode examines the formation of the US political system and how its developments continue to shape governance today.

North Carolina highlights the intersections of religion and politics, focusing on the power of evangelical Protestants in shaping

election results. The Missouri episode delves into the history of racism and slavery among African-Americans and how incidents of racial violence influence voter behaviour.

In a poignant episode, the history and rights of Native Americans in South Dakota are discussed, with a powerful comparison to the Palestinian struggle under Israeli occupation.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

YOUTH CONTESTS PRE-QUALIFIERS	
<b>Humorous Contest</b> Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Topic: Speaker's Choice	<b>Inspirational Contest</b> Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Topic: When I lost all my excuses I found all my results
Last Date for Application	Date Day Month Year
Inspirational Contest	30 Monday September 2024
Humorous Contest	30 Monday September 2024

ADULT CONTESTS PRE-QUALIFIERS	
<b>Humorous Contest</b> Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Topic: Speaker's Choice	<b>Inspirational Contest</b> Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Topic: When nothing goes right go left
Last Date for Application	Date Day Month Year
Inspirational Contest	30 Monday September 2024
Humorous Contest	30 Monday September 2024

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