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# GULF & TIMES



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# Amir, Iraqi PM review ties, developments

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed yesterday with Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq Mohammed Shia al-Sudani aspects of enhancing the bilateral co-operation between the two fraternal countries across various fields. This came during a phone call that His Highness the Amir received from the Iraqi prime minister. They also discussed the key regional and international developments of common concern, especially the developments in the region. In this regard, they stressed the need to maintain stability in the Middle East and to intensify efforts to de-escalate the situation in the region. (QNA)

### PM reiterates Qatar's stance in support of Lebanon

HE the Prime Minister and

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a phone call with Prime Minister of the Caretaker Government of Lebanon Najib Mikati. During the call, they discussed the co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and support them. They also discussed the developments in Lebanon and ways to de-escalate the situation, in addition to several topics of common concern. HE Sheikh Mohammed reiterated Qatar's stance in support of Lebanon and its constant support for the fraternal Lebanese people. In this regard, he voiced Qatar's deep concern over the developments in Lebanon and its support for all efforts aimed at the unity, security, and stability of Lebanon. He also stressed Oatar's full readiness to provide everything that would de-escalate the situation and enhance the security and stability of the region. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also held a phone call with Commander of the Army of Lebanon General Joseph Aoun. During the call, they discussed the co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and support them. They also discussed the developments in Lebanon and ways to de-escalate the situation. in addition to several topics of common concern. (QNA)

# Israeli forces begin ground operations in Lebanon: US

### Over 1,000 killed in Lebanon since Sept 17

**AFP** Beirut

Israeli forces have launched limited incursions in Lebanon, the US said yesterday, as Israel vowed to keep fighting Hezbollah and sealed part of its northern border.

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant warned the battle was not over even after the massive Friday strike on Beirut that killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, dealing the group a seismic blow.

Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad said more than 1,000 people have been killed since September 17.

World leaders have urged diplomacy and de-escalation, with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's spokesman Stephane Dujarric saying: "We do not want any sort of ground invasion." Israeli officials "have informed us that they are currently conducting...limited operations targeting Hezbollah infrastructure near the border," US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told journalists.

Hezbollah fighters were "ready if Israel decides to enter by land", deputy leader Naim Qassem said in a first televised address since Nasrallah's death.

Lebanon's national army, dwarfed by Hezbollah's military power, was "repositioning" troops farther from the border, a military official said.

And UN peacekeepers in Lebanon were no longer able to conduct patrols "given the intensity of the rockets going back and forth", Dujarric said.

US President Joe Biden indicated he opposes an Israeli ground operation.

"We should have a ceasefire now," he said.

In northern Israel, near the Lebanese border, Gallant said that "we will use all the means that may be required...from the air, from the sea, and on land" to restore calm.

He said the killing of Nasrallah "is an important step, but it is not the final one." Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported "heavy artillery shelling" at a border village in the country's

Yesterday the army declared an area of the border strip a "closed military zone".

Israel's strikes on Lebanon have killed hundreds of people over the past week and forced up to a million to flee their homes, according to Lebanese officials.



A man carries two children after arriving at Sofia airport on an evacuation flight from Lebanon, yesterday.

### **Amir chairs SCEAI's third meeting of 2024**



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment (SCEAI), chaired the council's third meeting of 2024, at the Amiri Diwan, yesterday. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, the Deputy Chairman of the council, attended the meeting along with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Jassim al-Thani, and the council members. The council discussed the decisions and recommendations of its second meeting of 2024 and the project follow-up report and was also briefed on the progress report of the state's economic priorities, and took appropriate decisions regarding them. The council was briefed on the Ministry of Municipality's presentation on the agriculture, livestock and fish production sector, and the Ministry of Transport's presentation on the transportation and storage sector. The council also discussed the topics on its agenda and took appropriate decisions thereon. (QNA)

# Journalist and her family among 12 killed in Gaza

### •Israeli massacre toll goes up to 41,615

Reuters

sraeli air strikes pounded areas across the Gaza Strip yesterday killing 12, including a journalist and her family, medics said.

Palestinian health officials said Wafa al-Udaini, who wrote articles about the war in English advocating the Palestinian viewpoint, was killed when a missile struck her house in the central city of Deir Al-Balah, also killing her husband and their two children.

Udaini's death raised the number of Palestinian journalists killed in the Israeli offensive since Oct 7 to 174, the Hamasrun Gaza government media office said.

In another strike, a Palestinian was killed and several were wounded in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, while in the northern town of Beit Hanoun an airstrike killed one man and injured others, medics said.

While later on Monday, an Israeli air strike on a house in Nu-



Palestinians carry a wounded man at the site of an Israeli strike in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

seirat, one of Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, killed six people, health officials said.

The health ministry in Hamasrun Gaza said yesterday that at least 41,615 people have been killed in the war, now in its 12th month.

According to the ministry, 96,359 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began on October 7.

Some residents said fighting and Israeli military activities in

Gaza have declined slightly in the past week as Israel has escalated its military offensive against Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

While the intensity of the ground offensive has been lower, Israel has kept up its airstrikes in the enclave, they added.

In the southern Gaza Strip, Israeli authorities released 12 Palestinians, including Khaled al-Ser, head of the surgery unit at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis.

### Qatar to host world's first electric powerboat racing

visit Qatar has announced a partnership with the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) E1 World Championship and United Development Company (UDC) to host the inaugural edition of Visit Qatar E1 Doha GP.

The signing ceremony was attended by Visit Qatar CEO engineer Abdulaziz Ali al-Mawlawi, El chairman Alejandro Agag, and UDC president, CEO and board member Ibrahim Jassim al-Othman

The championship's innovative electric race boat, the Race-Bird, is scheduled for February 21-22, 2025. Set to be held at The Pearl Island in Doha, Visit Qatar E1 Doha GP will represent a sig-

nificant highlight on the 2025 race calendar and marks the establishment of a racing hub in the Middle East. Corinthia Yacht Club at The Pearl Island will host El's racing series, where teams will compete for the title of Champions of the Water.

In a press statement, engineer al-Mawlawi said: "Through our partnership with El, Visit Qatar will bring to the country a new sporting championship, further enriching the country's sports scene.

"Qatar has built a reputation as a hub for international sports tournaments, hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022, the FIFA Club World Cup, and the AFC Asian Cup to name a few.



Visit Qatar partners with UIM E1 World Championship and United Development Company.

"We are also preparing to host FIBA World Cup in 2027 and the Asian Games 2030, all of which showcases the country's state-ofthe-art infrastructure, organisational capabilities, and commitment to excellence," he added.

Agag said: "El is in the infancy of an incredible journey that will not just transform racing on water forever but drive technological advancement in marine mobility that will impact millions around the world.

"Our partners in Qatar have a deep understanding of the power of the electrification of sport, and the Visit Qatar El Doha GP is a further commitment to being at the forefront of this exciting legacy." To Page 10



صَيْلَة قالله العَظيم

With deep sorrow, we extend our heartfelt condolences to

### H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani Chairman

### And his sons

H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani Managing Director and Vice Chairman

H.E. Sheikh Turki bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Jassim bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Tamim bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Thani bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani and the honourable Al Thani family

On the sad demise of

Sheikha Haya bint Mohammed bin Thani bin Jassim Al Thani

Mother of Sheikh Faisal, may her soul rest in peace

"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return."

Management of City Center Doha, General Manager, and all its employees





صَيْدَة قالله العَظيم

With deep sorrow, we extend our heartfelt condolences to

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"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return."

Aamal Company Q.P.S.C., its subsidiaries, the CEO, and all employees





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Chairman and CEO

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H.E. Sheikh Jassim bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

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"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return."

Al Faisal Holding, its subsidiaries, and all its employees



### OATAR |







LNG

### QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/MNT/6615/24 MAINTENANCE OF STORAGE TANKS ON CALL-OFF BASIS	30/09/2024 to 15/10/2024	0	700,000	10/11/2024

### Scope of Work:

Contractor shall execute tank maintenance works primarily on hydrocarbon storage tanks of varying capacities & services as per the industry standards which are identified for periodic inspection and maintenance. The work includes Heel Transfer, cleaning, mechanical repairs, seal repairs/replacement, painting, scaffolding etc and supporting operations for purging. Contractor shall be responsible to provide all manpower, lifting and other construction equipment with operator's/driver's, fuel, tools & tackles etc. The contract shall be on call-off basis for a period of 5 years with 2 years optional extension tentatively effective from Q2 2025.

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).

<u>Note:</u> 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:- <a href="https://icv.qa/en-US/">https://icv.qa/en-US/</a>

# Qatar Charity launches 'It Holds Value' campaign

### New in-kind donation initiative aims to empower families

atar Charity (QC) launched the 'It Holds Value' campaign as part of its Tayf programme, which supports and empowers individuals and families in need.

CEO's assistant for the Resources Development and Communication sector at Qatar Charity, Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, stated that the campaign offers multiple ways for donations, with over 1,500 inkind donation containers placed across Qatar, facilitating easy access for donors to contribute.

He also highlighted the prominent role played by Qatar's Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (Raca) in supporting this campaign, indicating that this co-operation significantly enhanced the efficiency of fundraising efforts, ensuring aid reaches those in

He explained that in-kind donations, such as clothing, household items and essential supplies, go through a meticulous recycling process, as their condition is assessed to be directly delivered to those most in need.

He highlighted that donors can request special donation bags to be delivered to their homes for collecting in-kind donations, allowing them to contribute to the campaign through the Call and Well Come service, without leaving their houses.





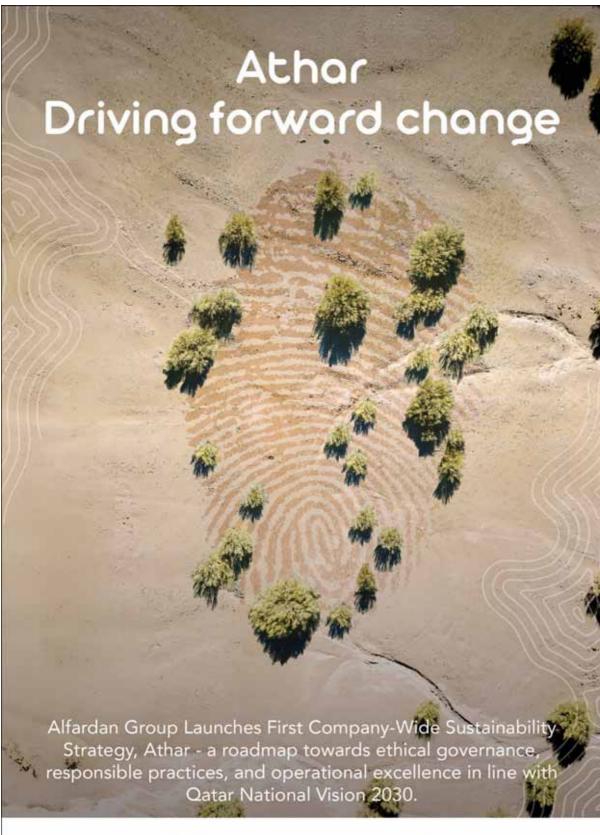
As part of the campaign's efforts to raise awareness about the importance of donating and giving, Qatar Charity has distributed donation boxes to students and children as gifts, aiming to encourage their participation in the campaign and to instil values of generosity and social solidarity from a young

Fakhroo stressed the important role that schools play in supporting the 'It Holds Value' campaign by educating students and their families about the significance of donation and participation in this humanitarian initiative.

will involve organising internal awareness campaigns and special events to collect in-kind donations from students and their parents.

This will contribute to fostering a spirit of mutual support and solidarity within the community from a young age. In line with its commitment to enhancing humanitarian efforts on an international level, Qatar Charity continues to build strategic partnerships with international organisations and global humanitarian institutions. This collaboration strengthens its ability to deliver aid efficiently and effectively to the most underserved regions. (QNA)









# Alfardan Group Launches First Company-Wide Sustainability Strategy, Athar

In alignment with Qatar Sustainability Week and Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030, Alfardan Group proudly announces the launch of its first company-wide sustainability strategy named Athar. This strategic initiative reflects the Group's steadfast commitment to creating positive environmental, social, and governance (ESG) impacts across all its business sectors.

The name Athar, meaning "a mark left by an action or individual" in Arabic, embodies the vision of creating a profound and lasting impact through sustainable practices. Athar is committed to building a legacy that empowers individuals, protects the planet, and cultivates strong partnerships, all while aligning with the global sustainability standards outlined in QNV 2030. By integrating sustainability principles into its daily operations and broader strategies, Alfardan Group aims to be a transformative force and a leader in driving change both locally and regionally.

In 2022, Alfardan Group joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), highlighting its dedication to sustainable development goals and fostering stakeholder engagement through shared values. Subsequently, the Group started working on a comprehensive ESG strategy in early 2023 to evaluate operational capabilities and uncover sustainability opportunities across key industries.

Mr. Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and CEO of Alfardan Group, remarked on the launch of Athar, "Since our establishment, the Alfardan name has stood as a symbol of excellence and luxury. Today, we reaffirm our belief that true luxury is inseparable from a deep sense of responsibility to the environment and the communities we serve." He continued, "Athar represents the legacy we are building for future generations, both here in Qatar and beyond."

Building on this commitment, the Sustainability Committee in Alfardan Group has formalised a mandate for implementing the strategy across its various business units. The Group is set to publish its first sustainability report in Q4 2024, which will highlight the strategic focus on operational efficiency, responsible business practices, and creating long-term value across its industries.

"As a pioneer company in Qatar's private sector, Alfardan is dedicated to advancing responsible business practices that drive sustainable growth and foster long-term success," said Dr. Ma'n Alhamawi, CEO of Alfardan Automotive and Sustainability Committee Chairman. "Athar allows us to expand our role as a sustainability pioneer and explore new opportunities that enable us to positively impact our teams, our communities, and the

The launch of Athar marks an important milestone for Alfardan Group, ensuring that social and environmental sustainability remain at the heart of the Group's future business strategies and long-term vision.

### Labour minister chairs meeting of National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking

HE the Minister of Labour and the Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCHT) Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri led the committee's second periodic meeting for 2024. The meeting assessed the advancements made in the work plan of the NCHT in 2024, in addition to discussing several suggestions to improve protection and assistance for victims of human trafficking, and strengthening collaboration with competent authorities and stakeholders to enhance support for victims of human trafficking. (QNA)



Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian has received the credentials of Saad Abdullah Saad al-Mahmoud al-Sharif as Qatar's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Iran. The ambassador conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the president, and continued progress and prosperity to the government and people of Iran. For his part, the Iranian president entrusted the ambassador with his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness, and Oatar continued progress and development. (QNA)

## Iranian president receives credentials of Qatar's envoy



# MoPH, partners launch seasonal influenza vaccination campaign

QNA

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corp (HMC) and Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC), has launched the annual seasonal influenza vaccination campaign. From October 1, flu vaccines for the 2024/25 winter season will be available free of charge at more than 80 health facilities and clinics, including 31 PHCC Health Centres, as well as outpatient clinics at HMC and multiple semi-government and private hospitals and clinics across Qatar.

Dr Abdullatif al-Khal, Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at HMC, said it is important for people to be proactive and protect themselves and their family members against the flu as early as possible this year before the arrival of winter. Dr al-Khal stated, 'The circulating flu viruses change from year to year, and so too does the flu vaccine, which is why it is so important for all family members to receive the flu vaccine every winter. We need to remember that the flu is potentially a serious disease that can lead to hospitalisation and sometimes, even death, and should never be under-



Dr Abdullatif al-Khal

estimated? Dr al-Khal went on to say, "Fighting the flu starts with each and every one of us. The vaccine is available at clinics across the country, including government, private and semi-private. This makes it easier and more convenient than ever to receive the vaccine. I encourage everyone to get their free flu vaccine as soon as possible."

Dr Hamad al-Romaihi, Director of Health Protection and Communicable Disease Control at the MoPH, stressed that Influenza can be a serious illness, and everyone six months of age and older should receive the vaccine to

protect themselves and others, as some people are more vulnerable to the virus than others. Dr al-Romaihi said: "People of all ages and health conditions can catch the flu virus and become sick, but there are certain key population groups who are at an increased risk of the virus. These are people aged over 50 years, those with chronic conditions regardless of their age, children aged between six months and five years, pregnant women, and healthcare workers due to their close interaction with vulnerable patients and children."

Dr Khalid Hamid Elawad, Manager of Health Protection, Preven-



Dr Hamad al-Romaihi

tive Health Directorate at PHCC, encouraged the community to take the flu vaccine as soon as possible to build immunity before the winter season arrives in the coming months. Dr Elawad said: "I urge all of you to take the flu vaccine as soon as possible because maximum protection against the flu takes up to two weeks to develop, so the sooner people get vaccinated, the sooner they will be protected."

Dr Elawad also reassured the community that they cannot get the flu from the flu shot, stating, "The virus is inactivated, so it can't actually cause the flu after



Dr Khalid Hamid Elawad

you get the shot." Dr Elawad further stated, "The flu vaccine is one of the safest and most established vaccines. Hundreds of millions of people around the world have safely received flu vaccines over the past 50 years, and there has been extensive research supporting the safety of flu vaccines. Don't let the flu stop you this year get the vaccine as soon as possible."

For more information about the flu, including where to get the vaccine for free near you, visit www.fighttheflu.qa or follow MoPH, HMC and PHCC's social media channels for updates.

### Amir sends cables of congratulations to Botswana president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Botswana President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi on his country's National Day. (QNA)

### Qatar condemns attack on UAE ambassador's residence in Khartoum

Qatar expressed its condemnation of the attack on the residence of the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Khartoum, stressing its categorical rejection of the violation of international laws and norms. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscored the importance of respecting the sanctity of diplomatic missions and ensuring their full protection, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961. (QNA)

# Avail grace period to pay traffic fines: Mol

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has reminded the public to avail the grace period announced by the General Directorate of Traffic to nay fines a nost on X said General Directorate of Traffic has announced a 50% discount on traffic fines for all vehicles. applicable to citizens, residents, and visitors, as well as citizens and residents of GCC countries until November 30, 2024. The discount applies to violations recorded within a period not exceeding three years. Mol earlier announced that traffic law violators cannot leave Qatar through any borders without paying fines and dues. Vehicles with pending fines and dues will not be allowed to cross the borders. The fines and dues can be paid through the Metrash2 app, Mol website, traffic offices or unified service centres

### Fuel prices for Oct

QatarEnergy announced yesterday fuel prices for October, decreasing the prices of diesel, Super Gasoline 95, and Premium Gasoline 91.
QatarEnergy has set the price of diesel at QR2 per litre, Super Gasoline 95 at QR2.05 per litre, and Premium Gasoline 91 at QR1.90 per litre. (QNA)

# Qatar participates in meeting commemorating 10th anniversary of global coalition to defeat ISIS

atar participated in a ministerial meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, organised by the US Department of State in Washington, DC.

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi headed Qatar's delegation at the meeting.

In his speech at the meeting, he expressed Qatar's support for implementing counter-terrorism programmes led by civilian authorities and adopting a comprehensive approach in order to disrupting ISIS networks and their affiliates.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi stressed the need to remain vigilant against the threat of ISIS propaganda, which seeks to recruit vulnerable groups and lead them toward extremism. He condemned any terrorist use



of cyberspace and stressed the importance of combating the narratives of terrorist groups.

He said that enhancing participation and co-operation, as well as the exchange of best practices among member states will be essential to strengthen counter-terrorism capabilities.

He renewed Qatar's commitment to the shared values and goals regarding defeating ISIS, expressing Qatar's pride in being an integral part of the coalition's efforts over the past ten years.

HE the Minister stated that today does not only mark a decade of steadfast commitment, but also



underscores the collective resolve to confront one of the most serious threats to global peace and security, pointing to the territorial defeat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria as being a testament to the efforts of numerous member states, international organisations, and individuals. He added that the battle is not over yet, thus, the mission remains extremely crucial and ongoing. In closing, he highlighted the importance of diplomacy in resolving regional and global crises, as a vital tool in eliminating the paths to terrorism and extremism. (ONA)

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

I, ANSARI TARIQUE MAZHAR

holder of

INDIA Passport No. S9823406 QID No. 27235601359

hereby change my name

from

ANSARI TARIQUE MAZHAR

to

TARIQUE MAZHAR ANSARI

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

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holder of

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hereby change my name

from

MELESE BADI BACHERA

ιο

MOHAMMED BADI BECHERA

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NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

I, BISHNO PANTHA

holder of

NEPAL Passport No. 07681088 QID No. 28452421317

hereby change my name

from

**BISHNO PANTHA** 

to

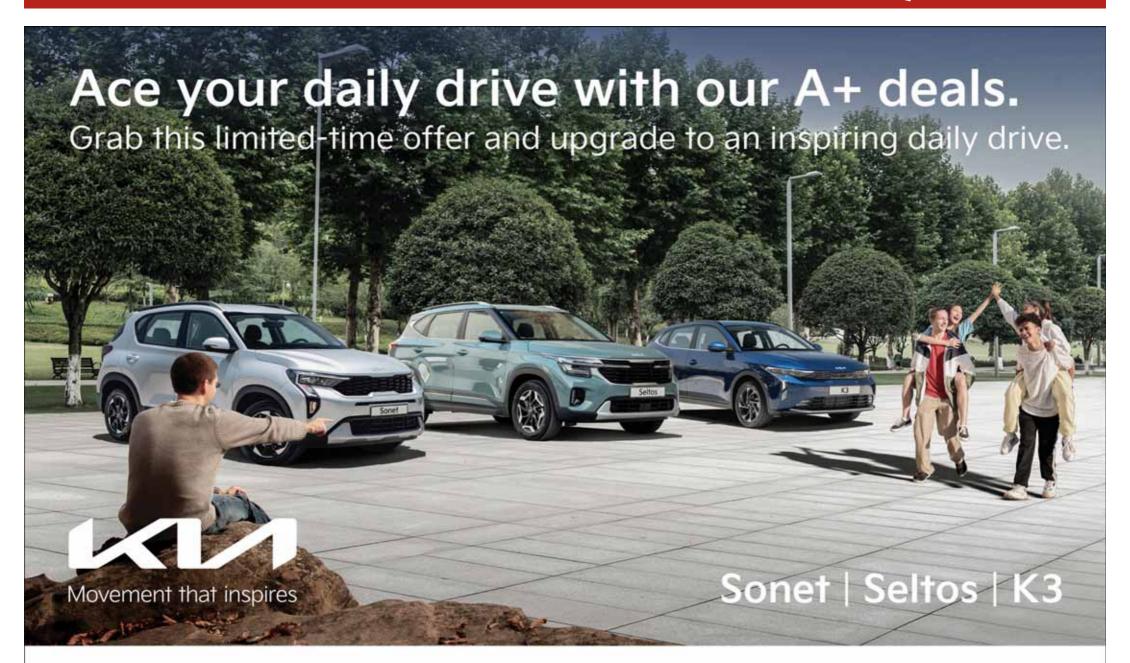
BISHNU PANTHA

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

### Justice ministry holds Introductory workshop

The Ministry of Justice organised yesterday a workshop on institutional structure and its role in directing and improving performance and ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of government institutions, in the presence of HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi. The workshop reviewed the importance of institutional structure to keep pace with the change within an integrated system aimed at achieving the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the judicial sector plans included in the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030. At the opening of the workshop, Director of the Planning, Quality and Innovation Department at the Ministry of Justice Hadeel Abdul Latif al-Jaber stressed the importance of the institutional structure as a necessary strategic tool to guide and improve the performance of institutions, as it is a comprehensive system seeking to integrate all components of the institution from operations, information systems, infrastructure and human resources. Through this system, institutions can attain many gains such as improving operational efficiency. achieving digital transformation and enhancing the ability to make and take decisions, she added, noting that this system contributes to the development of government services and adapting to technical, regulatory and legislative changes. (QNA)





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9

### We Know, But We Won't





Ms. Naseeba Musthafa Acting Director of Operations Micro Health Laboratories Calicut, India

 $W_{e}$  all know mental health is important. We talk about it and share advice, but often, we neglect our own well-being. Despite daily reminders, it can slip down our list of priorities. Mental health isn't just about therapy or seeking help when things get tough; it's about the everyday habits that keep us balanced. Overthinking can lead to anxiety and mood swings, but simple, manageable actions can help keep your mind healthy. It's about finding small, effective ways to care for yourself every day.

### A Fresh Start for Your Mind

Imagine waking up when the world is still quiet, before the rush of the day begins. Those early morning hours give you a rare moment of peace, a chance to simply breathe and gather your thoughts. It's a time to reflect and set a calm, positive tone for the day ahead. Instead of jumping straight into the chaos, waking up early lets you ease into your morning, giving you space to mentally and physically prepare. It's a small change, but it can help you feel less stressed and set you up for a brighter, more balanced day.

### Walking Barefoot in Nature

There's something deeply calming about walking barefoot on grass or sand. This simple act, known as "grounding," reconnects you with the earth and can melt away stress. Feeling the earth beneath your feet helps balance your body's energies and brings a sense of peace that's hard to find elsewhere. Sometimes, the simplest actions, like a barefoot walk in the park, can have the biggest impact on how we feel.

### **Cutting Down on Caffeine**

Sure, caffeine can give you a quick boost, but too much of it can do more harm than good. Excessive caffeine can ramp up anxiety and mess with your sleep, leaving you feeling jittery and on edge. Cutting back on caffeine can help you feel more balanced and calm throughout the day. The Art of Doing Nothing

In a world that prizes busyness, it's easy to forget that it's okay to simply do nothing sometimes. Taking a moment to sit back and relax isn't being lazy; it's actually a form of self-care. Allowing yourself to pause and unwind is vital for recharging your mind and avoiding burnout. Remember, rest is an important part of maintaining a healthy mental life.

### **Eating Your Favourite Foods**

There's something special about enjoying a meal you love. It's not just about satisfying hunger, it's about feeding your soul. Your favourite foods can bring comfort and joy, lifting your spirits and making you feel good from the inside out. Indulging in a dish you love can be a simple but powerful way to boost your mood.

### Singing Your Heart Out

There's a reason why singing feels so good. Whether it's in the shower or in the car, belting out your favourite songs can be a joyful release. Music has a unique way of connecting with our emotions, and singing along can help you express what's on your mind and heart. It's a fun, easy way to shake off stress and lift your spirits.

### Move your body in your style

Exercise doesn't have to mean hitting the gym or forcing yourself into a yoga pose if that's not your style. Movement can be anything that brings you joy-whether it's dancing in your living room, taking a stroll outside, or even just stretching at home. The magic of moving your body lies in the endorphins it releases, those natural feel-good chemicals that lift your mood and

### A Soundtrack for Mood boosting

Music is a powerful tool for mental health. Whether you're into soothing classical music or upbeat pop songs, the right tunes can shift your mood and help you cope with whatever life throws your way. Music has a way of touching our emotions and helping us feel connected, even when things are tough. It's an easy, effective way to support your mental well-being.

### The Therapy of Cooking your favourite

Cooking doesn't have to be just another task on your to-do list. It can be a way to take care of yourself. When you cook a meal you love, you're not just feeding your body, you're also giving your mind a

break. The process of preparing food helps you slow down and focus on the present, offering a peaceful escape from the day's noise. And when you finally sit down to enjoy the meal you've made with care, it's more than just eating. It's a little moment of joy that nourishes both your body and soul.

### Confidence Boost of a Good Outfit

Never underestimate the power of a good outfit. Dressing up in clothes that make you feel good can significantly impact your mood and confidence, even on days when you're not feeling your best. It's a simple form of self-care that can brighten your day and reinforce your sense of self-worth. Street Walks

Sometimes, a quick walk around the neighborhood is all it takes to brighten your mood. Just stepping outside for a few minutes can help clear your mind and reduce stress. The fresh air, bird songs, and rustling leaves bring you back to the present and ease away tension. Plus, walking releases endorphins, your body's natural mood boosters. Whether you're walking alone or with a friend, this simple act can lift your spirits and help you feel more

### Being with Loved Ones

Spending time with loved ones is a simple but powerful way to boost your mental health. Whether you're sharing a meal, laughing, or just chatting, being around those who care makes you feel supported and less alone. These connections release oxytocin, which helps you feel secure and happy. Even a quick chat with a friend or family member can lift your mood. Surrounding yourself with people who truly care strengthens your mental well-being and helps you handle life's ups and downs.

### Spa Time for Your Mind and Body

Treating yourself to a spa day, whether at a professional spa or at home, is a great way to unwind and boost your mental health. It's not just about pampering; it's about giving your mind a break. Simple acts like a warm bath, a face mask, or a foot rub can release tension and lower stress. Taking this time to relax helps you recharge and face life's challenges feeling refreshed and focused.

Incorporating these small, joyful moments into your daily life can make a big difference in how you feel. Mental health doesn't have to be complicated or overwhelming. Sometimes, it's the simple pleasures that keep us grounded and help us thrive. So, let's make time for the things we love, our mental well-being depends on it.







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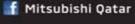
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### OATAR







### First meeting of Qatar-Saudi committee for culture convenes in Riyadh

**QNA** Riyadh

he first meeting of the Qatar-Saudi Co-ordination Council's Committee of Culture, Tourism and Entertainment convened in Riyadh yesterday. HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani and Saudi Minister of

Culture Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan al-Saud, chairs of the committee on their respective sides, co-chaired the meeting

The meeting discussed the ongoing work between the two sides at the working group level, the achievements of the committee and emphasised the importance of completing work on the committee's approved initiatives un-

der the council's umbrella. They also reviewed the initiatives and specific targets of the committee in its cultural, tourism, and entertainment fields to come up with a number of recommendations that contribute to raising the level of co-operation between the two countries.

In a related context, HE the Minister of Culture toured the Riyadh International Book Fair accompanied by his Saudi counterpart and visited Qatar's pavilion participating in the exhibition, where Qatar is the guest of honour.

The ministers also toured the exhibition, where they viewed the participating publishing houses and the books they displayed in various fields.

HE Sheikh Abdulrahman said that the participation of Oatar as

the guest of honour for this edition embodies the cultural relations between the two countries, appreciating the participation of Qatar in the Riyadh book fair this year, as the exhibition is an international cultural event and one of the key platforms that consolidate the cultural movement in the region. He praised the efforts of Saudi Arabia in supporting Gulf and Arab culture.

### Qatar to host world's first electric powerboat racing

From Page 1

Al-Othman said: "Hosting El at The Pearl Island exemplifies our unwavering commitment to sustainability and innovation. As an iconic waterfront landmark, The Pearl Island reflects Qatar's architectural brilliance while promoting tourism and establishing itself as a premier hub for water sports."

The E1 World Championship is the world's first electric powerboat racing tournament, licensed and authorised by UIM, the world governing body of powerboating.

Designed to promote clean technologies that protect marine life and coastal waters, the El World Championship transforms nautical racing to being powered entirely by electric. The tournament will see eight races around the world, with Doha being one of the stops.

# Qatar Leadership Center to organise leadership innovation forum in Oct

QNA

Inder the patronage of HE the Chairperson of Qatar Leadership Center (QLC) Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, QLC has announced that it will organise the inaugural Leadership Innovation Forum (LIF). The landmark event, themed "Leadership Innovation in the Digital Age", will take place on October 30.

The forum aims to become Qatar's premier platform for exploring and shaping the future of innovation in leadership development. It will convene the nation's vibrant community of innovators, along with regional and international industry leaders, to discuss leadership aspirations and

the evolving needs of societies, particularly in light of the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence technology.

General Manager, Qatar Leadership Center, Abdulla Mohammed Khalifa Albinali remarked: "Leadership innovation is a catalyst for change and development, and we envision the forum as an annual platform that embraces leadership best practices, lays the foundation for groundbreaking advancements, and sets a new benchmark for leadership excellence in the region.

"The forum will also strengthen networking and foster co-operation, cultivating a generation of conscious leaders who share knowledge, tools, and theories with their regional peers, thereby supporting lifelong learning," he added.

The forum will also serve as a gathering point for QLC Alumni, many of whom occupy senior roles across various sectors, providing an opportunity to share insights on global changes and developments. In addition to keynote speeches, the forum will include panel discussions by regional and global leaders on current leadership trends and challenges, who will share their experiences and visions for the future.

Forum participants will be able to connect with experts in the field of leadership, share their ideas and opinions, and highlight the opportunities and challenges facing leaders in the public and private sectors. The forum aims to promote learning and growth locally and globally, supporting QLCs goal of fostering leadership innovation.

# Qatar Aeronautical Academy takes part in Gulf education exhibition

atar Aeronautical Academy participated in the third edition of the Gulf Education and Training Exhibition held in Abu Dhabi, alongside prominent educational institutions, training centres, and companies from the Gulf region. The event showcased the latest developments and technologies in training and education.

During the exhibition, the academy highlighted its newest academic and training programmes, demonstrating its excellence in delivering advanced technical education using the latest simulation and training technologies that align with the highest global standards.

The academy's participation provided an opportunity to attract students and visitors interested in aviation and encourage them to pursue its diverse specialisations. It also served as a platform for collaboration and exchanging expertise with institutions and universities sharing a common interest in education and training at both local and international levels.

Director-General of Qatar Aeronautical Academy, Sheikh Jabor bin Hamad al-Thani, em-



QATAR AERONAUTICAL ACADEMY

phasised the importance of this participation, expressing pride to participate in the Gulf Education and Training Exhibition, which serves as a meeting point for educational and academic institutions.

He stressed the importance of specialised education and training in enhancing individuals' skills and building their capabilities, particularly in the everevolving field of aviation. He pointed out that the academy's participation in the exhibition aims to exchange knowledge and experiences and explore new partnerships that support its vision of providing advanced educational programmes that keep pace with modern scientific trends and promote sustain-

ability and development, thereby contributing to improving the quality of education and innovation, stressing the academy's commitment to be at the forefront of educational institutions in this field.

Qatar Aeronautical Academy is one of the leading educational institutions in the region, dedicated to providing a pioneering educational environment that develops skills and competencies in aviation

It offers comprehensive academic and training programmes in commercial aviation, aviation management, aeronautical engineering, meteorology, and numerous training courses, making it a standout participant in this exhibition. (QNA)

# ZULAL WELLNESS RESORT LAUNCHES THERAPEUTIC CLEANSE RETREAT TO PROMOTE OPTIMUM GUT HEALTH

From gut boosting treatments and bespoke meal plans to personalised health and wellness consultations, assessments, daily spa and holistic experiences, the Therapeutic Cleanse Retreat is designed for weight loss, cleansing and enhanced energy and vitality.





et amidst the spectacular surroundings of the Middle East's largest and first full immersion wellness destination, Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som's Therapeutic Cleanse Retreat is a collection of tailored experiences designed to boost gut and colon health.

With growing awareness of the connection between gut health and overall wellness, recognising the signs of an unhealthy gut and taking proactive steps to improve it is more important than ever. From common symptoms like upset stomachs, food intolerances and constant fatigue to the influence of gut health on mental wellbeing, like the production of dopamine and serotonin, the gut plays a significant role in overall

By embracing natural gut boosters, making mindful dietary changes and prioritising emotional well-being, individuals can lead a longer, healthier and more vibrant lives that are more joyful and fulfilling. The Therapeutic Cleanse Retreat is designed by Zulal Wellness Resort's experts to kick starts a dietary transformation, combining daily detox meals with relaxing gut enhancing treatments and various in-depth wellness consultations.

An holistic journey tailored to nurture the unique gut health and overall well-being of guests, each stay begins with a personalised Health & Wellness Consultation where resort professionals discuss health goals to map out a bespoke itinerary of treatments and activities.

The retreat aims to rejuvenate the digestive system through an integrated approach of wellness therapies

and detox meals rooted in Traditional
Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM),
crafted from organic, whole foods
that prioritise natural ingredients.

Every aspect of the stay is designed to cleanse and nourish, and guests are immersed in daily spa experiences that have been carefully curated to support sustainable weight loss and heightened energy levels. Advanced health assessments like physical analysis and VISIA Facial Imaging Skin Analysis provide valuable insights into posture, body composition

and skin health, complemented treatments and access to extensive wellness centre facilities like the hydrothermal areas, saunas, steam rooms and Himalayan salt rooms.

With the option to customize each day with additional treatments like invigorating massages, holistic classes and a wide range of fitness and leisure activities, the Therapeutic Cleanse Retreat ranges from three to 14-nights and presents the ideal opportunity to rediscover health, balance and vitality in Oatar.

Find out more here: https://www.chivasom.com/en/zulal/retreats/serenity/therapeutic-cleanse/



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

### **NU-Q's Kraidy is ACLS chair**

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) dean and CEO Marwan M Kraidy has been elected as the chair of the board of directors of the New York-based American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) for a term until 2027, a statement said vesterday.

ACLS is dedicated to the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning within the humanities and social sciences.

Kraidy has been a long-serving member of the ACLS board, most recently serving as secretary. In his new role, Kraidy will work closely with ACLS president Joy Connolly on organisational direction and policies, oversight of investments, and allocation of funds. His leadership will help shape the future of ACLS while continuing to support

its mission to strengthen relations

among national academic societies

committed to these fields of studies

empathetic, energetic leader whose

Connolly described Kraidy as

an outstanding scholar and an

Marwan M Kraidy

advice and support has already made an impact on the work of ACLS. A scholar of global communication and an authority on Arab media, culture, and politics, Kraidy is a leading figure in global media studies.

His interdisciplinary expertise spans

culture and geopolitics, theories of identity and modernity, humanistic inquiry, comparative media systems, images and effects, media industries, and digital sovereignty. Kraidy and his wife, Ute, are currently sponsoring a new ACLS fellowship, the ACLS Marwan M and Ute Kraidy Centennial Fellowship in the Study of the Arab World and Latin America, which aims to support scholars conducting humanities and interpretive social sciences on the Arab and Latin American regions.

"This is a critical time for advancing knowledge production about the global human experience," said Kraidy. "I am looking forward to supporting the mission of ACLS by fostering a more inclusive and expansive understanding of humanistic scholarship. Together, we will work to ensure that various perspectives are integrated into humanistic inquiry, thereby enriching our collective knowledge and addressing global challenges."

### **QM unveils October public activities**

atar Museums (QM) is set to present a diverse range of activities this October, including workshops, camps, and master classes, it was announced yesterday. M7 will host a creative workshop in October to engage the public with the works of celebrated American artist Ellsworth

These events are curated as part of the Ellsworth Kelly at 100 Exhibition which will open at M7 on October 31. M7 Kids Workshop: Colour Burst (For ages 6-12), October 5, 1pm to 2pm.

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) will host storytelling sessions, Family Day activities, and various art workshops for children and adults. Story Time at MIA Library: "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", October 7, 11am to 12noon. Workshop: Linocut

printmaking (For adults), October 7 to 9, 4pm to 6pm. Family Day: Plants, October 12, 3pm to 5pm.

Special programmes celebrating Ara Guler's legacy – Throughout October and November 2024

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art will host a series of workshops and a storytelling session. Workshop: Drawtastic,

October 5 and 26, 4pm to 6pm. Storytime for Family, October 8, 4pm to 5.30pm. Workshop: Action model drawing, October 2, 23 and 30, 5pm to 6.30pm.

3-2-1 Qatar Olympic & Sports Museum will organise a special storytelling programme for children. Storytelling: Little People, Big Dreams: Ayrton Senna, Octo-

ber 26, 4pm to 5pm. Fire Station: Artist in Residence – Panel discussion: Art Mobiles with Marco Bruno and Simone Carena, October 7, 6pm to 7pm. Workshop: Mimicking Stain Glass with Aisha al-Abdulla, October 28-30, 4pm to 7pm.

Tasweer is offering a Tasweer Talks sessions, curated for photography enthusiasts. Alwaleed Khaled: October 8, 7pm to 8.30pm, Ania Hendryx Wojtowicz and Sebastian Betancur Montoya: October 15, 7pm to 8.30pm. Masterclass: Crafting Your Photographic Identity: Writing and Portfolio, October 19, 11am to 3pm.

Liwan will host workshops on Persian Ink Making. Group 1: until October 20 (Sunday and Tuesday), 4pm to 10pm. Group 2: until October 21 (Monday and Thursday), 4pm to 10pm. Single sessions: October 5, 12, 19, 26, and 31, 4pm to 10pm.



صَيِّدَ قِالله العَظيم

With deep sorrow, we extend our heartfelt condolences to

### H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

Chairman and CEO

### And his sons

H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Turki bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Jassim bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Tamim bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani

H.E. Sheikh Thani bin Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani and the honourable Al Thani family

On the sad demise of

Sheikha Haya bint Mohammed bin Thani bin Jassim Al Thani Mother of Sheikh Faisal, may her soul rest in peace

"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return."

Al Rayyan Tourism Investment Company, subsidiary companies and hotels, its CEO and Managing Director, and all its employees



# QNB 'Official Bank Sponsor' of Qatar Collegiate Programming Contest 2024

QNB has announced that it is the 'Official Bank Sponsor' of the Qatar Collegiate Programming Contest (QCPC) 2024, organised by Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.

The competition brings together talented university and high school students from across the country to demonstrate their programming expertise and problem-solving abilities.

QNB said it is committed to fostering innovation and

supporting the next generation of tech-savvy leaders.
The QCPC provides an excellent platform for students to apply their knowledge in realworld problem-solving, using programming languages such as C, C++, Java, and Python.
Commenting on the partnership, Heba al-Tamimi, senior executive vice-president, QNB Group Communications said, "QNB's involvement in this initiative

aligns with its corporate social

responsibility goals, particularly

in supporting educational programmes that inspire creativity, and technological advancement.

"By investing in the future leaders of the technology industry, QNB is helping to shape a brighter future for Qatar and the broader region." Through this sponsorship, QNB

Through this sponsorship, QNB underscores its dedication to empowering youth and promoting education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



QNB has announced that it is the 'Official Bank Sponsor' of the Qatar Collegiate Programming Contest



### Malabar Group launches milestone CSR initiative

alabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate and the parent company of Malabar Gold & Diamonds – the sixth largest jewellery retailer globally, announced its National Scholarship Programme for 2024 at an event at Bharat Diamond Bourse, BKC, Mumbai, India.

The programme which has allocated more than \$1.9mn to support the education of over 21,000 female students across India, is a milestone in the group's flagship corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, the Malabar National Scholarship Programme, a statement issued in Doha said yesterday.

The event was inaugurated by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, government of

Malabar Group chairman M P Ahammed, vice-chairman Abdul Salam K P, Malabar Gold & Diamonds India operations managing director Asher O, Malabar Group executive director Nishad A K and Mahendra Brothers director Shaunak Parikh were present.

Speaking about the initiative, Ahammed, said: "Education is the most powerful tool to change the world. Our scholarship programme is a direct reflection of Malabar Group's deep-rooted belief that education unlocks opportunities and transforms lives. We are committed to removing barriers for young girls so they can fulfil their educational aspirations and contribute meaningfully to society."

Since its inception, Malabar Group has demonstrated a strong commitment to inclusive growth through its social welfare activities.

In 1999, the Malabar Charitable Trust was created to structure and expand these efforts. The group allocates 5% of its profits to CSR initiatives in every country of operation, which spans health, housing, hunger free world, education, women empowerment and environment, with a particular focus on empowering marginalised communities.

Under the Malabar National

Scholarship Programme, launched in 2007, to date, over \$7mn has been invested, providing financial aid to more than 95,000 female students across India.

Under the Malabar Group's Hunger-Free World Project, 50,000 food packets are distributed daily in 80 cities across 16 states in India, and 10,000 meals are provided daily to school students in Zambia, Africa.

Malabar Group aims to scale the project to serve 100,000 people daily at 200 centres.

The Malabar Group has also launched the Grandma Home project, which provides free, fully equipped accommodation for destitute women, offering them protection and care. Currently, homes are operational in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, with plans to expand to major cities in Kerala, as well as Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai.

To date, the Malabar Group has invested over \$31mn in various social responsibility projects, reflecting its commitment to sustainable development, the statement added.

# QRCS, talabat in joint relief campaigns for Gaza, Lebanon

atar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is partnering with talabat to launch 'Together for Gaza' and 'Together for Lebanon' campaigns aimed at supporting the people of Gaza and Lebanon, a statement said.

talabat customers can now redeem their rewards points on the app to donate towards urgent needs, including food aid, clean water, shelter, and medical care in both Gaza and Lebanon.

To participate in the initiative, talabat customers can: 1. Open the talabat app; 2.

Navigate to the rewards section (top right corner of the page); 3. Search for 'Together for Gaza' and 'Together for Lebanon'; 4. Select campaign item to redeem

"As part of talabat's commitment to utilising its tech for good, this seamless process allows our community to contribute to humanitarian relief for the most vulnerable people in Gaza and Lebanon, making meaningful use of their accumulated talabat rewards," it was explained.

QRCS continues to provide life-saving humanitarian aid in the most affected areas of Gaza and Lebanon, including food



Together for Gaza banner.



Together for Lebanon banner.

items, clean drinking water, vital medical care, and emergency shelter supplies for displaced people.

Consumers can download talabat on the iOS App Store, Google Play Store, and Huawei App Gallery.

### DFI's 'Cinema Under the Stars' returns

By Joey Aguilar Staff Reporter

he Doha Film Institute (DFI) has announced the return of its popular 'Cinema Under the Stars' programme this weekend.

With stunning views of the Doha skyline as a backdrop, the outdoor screenings will take place at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park from October 3 to 5, offering three nights of family-friendly films in the evening.

Qatar residents and visitors can watch the films for free. Admission is on a firstcome, first-served basis, and all screenings will begin at 7pm.

Kicking off the weekend on October 3 is the animated classic *Happy Feet* (2006), directed by George Miller. The joyful adventure takes viewers to the icy world of Antarctica, where Mumble, a



Kicking off the weekend on October 3 is the animated classic *Happy Feet* (2006).

young penguin with an unusual talent for dancing, must prove that even the most

unexpected skills can save the day.
On October 4, audiences will travel to the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro with Rio (2011), directed by Carlos Saldanha. The lively film tells the story of Blu, a domesticated macaw who embarks on a thrilling adventure to reconnect with his roots.

The final screening on October 5 will feature the inspiring documentary *Lily Topples the World* (2021), directed by Jeremy Workman. This visually captivating film follows Lily Hevesh, a 20-year-old domino artist who has become a global sensation in her field.

In addition to the weekend's screenings, past editions of 'Cinema Under the Stars have featured films such as *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* (2016), *Frozen* (2013), and the critically acclaimed animated feature *Boy and the World* (2014).

### Genesis models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Skyline Automotive, has announced the recall of Genesis G70 and G80, 2016-2021 models, over a possible defect in the turbocharger tube design in some vehicles, which may lead to a leak in the oil feed pipe. The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and

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

The MoCl urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, social media channels @moci.gov.qa, and mobile application MOClQatar available on iPhone and Android devices.

### IN-Q joins Qatar Sustainability Week 2024

IN-Q Enterprises (IN-Q), commercial arm and wholly-owned subsidiary of Qatar Museums (QM), is participating in the Qatar Sustainability Week 2024 (QSW), through a series of initiatives across its food, beverage, and retail outlets.

As operator of IDAM by Alain Ducasse, Museum of Islamic Art Café at MIA, Jiwan at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), Café #999 at the Fire Station, and 3-2-1 Café at the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, IN-Q is taking significant steps to reduce its environmental footprint.

environmental footprint.

A key initiative at all IN-Q's

food and beverage (F&B) outlets is to recycle used cooking oil into biodiesel, undertaken in partnership with Green Brokerage for Oil (GBO) – Qatar. Café #999 will host a sustainability workshop on October 5.

All IN-Q cafés — including Café #999, MIA Café, and 3-2-1 Café — are promoting healthy eating by offering nutritious and sustainable snack options.

Jiwan, flagship restaurant of the NMoQ, is unveiling a new seasonal menu to coincide with QSW, featur-

ing locally-sourced ingredients.
Yves Godard, director of F&B
Operations and Commercial Leasing, said: "Sustainability is at the

core of everything we do. Our goal is to create dining experiences that are exceptional and sustainable, contributing to a healthier future for Qatar."

In retail operations, IN-Q reintroduces its "Bring Your Own Tote Bag" campaign across all QM Gift Shops and at Cass Art Qatar. It encourages customers to reduce plastic waste by using reusable bags and embedding sustainability into their everyday shopping experience.

Cass Art Qatar is hosting a Sustainability Art Competition, inviting artists to submit works inspired by the theme "A Future Built Upon



"Sustainability is at the core of everything we do. Our goal is to create dining experiences that are exceptional and sustainable, contributing to a healthier future for Qatar"

Sustainability." The last date for entries will be October 2, with the winner announced on October 3.

"By encouraging reusable options and fostering creative initiatives like the Sustainability Art Competition, we aim to inspire customers to embrace eco-friendly choices that create a positive impact," Retail and Merchandising director Tigest Seifu said.



# **Gulf Narration Forum** aims to enhance cultural exchange

The 5th Gulf Narration Forum, hosted by the Ministry of Culture, kicked off on Sunday, with the participation of writers and critics from Qatar and the GCC member states, along with writers from Jordan and Morocco and guests of the forum.

The forum was attended by HE the Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, officials from the Ministry of Culture, and guests of the forum.

The two-day forum is held in co-operation with the Cultural and Media Affairs sector of the GCC General Secretariat. It is being held in implementation of the principles of the Gulf Cultural Strategy, which includes various joint Gulf events.

The Gulf Narration Forum aims to enhance cultural communication and establish the art of narration in Arab culture in the GCC countries, emphasise the importance of the classical Arabic language, and to promote the trend towards expressing it through the art of narration as one of the main arts in Arab cul-

In his opening remarks, Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture Abdulrahman Abdullah al-Dulaimi welcomed the participating writers, critics, and creatives, noting that the forum represents a golden opportu-







nity to innovate more creative paths to study the history and anticipate the future. He added that the forum also discusses a duality based on the blending of tradition in its authenticity and innovation in its instrumental reality, which requires us to manage a deep dialogue between those concerned with creativity.

The director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture stressed the responsibility of the intellectual and critic includes a moral responsibility towards society. He added that when the writer writes, he does not know how far he will go, because the text is his and the interpretation is someone else's. He expressed his hope that the forum will reach outcomes that contribute to the development of Gulf narration. (QNA)

### Children showcase skills at Dreama 'Art Lab' initiative

he Orphan Care Center (Dreama), one of the centres of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, a Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) affiliate, concluded the activities of the 'Art Lab' initiative that was held in co-operation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), at a ceremony held at Bin Jelmood House in Msheireb, under the patronage of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad.

The ceremony was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Family Affairs, MSDF, Sheikha Sheikha bint Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah, Unesco Representative for the Gulf States and Yemen and Director of the Unesco Office in Doha Salah El Din Zaki Khaled, and a number of officials and specialists participating in the programme and members of the Dreama Center

The 'Art Lab' aims to train the centre's members in using arts as a means of self-expression and to help them indirectly understand the challenges they may face. Social and psychological specialists were trained to present these activities and guide the children in



and develop life skills for its mem-Participants at the Dreama Center engaged in intensive workshops focused on expressive arts, gaining valuable skills in creative writing and acting. The closing ceremony included a discussion with Unesco experts and trainers, where insights from the workshops were shared, and recommendations for addressing

progress in these fields. In her speech during the ceremony, Dreama Executive Director Sheikha Najla bint Ahmed al-Thani emphasised that the 'Art

challenges were made. Children

also presented their own artistic

performances, highlighting their

Lab,' in collaboration with Unesco. aims to enhance children's skills through the arts, highlighting that arts serve not only as a form of entertainment but as a powerful language that enables children to express their feelings, understand their surroundings, and engage with others through creative writing and acting.

Salah El Din Zaki Khaled said the 'Art Lab' initiative comes within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed between Unesco and the Oatar Foundation for Social Work in 2022. He pointed out that the initiative, which was launched in 2018 and implemented in various contexts around the world, aims to facilitate social inclusion through artistic expression imbued with ethical principles based on cultural rights. (QNA)

### **Temporary closure at Corniche**

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a temporary closure in one direction for those coming from Corniche towards Ras Abu Abboud Express Highway from midnight of October 3 to 6am on October 6, for road maintenance work. During the closure in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, three lanes will be closed from Al Rufaa Intersection in one direction towards Ras Abu Abboud. Ashahal will install road signs advising motorists the temporary closure and has requested all to follow and abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.



### **Qatar chairs GCC panel meeting for**



Qatar chaired yesterday the supplementary meeting of the Committee for Examining Nominations for Medals and Decorations in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

The two-day event is being held at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh. Chaired by Assistant Director of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior, Colonel Dr Jabr Hamoud Jabr al-Naimi, the meeting will discuss the agenda items, intended for boosting pan-GCC co-ordination and co-operation across related fields. (QNA)

### Qatar hosts Arab League **ICT Indicators meeting**

atar is taking a leading role in promoting regional co-operation in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development as the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), in collaboration with the Arab League Secretariat, has hosted the 10th meeting of the Arab League Working Group on ICT Indicators.

The high-level event gathered representatives from Arab League member states to discuss and refine key ICT indicators across the region.

The working group plays an essential role in standardising data collection and analysis methods, enabling accurate comparisons between countries, and developing policies that drive digital

The agenda included key updates from the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Expert Group on ICT, discussions on the inclusion of Palestine in the E-Government Development Index and a special presentation from the Communications Regulatory Authority of Qatar on the ICT Development Index.

The meeting featured contributions from member states and in-depth discussions on emerging ICT trends and their impact on relevant indicator

The discussions played a pivotal role in shaping regional strategies that align with global best practices, fostering digital growth across the region.

Engineer Hussain Abdulla Salatt, Public Relations and Communication manager at CRA, said: "Hosting this important meeting reflects Qatar's commitment to advancing the digital landscape at both the national and regional levels, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030. "As Oatar continues its efforts to achieve its national goals, collaboration with Arab countries



CRA's engineer Hussain Abdulla Salatt during the

remains essential to ensure that indicators accurately reflect both the progress achieved and the challenges each country faces in this area."

The outcomes of the meeting are expected to drive policy formulation and help member states adopt cutting-edge digital technologies, bolstering regional competitiveness in the global digital

As the Arab region continues to embrace digital innovation, platforms like the Arab League Working Group on ICT Indicators will remain central to shaping its digital future.

### PHCC reveals improvements amid success of strategic plan 2019-23

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) announced the achievements of its Corporate Strategic Plan 2019-23, under the theme 'A Healthier Future for Our Communities,' which saw the successful implementation of over 90% of its outcomes This strategy has been a driving force behind the sustainable development and improvement of primary healthcare services across the country, aiming to enhance the health of the Qatari community, a statement said

Dr Mohamed Ghaith al-Kuwari, executive director of Strategy Planning and Health Intelligence at PHCC, highlighted that the strategy included ambitious goals to expand primary healthcare services. strengthen the family medicine system, focus on preventive health programmes, and increase access to specialised services. These

efforts were intended to reduce the need for costly treatments and long-term hospital care. The strategy also focused on quality improvement initiatives, clinical audits and the development of the health data system to continuously develop clinical and organisational performance. Despite the global health challenge posed by the Covid-19 pandemic during the strategy's implementation, PHCC played a significant role in providing testing and immunisation services on a national level. Among the key achievements of this strategy was the opening

of six new health centres in Al Mashaf, Umm Al Seneem, South Al Wakra, Al Sadd, Al Ruwais and Al Khor, bringing high-quality healthcare closer to communities and expanded the reach of early detection and wellness services.



Dr Mohamed Ghaith al-Kuwari

PHCC also increased the uptake of specialised services from 53% in 2019 to 70% in 2023 and effectively managed 60% of mental health cases within primary health centres as part of the National Mental Health Programme under the second National Health Strategy. PHCC's development of a Centralised Health Intelligence Framework and the launch of a Centralised Health Portal has



Dr Maha Yousef al-Abdullah

facilitated easier access to health information, improved health data management, enabled more informed decision-making. The integration of health data systems has led to improved efficiency through faster, more efficient healthcare services, tailored to the needs of the community. Dr al-Kuwari added. Dr Maha Yousef al-Abdullah. manager of Strategy Planning at PHCC, pointed out other

increasing the number of wellness centres to seven. They provide comprehensive preventive health services and include 12 weekly lifestyle clinics and 16 centres dedicated to smoking cessation. Additionally, mental health services have been expanded to 15 centres, and early cancer detection services are now available in five health centres. PHCC's efforts to keep the uptake of bowel cancer screening above the national target for five consecutive years have yielded positive results. Early detection of bowel cancer increases treatment success rates.. Additionally, 75% of primary schools and 90% of kindergartens participated in the Asnani School Oral Health programme. This initiative promoted early oral health awareness among children and fostered healthy dental habits.

By the end of 2023, as many as 98% of PHCC employees had actively participated in professional development programmes and initiatives, which helped enhance the quality of care through well-trained and highly engaged medical staff. This participation also allowed for access to the latest practices and innovations in healthcare. Among the achievements of the 2019-2023 plan was the successful completion rate of quality improvement initiatives, which rose from 45% to 79%. Dr al-Abdullah concluded by emphasising the activation of several virtual services to facilitate access to healthcare, such as telephone and video consultations, the establishment of a call centre for instant and easy responses to all inquiries, as well as introducing medication home delivery service.



### COMMENT

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### **GULF @ TIMES**

### Making Europe weak again

After November 5, the world will know whether Americans have turned away from global leadership or decided to maintain it, along with their country's commitment to longstanding alliances such as Nato. These are the stark alternatives represented by the isolationist Donald Trump and Vice-President Kamala Harris, respectively.

But as the world fretfully watches the US election unfold, Europeans, in a sense, have already voted. Recent elections in the two largest European Union member states, France and Germany, were disheartening, to say the least, resulting in significant gains for the anti-Western, anti-European far-right.

Although the far-right was denied an outright parliamentary majority in both countries, its gains were too substantial to be ignored. Looking ahead, it will be more difficult in either country to form a stable majority of democratic forces, and thus easier for the far-right eventually to gain power through electoral channels.

In France, after the political centre's demoralising defeat in the June European elections, President Emmanuel Macron unexpectedly dissolved the National Assembly and called a snap election. But far from clarifying matters, this resulted in a hung parliament. Although an alliance of left-wing parties won the most seats, they fell far short of securing a majority.

For his part, Macron refused to co-operate with either the far-left or with Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally, which had won the most seats in the European elections. With little other choice, he appointed a prime minister from the ranks of the Gaullist centreright Republicans, which has shrunk to a minor party in parliament. His choice, Michel Barnier, previously led the EU's Brexit negotiations with the United Kingdom, and is seen as a steady hand. But, in fact, Macron has opened the door to indirect government participation by National Rally, by dint of Macron's dependence on the party's tacit support for Barnier.

### **Europe's** only chance in today's dangerous world is to show strength through unity

A similar situation now looms in Germany, where state elections in Thuringia and Saxony also failed to produce majorities in the centre. As a result, the only way to keep the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) out of state government is to include the newly formed Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW), a pro-Russia party whose main goal is to end the war in Ukraine by pursuing "peace" on Vladimir Putin's terms.

Notwithstanding the centreleft Social Democratic Party's narrow victory in Brandenburg this past Sunday, Germany's recent state elections bode ill for the federal elections next September. For now, the weakness of the democratic centre in both France and Germany could effectively give Putin a seat at the cabinet table in both countries.

Of course, politically, France and Germany are not Hungary or Slovakia. But nor are Hungary and Slovakia as central to the future of the EU as France and Germany are. If the French and Germans falter because they cannot form a majority government of the centre, the broader EU is almost certain to stagnate and become paralysed in the face of Putin's war of conquest. Worse, in a rapidly changing world order that is increasingly defined by great-power rivalries, Europe would effectively be pushed off the global stage.

In other words, Europe faces a triple threat - one that came into sharper focus following this year's elections. Its democratic order is threatened by nationalism from within, violent revisionism from without, and the potential return of an American president who holds Nato (and the security it has delivered) in contempt.

Nationalism has been resurgent across Europe for at least a decade, having delivered its first big, dangerous result with the UK's Brexit referendum in 2016. But the consequences of this revival continue to shock wherever they emerge. The significance of the far-right making strong electoral gains in Germany cannot be overstated. Such developments are and will remain deeply debilitating for the EU as it navigates an increasingly challenging geopolitical environment.

A Europe that remains ideologically beholden to the era of nation-states will not be able to pursue further integration, which is necessary for preserving its sovereignty in today's world. Nor will it be able to devise effective, coherent policies to manage issues such as immigration, even though Europe needs newcomers to address its demographic crisis. If Europeans continue to support neonationalist parties, they will undermine themselves.

Europe's only chance in today's dangerous world is to show strength through unity. The stronger that nationalist forces become, the weaker Europe will be. – Project Syndicate

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# Unlocking AI's potential for all

By Carme Artigas and James Manyika

ike the steam engine and electricity, rtificial intelligence is a transformative, foundational technology. If developed to its full potential, AI can create opportunities for people around the world, enable businesses, small and large, power economic growth, advance science, and help humanity make significant strides toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

But realising AI's potential requires addressing the risks, complexities, and inequities that currently limit access to its benefits. First, we must rethink our approaches to global co-operation and governance. Nowadays, too many countries are left out of key policy discussions. Notably, as we show in a new report, a sample of major non-UN international AI governance efforts found that only ven countries have participate in every one, while 118 countries - primarily in the Global South have not been included. The international community can and

must do better. Over the past year, we have co-chaired the UN Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Body on AI, a group of 39 individuals from government, civil society, the private sector, and academia representing a wide range of regions, genders, age groups, and disciplines. Together, we developed a set of principles and recommendations for international

AI governance, aiming to ensure that the technology serves the public interest by grounding it in human rights and international law. To engage diverse perspectives and voices, we involved more than 2,000 participants from every region, consulted more than 1,000 experts, reviewed 250 written submissions, and held more than 100 virtual discussions.

As we explain our report, we believe this moment presents a unique opportunity for the international community to lay the foundation to harness the potential from AI, address key governance shortcomings and capacity gaps in its development, deployment, and use, and enable a more equitable AI ecosystem. To this end, our report offers seven concrete recommendations for fostering global co-operation, closing governance gaps, and creating new mechanisms to enable all countries to benefit from advances in the technology.

AI's technical and social trajectory remains the subject of fierce debate, even among experts. This makes sense, given that AI is still in its early stages, with its capabilities, applications, and uses evolving rapidly. But uncertainty should not lead to inaction. Instead, it underscores the need for adaptable guardrails that can evolve with the technology and our

understanding of it. Governance efforts must  $therefore\,be\,rooted\,in\,both$ technical expertise and global perspectives. With this in mind, our first recommendation is to establish a truly international scientific panel on AI, bringing together experts from diverse disciplines and backgrounds.

This panel would work with global organisations and initiatives to collect, analyse, and promote research, and would publish an annual report on AI-related capabilities, opportunities, risks, and uncertainties. By highlighting areas of agreement and identifying topics that require further study, the report could enhance transparency and inform policy debates and decision-making. The panel could also conduct focused investigations into specific issues, such as how AI could be used to discover new materials or treat neglected diseases.

In addition to knowledgesharing, many countries need better access to essential AI resources like computational power, inclusive and representative training datasets, skilled talent, and a global data framework. To this end, we recommend establishing a global AI fund to support data sharing, build digital infrastructure, nurture local AI ecosystems, and foster entrepreneurship.

We also propose creating an AI capacity-development network to expand global access to talent and expertise and make progre toward the SDGs. To ensure standardisation, regulatory alignment, and co-ordinated approaches to ethics and safety, we recommend establishing an AI standards exchange and an inclusive policy forum for discussions about AI governance. These initiatives would build on the work of UN agencies and other international efforts, promoting interoperability and cross-border collaboration.

Effective co-ordination will be vital. To achieve this, we propose establishing a small, agile AI

office reporting directly to the UN Secretary-General. This office would act as a central hub, connecting and integrating various institutional initiatives. By linking efforts led by regional organisations and other stakeholders, it could reduce the costs of co-operation and streamline collective action.

Putting these institutional structures in place can pave the way for a more inclusive approach to AI governance. This is crucial to preventing the emergence of an "AI divide," to expanding global access to education and health care, and to unlocking the full potential of emerging technologies.

While it is critical to guard against AI's potential harms and misuses, it is just as important to seize the opportunities the technology creates to achieve the SDGs, drive scientific breakthroughs, and fuel economic growth. Realising these benefits will require building trust, improving communication, and expanding capacity across many sectors - areas where the UN is uniquely positioned to facilitate co-operation. We hope our report triggers an urgent glob conversation about how AI can help create a more sustainable and inclusive future for all. - Project Syndicate

- Carme Artigas, former secretary of state for digitalisation and artificial intelligence of Spain, is Co-Chair of the UN Highlevel Advisory Body on Artificial
- James Manyika, President for Research, Technology, and Society at Google and Alphabet, is Co-Chair of the UN High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence.

### Sustainably financing sustainable development

By Paola Subacchi

he just-concluded United Nations Summit of the Future in New York. and next year's Second World Summit for Social Development, aim to "chart a path toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and responding to emerging challenges and opportunities." But the question of how to finance the necessary investments – particularly at a time when many countries are weighed down by debt stalks global discussions.

The world is more complicated than it was a decade ago, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets out the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, was drafted. When the Agenda was approved in January 2016, we had not yet faced the Covid-19 pandemic, war had not engulfed Ukraine or Gaza, and the United States and China were not at loggerheads.

Today, the world economy is more fragmented, geopolitical tensions are higher, and multilateralism is sputtering. Moreover, the number of people living in poverty has increased: in 2020-23, an estimated 165mn people, mostly in developing countries, fell below the World Bank's poverty line (\$3.65 per day at purchasing power parity).

Meanwhile, many countries' debt burdens have become less manageable, after governments were forced to increase public spending in response to the pandemic and the subsequent cost-of-living crisis. Today, only 27 developing countries – 18% of the total - are not burdened with excessive debt. The rest are struggling with debt overhang, which undermines economic growth and development, and raises the risk of an eventual

default. The International Monetary Fund estimates the debt-burden threshold for low-income countries is between 35% and 70% of GDP, after which debt can become unmanageable.

When debt-servicing costs are high, countries often end up making big sacrifices to stay solvent. For example, they might tap foreign-exchange reserves, thereby weakening their ability to respond to future crises, or reallocate resources from critical areas - such as education, health, and social protection - to keep up with their payments. In low-income countries, interest payments are now 2.3 times larger than spending on social assistance, and 1.4 times larger than domestic health expenditures, on average. They amount to 60% of spending on education.

A country that is reducing social spending to service its debts - despite the increase in poverty that will inevitably follow - is unlikely to be able to make long-term investments in sustainable development. And yet, as the UN and other multilateral organisations have made clear, a significant increase in financing, at both the national and international levels, is a prerequisite for achieving the SDGs by the 2030 deadline.

Thus, it is urgent to offer relief to countries that face debt distress. Governments should not have to choose between servicing their debts and taking care of their citizens, and today's debts should not act as a drag on the future. Countries' ability to manage their debt should be assessed against a broader range of indicators - human, social, and environmental, not just financial. Where debt relief, debt restructuring, or both is in order, it must be implemented quickly and efficiently as part of a comprehensive debt-management strategy, possibly making use of instruments like debtfor-climate swaps, which commit the debtor

government to invest the savings from debt relief in climate adaptation or mitigation.

But debt relief alone is not enough. If developing countries are to achieve the SDGs, they will need new sources of funding. So far, multilateral development banks have taken the lead on this front. As a recent OECD report shows, in 2012-20, outflows from the World Bank Group increased by 72%, and outflows from other MDBs soared by 155%. In 2021-22, total MDB outflows rose by another 22%.

This trend is set to continue. Earlier this year, ten MDBs estimated that they could collectively expand their lending headroom by an additional \$300-400bn over the next decade. But this would mean an increase of just \$40bn more per year - far less than the \$260bn per year that the G20 Independent Expert Group estimates will be needed to meet the SDGs.

To address the sustainable-development imperative, the MDBs will have to persuade their member states to increase their own contributions by amounts proportionate to the scale of the challenges ahead. Other multilateral organisations, such as the UN, as well as non-governmental donors and the private sector, must also ramp up their support.

Multilateral efforts should aim both to tackle existing debt and to expand access to affordable finance in the future, using a variety of instruments, including concessional loans, green and blue bonds, and grants. And policy measures must be co-ordinated at the international level. Otherwise, we stand little chance of achieving the SDGs by the 2030 deadline, with devastating consequences for people and the planet. - Project Syndicate

• Paola Subacchi is Professor of Political Economy and incoming Chair in Sovereign Debt at Sciences Po.





### **Regional Group signs** franchise pact with Saudi **BinDawood** Holding



atar's Regional Group signed yesterday a franchise agreement with Saudi BinDawood Holding to open new BinDawood branches across Qatar.

The agreement was signed by the managing director and chief executive of the Regional Group, HE Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Khalifa al-Thani, and BinDawood Holding chairman Dr Abdulrazzag bin Dawood.

Under the deal, the Regional Group will open eight BinDawood offshoots in Qatar over the coming years, boosting the Saudi company's presence in the Gulf markets and enhancing co-operation in the retail sector.

HE Sheikh Abdul Rahman expressed his happiness with the co-operation with BinDawood Holding, hailing the partnership as a new turning point for the Regional Group, allowing the Qatar company to enter the world of retail strongly and contribute to enriching the Oatar market.

Dr Dawood said the agreement represents an important strategic step that provides a distinguished shopping experience and high-quality products.

Regional Group' general auditor Dr Hashem al-Sayed said the move would boost private sector co-operation in the two countries and diversify the Regional Group's investments. - QNA



### **16th National Week for Scientific Research and Innovation begins**

The 16th National Week for Scientific Research and Innovation 2024 opened at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) yesterday and will continue until October 3.

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi visited the exhibition to view the research and projects of students and teachers, as well as the fun corner for elementary students.

HE the Undersecret tion and Higher Education (MoEHE) Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi inaugurated the week in the presence of the executive director of the Office of Scientific Research Programmes at the Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation Council (ORDI) Dr Hisham Mohieldin Saber, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the MoEHE Maha al-Ruwaili, Qatar University president Dr Omar Mohammed al-Ansari, leaders, and education experts.

Curriculum and Learning Resources Department director Sarah al-Sharim emphasised the prominent role that the MoEHE plays in collaboration with the QRDI.

Director of the QRDI's Scientific Research Office Programme, Dr Ayman Basil, stated the importance of supporting and empowering scientific research and innovation talents as a primary goal of the collaboration between the ORDI and the MoEHE.

"Qatar focuses on enhancing the role of research and innovation in achieving the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and moving towards a sustainable knowledge-based economy," he said. "The council is working to provide the appropriate environment and support to achieve these strategic goals."

On the first day of the events, the national competition for scientific research and innovation for



the middle and secondary stages was held to select the winners of the top three positions.

Accompanying this competition was a series of training workshops targeting co-ordinators and supervisors of scientific research accompanying the

The workshops covered topics related to scientific research and innovation. They were conducted by a team from the MoEHE, Oatar University, and the Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa).

Students and parents can visit the student and teacher research and projects exhibition on the third

The ministry also intends to honour the winning students with special awards from supporting partners on the fourth day.

On the final day, the winners of the top three positions in the national competition for scientific research and innovation across various categories will be announced, and the winning students and teachers will be recognised. - QNA

# **Qatar-China relations** attaining new heights

**By Ayman Adly** 

Staff Reporter

time passes, the friendship between China and Qatar has become closer and closer," ambassador Cao Xiaolin said as the Chinese embassy in Doha yesterday marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Oatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)'s protocol director HE ambassador İbrahim Fakhro and other dignitaries were present.

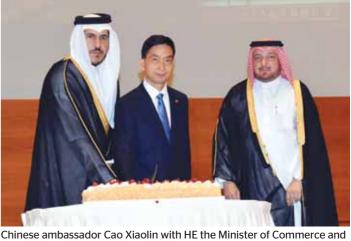
In his address, the Chinese envoy hailed the long history of positive and constructive relations with the Arab world and in particular the steadily growing Qatar-China relations on all field for the mutual benefit of both countries and their people.

"Over 1,300 years ago, Chinese merchant ships, laden with porcelain and silk, embarked from Guangzhou and navigated the renowned Maritime Silk Road," he said. "They sailed the vast ocean and reached the Arabian Peninsula, forging a close relationship between China and Qatar."

"This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of strategic partnership between China and Qatar," Cao said.

The ambassador noted that "under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani", China-Qatar relations have gone through a "golden decade" of comprehensive and rapid development and have become a model of unity and mutual benefit among developing

"The mutual trust between China and Qatar has continued to deepen," Cao said. "President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani have met six times in the past decade and reached many important consensus on deepening



Industry Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' protocol director HE ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro at the celebration in Doha yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen

the China-Oatar strategic partnership, drawing up a blueprint for and lending strong impetus to the friendly co-operation between our two countries."

The envoy stressed that "the co-operation between China and Qatar have achieved fruitful outcomes in various fields".

"The bilateral trade volume has grown from \$10.6bn in 2014 to \$24.5bn in 2023, an increase of over 130%," he said. "Since 2020, China has been Qatar's largest trading partner and largest export destination."

"Qatar has become China's second-largest source of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports globally," Cao continued. "From the new energy buses that plied in the country during the 2022 FIFA World Cup, to the electric vehicles that recently debuted in Qatar, and the contract for 18 QC-Max LNG vessels signed by Chinese and Qatari companies this year, China and Qatar have formed a new model of highly complementary, mutually beneficial and promising co-op-

The ambassador noted that the people-to-people exchanges have become closer as more and more Oatari youth are learning Chinese.

"Four batches of Qatari young

students participated in the 'Chinese Bridge' summer camp in China, and the first HSK Chinese Proficiency Test Centre was established in Doha this year," he said.

"The number of direct passenger flights between China and Qatar has increased from around 30 to 61 per week over the past two years," Cao added. "The number of Chinese tourists visiting Qatar reached 56,000 in 2023, marking a 240% increase year-on-year."

"The first pair of giant pandas in the Middle East, Suhail and Thuraya, will mark the second anniversary of their arrival in Qatar," the envoy said. "The two lovely giant pandas are growing up healthily and happily in the Panda House at Al Khor, and have brought joy and excitement to the people of

"They have become envoys of friendship between the Chinese and Qatari people," Cao remarked.

The ambassador also stressed the massive developments and successes of China over the past years to improve the life of the ordinary people.

"Currently, China strives to improve its opening up mechanism, actively connects with international economic and trade rules," he added.

### Challenges of translation discussed at symposium

he media team of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding organised an online symposium via Zoom, on the occasion of International Translation Day, which is celebrated on September 30 every year.

During the symposium titled "Challenges of Translation in a Changing World", participants presented their visions on the role of translation as a civilised act in bridging between nations, cultures. and peoples.

They discussed the reality of the translation movement based on their personal experiences in this field, and touched on the difficulties and challenges they face during their work.

Kuwaiti writer Saadia Mufarreh, during her moderation of the symposium, explained the role of the Award in honouring translators and appreciating their contribution to strengthening the bonds of friendship rewarding excellence, encouraging creativity, consolidating high values and promoting diversity, pluralism and openness.

The award seeks to root in a culture of knowledge and dialogue, spread Arab and Islamic culture, develop international understanding and encourage mature cultural processes between Arabic and the rest of the world's languages through translation and Arabic events, she added.

Algerian translator Dr Al Hawari Ghazali spoke about translating Arabic poetry in light of technological progress and artificial intelligence, introducing the Master of Translation Department at the

University of Paris, where he works as a lecturer, and the systematic method of working to train translators who focus on a common set of lessons and options for enhancing academic specialisation.

Syrian translator Buthaina al-Ibrahim spoke out the "adventures" that translators go the in translation, specifically her "adventure" in one of the last works she translated, which was the novel The Girl with the Loud Voice, that was published last

She explained that she deliberately broke down the language, as no one who reads the novel will find a page free of errors, because the heroine speaks in broken English.

Jordanian translator Dr Bassem al-Zoubi said that translation serves as an important gateway through which nations and peoples meet one another, leading them to better understand their fellow human, and indirectly better understand themselves.

Kuwaiti translator Dalal Nasrallah touched on metaphors in the context of literary translation, explaining that literary translation requires linguistic mastery of both the source and target languages, as well as extensive knowledge of idiomatic usages in both languages.

Syrian translator residing in Paris, Reem al-Sayed, spoke about translating poetry in light of advancements in technology and artificial intelligence.

She noted that translating Arabic poetry represents a unique challenge due to the characteristics inherent in poetry. - **QNA** 

### QNL, British Library celebrate Qatar Digital Library's 10th anniversary

■he Qatar National Library (QNL) and the British Li- brary have celebrated the 10th anniversary of Qatar Digital Library (QDL), one of the largest online repositories on the history and culture of the Middle East.

QNL Director of National Collection and Special Initiatives, Abeer al-Kuwari, said the event marks a milestone that reflects the enduring value of preserving and sharing the rich history of the Middle East.

"The Qatar Digital Library is a diverse and dynamic resource," she said. "It serves amateur historians who delve into their family histories, teachers who bring history to life in their classrooms and academics across various disciplines who conduct in-depth research."

"Each user, whether a casual explorer or a dedicated scholar, contributes to a collective appreciation of the rich historical narratives that have shaped our region," al-Kuwari noted.

The event brought together academics, researchers and practitioners to discuss the work they

conducted using the QDL. The conference showcased the extensive array of material available on the platform and how researchers can leverage such resources to conduct their work. Held yesterday, the conference

featured three panels, dedicated to the History of the Middle East, the History of Business in the Gulf, and Arabic Manuscripts.

The first panel brought together professor of translation and intercultural studies at Queen's University Belfast in the UK, Sue-Ann Harding, along with professor of contemporary history and politics of the Middle East at Oatar University (QU), Mahjoob Zweiri, and senior archaeology specialist at Qatar Museum, Robert Carter.

Prof Harding, whose book touches on the history of the Qatar peninsula, said her work would not have been possible without the Qatar Digital Library.

Prof Zweiri spoke of about the importance of writing contemporary history.

"The exceptional contribution of the Qatar Digital Library in facilitating easy access to historical resources related to Oatar and the wider Gulf region, has played a pivotal role in breaking down



barriers to historical research by providing a comprehensive collection of sources that are crucial for historians interested in studying the region," he said. "By offering a diverse range of materials, the QDL has effectively eliminated the challenges posed by geographical limitations, thereby opening up new avenues for research and scholar-

The second panel featured Roma

Tre University associate professor Giuliano Garavini, who discussed the 1973 "Oil Shock".

"Ottoman Shipping in the Indian Ocean and Basra as Contrapot of the Gulf" was the focus of a session by assistant professor of South Asian history at the University of North Carolina, Michael O'Sullivan.

During the third panel, Amelie Couvrat Desvergnes, an inde-

pendent paper and book conservator based in the Netherlands. discussed the history, production, import and uses of paper in 19thcentury Iran.

Daniel Martin Varisco, anthropologist, historian and former research professor at the QU, touched on the Arab Gulf almanac tradition while US-based Iraqi food writer Nawal Nasrallah delivered a presentation titled Reminiscences on the Year QDL Saved Me.

The library launched the QDL's digitisation campaign in 2014, two years after partnering with the British Library.

Digitisation began with the British Library's most important historical collection of records, maps and photographs on Qatar and the Gulf in its India Office Records and Private Papers collection.

Today, the QDL attracts an average of 200,000 unique users and over 2mn page views a year.

Enhanced accessibility to historical resources has contributed to an increase in new studies on the Gulf, connecting younger generations with their ancestors, and enriching research on the cultures of the Arab world.

"The QDL has been a priceless instrument for scholars like me. to whom manuscripts from the mediaeval Muslim world, texts and illustrations alike, constitute the basic ingredient for our research," Nasrallah said. "Making them available in digitised formats has indeed made an otherwise daunting task wieldier and more fruitful in its results."

An initiative of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the QDL was at the centre of the QNL's strategy to digitise historical records about the region from around the world and to digitally repatriate them to Qatar.

The QDL's collections offer insights into the region's trading practices, the two World Wars, the petroleum industry, Britain's imperial administration of the region, treaties, marine navigation, military operations, civil aviation, economic forums, Arab national-

ism and medicine. The QDL also houses a rare collection of Arabic manuscripts on a variety of topics including medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geometry, geography and military science. - **QNA** 



HE Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi (right) and John Bass at the event.

Right: HE Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed AlKhater, Tom Malinowski and other dignitaries at the



# **EAA**, partners host Afghan refugees event at the UN

(EAA) Foundation, Institute of International Education (IIE), and the Afghan Future Fund (AFF) hosted a special event during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to highlight recent efforts made to provide higher education opportunities for Afghan refugees and discuss how to address future challenges.

The event on September 24 had welcome remarks by IIE executive vice-president Jonah Kokodyniak, followed by keynote speeches from representatives of Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the US Department of State, and other organisations, a statement said yes-

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, the US Under Secretary for Political Affairs John Bass, and Tom Malinowski, former US Congressman from New Jersey, attended the event, emphasising the importance of access to education for Afghan refugee youth.

The event included stakeholders and beneficiaries of the Qatar Scholarship for Afghan Project (QSAP), showcasing partnerships between Qatar and the US public and private sectors aimed at ensuring marginalised Afghan women, girls, and young men can thrive

through education. "Qatar is unwavering in its commitment to ensuring that every

and girls, has access to the transformative power of education," HE AlKhater said in her opening

"Education is a universal right, "Education is a universal

right ... Qatar is unwavering in its commitment to ensuring that every young Afghan ... has access to education"

and Qatar, through our partnership with the US and other international stakeholders, will continue to be steadfast in its efforts to empower Afghan youth, safeguard their educational opportunities, and invest in their potential," she

In his keynote address, Under-Secretary Bass emphasised the US State Department's support for the

"We are eager to continue this critical partnership - working together to ensure that Afghan women and girls have opportunities not only to learn - but to determine their own futures," he said.

The event featured a panel exploring the impact of programmes that provide scholarships and related assistance to Afghan students, such as the QSAP.

Panellists included EAA chief executive Fahad al-Sulaiti, IIE chief executive Dr Allan Goodman, AFF board chairman Vance Serchuk, Rina Amiri (the US Special Envoy for Afghan Women, Girls, and Human Rights), Jonathan Becker (executive vice-president,

and director at the Centre for Civic Engagement, and professor of Political Studies at Bard College), Shahzad Ahmad (associate vicepresident of St Cloud State University's Centre for International Studies), and AFF board member Arezo Kohistany.

Building on the EAA's global efforts, Talal al-Hothal, director of the EAA Foundation's Al Fakhoora programme, said: "Through Al Fakhoora programme, the EAA has provided more than 10,800 scholarships for marginalised youth across 10 countries. We are proud to include the QSAP in our efforts."

"There could not be a more urgent need for us to address than the right to education for Afghan women and refugees," said the IIE's Kokodyniak. "Hosting this event during the UNGA underscores the importance of international cooperation in providing educational opportunities that will allow Af-

"The EAA, through Al Fakhoora programme, has provided more than 10,000 scholarships across 10 countries'

ghan students to rebuild their futures, and foster social, economic, and cultural development."

"As a result of the QSAP, hundreds of future leaders are gaining opportunities to earn degrees at many of America's leading universities," he said.

In a concerted effort to make quality education a reality for Af-

ghans in the US and across the globe, a coalition of foundations and universities have come together to create transformative education opportunities for Afghan

Organisations including the EAA, AFF, IIE, MoFA Oatar, Oatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Schmidt Futures, and the Yalda Hakim Foundation have provided scholarships, mentorship programmes, and academic support to ensure that Afghan students can pursue their educational dreams, despite any challenges.

The partnership provides ample opportunities for Afghan women and men to continue their education in top-tier universities.

"The eyes of the world are no longer on Afghanistan, but the cause of Afghan education is more important than ever," said the AFF's Serchuk. "Together with our partners, the AFF is proud to make possible the next wave of 200 scholarships for deserving, at-risk Afghans - enabling these young people to pursue their dreams and unlock their potential at leading US universities."

The event concluded with a reaffirmation of the strong commitment by all participating organisations to continue expanding access to education for displaced Afghan youth through the QSAP.

More than 80 attendees also had the opportunity to hear inspiring stories of resilience and success from Afghan students who have benefited from these initiatives.

### **Years of Culture** celebrates Qatar and Morocco on sidelines of UNGA

ears of Culture participated in Fashion 4 Development (F4D)'s 4th Annual Sustainable Goals Banquet, held during the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City.

The event gathered heads of state, dignitaries, and global influencers to promote dialogue on sustainability, cultural heritage, and shared commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The banquet spotlighted the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, celebrating the cultural legacies of both nations and their contributions to global education and social development efforts.

A highlight of the evening was the "Weaving Hopes" exhibition, which featured artisanal creations made by Moroccan youth, beneficiaries of a Silatech Foundation's project in partnership with Al Amana Microfinance Institution.

The initiative has empowered more than 134,000 young people by providing them with resources to turn their passions into sustain- al-Thani at the F4D event. able livelihoods.



Ahmed Saif al-Haiari at Fashion 4 Development (F4D)'s 4th **Annual Sustainable Goals** Banquet in New York.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid

EAA Foundation Youth Advocate Ahmed Saif al-Hajari delivered a presentation on youth-led sustainability projects.

Other highlights from the event were a curated exhibition of Moroccan caftans by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Thani, founder of the Institute of Arab and Islamic Art in New York; exquisite displays of Amazigh jewellery and Kaftans by Siham El Habti, reflecting Morocco's vibrant artistic heritage; a showcase of vintage kaftans in collaboration with Yves Saint Laurent and Jean Paul Gaultier; and a sustainable gastronomy experience featuring plant-based Moroccan cuisine by chef David Fhima.

The banquet was part of a two-day programme that included the F4D 12th Annual First Ladies Luncheon, further bridging fashion, diplomacy, education, and sustainable development.



A scene from the sidelines of the F4D banquet.

### Fanar organises religious lecture for Filipino community

s part of reaching out to the Muslim communities residing in Qatar, the Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahamic Cultural Centre (Fanar) organised a reli gious lecture for the Filipino Muslim community.

Presented by preacher Dr Abdullah Abtahi, the session was attended by about 315 participants.

The course, according to an official statement from the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, was organised by the Department of Islamic Culture and was aimed at enhancing Filipino Muslims' understanding of the Islamic faith with a correct approach and a disciplined and moderate understanding while establishing their faith based on Qur'an and Sunnah and enhancing their understanding.

During the four-day course, Dr Abtahi addressed a number of doctrinal issues in terms of moderation, coexistence and tolerance towards others.



### **HMC launches advanced mental health** services at Mesaieed General Hospital

'amad Medical Corporation (HMC) has launched two innovative options - Esketamine and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) - for patients with treatment-resistant depression at the Mesaieed General Hospital's Mental Health Service, a statement said.

Esketamine, a nasal spray, offers hope to patients who have struggled with traditional treatments, providing them with a new avenue for recovery, according to Dr Ovais Wadoo, senior consultant and clinical lead for Neuromodulation Services at the HMC.

Esketamine is US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved and administered in a clinical setting under the supervision of healthcare professionals.

This treatment is particularly beneficial for individuals who have not responded to other antidepres-

The HMC will also soon offer TMS therapy, which utilises magnetic pulses to stimulate specific brain regions associated with mood regulation.



The HMC will also soon offer Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation therapy

Dr Ovais Wadoo (second left) with members of the Mesaieed General Hospital's Mental Health Service

"TMS is a non-invasive alternative for patients who either cannot tolerate the side effects of traditional medications or have found them ineffective," Dr Wa-

According to global experts, both Esketamine and TMS have shown significant efficacy in alleviating symptoms of depression. Esketamine provides rapid relief for many patients

who have not responded to other treatments, while TMS has been shown to produce lasting improvements in mood and functionality.

These treatments offer new hope for those who have experienced limited success with conventional therapies, thereby enhancing overall quality of life and The launch of these advanced mental health treat-

ments aligns with Qatar's National Vision 2030 and the new National Health Strategy 2024 to 2030, which prioritise mental health as a critical component of overall well-being. By expanding access to innovative therapies, the

HMC is committed to fostering a healthier society and supporting the nation's goal of enhancing the quality of healthcare services.

For more information about accessing these services, please visit the HMC's Mental Health Service Home (hamad.qa), the statement added.

### **Qatar's October calendar is packed** with culture, art and entertainment

ickstarting the winter season, Qatar Calendar's October edition is set to offer a fun-filled month of entertainment, exhibitions, and cultural experiences catering to all tastes and interests.

Oatar Calendar is a comprehensive guide for navigating events across the country.

Theatre enthusiasts can enjoy the Kuwaiti theatrical comedy. The First of Its Kind, running at Katara - the Cultural Village from October 2-9.

A Night of Mozart, conducted by Andreas Weiser, will be held on October 4 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Auditorium 3.

Tchaikovsky's spectacular masterpiece Swan Lake is taking place with the renowned Moscow Ballet La Classique Swan Lake on October 18 at the ONCC.

"The Limits of My Language Are the Limits of My World" exhibition is currently taking place at the Media Majlis Museum at Northwestern University in Oatar until December 5.

"Art is About Art" exhibition is taking place at the Fire Station Gallery until November 2.

"Eternal Echoes: The Silent Cry of Gaza", running until November 2, is an exhibition by Hayat El Yamani, while "AIR 8: A House Overlooking the World" will run until December 31 at the Fire Station: Artist in Residence.

M7 will be hosting "Ellsworth Kelly at 100" from October 31 to February 13, paying tribute to the



late artist's seven-decade career. The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) is hosting the Kufic Calligraphy (Advanced) workshop, running from October 5-26.

The Diwani Calligraphy (Beginners) workshop is set from October 15-29 at the MIA while the Linocut Printmaking Workshop is scheduled from October

The International Shopping Exhibition is on until October 13 at Katara.

Those interested in the fine craftsmanship of oud and perfumery can visit the West Walk Oud & Perfume Exhibition until October 5 at West Walk.

The women's fashion event, Zinatha Exhibition, returns for its 3rd edition from October 31 to November 8 at Al Hazm Galleria.

Qatar Chamber is hosting the Arabian Women Exhibition from October 5-10. This will be followed by the 6th edition of the Asjad Exhibition, set from October 24-29.

The Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) will be hosting Cityscape Qatar from October 13-15, Big 5 Construct Qatar from October 13-15, INDEX Design Qatar from October 13-15, and Milipol Qatar from October 29-31.

The Doha International Family Institute is organising a global conference commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, set from October 30-31 at the QNCC.

Qatar Sustainability Week is returning for 9th edition, until October 5.

The 5K Dash on October 5 takes place at Lusail Boulevard while the second edition of the Al Wakra Challenge Race 2024 is set on October 26 at Wakra Beach.

The 4th Oatar Asian Junior Tournament (14 Years & Under) at Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex takes place from October 7-12.

The Ali bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena will host the 4th Qatar International Taekwondo Champi-

onship (G1) from October 26-29. The 17th edition of the FIP World Padel Championships will be held at Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex from October 28 to November 2, and the World Table Tennis Youth Star Contender Doha 2024, will take place from October 8-12 at Lusail Sports Arena.