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QFFD to provide \$7mn to support UNRWA in Syria

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) have signed a \$7mn agreement to provide critical support to Palestine Refugees in Syria. The agreement is part of Qatar's commitment to humanitarian assistance and improving the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees, in line with UNRWA's 2024 emergency appeal. The funding will be allocated to essential services, including education, healthcare, and cash assistance for Palestine refugees affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. **Page 6**

Qatar welcomes Schengen visa exemption vote

Dr Majid bin Mohamed al-Ansari, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, has welcomed the approval of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs at the European Parliament of the exemption of Qatari citizens from entry visa to Schengen region without any conditions. He pointed out in a statement to QNA that such approval came as an outcome of the continuous efforts of the mission of Qatar at the European Union and the Foreign Ministry to guarantee that it would be passed without any hurdles. He also expressed happiness that the decision to approve the exemption came with a majority of 42 votes at the committee.

Huge intelligence failure for Hezbollah

In the wake of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's killing, Hezbollah faces the enormous challenge of plugging the infiltration in its ranks that allowed its arch enemy Israel to destroy weapons sites, booby-trap its communications and assassinate the veteran leader, whose whereabouts had been a closely guarded secret for years. Nasrallah's killing in a command HQ on Friday came barely a week after Israel's deadly detonation of hundreds of booby-trapped pagers and radios. "This is a massive blow and intelligence failure for Hezbollah," Magnus Ranstorp, a veteran Hezbollah expert at the Swedish Defence University said.

QF launches 'Green Island' to promote recycling

Qatar Foundation (QF) has launched 'Green Island,' a unique recycling hub designed to promote eco-friendly living practices, coinciding with the beginning of Qatar Sustainability Week 2024, which commenced yesterday.

Based at QF's Education City, according to an official statement, Green Island is a community-centric recycling hub featuring educational exhibits, workshops and interactive displays that offer hands-on learning experiences for visitors. It also hosts a self-service recycling station with seven main recycling streams for paper, plastic, glass, metals, batteries, cables, and electronics.

Ouassim Alami, Strategic Initiatives Adviser, QF's Chief Operating Officer (COO)'s Office, said that Green Island is a multi-sectoral, partnership-based learning hub where QF aims to provide experiential education to the entire community. "We target learners of all ages, and with the support of our partners from both the private and public sectors, we offer hands-on workshops to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability. Our goal is to educate visitors about the numerous



A view of the 'Green Island' recycling hub.

national projects and initiatives that are contributing to making Qatar a more sustainable nation," he said.

Dr Nawal H al-Sulaiti, Sustainability Manager, QF's COO Office, said that Green Island showcases practical sustainability applications such as construction waste upcycling, sustainable farming, and solar energy. We are also ad-

ressing the challenge of food waste, which is a significant issue for the entire region.

"Additionally, we are proud that Green Island hosts promising bio-fuel research from QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University and QF partner university Texas A&M University at Qatar," Dr al-Sulaiti added.

"Green Island is an open platform, and we welcome companies

and sustainability enthusiasts to join us in building a vibrant, innovative, and productive community dedicated to advancing sustainability in Qatar and beyond," Dr al-Sulaiti explained.

A key component of Green Island is community education to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders and sustainability advocates. Schools can par-

ticipate in organised field trips to Green Island, where students can learn about recycling and gain a deeper understanding of sustainable practices.

Additionally, community members can use Snoonu to deliver items to Green Island. "Throughout the project development, we sought ways to make recycling easier and more accessible for everyone. We found the perfect partner in Snoonu to reach out to all community members enabling them to have their recyclable waste collected from their homes and delivered to Green Island using the 'Snoosend' function in the Snoonu App," she added.

Green Island has been developed through collaborations with several local organisations, including Arab Engineering Bureau, Milaha, QatarEnergy, Seashore Group, Agrico, and Al-Awalia (Qatar Primary Materials Company), which will host upcycling workshops showcasing how demolition materials can be transformed into works of art.

Qatar Sustainability Week 2024 is the ninth edition of the national campaign led by Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future, a member of QF. **Page 12**



Supporters of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah carry his pictures as they gather in Sidon, yesterday.

Hezbollah chief Nasrallah killed in Israeli air strike

Reuters
Jerusalem

Israel killed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a powerful air strike in Beirut, dealing a heavy blow to the Iran-backed group as it reels from an escalating campaign of Israeli attacks.

The Israeli military said yesterday it had eliminated Nasrallah in the strike on the group's central command headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday. Hezbollah confirmed he had been killed, without saying how.

Nasrallah's death is a major blow to both Hezbollah and Iran, removing an influential ally who helped build Hezbollah into the linchpin of Tehran's network of allied groups in the Arab world.

US President Joe Biden described Nasrallah's death as a measure of justice for what he called the Hezbollah chief's many victims, including thousands of Americans, Israelis and Lebanese.



A man checks the devastation in the Haret Hreik neighbourhood of Beirut's southern suburbs, yesterday.

A senior member of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, deputy commander Abbas Nilfroushan, was also killed in the Israeli attacks in Beirut on Friday, Iranian media reported.

Strikes continued on Beirut's southern suburbs throughout the early evening yesterday, sending large clouds of smoke over the city.

The Israeli military said that in a strike on southern Beirut it killed a senior member of Hez-

bollah's intelligence, naming him as Hassan Khalil Yassin. Hezbollah made no mention so far of this.

In Israel, air raid sirens sounded across the centre of the country - including Tel Aviv - and large bangs were heard after a missile was fired from Yemen and intercepted, according to the Israeli military.

Hezbollah said in a statement that it would continue its battle against Israel "in support of Gaza and Palestine, and in defence of Lebanon and its steadfast and honourable people".

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said his country was facing the threat of danger, without mentioning the death of Nasrallah. His office later announced three days of mourning for the Hezbollah chief.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Nasrallah's killing would be avenged and his path in fighting Israel would be continued by other militants. **Page 7**

QFFD, UN office sign \$10mn aid agreement

QNA
New York

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has signed a \$10mn contribution agreement with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly.

The contribution aims to support the office in monitoring and following up on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action (2023-2031). This contribution is part of the \$60mn commitment announced by Qatar during the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

The signing ceremony was attended by HE Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Loluwa bint Rashid AlKhatir, Acting Director General of QFFD Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri, and Rabab Fatima, who serves as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

The Doha Programme of Action seeks to address the unique challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through renewed and enhanced commit-

ments between LDCs and their development partners, including governments, the private sector, and civil society. It outlines a transformative agenda to unlock the potential of LDCs by promoting sustainable development, fostering economic growth, and implementing measures to build resilience, such as developing a food stock mechanism to address food insecurity and establishing a facility to support a sustainable graduation from the LDC category.

Al-Aseeri said Qatar's ongoing support for the Office of the High Representative reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering the world's most vulnerable countries. "This vital contribution strengthens the Office's ability to address the unique challenges faced by LDCs. Through targeted assistance and enhanced co-operation to achieve the key outcomes of the Doha Programme of Action, we aim to create a fairer and more resilient world. Our continued partnership with UN-OHRLS reaffirms our dedication to advancing the global agenda for inclusive growth and long-term sustainable development."

For her part, Fatima expressed her deep appreciation for QFFD's steadfast commitment.

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Qatar Fund for Development for its unwavering support of LDCs, especially in relation to the Doha Programme of Action and its key outcomes," she said. **Page 3**



Officials at the signing of the agreement.



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AlKhatier in New York meetings



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier met with UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Rabab Fatima, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between Qatar and the UN and ways to support and develop them, enhance co-operation with the least developed countries, and a number of topics of common interest. On the sidelines of the meeting, HE AlKhatier attended the signing of an agreement between the Qatar Fund for Development and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, amounting to \$10mn to support the Doha Programme of Action and monitor its implementation.



Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley met with HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries, especially in development projects, and developments in the region, in addition to a number of topics of common interest.



Prime Minister of Grenada Dickon Mitchell met with HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries, especially in development projects, and developments in the region, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. (QNA)

Media City Qatar HQ moves to Msheireb Downtown Doha

Msheireb Properties has announced that Media City Qatar will be relocating its headquarters to Msheireb Downtown Doha. This strategic move underscores Msheireb Downtown Doha's status as a vibrant ecosystem that supports creativity, cutting-edge technology, and community development. Ali al-Kuwari, CEO of Msheireb Properties, said: "We are delighted to welcome Media City Qatar to the hub of innovation at Msheireb Downtown Doha. Having successfully hosted the media centres for both the FIFA World Cup and the AFC Asian Cup, Media City Qatar's move continues our commitment to supporting Qatar's economic diversification and healthy competition in the regional media landscape."

Msheireb Downtown Doha has become a base for journalists and broadcasters during two major sporting events. The district's advanced infrastructure, strategic central location, and striking blend of modernity with cultural heritage have facilitated extensive global media coverage. The presence of Media City Qatar in this dynamic environment is expected to enhance further its reputation as a prime location for media and communications activities.



Media City Qatar CEO Jassim Mohamed al-Khori.



Msheireb Properties CEO Ali al-Kuwari.

Media City Qatar CEO Jassim Mohamed al-Khori said: "We are honoured to move to a prominent urban landmark like Msheireb Downtown Doha. The move signifies a new era for Media City Qatar, joining an environment that nurtures creativity and innovation within the media industry."

The relocation of Media City Qatar to Msheireb Downtown Doha marks a significant milestone in the district's evolution as a premier hub for business and culture. Strategically located in the heart of Qatar's capital, Msheireb Downtown Doha offers advanced smart infrastructure and a sustainable environment that meets the highest international standards.

The district's state-of-the-art infrastructure and emphasis on collaboration between private and public institutions provide an ideal setting for media organisations looking to thrive in a fast-paced and progressive environment. The partnership between Msheireb Properties and Media City Qatar is expected to drive further advancements in Qatar's media sector, promoting local media industry growth and healthy regional competition.

The official move-in date for Media City Qatar's new headquarters will be announced in the coming months, marking the beginning of a new chapter in Qatar's media landscape.

Countdown begins for Cityscape Qatar '24

With less than two weeks to go, anticipation is building for Cityscape Qatar 2024, which will be launched following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat), to host an exceptional edition of the Qatar Real Estate Forum.

Held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the event will be held from October 13-15 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). Cityscape Qatar is expected to attract a global audience of over 10,000 anticipated visitors. "This year's event will continue to bring together leading developers, futurists, and technology innovators from around the world, reflecting our commitment to support Qatar's rapid development and transformation as a prime destination for investors," said Alexander Heuff, exhibition director of Cityscape.

Cityscape Qatar brings together a diverse array of exhibi-



File photo of Cityscape Qatar's previous edition.

tors, including Qetaifan Projects (Platinum Sponsor), UDC (Official Registration Sponsor), Qatari Diar, Barwa Real Estate, and Al Waab City, showcasing their flagship projects and latest offerings.

Attendees will have unique opportunities to engage and connect with top real estate professionals and industry leaders and attend keynote sessions, panel discussions and workshops led by renowned industry experts. Cityscape Qatar will host developers from Egypt's Mediterranean North Coast, New Cairo Capital, and the Red Sea, along with

investment opportunities from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Greece, India, and Pakistan.

Heuff said: "We are helping investors better understand the current investment landscape by offering a diverse range of opportunities. For investors, Qatar offers economic stability and growth, coupled with excellent regulatory policies and transparency. Additionally, there is strong government support and incentives across sectors such as luxury properties, hospitality, tourism, and commercial real estate."

PRE-MATURE CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE OF THE HEART



Dr. M. Samiullah Niazi, Cardiologist Aster Medical Centre - Al Khor

Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) is a common type of heart disease characterized by the reduction of blood flow to the heart muscle due to the build up of plaque (atherosclerosis) within the arteries of the heart. CAD is the most common type of heart disease and remains the leading cause of death worldwide, resulting in over 3,500,000 deaths annually.

Premature Coronary Artery Disease (P-CAD) refers to the occurrence of CAD in males under 45 years of age and in females under 55 years, due to atherosclerotic plaques in the coronary arteries of the heart. Research indicates that South Asians, both in their home countries and among immigrant communities worldwide, present with P-CAD at an earlier age than other ethnic groups.

Globally P-CAD represents a significant burden and a crucial public health challenge. Alarmingly, more than four-fifths (80%) of those who present themselves with P-CAD have at least one modifiable risk factor. Therefore, this article is meant for everyone to get aware on how they can reduce their future risk of CAD which can lead to varying symptoms from just reversible chest pain on exertion (Angina Pectoris) to deadly heart attacks. Adding gravity to this problem, around 30% to 40% of

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the individuals do not survive their first heart attack signifying the importance of awareness for prevention of this deadly disease.

Common Risk Factors for CAD:

Risk factors for CAD are divided into two major groups. Non-Modifiable & Modifiable.

NON-MODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS:

1. Age
2. Male gender
3. Ethnicity (e.g. South Asians)
4. Family history of P-CAD or Diabetes
5. Certain genetic diseases

MODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS:

1. Diabetes Mellitus or Impaired Glucose Tolerance (Prediabetes)
2. Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)
3. Dyslipidemia (Abnormal Cholesterol levels)
4. Central Obesity
5. Physical Inactivity
6. Smoking
7. Stress

Ten commandments for preventing early Coronary Artery & other Atherosclerotic Vascular diseases.

1. Engage in at least 150 minutes of physical activity weekly.
2. Eat daily servings of fruits and vegetables for their antioxidant benefits.
3. Reduce processed foods, spices, and simple carbs to prevent insulin resistance.
4. Maintain a healthy waist size (below 40 inches for men, 35 for women).
5. Avoid smoking and all forms of tobacco.
6. Regularly monitor blood pressure and blood sugar levels.
7. Get screened annually for diabetes and cholesterol after age 30.
8. Aim for 6-9 hours of sleep per night.
9. Manage stress through exercise, meditation, and therapy.
10. Maintain healthy social relationships for emotional well-being.

By understanding and addressing these risk factors, individuals can significantly reduce their likelihood of developing premature coronary artery disease and improve their overall cardiovascular health.



WORLD HEART DAY 29 SEP

Al Meera celebrates anniversary with month-long sale campaign

Al Meera Consumer Goods Company announced the launch of its much-anticipated 'Anniversary Festival' campaign, which will run until October 16 across all Al Meera branches nationwide. The Anniversary Festival offers customers a wide range of products at heavily discounted prices every day during the campaign. Furthermore, the festival brings an exciting range of promotions and exceptional prizes for Meera Rewards members.

From September 26 to November 2, 2024, with the introduction of the camping season, customers will get a chance to win prizes including 10 Yamaha Grizzly 350 4x4 ATVs, five Yamaha Raptor 90 ATVs, and 100 QR1,000 Al Meera vouchers. Meera Rewards members will automatically enter the e-affle with every QR50 spent at any Al Meera branch or through online purchases at almeera.online, a total of 115 lucky winners.

Meera Rewards members can also enjoy 25% back as points when purchasing fresh products on most weekdays from the Delicatessen on Sunday, Butchery on Monday, Fruits and Vegetables on Tuesday, and the Fishery on Wednesday. All customers can enjoy killer deals and promotions on products during the weekends, allowing them to save on their favourite items while enhancing their shopping experience, and



there will be more surprises every week.

Al Meera will also host regular competitions on its social media platforms, offering followers chances to win Al Meera vouchers. The hypermarket is inviting everyone to follow Al Meera on social media for all promotions for the chance to win.

On the occasion, Al Meera stated: "We are thrilled to launch this year's Anniversary Festival, which allows us to give back to our loyal customers through exciting rewards and promotions. This campaign is a token of our appreciation for their unwavering trust and support, making Al Meera their go-to shopping destination in Qatar."

"Our customers are at the core of our success, and we remain com-

mitted to offering them the highest quality products at competitive prices while continuously enhancing their shopping experience, both in-store and online."

The Meera Rewards initiative, Al Meera's loyalty programme, allows customers to earn and redeem points at all Al Meera branches nationwide. Membership is free and can be easily accessed by downloading the mobile app and registering. This digital ID must be presented at checkout to earn or redeem Meera Rewards Points. Families also have the option to create a household account, enabling everyone to earn points together. These points can be used on customers' next shopping spree at any of Al Meera branches, giving customers a flexible solution to redeem points.



Qatar supports co-operation with Global South countries

QNA
Malabo

The Shura Council participated in the 11th consultative meeting of the Association of Senates, Shooraa and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), held in the capital of Equatorial Guinea, Malabo, over two days, under the theme "Strengthening the Joint Parliamentary Action of the Global South Countries to Face Environmental, Technological and Development Challenges".

Shura Council members Saad bin Ahmed al-Mesned and Khalid bin Abbas Kamal al-Emadi represented the Council at the meeting, which focused on strengthening co-operation and partnerships among the countries of the Global South to address common development challenges, particularly regarding sustainable investment and modern technologies like artificial intelligence, which contribute to improving quality of life, education, and healthcare.

Participants also discussed combating desertification and soil erosion, being critical environmental issues, and called for enhanced international co-operation to address them through natural resource protection and developing effective strategies. Furthermore, the meeting emphasised the importance of leveraging modern technologies to tackle environmental and economic challenges and achieve sustainable development.

In his opening remarks, al-Mesned highlighted Qatar's leading role in supporting co-operation among the countries of the Global South, noting the



scale of Qatar's investments in these regions and the development aid it provides during both normal circumstances and at times of disaster.

Moreover, he pointed to Qatar's hosting of major UN conferences, including the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), during which Qatar pledged \$60mn in support of these countries.

He underscored parliaments' important role in enacting legislations facilitating co-operation agreements and monitoring the implementation of joint projects among the countries of the Global South, stressing the need for adequate budget allocations for these initiatives.

Al-Mesned added that parliaments could explore collaboration opportunities and share best practices through parliamentary diplomacy and partnerships with diplomatic missions in the countries of the Global South. He also proposed drafting a model framework

agreement among legislative councils to define mechanisms for implementing bilateral and collective co-operation projects in various fields.

Meanwhile, al-Emadi addressed the topic of artificial intelligence (AI) and the countries of the Global South: challenges and opportunities, underscoring the significance of AI and developing it to be able to learn, analyse, and predict independently.

He noted AI's substantial benefits to humanity across sectors, including the scientific, health, and economic sectors, while at the same time warning against the potential risk of misuse associated with digital transformation and AI within cyberspace.

Al-Emadi said that the lack of an international law governing the use of these technologies could pose a threat to international peace and security, stressing the need for international co-operation in order to utilize these technologies safely and sustainably.



Qatar addresses challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance

QNA
New York

Qatar participated in the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, held in New York under the theme "Investing in the present and securing our future together: accelerating multisectoral global, regional and national actions to address antimicrobial resistance". HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari represented Qatar at the meeting.

During the meeting, the political declaration of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance was adopted.

In her speech, HE Dr al-Kuwari affirmed Qatar's welcome of the political declaration resulting from the meeting, emphasising the country's commitment to addressing the challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance at both regional and international levels.

She explained that Qatar launched its third National Health Strategy 2024-2030 two weeks ago to achieve Qatar National Vision 2030, aiming to improve the health and well-being of the Qatari population through excellence in service delivery, while ensuring sustainability and efficiency through an integrated and resilient health system. The strategy also supports Qatar's efforts to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.

HE the Minister of Public Health added that in line with the World Health Organisation's global action plan on antimicrobial resistance and in implementation of the political declaration issued from the high-level UN General Assembly meeting held in September 2016, Qatar announced its National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2019. The plan encompasses all relevant national sectors, notably human health, the environment, food safety, and animal health, aiming to minimise antimicrobial resistance in Qatar to the lowest possible level.

She stated that the national action plan

also includes the implementation of a national programme for infection control and prevention, as well as a programme to optimise the use of antimicrobials in human and animal health. It promotes national research and investments in areas related to antimicrobial resistance, raises awareness about the issue, enhances data collection, and establishes a comprehensive national program for monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial consumption.

HE Dr al-Kuwari noted that the Ministry of Public Health continues to take necessary measures to reduce the risks of antimicrobial resistance, particularly among the most vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and individuals with weakened immune systems.

She emphasised that believing in a multi-sectoral collaborative approach and the importance of unified policies in finding scientific solutions and co-ordinating efforts, Qatar has participated in all international and regional meetings related to antimicrobial resistance. In this context, Doha hosted a regional meeting in May in partnership with the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office to build capacities for improving antibiotic use in the region. The meeting also aimed to enhance regional and international cooperation, especially since the challenge posed by antimicrobial resistance is a cross-border issue that no country can tackle alone.

The political declaration of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance focuses on working with a shared vision that includes measurable goals and objectives to mobilise political will and address the drivers, sources, and challenges of antimicrobial resistance, establishing the foundation for global action against it.

According to the UN, antimicrobial resistance is one of the biggest global threats to public health, food security, and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Women, children are primary victims of wars: NHRC official

QNA
Geneva

Vice-Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) HE Dr Mohammed bin Saif al-Kuwari has emphasised that Qatar's permanent constitution embodies the aspirations for building a modern state that strives for peace and sustainable development for present and future generations.

He made these remarks at an event on the sidelines of the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, titled "Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Women and Children in Armed Conflict".

HE Dr Mohammed al-Kuwari said that Qatar actively participates with the UN in promoting peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations, believing that humanity's future depends on international co-operation, respect for international law, and inclusivity.



HE Dr Mohammed bin Saif al-Kuwari

He noted that 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of Qatar's permanent constitution, expressing pride that the constitution has laid the foundation for a state based on law, justice, peace, and human rights for all, including women and children.

He pointed out that international reports indicate that armed conflicts undermine human rights, with women and children being the most affected victims. According to Unicef's 2022 report, over

104,100 children were killed or injured in armed conflicts between 2005 and 2020. Moreover, UN Women verified 2,455 cases of sexual violence related to armed conflict in 2022, noting that many cases go unreported. Violence against women globally has increased 16.1 times between 2005 and 2020, with over half of these incidents occurring in conflict-affected countries. These numbers have risen due to conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine, Sudan, and elsewhere since 2022. In the Arab region, 70% of war victims are women and children, as reported by UN Women and the Arab Women Organisation.

Dr al-Kuwari outlined the NHRC's extensive activities in promoting and protecting the rights of women and children during and after armed conflicts. The NHRC aims to foster a culture of peace, human rights, rule of law, justice, tolerance, accountability, and non-impunity. Notably, the NHRC supports building the capacities of Arab national

human rights institutions in conflict zones like Palestine, Sudan, Libya, and Iraq, as a national mechanism for the protection of rights holders, including vulnerable groups such as women, children, minorities, refugees and human rights defenders. It monitors the conditions of civilians evacuated from Afghanistan in 2021 and Palestine in 2024 to Doha, including women and children, ensuring access to food, health, and education services.

He added that the NHRC has also organised events focusing on the rights of women and children in conflict zones, particularly Palestine.

Additionally, the NHRC participated in two exhibitions on the sidelines of the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva: "Human Rights in Islamic Culture" and "Human Rights and Sports", attended by HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad and Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva HE Dr Hind Abdulrahman al-Muftah along with a host of representatives of diplomatic missions in Geneva.

Dr al-Kuwari further elaborated on NHRC's participation with paintings in two art exhibitions. The first exhibition featured Arabic calligraphy artworks on "Human Rights in Islamic Culture," which included creative depictions of Qur'anic verses and Prophetic Hadiths that modern human rights principles align with. He emphasised that Islamic law embraced human rights concepts over 1,400 years ago, long before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 2009, this exhibition has been showcased in numerous European and Arab capitals, including Paris, Madrid, Berlin, Athens, Brussels (at the European Parliament), Washington, DC, Tunis, and Kuwait, as well as at the UN headquarters in New York and Geneva.

The second exhibition, titled "Human Rights in Sports", was launched by the NHRC before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at the UN in Geneva. It was also displayed in Algeria and organised at the Sheraton Park in Doha during the World Cup. This exhibition aimed to promote human rights values during sports events, advocate for tolerance, reject violence, racism, and hate speech in sports, and highlight the importance of inclusivity for persons with disabilities and the elderly in accessing sports venues.

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

- ✔ Warehouse for rent in Industrial area
- ✔ Warehouse 600 Sqm/1200 Sqm
- ✔ Municipality Approved
- ✔ Civil Defence Approved
- ✔ Secure Boundary Wall
- ✔ 24/7 Security

 6672 2989



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/WPM/6632/24 MAINTENANCE OF WELLHEADS & X-MAS TRESS FOR ONSHORE WELLS	29/09/2024 to 10/10/2024	0	0	28/10/2024

Scope of Work:

Contractor shall provide equipment, engineering support and personnel on call-off basis to perform preventive maintenance of wellheads and x-mas trees for onshore wells located in Ras Laffan. The primary contract duration shall be for a period of five (5) years, with an optional extension provision of additional ten (10) x one (1) years, at Company's sole discretion.

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/US>

Grand promotion as FFC turns 46

Qatar's first supermarket, Family Food Centre (FFC), proudly marks its 46th anniversary by launching an exclusive Shop & Win campaign, running until the end of 2024.

This exciting promotion began on September 26 and is open to all customers visiting any of the five outlets across Al Kheesa, Al Rayyan, Al Nasr, Old Airport Road, and Family Mart at Doha Souq Mall on Al Nasr Street (next to Turkey Central).

For every QR50 spent at Family Food Centre, shoppers will receive an e-affle coupon. Customers can register their receipts online at <https://luckydraw.family.qa/> or at the receipt registration counters available at each outlet. In total, 180 lucky winners will share 12mn Nojoom points across multiple prize draws.

The draws will take place on October 31, December 1 and 26. All draws will be held at 10am at the Al Nasr, Airport and Al Kheesa branches under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

In addition to the lucky draw, the anniversary celebration will feature product promotions over three months, highlighting Fresh Produce, Meats, Fish and Department Store items with a special focus on local Qatari products. Family Food Centre offers the widest selection of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, groceries, and imports from over 35 countries.

For added convenience, customers can shop online and enjoy home delivery via www.family.qa or the Family App. As a special offer, new customers can get free delivery on their first order through the app or website.



QYH receives Tunisian delegation

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Qatar Youth Hostels (QYH) receives a youth delegation from Tunisia within the Discover Qatar in 144 Hours programme from Sept 29-Oct 5. On this occasion Abdullah Saeed, Head of Public Relations and Communications, said: "We are pleased to receive the 10th youth delegation within the Discover Qatar in 144 Hours programme from the sisterly Tunisia."

A delegation of 11 young men and women are participating. They will be staying at the Qatar Youth Hostels. Tours will be organised for the delegation to all parts of Qatar from north to south and from east to west where we will introduce the most important tourist attractions and archaeological sites in Qatar, such as the city and Al Zubarah Fort, the National Museum of Qatar,



the Museum of Islamic Art, Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum. They will also visit smart cities such as Msheireb Downtown, Lusail and other attractive tourist destinations that distinguish our beloved country Qatar."

Saeed added: "Volunteers and tour guides, from Youth Hostel members, will accompany the delegation throughout their stay and tours, as part of their sense of

social responsibility to convey the most beautiful image of their country through hospitality and friendship.

It will be an opportunity for them to practice what they have acquired during their training programme in tourist guidance. We at QYH organise this type of programme to promote domestic tourism in Qatar and encourage young people to join this field and make Qatar one of the first tourist destinations to visit."

Vodafone Qatar announces free calls, SMSes to Lebanon



In light of the current conflict in Lebanon and to help keep loved ones connected, Vodafone Qatar has announced that all calls and SMSes to Lebanon (+961) will be free of charge until October 3, 2024.



Qatar attends meeting of Alliance of Civilizations

Qatar participated in the high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. HE Director of the International Organisations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sheikha Hanouf bint Abdulrahman al-Thani represented Qatar in the meeting. In a speech during the meeting, HE Sheikha Hanouf reaffirmed Qatar's steadfast support for the UNAOC and emphasised the importance of international co-operation in addressing global challenges that threaten peace and security. She stressed the need to promote the values of peace, tolerance, and dialogue among cultures and religions. She also touched on the current situation in Gaza, highlighting the necessity of decisive action to end the humanitarian suffering and achieve a just peace, and spoke on Qatar's leading role in supporting the alliance, noting that Qatar hosted the fourth UNAOC forum in Doha in 2011 and has provided approximately \$7.6mn to support UNAOC initiatives since 2006. — QNA

Qatar partakes in event on achieving sustainable development goals for all

Qatar has participated in an event entitled 'Learnings from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean): Achieving the SDGs for all and leaving no woman or girl behind,' at the invitation of Thailand, the Asean Secretariat and UN Women, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Qatar was represented at the meeting by Acting Director of the International Co-operation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nouf Khalid al-Suwaidi. (QNA)


Liquidation Notice

For CML international Qatar CR. No. 52942

Announce that the above-mentioned company will be winding up their business for good Anybody having claims against the company should contact the legal liquidator

Mr. Samer Ali Hassan
Samer Hassan & Partner CPA'S
Email: Samer@sahaudit.com
Fax: 44294807

with documented proof within 15 days from the publication of this notice. The company will not be responsible for any claims after this period.



QATAR FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT
صندوق قطر للتنمية


QFFD announces the following Public Tender:

SN	TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	TENDER FEE (USD)	TENDER BOND (USD)	CLOSING DATE
1	QFFD/PPP-O/PDS/0071/08-2024	Provision of Consultancy Services for the Construction of Qatar Square in Albania	\$ 1,600	\$ 18,000	13 November 2024

- Tender Document of the above Tender is available for collection via email from **29 September 2024 until Bid closing date.**
- Interested parties shall first deposit the appropriate Tender Fee (non-refundable) as mentioned above; payable to:

Bank Name: Masraf Al-Rayan Bank
Account Name: Qatar Fund for Development
Account Number: 0003-102031-202
IBAN: QA14MAFR00000000003102031202

(Company Name, Tender Name & Tender Number must be mentioned in the deposit slip)
- The Tender document will be issued upon receiving a copy of the Commercial Registration, Classification Certificate (if any) and proof of payment via email: overseas.tender@qatarfund.org.qa.
- Tender document submitted should be accompanied with a Tender Bond in accordance with the tender document shall be issued by a local Qatari Bank or by an international Bank confirmed and endorsed by any local Qatari Banks valid for 180 days from date of closing date.
- The Closing time will be no later than 12:00 noon, on the closing date mentioned above; any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- Tender document to be submitted at: **SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE**
Qatar Fund for Development
L9 Floor, Laffan Tower
P.O. Box 23366
Doha, Qatar



QatarEnergy LNG

QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/OTS/6689/24 HYDRAULIC BOLT TORQUING TRAINING	29/09/2024 to 06/10/2024	0	0	14/10/2024

Scope of Work:
Hydraulic Bolt Torquing training. The training contents are based on the combination of ASME and Industry best practices to tighten a flange joint without any leak.

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/>

16 teams to take part in 2025 Al Galayel Championship for Traditional Hunting

The draw of 14th Al Galayel Championship for Traditional Hunting for 2025 was held, unveiling that 16 teams divided in 4 groups will take part in the tournament. Scheduled to be held from January 29 to February 20, 2025 in Al Eralq Reserve, the championship will be held under the patronage of the Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) and with the support of the Social and Sport Contribution Fund (DAAAM). The championship's draw was held in the presence of Katara General Manager Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of Al Galayel Tournament for Traditional Hunting Khalid bin Mohammed al-Maadeed as well as team leaders and participants. Chairman of the Organizing Committee of Al Galayel Tournament for Traditional Hunting said that the new edition of the championship will be the strongest since the competition is between only four teams in each group, allowing for more competition and achieving more points for the participants. He pointed out that the committee is keen on highlighting the professionalism of Qatari hunters, as the history of the championship over 14 years has consolidated their ability to take risks and confirm their presence in traditional hunting. The first-place team will receive a cash prize of QR1mn. The second place winner will get QR700,000, while the third place will win QR500,000. An amount of QR100,000 is also awarded to the team that qualifies for the final of the tournament, while the award for the best press coverage for local newspapers is QR 10,000. (QNA)



TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

ORYX GTL Limited is pleased to announce the following tender(s):

S. No.	Tender Ref.	Tender Title:	Tender Bond QAR	Bid Closing Date & Tender Bond Validity Period
1	TC-CN-031-24-MC	Call-Off Contract for Maintenance Services of Cooling Tower	45,500/-	23 Oct 2024 at 12.00 noon & 180 days

Companies wishing to register their interest and obtain Tender Document(s) for the above Tender(s) must pay a non-refundable registration fee and register with ORYX GTL as detailed below:

Tender Registration Fee	QAR 500/- (Non-refundable) per Tender
Payable to	ORYX GTL Limited
IBAN (29 Digits)	QA23QNBA00000000013010705001
Bank	Qatar National Bank – HQ or any branch (cash only)
Registration Dates	From 29 th September 2024 to 03 rd October 2024 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Registration Process and Requirements:	Write an e-mail to oryxgtltenders@oryxgtl.com.qa with the following attachments: 1.Copy of Commercial Registration (CR) 2.Copy of bank deposit slip of the Tender Registration Fee. 3. Copy of ICV Certificate

COMPANIES WHO HAVE PAID THE NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE BUT FAILED TO FORMALLY REGISTER AT THE DATE AND TIME STATED ABOVE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ACCEPTABLE TENDERER.

TENDER BOND SHALL BE ISSUED BY A BANK REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF QATAR.

Effective from 1st July 2023, bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (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 Tender Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/US>

For more information about ORYX GTL and its tenders, please visit our website: <http://www.oryxgtl.com.qa>



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater and other officials at the agreement signing.

QFFD, UNRWA in \$7mn deal to aid Palestine refugees in Syria

QNA
New York

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) have signed a \$7mn agreement to provide critical support to Palestine refugees in Syria.

The agreement is part of Qatar's commitment to humanitarian assistance and improving the living conditions of Palestinian refugees, in line with UNRWA's 2024 emergency appeal.

The funding will be allocated to essential services, including education, healthcare, and cash assistance for Palestine refugees affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. The partnership aims to enhance the resilience and well-being of this vulnerable population, ensuring access to vital services and basic needs.

The agreement was signed during the UN General Assembly by Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri, acting director general of QFFD, and Greta Gunnarsdottir, director of UNRWA's Representative Office in New York, in the attendance of HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, reaffirming the exceptional partnership between Qatar and the Agency.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini expressed his gratitude to QFFD for its continuous support, highlighting the pivotal role Arab partners play in addressing humanitarian crises and supporting Palestinian refugees. "This donation comes at a critical time for Palestine refugees in the Middle East. Continued financial support from partners like QFFD enables UNRWA to provide life-saving assistance to Palestine refugees in Syria who are living in

extremely difficult conditions," he said. Al-Aseeri reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to global humanitarian efforts and the importance of collaboration in such initiatives. "Qatar plays a leading role in providing much-needed support to Palestinian refugees worldwide. This \$7mn pledge will enable UNRWA to continue delivering aid and support to our Palestinian brothers and sisters. "QFFD remains committed to fostering shared values that grant every individual the right to self-determination by providing sustainable support to communities and countries in need," he added.

The long-standing co-operation between QFFD and UNRWA has been instrumental in addressing the immediate and future needs of Palestine refugees. This new agreement will strengthen joint efforts to provide assistance to those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria.

Experts warn on dangers of online addiction

Excessive time spent online using smart devices and browsing social media platforms could eventually lead to various negative psychiatric impacts such as being more prone to isolation and introversion, and could further escalate leading to depression, anxiety, psychological and behavioural disorders.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, a number of experts in the field stressed that it has become normal that technology is an integral part of daily life and all age categories benefit from smart devices. However, to reap the benefits without the potential harmful effects, certain limits has to be applied, especially for the younger people and children, who would spend too much time online adopting a virtual world while abandoning real life.

Dr Ahmed al-Farjabi, family consultant and educational-

ist, said mobile phones, laptops, e-games and other devices have invaded our lives and even kids have become more and more attached to them.

He pointed out that excessive use of these devices would certainly produce defective behavioural conduct, especially in younger users. Besides, some may get addicted to the social media platforms and develop a habit of following them to a compulsory degree, which deprives them of experiencing real life.

Dr Al-Arabi Attala, family guidance consultant and psychologist, said the time spent online should be controlled and regulated to avoid the adverse consequences on the health and wellbeing of the users, in particular children and teenagers. He noted that multiple studies have indicated that excessive use of the social media and smart

devices would eventually cause addiction, which some classify as more dangerous than drug addiction. He said the harmful effects of such addiction are a combination of psychological and physical impacts.

Dr Abeer Abdulaziz, psychiatrist, said excessive use of social media platforms would certainly lead to more social isolation, which is not limited to any certain age category. She noted that the more time spent by a person online, the less his or her ability to deal and communicate with real people. This would also lead to various psychological troubles such as anxiety, perplexity, and the situation would be as if everyone lives in his own world, unaware of his surroundings. Further, she explained that some people may suffer from difficulties in sleeping, especially those who spend long hours online before going to bed.



The Big is Back: Rawabi's spectacular promotion at QR10, QR20 and QR30!

Rawabi, Qatar's largest hypermarket chain, has announced an exciting promotion that will leave shoppers astounded.

To run from September 26-October 9, Rawabi stores across Qatar will offer an incredible range of products at unbeatable prices of QR10, QR20, and QR30 with 1,000 plus products.

The two-week extravaganza is set to redefine shopping experiences with unbelievable deals on a vast array of product categories, including groceries, fresh food, household essentials, home needs, toys, electronics, garments, and much more. Shoppers can look forward to an extensive range of products to meet their every need.

"For us, this promotion is not just about offering great deals, but about making a real difference in our customers' lives. We want to provide them with access to quality products at affordable prices, and this promotion exemplifies our dedication



to that mission," said Kamnu Baker, Group General Manager of Al Rawabi Group.

The offers include Golden Phoenix whole chicken 1,100gm QR10, Indomie Noodles 70gmx10ps QR10, Smart Gold Extra Long Grain Basmati Rice 5kg QR20, Tide HS Original 1.5kg QR10, Delici Press Cooker 3.0l QR20 and Al Qannas Men's Arabic Slipper QR30. This promotion is a testament to Rawabi's commitment to delivering excep-

tional value and quality to its loyal customers. Whether you're stocking up your pantry, seeking a fashion upgrade, or searching for the perfect gift, Rawabi has you covered with its irresistible offers.

Additionally, Rawabi's department store offers up to 50% off on garments and footwear from our fashion and lifestyle collection. Dive into stylish garments and footwear, and elevate your style effortlessly with us.

Investment and Trade Court president meets China's Supreme Court chief



HE the President of the Investment and Trade Court Judge Khalid bin Ali al-Obaidly met in Beijing yesterday with President of the Supreme People's Court of China Judge Zhang Jun. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to enhance judicial and legal co-operation between the two countries, and to exchange expertise in the fields of judiciary and legislation related to investment and international trade. (QNA)

Key role of int'l commercial courts in economic growth stressed

President of the Investment and Trade Court Judge Khalid bin Ali al-Obaidly has emphasised the critical importance of international commercial courts in promoting justice and providing an environment conducive to global economic growth.

He stressed the need for enhancing international co-operation to improve mechanisms for resolving

commercial disputes efficiently and swiftly. In his speech at the China-Mena Arbitration Summit held in Beijing, Judge Khalid bin Ali al-Obaidly highlighted Qatar's role in this regard by issuing Law No 2 of 2017 concerning arbitration in civil and commercial matters.

He also discussed Qatar's efforts in establishing a specialised court to foster a judicial environment

rooted in quality and to enhance the economy through the "Taqadi" e-litigation system, which aims to expedite and effectively administer justice using modern technology. He pointed out the integration between the court and government agencies, which supports economic growth and encourages both local and international investment. (QNA)

Qatar Charity delivers aid to Sudan dam collapse victims

Qatar Charity (QC), with funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has carried out a new relief intervention in Sudan providing food packages and tents to those affected by the collapse of the Arba'at Dam in the Red Sea State, where the disaster caused significant damage to dozens of villages and resulted in numerous casualties.

QC's intervention, according to an official statement, has been met with widespread appreciation from local authorities, communities, and those impacted in Arba'at and surrounding villages.

The Wali (governor) of the Red Sea State, Major General Mustafa Mohamed Nour, expressed his appreciation for the relief aid provided by QC to the victims of flash floods and heavy rains. He also praised the significant humanitarian efforts continuously made by QC to support those affected and families in need, with QFFD's generous support.

Several individuals affected by the dam's collapse expressed deep gratitude for the rapid response of QC's field teams, who provided es-



sential shelter and food assistance in a timely manner. QC was the first organisation to reach the impacted areas, where it conducted a field assessment to identify urgent intervention priorities after the collapse of the dam, which serves as the main source of fresh water for the Red Sea State.

Sayed Ohaj, a person affected by the disaster, stated that the collapse of the Arba'at Dam in-

flicted substantial damage on properties, livestock, and farmland, leading to the loss of several lives. He commended the prompt arrival of QC teams to provide much-needed assistance to the area.

QC's field teams faced significant challenges in reaching a village, which suffered extensive destruction and substantial losses, where the teams set up tents for the affected residents and distributed food packages to hundreds of those impacted on the second day following the disaster.

Tariq Mohiuddin, acting director of QC's Sudan Office, stated that the organisation's intervention is part of its urgent humanitarian efforts to assist families affected by floods and heavy rains across several states in Sudan. He noted that QC was timely in its response following the floods and rains, providing essential aid such as tents and shelter materials to the affected families in several areas of the Nile River State. This assistance was part of the aid delivered through the third Qatari airlift for flood relief efforts.





Hezbollah leader's death sparks anti-Israel protests



Supporters of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah carry his pictures as they gather in Sidon, following his killing in an Israeli air strike in Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday, in Lebanon, yesterday.

A woman chants slogans while holding a sign denouncing Israel during an anti-Israel protest in Tehran's Palestine Square, yesterday, after the Hezbollah group confirmed reports of the killing of its leader Hassan Nasrallah.



People gather following the announcement of the death of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Nasrallah, in Basra, Iraq, yesterday.

People carrying placards and Palestinian national flags stand beside a portrait of slain Lebanese Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah (not in picture), during an anti-Israel protest in Lahore, Pakistan, yesterday.



Thousands sleep on the streets after air strikes on Beirut

AFP Beirut

Thousands of residents in Beirut's densely-packed southern suburbs camped out overnight in streets, public squares and makeshift shelters after Israel ordered them out before its jets attacked the Hezbollah stronghold.

"I expected the war to expand, but I thought it would be limited to (military) targets, not civilians, homes, and children," said south Beirut resident Rihab Naseef, 56, who spent the night in a church yard.

AFP photographers saw families spend the night in the open, scenes unheard of in Lebanon's capital since the Hezbollah and Israel last went to war in 2006.

"I didn't even pack any clothes, I never thought we would leave like this and suddenly find ourselves on the streets," Naseef said.

Israeli jets pounded Beirut's south and its outskirts throughout the night, and Beirut woke up to the aftermath of a night of war, smoke billowing from blazes in several places. "I'm anxious and afraid

of what may happen. I left my home without knowing where I'm going, what will happen to me, and whether I will return," Naseef said.

Despite a night of intense strikes, the extent of the devastation and the casualty toll was still unclear early yesterday.

Hezbollah's Al-Manar television broadcast footage from southern Beirut that showed flattened buildings, streets filled with rubble and clouds of smoke and dust above the area known as Dahiyeh.

Israel on Friday said it attacked Hezbollah's south Beirut headquarters and weapons facilities. Martyrs' Square, Beirut's main public space, was filled with exhausted and worried families camping out in the open.

"The bombing intensified at night and our house started shaking," said an angry Hala Ezzedine, 55, who slept in the square after fleeing the Burj al-Barajneh neighbourhood in Dahiyeh where strikes took place.

"CHILDREN'S SCREAMS" "What did the (Lebanese) people do to deserve this?" she asked, adding that her home had been destroyed by Israeli strikes during the 2006 war.

"They want to wage war but what wrong did we do?" she said after nearly a year of cross-border violence between Israel and Hezbollah which says it is acting in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza.

"We don't have to go through what happened in Gaza," Ezzedine said of Israel's campaign against the Hamas-run Palestinian territory that has left more than 41,500 dead, according to the health ministry there.

Israel's military offensive came in response to Hamas's October first week storming of Israel. When Ezzedine began to criticise Hezbollah's actions, her husband quickly interrupted.

"We are patient, but we shouldn't be the only ones to pay this price," he said.

Hawra al-Husseini, 21, described a "very difficult night" after fleeing Dahiyeh to sleep in Martyrs' Square with her family.

"Missiles rained down over our home. I will never forget the children's screams," she said.

"We're going back home (in the southern suburbs), but we're scared," she added.

"It's impossible to live in this country any more."



A man walks with a woman as displaced families stay on the roads after spending the night fleeing the overnight Israeli strikes, amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in southern Beirut, in Lebanon, yesterday.

Nasrallah will be hard to replace: Turkiye

Agencies Ankara

Turkiye's foreign minister said yesterday that Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was an important figure for Lebanon and the region and would be hard to replace after he was killed in an Israeli air strike in Beirut a day earlier.

Speaking to state broadcaster TRT Haber in New York, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan also said Turkiye believed Israel would not stop in Lebanon and would spread the war in Gaza to the wider region, Reuters reported.

He said the "helplessness" of the US and other Western countries was allowing the violence to continue.

ISRAEL COMMITTING 'GENOCIDE': ERDOGAN

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Israel was committing a "genocide" in Lebanon after Hezbollah chief

Hassan Nasrallah was confirmed among hundreds killed in Israeli strikes this week, AFP reported.

"Lebanon and the Lebanese people are the latest target of a policy of genocide, occupation and invasion carried out by Israel since October 7," Erdogan wrote on X, without directly referring to Nasrallah's death.

"No person with a conscience can accept, excuse or justify such a massacre," he added, calling for a stop to Israel's "mindless" attempts to extend conflict across the region.

Erdogan has regularly accused Israel of "genocide" throughout the devastating Gaza war that was sparked by Palestinian group Hamas's unprecedented October first week storming of Israel. Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 41,586 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to figures provided by the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. The UN has described the figures as reliable.

Iran's Khamenei 'taken to secure location'

Reuters Dubai

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been taken to a secure location inside Iran amid heightened security, sources told Reuters, a day after Israel killed the head of Lebanese group Hezbollah in a strike on Beirut.

Reuters reported this month that Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps, the ideological guardians of the Islamic Republic, had ordered all of members to stop using any type of communication devices after thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah blew up.

Lebanon and Hezbollah say Israel was behind the pager and walkie-talkie attacks. Israel neither denied nor confirmed involvement.

The two regional officials briefed by Tehran and who told Reuters that Khamenei had been moved to a safe location also said Iran was in contact with Hezbollah and other regional proxy groups to determine the next step after Nasrallah's killing.

The sources declined to be

identified further due to the sensitivity of the matter. As well as killing Nasrallah, Friday's strikes by Israel on Beirut killed Revolutionary Guards' deputy commander Abbas Nilforoushan, Iranian media reported yesterday. Other Revolutionary Guard's commanders have also been killed since the Gaza War erupted last year and violence flared elsewhere.

Khamenei issued a statement later, following Israel's announcement that Nasrallah had been killed, saying: "The fate of this region will be determined by the forces of resistance, with Hezbollah at the forefront."

"The blood of the martyr shall not go unavenged," he said in a separate statement, in which he announced five days of mourning to mark Nasrallah's death.

Iran's network of regional allies, known as the 'Axis of Resistance', stretch from Hezbollah in Lebanon to Hamas in Gaza, militias in Iraq and the Houthis in Yemen. Hamas has been fighting a war with Israel for almost a year, since its fighters stormed into Israel in the first week of October. The Houthis, meanwhile, have launched missiles at Israel

and at ships sailing in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea along the Yemeni coast.

Hezbollah has been engaged in exchanges of fire across the Lebanese border throughout the Gaza War and has repeatedly said it would not stop until there was a ceasefire in Gaza.

After the pager and walkie-talkies strikes, one Iranian security official told Reuters that a large-scale operation was underway by the Revolutionary Guards to inspect all communications devices. He said most of these devices were either homemade or imported from China and Russia.

The official said Iran was concerned about infiltration by Israeli agents, including those on Israel's payroll and a thorough investigation of personnel has already begun, targeting mid and high-ranking members of the Revolutionary Guards.

In another statement yesterday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the United States had played a role in Nasrallah's killing as a supplier of weapons to Israel.

"The Americans cannot deny their complicity with the Zionists," he said in the statement carried by state media.

ACCUSATION

Ethiopian actions 'flagrantly violate' Somali territorial integrity

Somalia's prime minister yesterday accused Ethiopia of actions that "flagrantly violate" Somalia's territorial integrity after Addis Ababa's shock announcement it would lease a stretch of coastline from the breakaway region

Somaliland, AFP reported from United Nations. The region has been on alert since January when Ethiopia said it intended to build a naval base and commercial port on the area. Landlocked Ethiopia has long sought its own sea access, but the move enraged Somalia which refuses to recognise Somaliland's claim to independence that it first declared in 1991 and has received little international support.

"Somalia currently faces a serious threat from Ethiopia's recent actions which flagrantly violate our territorial integrity," Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre said at the UN General Assembly. "Ethiopia's attempt to annex part of Somalia under the guise of securing sea access is both unlawful and unnecessary," he said. Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Taye Atske Selassie rejected the Somali prime minister's criticism.

At least six dead after bomb blasts in Somalia

Reuters Mogadishu

At least six people were killed and 10 injured yesterday by bomb explosions in Somalia's capital Mogadishu and a town in the country's Middle Shabelle region, police and witnesses said.

It was not immediately clear who had carried out the attacks, although militant group Al Shebaab frequently orchestrates bombings and gun attacks in Mogadishu and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa country. The blast in

Mogadishu involved a bomb-rigged car that was parked on a road near the National Theatre in Mogadishu, about one kilometre away from the president's office. It detonated, killing five people and injuring seven, a policeman at the scene, who asked not to be named because he was not authorised to speak to the press, told Reuters. The casualty figures were confirmed by another policeman in the area. A police spokesperson did not pick up a Reuters' call seeking comment.

In a separate incident, a bomb planted in a livestock market in Jowhar city in Somalia's Middle Shabelle region killed one person and injured three other civilians.



Somali security officers guard residents from the wreckage of a car at the scene of an explosion on a bomb-rigged car that was parked on a road near the National Theatre in Hamarweyne district of Mogadishu, yesterday.



Storm Helene kills nearly 50 in US

AFP/Reuters
Atlanta

Nearly 4mn Americans were still in the dark and many faced torrential flooding yesterday, authorities said, as powerful storm Helene marched across eastern US states, leaving nearly 50 people dead.

Emergency responders had launched massive rescue operations across multiple states since Helene slammed into Florida as a Category 4 hurricane and surged north, leaving roads, homes and businesses underwater – many of them destroyed.

Power had been restored in some areas since night fell over the region yesterday, but nearly 4mn customers were still without electricity across 10 states in the early hours of yesterday, according to tracker poweroutage.us, with US meteorologists warning of possible “long-duration” outages.

While Helene has weakened to a post-tropical cyclone, it has continued to wreak havoc with heavy rains that the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said would result in “catastrophic and potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding”.

More evacuations were ordered overnight as flooding threatened to breach dams in North Carolina and Tennessee.

The National Weather Service (NWS) warned that an eastern Tennessee dam was on the verge of failure and urged downstream communities to “move immediately to higher ground”.

Record-breaking river flooding hit several southern states, the NHC said, with mas-

sive flooding reported in Asheville, a city in western North Carolina.

“This is one of the worst storms in modern history for parts of western North Carolina,” state Governor Ray Cooper said in a briefing on Friday night.

In western North Carolina’s Rutherford County, emergency officials warned residents near the Lake Lure Dam that it might fail, although they said late on Friday that failure did not appear imminent.

Multiple people in and around Chimney Rock, North Carolina, described the downtown as washed out, with images online showing inches of mud and sediment, uprooted trees and snapped telephone poles and buildings turned to debris.

“All right folks, listen up, Chimney Rock is gone, Flowering Bridge is gone,” said poster Touristpov on TikTok, showing videos of the destruction. “I don’t know what they’ll do to get us out of here.”

In Cedar Key, an island city of 700 people just off Florida’s northwest coast, the full destructive force of the hurricane was on view.

Several pastel-coloured wooden homes were completely destroyed, victims of storm surge and ferocious winds.

“I’ve lived here my whole life, and it breaks my heart to see it,” said Gabe Doty, superintendent of Cedar Key’s water and sewer district. “We’ve not really been able to catch a break around here.”

Up to 12” (30cm) of rain was forecast in the Appalachian mountains, with isolated spots even receiving 20”.

In South Carolina at least 20 people have died, including two firefighters, officials said.

Among the deaths were six residents of Spartanburg County, according to county coroner Rusty Clevenger.

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp’s office confirmed 15 people were killed in his state, including an emergency responder.

Kemp warned that the city of Valdosta had identified 115 heavily damaged structures with multiple people trapped inside.

Florida’s toll stood at 11. Governor Ron DeSantis said the damage from Helene exceeded that of hurricanes Idalia and Debby, which both hit the same Big Bend region southeast of Tallahassee in the last 13 months.

“It’s a real gut punch to those communities,” DeSantis told Fox News.

In Perry, near where Helene slammed ashore bearing winds of 140mph (225kph), houses lost power and the gas station was flattened.

Four hundred miles to the north in the Tennessee town of Erwin, a dramatic rescue operation unfolded, as more than 50 patients and staff were trapped on a hospital roof as floodwaters raged around them, local television footage showed. Helicopters were deployed in the rescue.

In neighbouring Virginia, Governor Glenn Youngkin confirmed one fatality related to Helene.

“This storm is not over,” he warned in a video message.

Local media reported multiple deaths in North Carolina.

With typhoon Yagi battering Asia, storm Boris drenching Europe, a deadly new hurricane damaging Mexico’s Acapulco (see accompanying report on the right) and extreme flooding in the Sahel, September

so far has been an unusually wet month around the world.

Scientists link some extreme weather events to human-caused global warming.

“Helene travelled over exceptionally warm ocean waters in the Gulf of Mexico,” Andra Garner, a climate scientist at Rowan University in New Jersey, told AFP. “It’s likely that those extra warm ocean waters played a role in Helene’s rapid intensification.”

“Storm surges are getting worse,” Garner said, “because our sea levels are rising as we warm the planet.”

In the impact zone, residents had been warned of “unsurvivable” storm surge.

President Joe Biden and state authorities had urged people to heed official evacuation warnings before Helene hit, though some chose to stay in their homes to wait out the storm.

Vice-President Kamala Harris said she and Biden “will continue to monitor the situation closely”, adding the administration has mobilised 1,500 personnel to support impacted communities.

The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Deanne Criswell, said “over 600 rescues” have been conducted.

“The devastation we’re witnessing in Hurricane Helene’s wake has been overwhelming,” Biden said yesterday. “Jill and I continue to pray for all of those who have lost loved ones and for everyone impacted by this storm.”

“Our focus is on life-saving and life-sustaining rescue efforts in the Southeast,” he said. “I continue to be briefed by my team, which is co-ordinating recovery efforts with state and local officials.”

At least 22 reported dead as storm John dissipates over Mexico

Residents in southwestern Mexico evacuated yesterday from homes flooded by the remnants of Hurricane John that ravaged the Pacific coastline for a week, bringing deadly floods and landslides that left 22 people reported dead.

In Guerrero, the worst-hit state and one of Mexico’s poorest, 18 people were killed, according to local media, many due to mudslides that crushed houses.

To the south, local media reported three deaths in Oaxaca, and a young boy died in a river to the north in Michoacan state.

John rapidly strengthened into a major hurricane on Monday before tearing into Guerrero.

It dissipated then reformed offshore and for the rest of the week skimmed the coastline north, bringing torrential rain and floods.

John began dissipating on Friday and is no longer considered an active storm.

Guerrero state Governor Evelyn Salgado shared images on X of emergency responders in the major resort city of Acapulco carrying out rescue operations by boat, jetski and helicopter, and residents wading through roads flooded up to waist-high.

Salgado said access to the airport was re-established yesterday.

Residents with small children who evacuated from flooded neighbourhoods on dinghies and surfboards asked authorities for support as the city, still recovering from a devastating 2023 storm, faced a second disaster in less than a year.

Last October, Hurricane Otis struck Acapulco as a Category 5 storm that rapidly intensified off the coast, leaving more than 50 people dead and billions of dollars in damages.

However, John’s rainfall nearly tripled the rain generated from Otis.

“A lot of water has come down,” resident Jazmin Barrera told UnoTV. “We haven’t seen the sun since Monday. I think this time around has been more devastating.”

Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms are forecast across Guerrero and parts of Oaxaca later in the day, but authorities in Acapulco said the floodwaters were starting to fall back.

“Shelters and kitchens have been set up and food supplies are being distributed,” President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on X. – Reuters

US DOJ sues Alabama for violating law that protects voter rights

The US Justice Department (DOJ) said on Friday that it filed a lawsuit against Alabama over a programme that the state said was aimed at removing non-citizens from its election rolls, alleging that it violated federal law because it was implemented too close to the November 5 elections.

In mid-August, less than three months before the November 5 elections, Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen announced a “process to remove non-citizens registered to vote in Alabama”, citing more than 3,200 people who he said registered to vote and were not US citizens.

“The Quiet Period Provision of federal law exists to prevent eligible voters from being removed from the rolls as a result of last-minute, error-prone efforts,” the Justice Department said in a statement on Friday, announcing the lawsuit.

The Quiet Period Provision requires states to complete systematic programmes aimed at removing the names of ineligible voters from voter registration lists by no later than 90 days before federal elections.

The Justice Department said its review found that both native-born and naturalised US citizens have received letters stating that their voter record has been made inactive and that they have been placed on a path for removal from Alabama’s statewide voter registration list.

“I was elected Secretary of State by the people of Alabama, and it is my Constitutional duty to ensure that only American citizens vote in our elections,” Allen said at a news conference in response to the lawsuit.

The November 5 elections include those for president, the US Senate and the US House of Representatives. – Reuters



Pressing issues

People walk on a flooded street to a shelter following Hurricane John in Acapulco, Mexico. – AFP

Left: US Vice-President Kamala Harris at the US-Mexico border with Border Patrol Tucson Sector Chief John Modlin in Douglas, Arizona. – AFP



Boats are piled up in front of homes after Hurricane Helene hit the area as it passed offshore in Treasure Island, Florida. – AFP



A local resident helps free a car that became stranded in a stretch of flooding road as Tropical Storm Helene strikes, on the outskirts of Boone, North Carolina. – Reuters

US ports brace for dockworkers strike

Tens of thousands of US dockworkers plan to strike next week if there is no breakthrough on contract talks, just a month before November’s closely contested presidential election.

A walkout affecting 14 large ports on the East and Gulf Coast could start at midnight on Tuesday (October 1), posing a potentially significant headwind to the US economy.

Negotiations on a new contract began in May but have stalled in recent weeks.

The United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), which represents shipping companies and terminal operators, on Thursday asked federal officials to intervene, citing the union’s “repeated refusal to come to the table”.

The International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) dismissed the complaint as “another publicity stunt”. – AFP

Harris vows migration crackdown and reform as she finally visits border

AFP
Douglas, US

Kamala Harris has pledged that she would tighten the border and fix America’s broken immigration system on her first visit to the US-Mexico frontier as a presidential candidate.

The US vice-president is playing catch-up on immigration, with a majority of Americans saying that they trust Republican rival Donald Trump more than her on one of the most important issues for voters ahead of November’s election.

In a speech in Douglas, Arizona before a friendly audience, Harris tried to straddle a tough-on-illegal-migration line with a promise to reach across the aisle to fix an immigration system that she said was broken.

“The United States is a sovereign nation, and I believe we have a duty to set rules at our border and to enforce them, and I take that responsibility very seriously,” she said.

“We are also a nation of immigrants...

and so we must reform our immigration system to ensure that it works in an orderly way, that it is humane and that it makes our country stronger,” the vice-president said.

Harris said that as president she would revive a bipartisan border bill Trump “tanked” last year, which would add 1,500 border agents and pay for 100 machines to detect smuggled fentanyl, a synthetic opioid ravaging US communities.

And she said anyone crossing the border illegally would be barred from seeking asylum in the country.

However, “hard-working migrants” who come to the US legally should be given a pathway to citizenship, she said.

“I reject the false choice that suggests we must either choose between securing our border or creating a system of immigration that is safe, orderly and humane,” the vice-president said. “We can and we must do both.”

She said Trump, who has repeatedly demonised immigrants as murderers, rapists and mentally ill people, is “fanning the flames of fear and division”.

“The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future,” she said.

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met Border Patrol officials and was photographed alongside the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, that saying these people had been “let out of jail, and they’re roaming our streets”.

Trump claimed – wrongly – that the

numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

“These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time,” Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

“The only reason that they cannot be deported is because of diplomatic issues with their home country and nothing to do with the US government’s policy or practices,” he said.

Recent polls have seen Harris eating into Trump’s lead on migration with voters, yet it still remains a weak spot, with record illegal border crossings under her and Biden’s watch.

However, Harris points to numbers that have plummeted since Biden signed an executive order in June temporarily closing the border to asylum-seekers – to around 58,000 in August from a peak of 250,000 last December.

The Republicans have focused on Harris’s role early in the administration when Biden tasked her with looking into the causes of illegal migration from Central America.

Trump’s campaign has slammed the vice-president’s “disgraceful” visit to the border.

The campaign branded it “a desperate attempt to fool Americans into forgetting the chaos and devastation she has unleashed over her four years as Border Czar”.

Trump has doubled down on his rhetoric targeting migrants, seeing it as appealing to his base of largely white, blue-collar voters.

In remarks on Thursday, Trump repeated his claim that migrants were “infecting our country”, using language that Biden’s team has compared to that used by Nazi Germany.

Robert Jenrick in spotlight



Robert Jenrick, Conservative Party MP and leadership candidate gestures as he arrives at the annual Conservative Party conference with his wife Michal Berkner in Birmingham, Britain.

Now, call to rejoin European Union



Protesters hold up banners during a National Rejoin March, outside the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday, calling for the UK to rejoin the European Union.

Tata iPhone component plant in India disrupted by fire, 10 given medical aid

■ Site employs 20,000 workers
■ Incident occurred next to upcoming iPhone assembly factory
■ Tata Electronics is a key supplier to Apple in India

Reuters
Hosur

At least 10 people received medical treatment, with two hospitalised, after a major fire yesterday disrupted production at a key Tata Electronics plant in southern India which makes Apple iPhone components.

The incident is the latest to affect Apple's iPhone supply chain just as the company is looking to diversify beyond China and sees India as a key growth market. It is also the latest in a string of incidents to affect Apple suppliers in India over the last few years.

The fire occurred at the plant in the city of Hosur in Tamil Nadu state which makes some iPhone components. It broke out near another building inside the Tata complex which will in coming months turn out complete iPhones. The fire was contained to one building and has been extinguished fully,

top district administrative official K M Sarayu said. No decision has been made on when manufacturing can restart, she said.

"Fumes are still coming since it's a chemical hazard. It will take time for the search and rescue team to go inside and do an assessment. We have to wait till tomorrow," she added.

Sarayuu said that 523 workers were on shift when the fire broke out in the early morning and that all workers had been evacuated and accounted for. Savitri, an eyewitness who lives near the plant and only gave her first name, said she heard "loud sounds around 5.30am that sounded like crackers going off. After that we just saw plumes of smoke from the building, and there was thick smoke till at least 10 in the morning."

Tata Electronics is one of the major contract makers of iPhones in India, along with Foxconn. The company said it was investigating the cause of the fire and would take the necessary steps to safeguard employees and other stakeholders. "Our emergency protocols at the plant ensured that all employees are safe," a Tata Electronics spokesperson said.

J Saravanan, a senior district official charged with handling industrial safety, said it was not yet possible to say when production at the facility will resume, as "we will



Vehicles pass through the security check at the entrance of Tata Electronics Plant in southern India which makes Apple iPhone components in Hosur, Tamil Nadu.

need to go in to understand more, depending on the damage." He said the injuries were all related to smoke inhalation but give no further detail. Production was halted and employees sent home for the day following the fire, a person with direct knowledge of the incident said earlier, describing the blaze as chemical-related.

A second industry source said it was not yet clear if a neighbouring building where smartphone manufacturing was due to start by year-end had also been affected. With the facility inaccessible at the moment, the source said, an assessment of damage from the fire will have to be done later. Apple made no immediate comment on the incident. The fire began in an area used to store chemicals, a fire official said on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media. Last year, Apple supplier Foxlink halted production at its assembly facility in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh after a massive fire led part of the building to collapse.

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Past disruptions at Apple facilities in India

Here's a look at other incidents in recent years that disrupted Apple facilities in India:

February 2024: Hundreds of workers at a manufacturing plant of Apple supplier Flex in India's Tamil Nadu state staged a one-day strike demanding higher wages for the next three years and the recognition of a union.

December 2023: Foxconn's operations at its Indian facility near Tamil Nadu's capital, Chennai, halted for a day due to weather disruptions.

September 2023: Pegatron temporarily stopped iPhone assembly at its Chennai facility in the same southern Indian state after a fire at the factory.

February 2023: Foxlink, which manufactures iPhone chargers, suspended production at its assembly facility in Chittoor in the state of Andhra Pradesh after a fire caused part of the building to collapse.

December 2021: Operations at a plant belonging Foxconn in Chennai city were halted for more than three weeks after 250 workers fell sick, sparking protests. Apple later found facilities did not meet required standards.

December 2020: Workers at a Wistron plant in Karnataka state's Narsapura destroyed property during protests over non-payment of wages, causing millions of dollars in losses and forcing the Taiwanese contract manufacturer to shut the plant for three months. Wistron sold its India business to the Tata Group last year. — Reuters

India allows non-basmati white rice exports in boost for global supplies

Reuters
New Delhi

India gave the go-ahead yesterday for exports of non-basmati white rice to resume as inventories in the world's biggest exporter of the grain surge and farmers prepare to harvest a new crop in the coming weeks.

Bigger rice shipments from India would beef up overall global supplies and soften international prices by forcing other major exporters of the staple such as Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam to reduce their rates, traders said.

New Delhi set a floor price for non-basmati white rice exports of \$490 per metric tonne, a government order said. That came a day after the government cut the export tax on white rice to zero. New Delhi's decision to allow traders to sell non-basmati white

rice on the world market follows a series of moves to ease export restrictions on premium, aromatic basmati and parboiled varieties. On Friday, India also reduced the export duty on parboiled rice to 10% from 20% previously.

Earlier this month, the government removed a floor price for basmati rice exports to help thousands of farmers who complained about a lack of access to lucrative overseas markets such as Europe, the Middle East and the United States. As the El Nino weather pattern raised the spectre of poor monsoon rains, India imposed various curbs on rice exports last year and extended them into 2024 to keep local prices in check ahead of the April-June national election. Since the 2023 ban on exports, local supplies have picked up, bumping up stocks at government warehouses.

Rice stocks at the state-run

Food Corporation of India on Sept 1 stood at 32.3mn metric tons, 38.6% higher than last year, giving the government ample room to ease rice export curbs. Buoyed by copious monsoon rains, farmers have planted rice on 41.35mn hectares (102.18mn acres), up from 40.45mn hectares (99.95mn acres) last year and an average of 40.1mn hectares (99.09mn acres) over the last five years.

The decision to allow non-basmati rice exports will raise farm incomes in the countryside and help India regain its position in the global market, said Rajesh Paharia Jain, a New Delhi-based trader.

Despite the 10% export tax on parboiled rice and the floor price of \$490 a metric ton, Indian white rice will be competitive in the international market, said B V Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters' Association.

Birthday boy



Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor gestures with a cake during his 42nd birthday celebration, at his residence in Mumbai yesterday.



A man carrying a sack of flour wades through flood waters after the Bagmati River overflowed following heavy monsoon rains in Kathmandu.

Nepal floods, landslides kill at least 38 people

At least 38 people have been killed in Nepal since early Friday as persistent downpours triggered more flooding and landslides, closing major roads and disrupting domestic air travel, officials said yesterday.

The death toll could rise, they added, with another 29 people reported missing over the last 30 hours. Most of the deaths took place in the Kathmandu valley, which is home to four million people and the country's capital, where the flooding brought traffic and normal activity to a standstill. Rescue workers

used helicopters and rubber boats to help people stranded on rooftops or elevated ground as some parts of Kathmandu reported up to 322.2mm of rain over the last day.

Most rivers in the Himalayan nation have swollen, spilling over roads and bridges, authorities said, after nearly a week's delay in the retreat of South Asia's annual monsoon rains brought torrential downpours across the region. Police were working to clear debris and reopen roads after landslides blocked highways in 28 places, said police spokesperson Dan Bahadur Karki. The earliest

let-up in the rains might not come until Sunday, said Binu Maharjan, a weather forecasting official in Kathmandu, who said a low-pressure system over parts of neighbouring India had caused this year's extended rains. "Heavy rains are likely to continue until Sunday morning and weather is likely to clear after that," Maharjan told Reuters.

Most central and eastern areas had received moderate to extremely heavy rainfall, ranging from 50mm to more than 200mm, she added, with moderate levels recorded elsewhere. International flights are op-

erating, but many domestic flights have been disrupted, said Rinji Sherpa, a spokesperson for Kathmandu airport.

The Koshi River in the southeast, which causes deadly floods in India's eastern neighbouring state of Bihar almost every year, was running above the danger level at 450,000 cusecs, versus the normal figure of 150,000 cusecs, one official said. A cusec is a measurement of water flow equivalent to one cubic foot a second. The river level is still rising, added Ram Chandra Tiwari, the area's top bureaucrat. — Reuters



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
- ☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)
- ☎ 44350474
- 📘 facebook.com/gulftimes
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Global long-term growth at risk due to high worldwide debt

The problem of global debt is multifaceted and has significant economic, social, and political implications.

Many countries, especially developing ones, have borrowed heavily in recent years to finance infrastructure, healthcare, and other essential services.

High sovereign debt levels often make it difficult for governments to meet their financial obligations and lead to defaults or restructuring.

Corporations and households in many countries have also borrowed more, contributing to overall financial fragility. Excessive private debt invariably leads to reduced consumer spending, slower growth, and increased bankruptcy risks.

A new report has warned global long-term growth is at risk due to high worldwide debt and political instability.

The real worry, according to World Economic Forum managing director Saadia Zahidi, lies with developing countries.

These nations face mounting debt that could spread problems to other emerging economies.

She highlights a startling fact: "There's about 3.3bn people that live in economies where the debt servicing levels are actually higher than what those economies are spending on...health and education."

This situation creates a difficult balancing act for these countries. "Now that's particularly a developing economy problem," Zahidi explains, noting it means that there are a lot of "trade-offs" between

"There's about 3.3bn people that live in economies where the debt servicing levels are actually higher than what those economies are spending on... health and education"

social spending and servicing debt. "So overall there is a fiscal squeeze," she states.

Recently, the Institute of International Finance warned that the world is mired in \$315tn of debt.

This global debt wave has been the biggest, fastest and most wide-ranging rise in debt since World War II, coinciding with the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This increase marks the second consecutive quarterly rise and was primarily driven by emerging markets, where debt surged to an unprecedented high of over \$105tn – \$55tn more than a decade ago," the IIF said in a report.

Around two-thirds of the \$315tn owed originates from mature economies, with Japan and the United States contributing the most to that debt pile.

However, the debt-to-GDP ratio for mature economies, which is seen as a good indicator of a country's ability to service its debts – has been falling in general.

On the other hand, emerging markets held \$105tn in debt, but their debt-to-GDP ratio hit a new high of 257%, pushing the overall ratio up for the first time in three years.

China, India and Mexico were the biggest contributors, the report noted.

The IIF identified stubborn inflation, rising trade friction and geopolitical tensions as factors that could pose a significant risk to debt dynamics, "putting upward pressure on global funding costs."

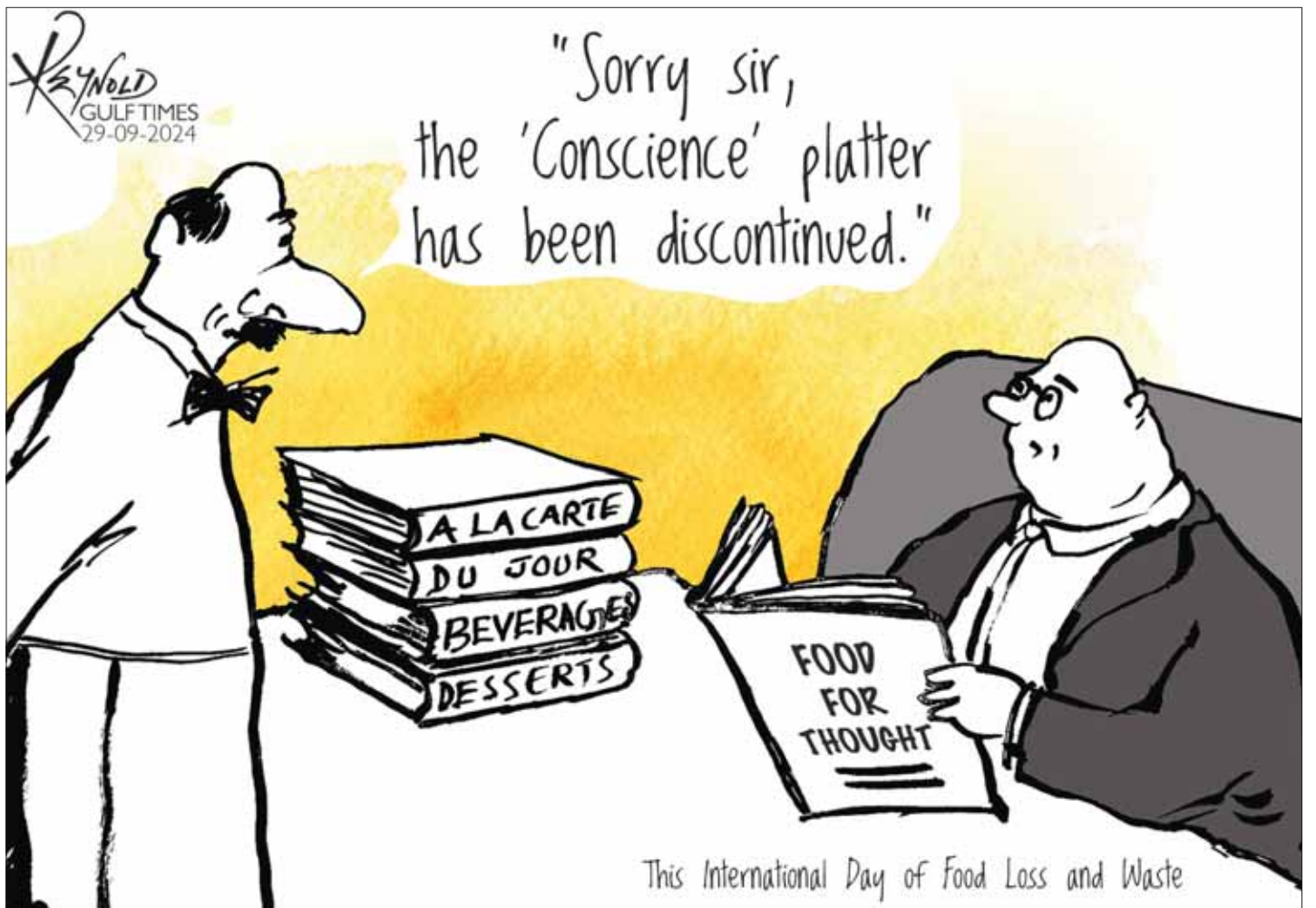
"While the health of household balance sheets should provide a cushion against 'higher for longer rates' in the near term, government budget deficits are still higher than pre-pandemic levels," the IIF added.

Of the \$315tn debt stock, household debt, which includes mortgages, credit cards and student debt, among others, amounted to \$59.1tn.

Business debt, which corporations use to finance their operations and growth, stood at \$164.5tn, with the financial sector alone making up \$70.4tn of that amount. Public debt made up the rest at \$91.4tn.

The global debt problem threatens economic stability, hinders growth, and increases the risk of financial crises.

Addressing this issue, obviously requires better fiscal management, debt restructuring, and policies that promote sustainable economic development.



This International Day of Food Loss and Waste

Will the EU heed Draghi's call for integration?

By **Lucrezia Reichlin**
London

Mario Draghi, former president of the European Central Bank and former Italian prime minister, has delivered his much-anticipated report on European competitiveness to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The report does not hold back: it issues a stark warning about the European Union's current trajectory and proposes new ways to think about key issues and policies.

According to Draghi, the challenges Europe is facing are nothing short of existential. Over the past two decades, income growth per capita in the EU has lagged behind that in the United States. More ominous, Europe is fundamentally unprepared to navigate a fast-changing global environment characterised by rising geopolitical tensions and rapid technological transformation.

With the most open economy among the world's major powers, Europe is highly vulnerable to trade tensions and other disruptions. Complicating matters further, Europe is heavily dependent on imported energy and critical raw materials, and confronts higher energy costs than its global rivals. Access to cheap energy is vital to economic leadership.

Europe also lags behind countries like the US and China on technological innovation and commercialisation. In fact, the EU's presence in the tech industry is marginal, with no EU company ranking among the world's top ten tech firms by capitalisation. The EU is losing its edge even in

industries it once dominated, such as automobiles. The problem is not a lack of ideas; rather, Europe has struggled to translate its ideas into commercial successes.

Economists agree that competitiveness is rooted not in trade surpluses, but in productivity, and here the EU is floundering. Europeans tout their superior social model and high quality of life. But if demographic trends and stagnant productivity persist, these advantages will soon be unaffordable.

Draghi paints a dismal but realistic picture. Before implementing drastic policy changes, such as those Draghi proposes, Europeans must establish a solid political consensus on the magnitude of the problem, including a clear idea of the strengths and weaknesses of Europe's form of capitalism. If Draghi's report does nothing beyond catalysing such a process, it will have been a major achievement.

But the report can do more than help us understand the problems we face; it can also lead us toward more effective solutions. For example, in the 1990s, the prevailing belief was that low productivity reflected labour-market rigidity, but making labour markets more flexible did not lead to a surge in productivity.

According to Draghi, a better approach would focus on bolstering private and public investment. As it stands, however, market fragmentation (which limits scale), along with policymakers' failure to strike the right balance between tech regulation and support for innovation, is impeding private investment. Meanwhile, a failure to target the right priorities, a lack of industrial-policy tools to

advance common EU objectives, and, most important, the inability to raise finance at the European level is undermining public investment.

With this in mind, Draghi argues that refocusing public spending on innovation – as well as removing excessive regulations, which are impeding startups' ability to scale up – is essential to foster a Europe-wide innovation ecosystem. He does not shy away from advocating subsidies and protections for innovative companies in selected industries as they establish the necessary scale to compete internationally.

Draghi also pushes for the establishment of a unified EU energy market to lower energy costs. He encourages a pragmatic approach to trade with China, with rules tailored to different sectors and technologies. And he recommends the development of an EU "foreign economic policy", including preferential trade agreements with friendly partners.

Critics might try to present these stances as excessively radical. But Draghi's report should not be read as a blanket endorsement of discriminatory trade policies and full-scale industrial policy. As he emphasised in his speech at the European Parliament, he is not suggesting that the EU should "pick winners" or calling for blanket protectionism, let alone an overhaul of World Trade Organisation rules.

One of the report's most important – and welcome – messages is that protecting the single market requires tools that are designed and implemented at the EU level. Another is that, without a deep and liquid market for EU debt, the creation of a European safe asset – crucial to raise financing for

public goods – will be impossible, and the capital markets union, which would go a long way toward supporting private investment, will never develop.

Ultimately, Draghi's report calls for Europe to build something like a war economy and run it hot, using common firepower. But developing a single approach to innovation, energy, defence, industrial policy, and common financing tools will be no easy feat, as it will require strong and sustained political will across the EU.

The EU is not a federation, and economic nationalism has generally prevailed, preventing cross-border mergers, limiting coordination, and impeding common financing. Today, the common EU budget amounts to just 1% of the bloc's GDP, and the common debt issued in response to the Covid-19 pandemic was temporary by design.

To be sure, with the Ukraine war raging on the EU's doorstep, and the US-China rivalry threatening the basis of its economic model, there is a growing sense of urgency that could drive Europeans toward a consensus on the need for deeper political and economic integration. But it could also push Europe in the opposite direction, with countries retreating deeper into economic nationalism. Low levels of trust and divergent interests among EU member states, together with the lack of an EU-level democratic process capable of facilitating integration, create plenty of reason to doubt that European leaders will heed Draghi's warning. – Project Syndicate

• *Lucrezia Reichlin, a former director of research at the European Central Bank, is Professor of Economics at the London Business School.*



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen holds former European Central Bank (ECB) chief Mario Draghi's report on EU competitiveness and recommendations as they attend a press conference in Brussels early this month. (Reuters)

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Austria Greens leave transport pass as legacy ahead of vote

AFP
Vienna

Today's national vote in Austria is expected to punish the Greens, whose support has plunged since 2020 when they formed an unprecedented coalition with the conservatives.

But some of their popular initiatives will remain, including a pass that allows holders to take public transport throughout the country for €1,095 (\$1,224) a year, or three euros per day.

"I just jump on the train and go, so that's really convenient," said Liselotte Zvacek, a 62-year-old consultant living near Vienna who uses the so-called "Klimaticket" to commute every day and to visit family.

Launched in 2021 with the objective of reaching 100,000 users, more than 300,000 people have the passes.

"That's more than I've ever dreamed of," outgoing environment minister Leonore Gewessler of the Greens told AFP, hailing "a real impact" to reduce CO2 emissions with Austrian trains running on renewable electricity.

Polls see the Greens getting just eight percent of votes in today's poll, down from almost 14% during the last general elections in 2019.

Gewessler blames the "challenging times for government parties" with "really exceptional crises from the pandemic to the energy crisis to inflation" hitting Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

"Despite all of this, we've man-



Leonore Gewessler, Austrian Green party politician serving as Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, holds a model of a train with a KlimaTicket logo as she speaks to AFP journalists at her office in Vienna. (AFP)

aged a lot in this country," she said, insisting "green policies work".

Greenhouse gas emissions linked to transport have fallen for two years in a row in a first in the Alpine nation of nine million people, where road traffic is a major source of pollution.

The Klimaticket initiative — similar to the Swiss model — made Austria "a frontrunner" in the EU because "everything is included," Gewessler said during the interview in her office at the ministry.

Neighbouring Germany followed suit last year, but high-speed trains are excluded, and the country's ageing and insufficient railway infrastructure is a far cry

compared to that of Austria.

In a 2023 survey of 10,000 rail passengers, mobility organisation VCOe found 45% shifted rides from car to train, with the Klimaticket the second most important reason for these shifts.

In the same poll, 71% said they used rail services more often since they bought the pass.

Since July, those aged between 18 and 21 get one yearly pass for free.

Besides the environment ministry, the Greens also held other important portfolios, including health and justice, where they pushed to strengthen the independence of the public prosecutor's office. But the Greens have had to make some real conces-

sions governing with the conservatives who drive a hard line on immigration and other issues.

One of Gewessler's regrets is not having succeeded in reducing Austria's extreme dependence on Russian gas, even as Moscow's invasion of Ukraine stretches through its third year.

"Ultimately, we have to be honest, we are fuelling Russia's war budget," she said.

The coalition also survived corruption allegations causing the conservative chancellor at the time, Sebastian Kurz, to resign in 2021, as well as numerous other disagreements.

In June, Gewessler voted in favour of a milestone EU bill aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems in the 27-nation bloc, helping it pass, despite Chancellor Karl Nehammer's strong opposition.

His People's Party filed a criminal complaint against Gewessler claiming "abuse of office", but it has been dismissed.

"It was a very special moment," the former environmental activist said, deeming the bill "too important to let this opportunity slip".

Today's election will be "very decisive" for Austria, she said, with the far-right Freedom Party currently slightly ahead of the conservatives in what would be a historic victory.

"The decision that's on the ballot is whether the extreme right is in government with a backward-looking policy of really dividing society with more Russia instead of more independence, with really denying that climate crisis is actually here," she said.



Rescuers inspecting a damaged hospital building following a drone attack in Sumy. (AFP)

Nine killed in Russia attacks on hospital, says Ukraine

Reuters
Kyiv

Russia attacked a hospital in Sumy in northeastern Ukraine early yesterday, killing nine people and injuring at least 19 others, Ukrainian and UN officials said.

Danielle Bell, head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, said "loitering munitions" - or suicide drones - hit the Saint Panteleimon Clinical Hospital in two attacks 45 minutes apart.

"Most of the fatalities occurred during the second strike, which hit as first responders arrived at the site and patients attempted to evacuate," she said.

Sumy City Council said 22 people sought medical help and 20 were listed as injured in the drone attacks, which it said damaged nine high-rise buildings in addition to the hospital.

By late on Saturday, its website said 14 people were in hospital, six of them in a serious condition.

Bell said she had been in Sumy last week following up on a deadly September 19 attack on a geriatric centre in which at least one civilian had been killed and 13 injured, and recalled an Aug 13 attack on another hospital complex in the city.

"Medical facilities are protected under international humanitarian law and are entitled to special protection. They must not be the object of attack," she said, adding that 33 civilians had been killed and 132 injured in Sumy city and the surrounding region since Aug 6.

Ukrainian prosecutors said

that at the time of the yesterday morning attacks 86 patients and 38 staff members were in the hospital.

The hospital shared a photograph on its Facebook page it said showed one of those killed, a nurse and mother of two daughters named Tatiana Tikhonova.

"The first attack killed one person and damaged the ceilings of several floors of the hospital," Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said on Telegram.

The State Emergency Service of Ukraine said on Facebook that nine people were killed, including an employee of the national police, and 20 others were injured. "Everyone in the world who talks about this war should pay attention to where Russia is hitting. They are fighting hospitals, civilian objects and people's lives," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Telegram.

"Only force can force Russia to peace. Peace through force is the only right way."

Klymenko did not specify what weapons were used in yesterday's attacks. The regional administration and air forces said the strike was carried out by drones, which Bell identified as loitering munitions.

Attacks on Sumy city and the Sumy region have become more frequent since Ukrainian forces launched an operation in Russia's Kursk region in August and captured dozens of settlements.

Sumy city is located just 32km from the Russian border, and Russian forces, which began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, have been attacking the region and the city with drones and guided bombs.

Lavrov warns West against 'fight to victory with a nuke power'

Reuters
United Nations

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday told the United Nations that it was senseless to ignore alternatives to Ukraine's peace proposals, warning the West of the danger of trying to "fight to victory with a nuclear power".

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Lavrov took aim at backers of Ukraine who support Kyiv's peace proposal.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Nine months later Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced a 10-point peace plan to bring a just end to the war on the basis of the founding UN Charter and international law. Moscow rejected the plan.

"I'm not going to talk here about the senselessness and the danger of the very idea of trying to fight to victory with a nuclear power, which is what Russia is," Lavrov said.

"Equally senseless, the Western backers of Kyiv swearing that there



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov addresses the 79th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York. (Reuters)

is no alternative to negotiations based on the infamous peace formula."

Invoking Western allies' plans in the 1940s to "destroy" the Soviet Union, he accused the West of trying to deal a "strategic defeat" to Russia in Ukraine.

"The current Anglo-Saxon strategists are not hiding their ideas. For now they do, it's true, hope

to defeat Russia using the illegitimate neo-Nazi Kyiv regime, but they're already preparing Europe for it to also throw itself into this suicidal escapade," Lavrov said.

Russia is not increasing its nuclear arsenal and while it had suspended participation in the New START treaty with Washington, it would remain guided by the treaty until it expires in 2026, Lavrov

said. "We suspended our participation in it, but we did say that we will comply with the levels, and we will exchange some types of information with the Americans," he said.

Lavrov also challenged the United States over its support for Israel as the conflict with Lebanon's Hezbollah escalates and the war with Palestinian fighters Hamas drags on in Gaza.

In a news conference at the UN, he said the killing of Hezbollah's leader on Friday was a "political assassination" and raised concerns that Israel may be seeking to draw Iran into a direct conflict.

"My perception is that there are those who are looking to provoke Iran, to subsequently provoke the United States, and then to unleash a full blown war in the entire region there," Lavrov said.

Lavrov credited Iran's leadership for "behaving extremely responsibly" by not reacting to those provocations.

"It's important to just stop the bloodshed and stop using terrorist methods for political score settling," Lavrov said.

Europe en route for Moon with new simulator, says astronaut Pesquet

Europe has embarked on the mission to put humans back on the Moon with a new lunar simulator launched in Germany. French astronaut Thomas Pesquet told AFP.

Pesquet was at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Cologne on Wednesday to test out Luna, a facility built to resemble the surface of the Moon.

The 46-year-old astronaut, a national icon in France for his missions to the International Space Station (ISS), glowed at the prospect of participating in a lunar mission.

"It would be a dream and the high point of my career. The Moon is 1,000 times farther away than the ISS," he said in an interview. "Aboard the ISS, you feel like you're doing something out of the ordinary. But going to the Moon takes the adventure to a whole other level."

The newly opened facility was designed to train astronauts and test equipment and material for use on missions to the Moon. International interest in exploring the Moon has surged in recent years. NASA has launched a programme, Artemis, to put astronauts on the Moon in 2026, more than five decades after



French aerospace engineer, pilot and astronaut Thomas Pesquet.

US space explorers last visited on the final flight of the Apollo missions in 1972.

Earlier this year, China sent a probe that collected the first samples from the far side of the Moon. The country aims to send a crewed mission to Earth's satellite by 2030, and wants to build a base on the lunar surface. Japan and India are planning to send a probe to hunt for water near the south pole of the Moon in 2025. The European Space Agency (ESA) hopes to team up with NASA on future Moon missions, Pesquet said.

"It's a key moment for Europe, because we're truly jumping into lunar exploration. We're already partnering with NASA on supplying equipment and materials for Artemis," he said. "But Luna is really the first highly



This photograph taken on September 17, 2024 shows a general view inside of the Luna Analog Facility building during the presentation of the training ground facility for astronauts and technology called "Luna" designed to recreate the lunar surface at the European Astronaut Centre in Cologne, western Germany. (AFP)

visible sign of the fact that we've embarked on plans to return to the Moon. We're proving that by making long-term investments. This facility will be open to other space agencies, researchers and, we hope, to private firms." Pesquet described his first test of Luna as surprising. He and fellow ESA astronaut Matthias Maurer rehearsed walking on the lunar surface, wearing special suits that weighed 25kg and carrying scientific and communications equipment, he said. "I was surprised by the piercing light seen on the Moon, especially at the south pole. It's very hard to evaluate the topography," he said, describing how he sank into the thick layer of dust simulating that found on

the lunar surface. "The minute you leave the path, figuring out where to step is a whole different kettle of fish... It's also incredibly slow. It's not like Earth, you're a lot less coordinated. It reminded me of my spacewalks at the International Space Station." Europe's role providing the service module for NASA's Orion capsule, which will carry the Artemis crew members, has earned the ESA three spots for its astronauts on the programme's first three missions around the Moon. But "NASA has told us, 'To land on the Moon, you need to propose something to do on the lunar surface,'" said Pesquet. "Luna isn't a contractual part of the deal. But it allows us to show we're serious."

Zelensky: Trump has assured of support in war with Russia



Former US president Donald Trump and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky in NYC on Friday. (Reuters)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in an interview with Fox News aired yesterday, said he received "very direct information" from Donald Trump that the former US president would support Ukraine in the war against Russia if he is re-elected in the November presidential election.

Zelensky, who was in the United States for the UN General Assembly, presented his war "victory plan" to Trump during a closed-door meeting on Friday, after the Republican presidential candidate said he would work with both Ukraine and Russia to end their conflict. Speaking to Fox News after that meeting, Zelensky said: "I don't know what will be after elections and who will be the president... But I've got from Donald Trump very direct information that he will be on our side, that he will support Ukraine."

He has used his US visit to promote his "victory plan", which a US official described as a repackaged request for more weapons and a lifting of restrictions on the use of long-range missiles. The plan presupposes the ultimate defeat of Russia in the war, the official said. Some officials see the aim as unrealistic.

Zelensky, who also met with US Vice-President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden, said he was seeking united US support in its continuing war with Russia and was not backing either side in US elections.

"I don't want to be involved in the election period... I don't want to lose one or another part of Americans," Zelensky told Fox News. On Friday, Trump said he was pleased to meet with Zelensky, a marked change in tone from some of his previous comments on the campaign trail.

Trump and Harris' differences on Ukraine echo splits in their respective Democratic and Republican parties, and their view of the US role in the world.

UDC announces special circus experience at The Pearl Island

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, will host "The Pearl Cirque", a circus experience that will take centre stage at Porto Arabia's waterfront in 30 La Croisette from October 17-26.

The event will transform Porto Arabia's open-air amphitheatre into a circus arena, featuring a vintage-inspired tent that would be adorned with nostalgic circus posters and illuminated by enchanting fair lights.

The venue will host up to 240 spectators per show.

The audience will be treated to a series of daily performances, with shows scheduled at 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm.

Each show will run for one hour and 30

minutes, featuring a lineup of international acts.

From daring acrobats and skilled jugglers to hilarious clowns, mysterious mimes, and captivating fire dancers, the event will showcase a wide range of breathtaking performances, adding to the event's iconic flair.

At the heart of the spectacle will be the ringmaster, who will orchestrate the evening's excitement, guiding the audience through a magical journey.

A world-class magician will also perform, while lively bubble performers will fill the arena with shimmering bubbles.

In celebration of local heritage, "The Pearl Cirque" will feature a performance of the Qatari Ardha, the traditional sword dance that honours Qatari culture.

In addition to the live performances, families and visitors can enjoy a variety of fun-filled fair game booths set up around the venue.

The entire event is designed to evoke the charm and wonder of a classic circus, offering an unforgettable experience for both children and adults.

Tickets for "The Pearl Cirque" are now available for purchase through Virgin Megastore, the exclusive ticketing partner for the event, as well as at the on-site ticket booth.

Tickets are priced at QR50 per person, making it an accessible and enjoyable event for the whole family.

This circus experience is timed to coincide with the school break, providing children and families with an



'The Pearl Cirque' will be held at Porto Arabia's waterfront in 30 La Croisette from October 17-26.

engaging activity during the holiday.

As part of the UDC's fall events calendar, "The Pearl Cirque" underscores

the company's commitment to offering unique entertainment experiences for residents and visitors alike.

HBKU's CPP hosts 'Summit of the Future: Hadaba Edition'

Hadaba, an initiative under Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)'s College of Public Policy (CPP), has conducted the "Summit of the Future: Hadaba Edition" in parallel with the UN's "Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow".

Held on September 22-24, the event paralleled the UN Summit of the Future's efforts to establish the "Pact for the Future" by emphasizing the importance of the renewed social contract outlined in the UN's Common Agenda.

Hosted at Minaretein in Education City, the summit combined expert talks and roundtable dialogues with workshops, masterclasses, and activities designed to engage a range of audiences from K-12 and university students to public and private-sector professionals.



Internationally renowned experts, including Caux Initiatives of Change executive director Dr Ignacio Packer and Peshawa Ahmed, head of the Community Development Unit at the Prime Minister's Office of Initiatives and Communication for the Kurdistan Region of Iran, gave talks highlighting the need for communities to invest in sustainable development.

Qatari professionals operating within pivotal market sectors, including Education Above All Foundation head of strategic partnerships Dana al-Anzy and Lujain al-Mansoori, co-founder of award-winning 3D-food printing startup I-Foods, highlighted how the country is working to preserve the well-being of its community and the strength of its economy for the future.

Several UN experts from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), UN Children's Fund (Unicef) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) also participated in panel discussions and led workshops focusing on policy writing and principles of design thinking.

Commenting on the collaborative nature of the event, CPP dean Dr Leslie Pal said that the mutual drive to answer pressing policy questions of local and global relevance enabled the college to partner with several UN bodies and prominent local and international organisations to deliver the Hadaba Edition.

"As a global hub for interna-

tional public policy education, evaluation, and research in Qatar, the HBKU's CPP was eager to foster a dialogue on how we can craft policies that ensure a sustainable future," he said.

Local youth got to participate in unique experiences at the Summit.

Doha Debates conducted "Necessary Tomorrows" - an educational series of workshops aimed at inspiring creativity and a future-oriented attitude among high school students.

The Summit's "World Café" experience invited post-graduate students to discuss the policy briefs published by the UN to lay out the foundations of the Common Agenda.

The summit also featured the Ashtar Theatre, the first organisation dedicated to training Palestinian youth in the theatrical performing arts, which offered masterclasses and conducted readings of the Gaza Monologues.

Situated within the HBKU's CPP, Hadaba fosters a community dedicated to building bridges within policymaking while crafting tools and solutions that resonate with diverse communities.



QF launches 'Green Island'

The Green Island recycling hub was launched yesterday to coincide with Qatar Sustainability Week 2024, which is the ninth edition of the national campaign led by the Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future, a member of the Qatar Foundation (QF). Green Island is a community-centric recycling hub designed to promote eco-friendly practices. It is based at the QF's Education City.



Qatar's publishing houses shine at Riyadh International Book Fair

Qatar's publishing houses participating in the Riyadh International Book Fair 2024 are making a notable presence at the event, showcasing prominent literary and intellectual works of authors from Qatar.

Qatar is this year's guest of honour at the book fair, which is featuring 2,000 publishing houses from 30 Arab and foreign countries.

The book fair open on September 26 and runs until October 5.

Represented by Qatar's Ministry of Culture and several Qatar-based publishing houses, Qatar's participation stems from its commitment to partake in international book fairs, which serve as an opportunity to promote Qatari intellectual production to a wider audience and highlight the continuous development of the publishing industry in Qatar.

The head of marketing and sales at Qatar News Agency (QNA), Sheikha Shaikha al-Thani, told the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the academic publishing house is

participating in the book fair with over 80 titles, including 16 new 2024 releases, covering various fields including academic publications, business management, law, sociology, Shariah, philosophy, and history.

Ayman Abdulsamad of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Press told the QNA that this is the fourth HBKU Press participation in the Riyadh International Book Fair.

HBKU Press is presenting over 600 titles this year, including academic works, books on lifestyle and health, science fiction and children's literature, in addition to books on self-development, novels, translated works, and research works from leading scholars in the region.

Over 200 events and activities will accompany the Riyadh International Book Fair 2024, including panel discussions, poetry evenings, workshops, storytelling sessions, activities for children, theatrical performances, and the book talks event hosting influential thinkers and authors.



Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press is participating in the book fair with over 600 titles.



Qatar University Press is taking part in the book fair with over 80 titles.

City University, Ulster University honour graduating Class of 2024

City University Qatar (CUQ), in partnership with Ulster University, hosted its 2024 graduation ceremony at the Pullman Hotel.

The ceremony, according to a statement from the CUQ, celebrated the conferment of postgraduate and bachelor's degrees as well as the awarding of Higher National Diplomas.

Nourah al-Ansari, acting director of Scholarships in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), commended the graduates for their perseverance and dedication.

She highlighted the significance of their accomplishments, noting that their commitment and diligence have positioned them to embark on new and exciting professional and personal journeys, fully equipped with the skills and expertise necessary to contribute meaningfully to society and the evolving workforce.

City University president Prof Faris G Faris congratulated the Class of 2024 by acknowledging their resilience and growth.

He also expressed sincere gratitude to the MoEHE for its crucial role in supporting the recent elevation of City University College to full university status, now



proudly recognised as City University.

Professor Paul Bartholomew, vice-chancellor of Ulster University, who officiated at the ceremony, extended his congratulations to the graduates of City University.

He underscored the enduring excellence

of Ulster University, which was recently nominated for University of the Year by Times Higher Education.

Prof Bartholomew further emphasised the alignment of City University's vision with the Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly in the key fields of science, tech-

nology and engineering.

He emphasised the shared commitment to empowering students to become leaders in these key sectors, contributing to Qatar's long-term strategic objectives.

Fahad bin Mohammed al-Attayah, a former ambassador of Qatar to the UK, de-

livered the keynote address, emphasising the importance of lifelong learning, while praising the collaboration between City University and Ulster University.

He further acknowledged the leadership of City University's founder and chief executive, Natra Abdulla, in advancing this significant partnership.

A number of graduates shared their inspiring stories, reflecting on their transformative journeys at City University.

Among those who shared their stories were Wadha Hamad Alhelal (MBA Women in Leadership) and Lana Eyad al-Robeh (BSc Business Studies).

Adding to the ceremony's ambience, the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra provided a sophisticated touch, underscoring the university's commitment to enriching the student experience through the arts.

The ceremony highlighted City University's position as a leading institution of higher education.

With its new bespoke campus in Lusail, the university offers pioneering programmes, including a Bachelor of Engineering in Artificial Intelligence and the first MBA Women in Leadership programme in the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) region.