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Amir receives written message from UK king



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a written message from King Charles III of the United Kingdom pertaining to bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them. Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Qatar Neerav Patel handed over the message during a meeting with His Highness the Amir at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. (QNA)

Amir meets Abu Dhabi crown prince



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the sisterly United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and the accompanying delegation. At the beginning of the meeting, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi conveyed the greetings of the sisterly UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum to His Highness the Amir and their wishes of good health and happiness for him and for the Qatari people further progress and prosperity. His Highness the Amir entrusted the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to convey his greetings to the President of the UAE and the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai as well as his wishes of good health and wellness for them and for the brotherly people of the UAE continued progress and prosperity. During the meeting, they discussed the close fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them, in addition to discussing various matters of mutual interest. 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 attended the meeting. (QNA) Page 11

Amir to patronise opening of third ACD Summit

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will patronise the opening of the Third Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) Summit on Thursday morning. The summit will be held under the theme 'Sports Diplomacy', with the participation of a number of heads of states and governments, delegations of fraternal and friendly countries, and senior officials at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel - Doha. (QNA)

Amir to meet Iran president today

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will meet with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Masoud Pezeshkian at the Lusail Palace today during the Iranian president's official visit to the country. His Highness the Amir and the Iranian president will discuss the bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them. In addition, they will discuss a number of regional and international issues of common concern. (QNA)

Visit Qatar unveils new global drive

Visit Qatar has unveiled its latest global campaign, 'Surprise Yourself,' marking a significant step in its mission to attract 6mn visitors annually and establish Qatar as a must-visit tourist destination by 2030. The campaign highlights the memorable experiences that Qatar offers for families, couples, and groups of friends. Featuring a modern rendition of Bobby Hebb's classic song 'Sunny,' the campaign will be rolled out across 10 international markets using a variety of platforms. Page 8

6 dead in shooting attack in Tel Aviv

At least six people were killed and nine wounded in a shooting and stabbing attack in Tel Aviv yesterday. Israeli police said two men started a killing spree on the Tel Aviv light rail and continued on foot before being killed by civilians and inspectors using personal pistols. There has been no claim of responsibility. Paramedics provided on-site treatment to a number of wounded people with varying degrees of injuries, including some who were unconscious.

Iran fires scores of missiles at Israel

AFP
Jerusalem/Beirut

Iran launched around 180 missiles at Israel yesterday in response to the killings of Tehran-backed militant leaders, prompting alarm across the region and vows of retaliation.

Most of the missiles were intercepted by Israeli air defences or by allied air forces before they reached Israel.

"Missiles were launched from Iran towards the State of Israel," the Israeli military said in a statement, as sirens sounded nationwide, announcing after about an hour that the attack was over with a "large number" of missiles intercepted.

Israeli medics reported two people were lightly injured by shrapnel in the country's centre, while in the occupied West Bank, a Palestinian was killed in Jericho "when pieces of a rocket fell from the sky and hit him". It was Iran's second direct attack on Israel after a missile and drone attack in April in response to a deadly Israeli air strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus.



Fire erupts between Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv and the city of Modiin following an Iranian missile attack yesterday.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had launched a missile attack on "three military bases" around Israel's commercial hub Tel Aviv.

They said the attack was in response to Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last week as well as the death of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in a Tehran bombing widely blamed on Israel.



Projectiles are seen in the sky after Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel, as seen from Tel Aviv, yesterday.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the Iranian attack was "unacceptable" and called on the whole world to condemn it.

Israeli airspace was closed for several hours with all flights diverted.

Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan, which lie between Iran and Israel, closed their airspace too.

As the missiles made their way to Israel from the east, blasts were heard over the Jordanian capital Amman, as Israel's allies moved to intercept them.

Jordan said its air defences responded to missiles and drones.

US President Joe Biden ordered the military to "aid Israel's defence" and shoot down Iranian

US to co-ordinate response to Iran attacks with Israel

The United States said yesterday that Iran must suffer "consequences" for its ballistic missile attack on Israel and the United States will co-ordinate a response with Israeli officials. "Of course, there must be consequences for Iran for this attack," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. "I'm not going to get into what those consequences are today, but there are things on which we will be co-ordinating with our Israeli counterparts," Miller said.

missiles, the White House said.

Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said the latest Iranian "attack will have consequences. We have plans, and we will operate at the place and time we decide".

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that "If the Zionist regime reacts to Iranian operations, it will face crushing attacks".

Israel carrying out 'limited, targeted' ground operations in South Lebanon

AFP
Beirut

The Israeli military said yesterday its ground troops had carried out raids against Hezbollah in south Lebanon and mobilised more forces, despite calls for de-escalation after a week of air strikes that killed hundreds.

The scope of the Israeli offensive was not immediately clear, with the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon saying it did not amount to a "ground incursion" and Hezbollah denying any troops had crossed the border.

Since an army statement early yesterday confirmed troops had started "targeted ground raids" in south Lebanon, across Israel's northern border, officials have provided few details of the extent of the operation or its timeframe.

An Israeli security official said localised raids had

17 of a Lebanese family killed in Israeli strike

Qassem al-Qadhi left his home in east Lebanon this weekend to buy bread for 17 family members, but when he returned they were all dead. An Israeli air strike on Sunday hit the village of Zaboud in the Bekaa valley, killing a whole family, the national news agency NNA said. Qadhi said it was his wife, children and grandchildren. They were killed in an instant. The 57-year-old says the only member of the family who survived was his 25-year-old son Hussein, who had headed off to do his military service just before the strike. "Seventeen people - including my son's fiancée and her mother, my wife, my three sons and two daughters, and seven grandchildren," al-Qadhi said.



Rescuers inspect the site of an Israeli strike in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp near the southern city of Sidon, Lebanon yesterday.

taken place and that they were limited in scope. A Lebanese army source said the force had "not observed any penetration by Israeli enemy forces into Lebanese territory".

Israeli strikes kill 37 in Gaza; massacre toll rises to 41,638

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli air strikes killed at least 37 people in Gaza yesterday, local medics said and fighting ramped up, as the Israeli military said it had been targeting command centres used by Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

Palestinian health officials said at least 13 people, including women and children, were killed in two Israeli strikes on two houses in Nuseirat, one of the enclave's eight historic refugee camps.

Another strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinian families in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City killed at least seven people, medics added.

Later yesterday, two separate Israeli attacks killed five Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip and in the Zeitoun suburb of Gaza City, medics said.

In Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave, six Palestinians were

killed in an Israeli air strike on a tent housing displaced people, medics said.

Hours later, an Israeli air strike on a car in western Khan Younis, killed six Palestinians, medics said.

Israel's war on Gaza has devastated Gaza, displacing most of its 2.3mn population.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said that at least 41,638 people have been killed in the war, now in its 12th month. It said 96,460 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war began on October 7.

Some Palestinians said they feared that Israel's shift in focus to Lebanon could prolong the conflict in Gaza, which marks its first anniversary next week.

"The eyes of the world now are on Lebanon while the occupation continues its killing in Gaza. We are afraid the war is going to go on for more months at least," said Samir Mohammed, 46, a father of five from Gaza City.

Al-Khulaifi meets US official



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday in Washington with Deputy Assistant to the President and senior adviser for energy and security Amos Hochstein. The meeting dealt with discussing the strategic relationship between Qatar and the US and the means to enhance them. The meeting also dealt with the latest developments in Gaza and Lebanon, in addition to several issues of joint interest. HE Dr al-Khulaifi reiterated Qatar's position in support of Lebanon, stressing the need for concerted regional and international efforts to reduce escalation and enhance the security and stability of the region. (QNA)

Palestinian president arrives in Doha



President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Doha yesterday to participate in the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue Summit. He and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and ambassador of the State of Palestine to Qatar Fayez Majed Abu al-Rab. (QNA)

Doha hosts international workshop on micro-mobility systems development

In collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, the Qatar Transportation and Traffic Safety Center at the College of Engineering at Qatar University (QU) organised an international workshop on the development of micro-mobility systems. The workshop, which was held at the university's research facilities, gathered over 400 experts, researchers, and industry leaders from more than 65 countries.



The workshop featured participation and sponsorship from prestigious global organisations in transportation engineering, including the International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences (IATSS), the International Road Federation (IRF), the World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS), as well as local and international companies such as Traffic Tech (Gulf) and CDM Smith.

The workshop featured in-depth discussions with experts and researchers focused on developing micro-mobility systems, including bicycles and similar urban modes like scooters. It explored the challenges associated with micro-mobility, such as the need for adequate infrastructure and the regulatory

frameworks that govern their usage, aiming to improve transport network efficiency and reduce their impact on traffic safety. Extensive discussion and exchanges of ideas occurred among international experts, speakers from scientific and global organisations, and representatives from both the governmental and private sectors.

The workshop also included a session on the "Update of the Qatar Bicycle Master Plan," an ongoing initiative by the Ministry of Transport, to discuss some of its outputs and exchange views with pertinent governmental and private sector representatives.

Dean of the College of Engineering at QU Dr Khalid Kamal Najji emphasised the importance of collaboration between the uni-

versity, the Ministry of Transport, and global organisations, stating, "This international event is the result of the ongoing collaboration between Qatar University, the Ministry of Transport, leading global organisations in transportation engineering, and private sector consulting firms. It aims to ensure a practical and effective impact from the advanced research studies conducted by the college to find innovative solutions based on best global practices for the contemporary challenges facing transportation systems in the country and the world. The participation of a distinguished group of faculty members, researchers, and graduate students from the university in this workshop is a testament to the college's

commitment to transportation and traffic safety research and its collaboration with governmental and private entities in this field."

Director of Land Transport Planning at the Ministry of Transport Saleh Said al-Marri said that the Ministry of Transport is taking significant steps to enhance the land transport system in Qatar, with the goal of establishing a comprehensive and sustainable transport network that includes bicycles and micro-mobility options.

Director-General of the International Road Federation (IRF) Susanna Zammataro discussed the challenges facing road authorities worldwide, saying, "The rapid and widespread adoption of micro-mobility solutions in numerous countries presents considerable challenges for road authorities, particularly in terms of safety. We are delighted to work with the Qatar Transportation and Traffic Safety Center to identify the suitable solutions in terms of infrastructure, technology, and traffic management that will help us save precious lives. Events like this one are crucial to exchange knowledge, foster collaboration, and enhance impactful action on these issues." (QNA)



Ministry marks Arab Agriculture Day

The Ministry of Municipality, in co-operation with Hassad Food and Mahaseel Company, organised a workshop on agricultural innovations and their role in sustaining natural resources, on the occasion of Arab Agriculture Day, which falls on Sept 27 of each year. Attended by several officials and specialists from the public and private sectors, the workshop aimed to enhance smart agricultural solutions to achieve food security and sustainability of natural resources in Qatar.

During the opening remarks of the workshop, Director of the Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipality Engineer Youssef Khaled al-Khulaifi stressed the need for agricultural innovations and their impact on the sustainability of natural resources and the interest in rationalising the consumption of groundwater in the State of Qatar.

He indicated that the workshop aims to discuss the challenges

facing the countries of the Arab region in the agricultural field, especially the problem of water scarcity, and to present innovative solutions and technologies used to rationalise water consumption in agriculture. For his part, Chief Operation Officer at Hassad Food Mohammed al-Mohammadi emphasised the importance of the partnership between the Ministry of Municipality and Hassad Food through projects and initiatives that aim to develop the agricultural sector and provide key modern services to local farms.

The workshop also discussed the role of innovative technologies to rationalise water consumption in agriculture. A presentation was also given on one of the Qatari farms that benefited from the Ministry of Municipality's guidance centres. At the conclusion of the workshop, a field visit was organised to learn about the soilless agriculture system and the correct methods of using water in the agricultural field. (QNA)



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Qatar Airways to acquire 25% 'stake' in Virgin Australia

The existing partnership between Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways will be strengthened with the announcement that Qatar Airways Group intends to acquire a minority 25% equity stake in Virgin Australia from Bain Capital (subject to FIRB approval). Qatar Airways is one of the world's largest airlines and earlier this year was awarded the world's best airline by Skytrax for the eighth time.

"A deeper strategic relationship between Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways will drive increased competition in Australian aviation. This will ensure Australian consumers have access to even better value airfares and greater choice," Qatar Airways said in a statement yesterday.

"Domestic competition in Australia is dependent on Virgin Australia thriving through the inevitable ups and downs of aviation. Qatar Airways Group's strategic investment will provide access to the critical scale and expertise of a world leading global airline.

"The minority stake also serves as a cornerstone investment ahead of an anticipated return of Virgin Australia into public ownership and the opportunity that would provide for Australians to share in Virgin Australia's future," the national airline said. The equity investment by Qatar Airways Group will unlock new areas of co-operation with Virgin Australia, all of which will help to drive additional consumer

and economic benefits. Subject to ACCC authorisation, this co-operation will enable Virgin Australia to launch flights from Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney to Doha, connecting seamlessly into Qatar Airways' global network. These extra flights will open up more than 100 new connecting itineraries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa for Australian travellers.

The proposed wet lease services will begin in mid-2025, allowing Virgin Australia to assess the longer-term merits and viability of wide-body aircraft flying while providing Australians with greater local competition for their long-haul travel needs in the near-term.

The expanded codeshare and collaboration arrangement will provide access to a greater range of international destinations with improved schedules and frequencies, increased earn and redemption opportunities for members of Velocity and Qatar Airways' Privilege Club, and broader access to great value fares for leisure travellers, small and medium-sized enterprises, and corporate customers. The deepened partnership has the potential to underpin significant jobs and economic growth, not just in Virgin Australia but across both the broader aviation and tourism sectors in Australia. An important area of future focus is sustainability, including the development of Sustainable Aviation Fuel. The partnership also comes at a great time to explore



opportunities as the new Western Sydney Airport and its economic ecosystem are developed.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Badr Mohamed al-Meer said: "We are really pleased to be announcing our proposed strategic investment in Virgin Australia today. The alignment of our two airlines is significant, the relationships are deep, and we could not be more proud to bring even more great value and choice to all Australians. The investment further demonstrates our strategic alignment with Virgin Australia and our collective ambition to deliver the best possible service and value to Australian passengers.

"Not only that, we believe competition in aviation is a good thing and it helps raise the bar, ultimately

benefiting customers. This agreement will also help support Australian jobs, businesses and the wider economy."

Virgin Australia Group Chief Executive Officer Jayne Hrdlicka said: "This partnership brings the missing piece to Virgin Australia's longer-term strategy and is a huge vote of confidence in Australian aviation. Importantly, it will further strengthen Virgin Australia's ability to compete over the long term, which will inevitably translate into more choice and even better value airfares for consumers as well as additional Australian aviation jobs.

"Qatar Airways has been a valued codeshare partner of Virgin Australia since 2022. This investment by the world's best airline will deepen an already strong partnership by

bringing critical scale and the best industry expertise to support our long-term competitiveness and growth. "This proposed investment is subject to regulatory approval. We do not take this for granted and have made submissions outlining the benefits of the transaction for Australian aviation, Australian travellers and the Australian economy."

Reflecting on the new proposed long-haul services between Australia and Doha, Hrdlicka noted that they were estimated to generate an economic benefit of A\$3bn to the Australian economy through incremental visitor flows over the next five years. "Additional benefits will flow from increased freight capacity, supporting Australia's high-value exports to markets such as the Middle East and Europe."

She continued: "I am delighted that our closer relationship allows us to put our 'toe in the water' regarding long-haul international, as well as the ability to deepen other areas of existing co-operation, including between our respective loyalty programs and code sharing arrangements." Hrdlicka noted that she was particularly excited by the potential to expand the two airlines' relationship into new areas such as sustainability and development of the western Sydney aviation ecosystem, including broader jobs and training opportunities. She stated: "Sustainable Aviation Fuel will play a critical role in aviation's long-term decarbonisation effort.

Virgin Australia has been an active participant in the Federal Government's Jet Zero Council, and we expect our partnership with Qatar Airways to support SAF opportunities in a manner consistent with the Federal Government's Future Made in Australia agenda.

She concluded: "Both airlines are thrilled by the opportunity to work together more closely, which will bring significant benefits to Australian travellers and the economy. "I am super proud of the entire team at Virgin Australia. Together they have done a wonderful job getting Virgin Australia back into a healthy, long-term competitive position that has attracted the world's best airline as a prospective investor. Every member of our team has contributed to this terrific outcome."

Bain Capital Partner Mike Murphy said: "Virgin Australia plays a pivotal role in connecting Australians with each other, and with the world. Over the past four years, we've had the privilege of working alongside a team that has shown the dedication and tenacity needed to revitalise the airline. "After a decade of losses resulting in administration, Virgin Australia has emerged as a strong and profitable company with an attractive market position, a loyal customer base, and a promising growth trajectory. "We are pleased to welcome Qatar Airways Group as a partner at this stage to build on Virgin Australia's strong foundation."



Dr Artefaa Alshamari and Samar Abou Farah.

'La Vie en Rose' opens Pink October

La Vie en Rose, an event held in honour of Pink October, brought together guests to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention and early detection, a statement said. The event, organised by La Difference PR, a member of the Qatari Doha Media Group, combined elegance with advocacy at a high tea hosted by Ledoux, a Parisienne Patisserie and Maison de Thé, located at Waldorf Astoria Hotel in West Bay.

The highlight was a panel discussion in collaboration with Qatari oncoplastic breast surgeon Dr Artefaa Alshamari and a cancer survivor, offering insights on breast cancer awareness, early detection, and prevention strategies, sparking meaningful conversations among attendees. The event was supported by Lynk & Co, the luxury automotive brand brought to Qatar by Auto Class Cars, as a platinum sponsor. Two Lynk & Co 09, ultra-luxury SUVs were showcased at the hotel entrance. Frank Zauner, general manager of Lynk & Co stated: "By sponsoring this breast cancer aware-

ness event, we aim to support the brave individuals and families affected by the disease and contribute to the fight for a future where no one faces it alone."

The event also featured exclusive collections from La Boutique Blanche and Orloui. Models graced the gathering in elegant designs from the sponsors, spreading a message of beauty and positivity.

"We are grateful for the overwhelming support and participation at La Vie en Rose," said Samar Abou Farah, founder of La Difference PR. "The event successfully raised awareness about the importance of breast cancer prevention, and we are proud to have brought together such powerful voices and brands to support this cause. Initiatives like this are vital in raising awareness among women and saving lives.

"We thank our sponsors: Lynk & Co, Mashael Al Sulaiti, Amal Ameen Beauty, Orloui, Tawar Mall, Sabit Akkaya, La Boutique Blanche, KIKO Milano, Plaza Hollandi, Waldorf Astoria, Doha and Ledoux," she added.



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CRA Qatar hosts ITU workshop on connectivity for Arab states

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) of Qatar, in collaboration with the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), is hosting the ITU Workshop on Promoting and Measuring Universal and Meaningful Connectivity for the Arab States.

The three-day event, which concludes on October 3, brings together key stakeholders, policymakers and statisticians from across the region to discuss strategies for improving digital inclusion and access to connectivity for all.

The workshop explores how universal and meaningful connectivity can be achieved across the Arab world, focusing on the critical role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in driving sustainable development. It will provide a plat-

form for policymakers, industry experts, and public and private sector representatives to share insights, best practices, and innovative solutions to address connectivity challenges.

As the world increasingly relies on digital platforms for economic, social, and educational growth, achieving universal and meaningful connectivity has never been more important. The workshop will delve into key areas, such as the digital divide, infrastructure development, service affordability, and emerging technologies like Fifth Generation (5G) and artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing access. Engineer Hussain Abdulla Salatt, Public Relations and Communication manager at CRA, said: "Universal and meaningful connectivity is essential for the socio-economic development, and its importance continues to grow as we advance toward achieving

the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030.

"At CRA, we are committed to working alongside international partners like ITU to achieve digital inclusion in the Arab region. To realise this goal, we are focused on fostering innovation, enhancing digital infrastructure, and improving affordability, especially for underserved communities. This workshop is a significant step toward building frameworks and strategies that would enable everyone to participate in the digital economy."

Throughout the workshop, participants will also discuss how to measure progress in achieving universal connectivity, utilising ITU's frameworks and tools. These tools are crucial for assessing the effectiveness of policy initiatives and ensuring that all population groups, particularly in underserved and remote areas,



Engineer Hussain Abdulla Salatt, Public Relations and Communication manager at CRA, delivering a speech during the event.

can benefit from the opportunities that the digital economy provides.

As the Arab region continues to evolve digitally, the insights and recommendations from the

workshop will play a pivotal role in shaping policies that ensure equitable access to the internet and digital services for all, further enhancing the quality of life and driving regional development.

Amir condoles with US 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 Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to US President Joe Biden on the victims of the hurricane that hit a number of states in the southeast of the country, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. (QNA)

Amir greets new Japanese PM, congratulates leaders on National Day

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Shigeru Ishiba on becoming the new Prime Minister of Japan, wishing him success and further development and growth of relations between the two countries. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Jassim al-Thani also sent similar cables of congratulations to Ishiba.

● His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir yesterday sent cables of congratulations to Chinese President Xi Jinping on his country's National Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang.

● His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir, and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday sent cables of congratulations to President of Palau Surangel Whipps on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

● His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir yesterday sent cables of congratulations to Governor-General of Tuvalu Tofiga Vaevae Falani on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Feleti Teo.

● His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir, and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday sent cables of congratulations to President of Cyprus Dr Nikos Christodoulides on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

● His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir, and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday sent cables of congratulations to President Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

Qatar chairs preparatory meet of GCC General Cultural body

QNA
Doha

Under the presidency of Qatar, the preparatory meeting of the General Cultural Committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states took place in Doha yesterday. The meeting serves as a precursor to the meeting of Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Culture of GCC countries today, followed by a meeting of the Ministers of Culture of GCC states tomorrow.

Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture Abdulrahman Abdullah al-Dulaimi chaired the meeting, whose opening speech emphasised the importance of enhancing joint cultural co-operation among the GCC countries.

Al-Dulaimi said that this meeting coincides with the 5th Gulf



narration forum taking place in Doha, being one of the GCC's important cultural activities, adding that conducting joint cultural work under the umbrella of the GCC Secretariat General has had a significant impact on the current active cultural life in member

states, in addition to activating partnerships with sisterly and friendly countries.

The Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture said that the state of culture in the Gulf is grounded in commonalities

and Islamic and Arab identities, which facilitate the implementation of the meeting's outcomes. During her speech, Director of the Department of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities in the General Secretariat of the GCC Ohood al-Haif stressed the importance of enhancing joint cultural co-operation by means of the meetings' agenda.

In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA) following the meeting, Abdulrahman Abdullah al-Dulaimi said that the meeting went over the General Cultural Committee's agenda, which then needs to be presented to Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Culture of GCC countries in their meeting on Wednesday, before being approved by the Ministers of Culture of GCC states on Thursday.

Al-Dulaimi said that the General Cultural Committee ad-

ressed various items regarding supporting joint cultural co-operation, assessing past achievements, namely the Gulf Cultural Strategy (2020-2030), and holding joint cultural activities, in addition to the vision of developing cooperation among the culture and tourism sectors in member states.

The Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture also mentioned the Bulletin of culture statistics and the efforts of GCC Ministries of Culture in developing it, in addition to the GCC Center for Translation, Arabization and the Promotion of Arabic, based in Oman. Al-Dulaimi said that Qatar places great importance on enhancing joint GCC cultural work, given those countries' shared history, geography, and culture. HE added that Qatar has accepted all of the committee's recommendations.

New version of National Cyber Training Program to elevate capabilities

The National Cyber Security Agency announced the launch of the new version of the National Cyber Training Program yesterday. This initiative represents the agency's commitment to fortifying government efforts in achieving the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly focusing on the human, social, and economic pillars.

The National Cyber Training Program is designed to elevate the

cyber capabilities of individuals by offering advanced enablement and training services for various entities in Qatar. It consists of four distinct tracks, including Awareness Workshops, a Training Camp for new graduates, Professionals Program, and a Leaders' Track.

In this context, Director of National Cyber Enablement and Excellence Affairs at the National Cyber Security Agency Khaled

al-Hashemi stated that the programme is a pivotal platform aimed at strengthening Qatar's stature in cybersecurity. It plays a vital role in safeguarding organisations and society while achieving internationally recognised benchmarks that elevate the country's profile both regionally and globally in the fields of cybersecurity and digital safety.

Al-Hashemi added: "The new programme utilises advanced

and modern cyber training and awareness tools. It is designed to engage a diverse range of societal segments, including employees of various government agencies, fresh university graduates, information technology professionals, cybersecurity professionals, as well as managers and leaders across different state organisations."

The second track offers a comprehensive training camp for

new graduates in cybersecurity, information systems, computer engineering, and programming, equipping them with practical knowledge to navigate the real world challenges they may encounter in their careers.

This track is designed to nurture a new generation of experts specializing in cybersecurity, equipping them with the skills necessary to thrive in this critical domain. (QNA)

● His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir, and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday sent cables of congratulations to President of Cyprus Dr Nikos Christodoulides on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

● His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir, and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday sent cables of congratulations to President Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

Liquidation / Closing down

M/s. Gulf Aerospace Solutions QFZ LLC, (FZA No:279) located at Business Innovation Park, Wing 1, Level 3, Building 1, Street 504, Zone 49 P. O. Box 14373, Qatar, registered and licensed with the Qatar Free Zones Authority (the "Company"), wishes to announce the decision taken regarding closing down/ winding-up and cancellation of license via board resolution passed at the Shareholders meeting of M/s. Gulf Aerospace Solutions QFZ LLC held on 19 August 2024.

Accordingly, any interested party who has a claim against the Company is hereby requested to submit its outstanding claims within 14 days of notice by registered post or contact:

Mr. Jamal Rashid Al-Naemi
Gulf Aerospace Solutions QFZ LLC
Tel No. 5555 2559
Email: jalnaemi@gulfaerospacesolutions.com

Claims received after expiry of the notice period of 14 days shall not be considered

LIQUIDATION ANNOUNCEMENT

"1"

Based on the Extraordinary General Assembly Resolution

To Liquidate
QARIAH WORLD ENTERTAINMENT (The Company)
(under Voluntary Liquidation)

The Liquidator
Linsar Karupamveetil Shamsudheen

Kreston SVP Chartered Accountants

Announce the Liquidation of

QARIAH WORLD ENTERTAINMENT
Commercial Registration No. (140925)

Any party who has any claims from this Company should send a registered letter, including all supporting documents, to P.O. Box 82297, Doha - Qatar
7712 9898 or 6668 8575 or info@krestonsvp.com
Within the remaining legal period of 45 days.

Ministry announces update to the list of registered experts

The Ministry of Justice announced yesterday an update to the list of table experts registered with the Experts Department at the ministry, which was published on the departments official page and includes detailed and updated data on experts.


In a statement, the ministry said that the experts data includes the full name of each expert, his personal number, his expertise data, and his contact number, noting that the number of registered experts reached 266 experts, including, for the first time, two Qatari companies that were registered in the lists of experts approved by the judicial authorities in the country in accordance with the controls contained in Law No 16 of 2017 regulating expertise work, as two companies specialized in accounting and real estate expertise work.

Commenting on this occasion, Director of the Experts Department at the Ministry of Justice Abdullah Bushahab al-Marri said that the new update aims to present the experts data to the public to provide technical and specialised expertise to all, as the updated list was delivered to the judicial authorities in the country in implementation of the provisions of the law, and within the framework of providing expertise to the judiciary, based on the role and responsibility of experts in presenting evidence and proof regarding the technical aspects related to various cases, and the role that expert reports play in accelerating the issuance of judgments and adjudication of cases.

He stressed the ministry's keenness to strengthen the national cadre of experts and provide expertise that keeps pace with the comprehensive renaissance witnessed by the country in all fields, particularly in rare technical fields, by creating a roster system for documenting various areas of expertise and establishing guidelines for expert registration.

He pointed out that experts will take a legal oath to expedite procedures and improve access to specialised services for stakeholders. Al-Marri outlined the extensive qualifications available, which include accounting, engineering (mechanical, electrical, architectural), real estate valuation, food safety, alternative energies, and more. He noted that this expertise also covers niche areas such as financial and banking services, project management, agricultural affairs, and counterfeiting investigations.

He concluded by mentioning that the expertise encompasses specialized fields relevant to various societal needs, including the export of used oils, recycling activities, public relations, event organization, and livestock management, among others. (QNA)



The Transport Company MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:



Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-040-EGS-2024	Maintenance Service for LV Panels, Capacitor Banks and VFDs in all Mowasalat Facilities	QAR 1,000	2 to 9 October 2024	QAR 50,000	17 November 2024

Note:
Interested Bidders must be licensed and accredited by Kahrmaa for Maintenance of Electrical Systems & Equipment.






CONDITIONS:

- ▶ Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:
- ▶ Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (Indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address)) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: tenders@mowasalat.com
- ▶ Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested (i.e., 10 October 2024)
- ▶ **Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents. **Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.**
- ▶ **Tender validity:** Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.
- ▶ **Tender documents submission:** Bids must be submitted in 3 separate sealed (IN RED WAX) envelopes addressed to **Secretary - Tender Committee** clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
 - **Envelope 1#** must include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB)
 - **Envelope 2#** must include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied in a USB)
 - **Envelope 3#** must include the Tender Bond (1 Original)
- ▶ **Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is **12.00 noon Doha Local Time** as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Tel.: 4458 8724 Fax: 4458 8850

Supplier Registration Mowasalat Location



QNB celebrates 'back to school' season with QF

QNB celebrated 'back to school' season with Qatar Foundation (QF) by distributing gifts and vouchers to students, in an effort to encourage them to start the year with a positive approach.

This initiative comes as part of the bank's most important CSR pillar of education and strategy, aimed at supporting the kids throughout the academic year and fostering financial literacy among kids.

During this initiative, QNB's CSR team and volunteers distributed gifts and vouchers to the school children at Qatar Academy Wakra, Tariq Bin Ziad School, Awsaj Academy, and Renad Academy schools under Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education.

Commenting on the conclusion of this programme, Heba Ali al-Tamimi, senior executive



vice-president (Group Communication) at QNB said: "We are happy to launch this initiative and provide the essential support and encouragement to the kids during the start of their

academic year. We believe that this gesture will provide moral support and encourage kids in their educational journey, which supports our efforts towards our ESG strategy."



Arab Think Tank Network launched

The Middle East and North Africa (Mena) Think Tank Forum, co-hosted by the Middle East Council on Global Affairs (ME Council) and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut, concluded successfully in Doha on September 24.

The two-day event brought together leading think tanks from Arab states in the Mena region to address critical challenges impacting the region and to explore strategies for deeper institutional collaboration and to officially launch the Think Tank Network, a statement said.

The forum addressed key issues, including the ongoing war in Gaza, governance crises, macroeconomic instability, and the influence of global powers. Think tank executives from the region explored innovative strategies to tackle the region's most pressing challenges. They also assessed both the opportunities and risks facing think tanks operating within the current landscape.

The forum provided a platform for fostering inter-institutional relationships and enhancing the resilience and collective impact of think tanks in Mena. Participants shared best practices, developed practical plans for future co-operation, and reinforced the importance of a united approach

to addressing complex regional issues.

Building on the insights from a roundtable held in February 2023, the forum officially launched the Think Tank Network, a regional collaboration designed to enhance the policy impact of think tanks across Mena. IFI was selected to serve as the network's secretariat, responsible for coordinating activities, facilitating dialogue, and ensuring the implementation of shared objectives across member institutions.

Joseph Bahout, director of IFI, expressed his enthusiasm for the new collaboration. "The launch of the network is a critical step towards building a more connected and impactful think tank community in our region. We look forward to working closely with our partners across Mena to address the shared challenges we face."

Tarik M Yousef, director of ME Council, added: "This network is a powerful new tool that will allow think tanks to pool their expertise and resources, enabling more effective responses to the complex issues confronting Mena countries."

Participants agreed on the need for sustained dialogue and ongoing co-ordination. Regular meetings of the Think Tank Network are planned, and the next forum will take place in 2025, building

on the outcomes of this event to further strengthen regional co-operation.

Institutions that attended the Mena Think Tank Forum included: Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network; Arab Reform Initiative; Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), Bahrain; Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquee pour le Developpement (CREAD), Algeria; Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Lebanon; Centre for Mediterranean and International Studies, Tunisia; Center of the Gulf & Arabian Peninsula Studies, Kuwait; College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar; Economic Research Forum, Egypt; Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt; Gulf Research Center, Saudi Arabia; Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, Lebanon; Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Lebanon; Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar; Moroccan Institute for Policy Analysis, Morocco; Policy Center for the New South, Morocco; Politics and Society Institute, Jordan; Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies, Yemen; School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, The American University in Cairo, Egypt; Syrian Center for Policy Research; Tawasul, Oman.

PHCC's breast cancer awareness drive begins

The National Breast Screening Programme at the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has launched a comprehensive breast cancer awareness campaign aimed at educating women across Qatar about the importance of early detection.

The campaign is part of the National Breast and Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, also known as 'Screen for Life', that aims to promote education, awareness, and encouragement of early detection of breast and bowel cancer in Qatar.

During the month of October, the campaign will utilise a blend of traditional and digital marketing strategies and feature partnerships with prominent governmental and private entities, including Women Wellness and Research Center, Qatar Museums, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Energy, and many others.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Qatar, with early detection significantly increasing the chances of successful treatment.

When diagnosed early, the survival rate can be as high as 100%. The campaign emphasises the critical message that awareness and proactive screening can save



Dr Shaikha Abu Shaikha

lives. The chosen slogan, 'Screen Today for a Safer Tomorrow', encapsulates the essence of the initiative – encouraging women to take charge of their health with timely screenings.

As part of the campaign, an activation booth will be held at Vendome Mall on October 10 and 11, where women can learn more about breast health, the importance of screening, and how to book appointments for mammograms.

The breast screening programme is designed for all women, citizens, and residents in Qatar, aged between 45 and 69, who have no symptoms related to breast cancer and have not undergone a mammogram in the past three years. Healthy women within this age bracket are strongly encour-



aged to take advantage of this vital preventative measure.

Dr Shaikha Abu Shaikha, director of the Screening Programmes at PHCC, said: "If you are aged between 45 and 69 years, did not do your mammogram in the past three years and do not have any symptoms or even if you know someone who is within this criteria, we urge you to schedule a breast screening appointment by contacting the cancer screening programme directly at 8001112."

The breast screening clinics are conveniently located at four health centres across Qatar: Muaitheer, Leabaib, Rawdat Al Khail, and Al Wakra. More information is available on social media platforms @ PHCC and @screenforlifeqa and the website www.screenforlife.qhcc.qa

Ocean Rent a Car shores up its fleet with a fresh batch of Kia cars



In a welcome development, Ocean Rent a Car has renewed its interest and confidence in Kia cars with the acquisition of Pegas sedans and Sonet SUV's. More than five dozen units in total was recently purchased from Al-Attiya Motors and Trading Co. (AMTC), the official dealer of the brand in Qatar.

Remarked Eyad Al-Bourdaini, General Manager of Ocean Rent A Car: "We are thrilled to continue in our mutually beneficial relationship with Kia Qatar through the recent purchase of the Pegas and Sonet for our valued end customers. The value and convenience offered to its users and general reliability are integral to help provide our customers an ease in their daily drive."

"Having seen Ocean Rent A Car shore up their fleet with an new batch is a sign of belief in Kia as an integral business partner. It also signifies our team has continued dedication to their customer's needs. We look forward to serving Ocean Rent A Car for the upcoming years ahead." added an AMTC official.

The refreshed Sonet is a welcome redesign of the popular entry SUV with its revamped exterior, capturing attention along with a redesigned radiator grille, sleek 16-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels, and striking LED headlights alongside 'Star-Map' taillight lamps. The updated rear



spoiler adds a sporty flair, ensuring the Sonet's dynamic presence on the road. Inside the cabin, the new Sonet impresses with numerous enhancements aimed at improving the driving experience. Key additions include a 10.25-inch cluster screen, new USB-C charging ports, and a practical 60:40 split-folding rear seat, providing both comfort and versatility for passengers and cargo. Safety remains a top priority for Kia, and the new Sonet restyled is equipped with advanced features such as Lane Keep Assist (LKA), Driver Attention Warning, and Lane Following Assist (LFA). These cutting-edge technologies enhance driver support and overall vehicle

safety, offering greater peace of mind. The Pegas is Kia's trusted and reliable compact sedan that has served as a workhorse for countless owners since its introduction to the market almost a decade ago. Practical and intuitive in design, the Pegas is equipped with multimedia features for hands-free connectivity on the go. The interior layout is designed with the convenience in mind as well with cup holders and armrests available to help drivers ease through a whole day's worth of quick driving around the city.

Ocean Rent A Car is a leading car leasing company with decades of experience and countless customers in the local market.

Qatar Charity provides financial aid for cancer hospital in Mauritania

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a co-operation and partnership agreement with Ithar, a Mauritanian charitable organisation focusing on cancer patient care and treatment.

Under the agreement, QC will fund Al-Amal Hospital for Cancer Treatment in the capital, Nouakchott.

The agreement was signed by Nawaf AlHammedi, CEO's Assistant for the International Operations sector at QC, during his visit to Nouakchott, and Salam Ould Abdullah, president of Ithar. The signing ceremony was attended by Al Alia Mint Mankous, secretary-general of the Ministry of Health in Mauritania; Fahad Salem al-Dosari, acting charge d'affaires at the Qatar embassy, and Turki Muhammad al-Subaie, general supervisor of QC office in Mauritania.

QC has provided support worth



QR12m to Al-Amal Hospital, as an initial phase. With a capacity of 105 beds, the hospital is expected to become a regional centre for cancer treatment, utilising advanced medical technologies.

The hospital will be accessible to all residents of Mauritania, offering essential services such as medical screenings and cancer diagnoses. In addition to comprehensive healthcare, the hospital will provide vital psychological

and social support to patients, increase awareness about cancer, and promote preventive measures.

During the signing ceremony, the Ithar president expressed his gratitude to QC. AlHammedi lauded Ithar's projects and notable work. He affirmed that QC will continue to support this important project for cancer patients. The project is a flagship initiative of QC in Mauritania, a statement added.



The panel discussion shed light on the rights and role of the elderly.

Ehsan centre event stresses key role of elderly in society

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Centre for Empowerment and Care of the Elderly (Ehsan) organised yesterday, a panel discussion on 'Elderly Care - Current Situation and Future Inclinations' to mark the International Day of Older Persons, established by the United Nations to raise awareness on the role and needs of older adults in society.

The event was held under the patronage of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, in collaboration with Excellence Center for Training and Consulting at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI).

In her opening speech, Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti, Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council, stressed the need to shed more light on the rights of the elderly and address the challenges they face. She pointed out the importance of providing care and support for older people in recognition of their lifelong contributions.

Dr al-Sulaiti also noted the focus of Qatar National Vision 2030

on supporting the elderly, highlighting the Shura Council efforts to protect their rights through legislation and policies that ensure their welfare.

Dr Ayhab Saad, dean of the School of Economics, Administration and Public Policy at the DI, stressed the importance of the event as part of the Institute's mission to serve the community. He talked about the significant role of older adults in building and advancing society, and the need to benefit from their extensive experience. He appreciated the constructive partnership between the Excellence Center for Training and Consulting and Ehsan, aiming to support and raise awareness about the elderly population.

Manal Ahmed al-Mannai, executive director of Ehsan, remarked that the panel discussion reflects the centre's shared vision of supporting and empowering older people to continue contributing to society. Ehsan views older people as a source of wisdom and experience, and essential partners in the development of the society, in addition to being active players in enhancing cohesion among the different segments of the society. She also talked about the

role of the state in improving the quality of life for older people and highlighted the need to evaluate the current policies in this regard to identify the opportunities and challenges ahead.

The panel, moderated by Dr Ahmed al-Maweri, director of the Excellence Center for Training and Consulting, brought together various stakeholders involved in elderly care. It addressed the health and social aspects of elderly care, the support provided by the state, and ways to enhance the experiences of older people to benefit society.

Dr Hanadi al-Hamad, deputy chief for Long-Term Care, Rehabilitation and Geriatrics Care at Hamad Medical Corporation, discussed the healthcare services provided to older adults, while Dr Yusuf al-Kazim, president of Arab Federation for Voluntary Activities, discussed the issue of the valuable role that older people could play in voluntary work, drawing on their wealth of experience.

The panel concluded with a call for continued efforts to enhance the care and support of older people, emphasising their crucial role in the development and well-being of society.

Qatar attends Arab League workshop on disarmament



Qatar participated in a three-day workshop on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), which kicked off yesterday at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo.

Representing the Permanent Delegation of Qatar to the Arab League, Nasser al-Hanzab attended the workshop.

The arms control and disarmament department - International Political Affairs Sector of the Arab League organised the workshop, in co-operation with the UN De-

partment of Peacekeeping Operations and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, within the framework of the co-operation between the Arab League and the UN on issues related to peace and security.

In this context, the Arab League said in a statement that the holding of this workshop comes from its belief in the importance of co-ordination and synergy of efforts between regional and international organisations on issues related to disarmament, and building the capacities of Arab countries and employees of the Arab League. It

is also a continuation of the workshop held on the same subject at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in December 2022.

The workshop is attended by 70 experts from 15 Arab countries, in addition to departments of the General Secretariat of the Arab League concerned with the subject, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the African Union Center for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), and a number of UN bodies related to this subject. (QNA)

Fifth Gulf Narration Forum ends in Doha

Hosted by Qatar and represented by the Ministry of Culture, the two-day 5th Gulf Narration Forum concluded on Monday, with the participation of representatives from the GCC General Secretariat, Jordan and Morocco.

The forum sought to establish the art of narration as one of the main arts in Arab culture in the GCC countries, and to identify the phenomena and trends of the contemporary narration art movement in the participating countries, in addition to deepening the sense of the status of the art of narration and its role in Gulf culture.

The forum featured 15 contributions from member states, Jordan and Morocco, in addition to several seminars and sessions that covered the technical, structural aspects of the art of narration, with the participation of an elite group of writers, critics and specialised authors.

At the conclusion of the forum, Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture Abdullah al-Dulaimi, and Director of the Department of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities at the



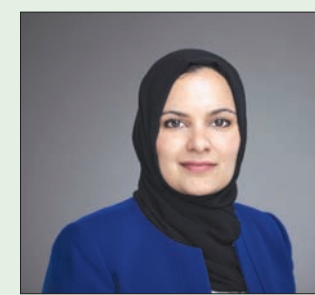
GCC Ohood al-Haif honoured the participating writers, authors and narrators.

The second and final day of the forum included three dialogue sessions that discussed a number of narration issues. The 5th Narration Forum concluded with a

general intellectual symposium in which a number of writers, academics, authors, and intellectuals with related specialisations participated. They discussed a number of theses on the art of narration and its role in promoting Arab and Gulf culture. (QNA)

QF's Al-Mujadilah Center and Mosque launches Ri'aya stewardship programme

Qatar Foundation's Al-Mujadilah Center and Mosque for Women has launched the Ri'aya Young Adult Stewardship Programme, described as 'a milestone in nurturing the next generation of Muslim women leaders who steward their families, communities and society into a peaceful and prosperous future'. Applications are now open for the education exchange programme designed for young Muslim women aged 17-20 from Qatar and other countries, a statement said yesterday. It allows participants to engage with experts on a journey to explore the history and rich values of Islam that enable contemporary global challenges to be addressed. Through intellectual exchange, mentorship and capacity development, the programme enables participants the learning and tools required to think critically, analyse



Dr Sohaira Siddiqui

contemporary trends, and confidently address challenges that impede their current and future participation in local and global society. The programme runs from December 28, 2024 to January 4, 2025, and successful applicants will be considered for financial assistance and scholarship opportunities. Programme details, including how to apply, can be found at www.almujadilah.qa, at Al-

Mujadilah's Facebook page, and on Instagram at @almujadilah.qa. Deadline for applications is October 12.

"We have taken into consideration the many roles that women play in their lives and the lives of the people around them," said Dr Sohaira Siddiqui, executive director of Al-Mujadilah. "The programme is built on the foundations of a year of in-depth research, as well as my experience as a professor teaching at Education City for over a decade. Having that first-hand understanding of the challenges faced by students at this formative age has helped tailor our offer. By studying Islamic history, contemporary Muslim societies, global challenges and trends, these young women will be gaining tools to better understand their world context and engage with it in an informed way."

QRCS begins Warm Winter Campaign

Drive aims to benefit 179,000 in 13 countries

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched the Warm Winter Campaign 2024-2025, under the slogan "Their Warmth Is Our Duty."

QRCS has been launching its annual charity campaign during this time each year.

The campaign aims to implement a series of 40 winterisation aid projects, with a target of 179,000 beneficiaries in 13 countries.

As the winter approaches, bringing cold weather, rain, snow, and storms, millions of refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and poor people around the world are left prone to hunger, disease, and limited resources.

At a press conference held yesterday on this occasion, Secretary-General of QRCS Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi called on "kindhearted and benevolent donors" to support the annual charity campaign, and emphasised the importance of fulfilling the brotherly and humanitarian duty to contribute to this drive, which is aimed at providing food, shelter, heating, medical care and other forms of aid, to help those in need to weather the harsh winter with dignity.

In his remarks, al-Emadi referred to the ongoing tragedy faced by the people of the Gaza Strip, noting its expansion to regions like Lebanon. He stated that the Qatar Red Crescent has allocated part of its campaign to provide relief to those affected in Lebanon, aided by its local representative office.



The QRCS secretary-general stressed the campaign's significance by stating, "These facts show the importance of this campaign, and other humanitarian and relief interventions, to alleviate the suffering of affected people, trying to meet their needs, and to enhance their resilience and steadfastness."

Director of Communication and Fundraising Division at QRCS Mohamed Ahmed al-Bishri explained some facts and information about the Warm Winter Campaign involving 13 countries namely Qatar, Palestine (including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank), Yemen, Syria, Niger, Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Jordan, Albania, and Kosovo.

He outlined the various interventions to be implemented by QRCS, highlighting that it will "include a wide range of aid, such as winter clothes, blankets, mattresses, food parcels,

drinking water, infant formula, medications, medical supplies, household furniture/appliances, heating oil, home construction/restoration, bread and sponsorship of orphans."

Al-Bishri added that the purpose of these interventions is to largely meet the winter needs of poor and displaced families in the targeted areas, with a special focus on students, patients, infants, orphans, and older persons. These projects will be implemented by our foreign offices in some host countries, in co-ordination with fellow National Societies and local partners, to ensure the effective and timely provision of aid, up to the highest international standards.

The QRCS allows donations to the projects of this campaign through all means, which vary between the website, the donor service number or home collection, as well as bank transfers to its accounts. (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, KAVITA MANILAL MENGELA

holder of

INDIA Passport No. M8496956
QID No. 29335641219

hereby change my name

from

KAVITA MANILAL MENGELA

to

KAVITA MANILAL MANGELA

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SHLAKHA SURENDER

holder of

INDIA Passport No. Y9170855
QID No. 29835601489

hereby change my name

from

SHLAKHA SURENDER

to

SHLAKHA AHLAWAT

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

Riyadh book fair seminar highlights on FIFA World Cup Qatar success

QNA
Riyadh

A seminar entitled 'Qatar World Cup: The Exceptional Experience' was held on Monday, as part of the activities of the Riyadh International Book Fair within the cultural events accompanying the exhibition, which continues until October 5, 2024. CEO of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Nasser al-Khater spoke during the seminar, moderated by Saudi media figure Abdulrahman al-Hamidi. Al-Khater said the opening of the tournament

at the Al Bayt Stadium, which symbolised welcoming guests in the largest tent in the world, was very special. He reviewed the prominent features of the successful organisational and administrative experience of Qatar in hosting the World Cup, and the interest in providing all the capabilities and requirements that helped the public enjoy an exceptional experience in watching a football match, offering all services to fans and full support for people with special needs through the infrastructure and services provided. In addition, all stadiums and sports facilities

were linked to the Qatari, Arab and Islamic heritage and culture and the local community and environment, such as: Al Thumama Stadium, Al Janoub Stadium, Al Bayt Stadium, and others. The CEO of the World Cup praised the attendance of the Saudi fans who enriched the tournament. He said the organisation of the tournament underwent several stages, starting with developing a clear and specific vision, structure and work plan, noting that work was done on economic, environmental and social sustainability through several initiatives.



Qatar National Library lines up cultural and literary events in October

Qatar National Library's programme for October includes a lineup of cultural and literary activities.

The library has encouraged all community members to register for its events.

Yesterday, the library kicked off its monthly events with a captivating workshop, Astrophotography for Beginners.

The two-day workshop, which is being held as part of the Science Book Forum, will introduce participants to basic and advanced techniques of astrophotography.

The library hosts children and their families on October 3 to celebrate World Teachers Day in recognition of the key role that educators play in shaping the future of Qatar's youth.

On October 7, the library resumes its Story Time for Children series, a weekly event

where children listen to inspirational and entertaining narrations of beautiful stories. The series will return on October 14, 21 and 28.

Later in the day, the library celebrates the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, hosting a lecture highlighting the richness of Moroccan history. The lecture will explore and showcase Morocco's diverse civilisation, using a variety of archival and documentary materials preserved in the Heritage Library.

The focus again turns to youth on October 9 and 23 with the library hosting the Little Storyteller programme, which empowers children to read stories expressively.

On October 10, Qatar National Library, as the IFLA MENA Regional Office, kicks off its Librarians for Libraries event,

which aims to develop librarianship skills in the Mena region through four sessions covering a variety of topics.

On October 6 and 20, parents will have the opportunity to spend a fun-filled time reading and engaging in entertaining activities with their children as part of the Library's Storytime for Toddlers series.

The next day, on October 21, the library, in partnership with the Knowledge E Foundation, hosts the third Annual Forum for Open Research in Mena.

The three-day conference brings together leading researchers, policymakers and innovators from across the Middle East and North Africa to explore and advance open research practices in the region. Held under the theme "Transforming Knowledge into Action," this year's edition will delve into the

latest trends and challenges in open research.

On October 26, the library's Pen Talk club returns with a meeting dedicated to writing stories in Arabic.

The gathering aims to provide a supportive environment for aspiring writers to start their storytelling journey. Participants will have the opportunity to share and exchange experiences, brainstorm, and discuss writing ideas and techniques.

The library, in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University and the Children's Literature Center, will host the Reesha Children's Art Exhibition 2024. Titled "Artworks Inspired by the Novel Men in the Sun," the exhibition aims to raise awareness about the Palestinian cause, while engaging children through the use of arts and creative cultural development tools. (QNA)

Arabic audiobook collection expanded with 1,500 new titles

Qatar National Library (QNL) has expanded its digital resources by adding over 1,500 new Arabic audiobook titles. This expansion underscores the library's dedication to promoting the Arabic language along with growing its digital offering to cater to the linguistic preferences of its members.

In a press release, the QNL said that the latest enhancement also increases accessibility for visually impaired members, furthering QNL's mission to eliminate barriers to knowledge and ensure equal access for all.

The newly added Arabic audiobooks can be accessed through QNL's app, a user-friendly platform that grants library members exclusive access to millions of online resources, including digital books, journals, and magazines among other benefits.

The app recorded over 100,000 checkouts this year, marking a new milestone since its launch a year ago. The app has been downloaded 56,000 times, attracting nearly 6,500 new users signing up to leverage its features in the first year.

QNL Director of Research Learning, Katia Medawar, said the initiative reflects the library's commitment to

expanding its offering to a growing community of members and literary enthusiasts and emphasises our focus on enriching Arabic digital content accessible to all.

"We continue to build on our ever-growing suite of resources and services to meet the diverse needs of all our community members. This addition to our audiobook collection marks our latest push to enrich our digital resources, particularly in Arabic," Katia explained.

In addition to gaining immediate access to read e-books, audiobooks, magazines and newsletters directly on the phone, downloading the library's app offers members additional benefits including the ability to instantly borrow printed books in 20 different languages without the need to visit a self-checkout station.

Members also gain access to a wealth of information on the Middle East and Qatar through QNL's digital repository and Qatar Digital Library. The digital repository features nearly 15.5mn digitised pages accessible online while QDL is home to over 2.5mn digital copies of archives, maps, manuscripts, audio recordings, photographs, and drawings. (QNA)



Sony, Fnac Qatar host architecture photography workshop

Consumer electronics leader Sony Middle East and Africa, in collaboration with Fnac Qatar, organised an architecture photography workshop to coach content creators on how to capture the essence of built environments by highlighting design, structure, and spatial dynamics. Led by celebrated Omani photographer and Sony Alpha ambassador Abdulla al-Mushaifri,

the event at Fnac, Lagoona Mall, in Doha, saw a total of 50 participants, including enthusiasts, beginners and experienced photographers, a statement said. The workshop attracted well-known content creators, including Arjun Raveendran, who is noted for food, fashion, landscape photography and cinematography; Mohamad Nijas, who is known for his travel,

wildlife, and sports photography; and Ranoosh Ali Bakr and Anszad Mohammed, among others. Jobin Joejoe, Sony MEA managing director said: "Sony is passionate about empowering content creators in the region across various themes. There is no shortage of talent in Qatar - and we are delighted to offer a specialised workshop for content creators with an interest in architecture. The

response has been phenomenal, and we hope this workshop has inspired the next generation of visual storytellers in Doha. This is a reflection of Sony's solid commitment to cultivating creativity and fostering a thriving community in the region." More details on upcoming workshops and events are available on the Sony Alpha Universe portal: <https://alphauniverse-mea.com/>

Chery Poised for Regional Expansion Amid Strong Growth Prospects: Middle East Spare Parts Warehouse Enhances Rapid Response and Reliable Support

Chery's spare parts warehouse is strategically located near both Jebel Ali Port and Al Maktoum International Airport, with just a 15-minute drive to reach either. The new warehouse benefits from a strategic location that enhances logistics efficiency and expands service coverage across the Middle East, Central Africa, West Africa, and North Africa. This strategic positioning significantly boosts Chery's market responsiveness and service levels in these regions.

Since opening, the warehouse has quickly processed its first batch of orders from Saudi Arabia, marking a significant advancement in regional logistics efficiency and service quality. Chery's after-sales service has



"The Chery brand has become a key player in the development of the automotive industry globally."

Ahmed Al-Sabaa'i



long focused on providing auto parts and tailored service solutions in global markets to meet the diverse needs of its customers. Chery can now flexibly manage inventory in real-time based on market demand, ensuring faster delivery and high service quality. This enables Chery to offer its customers more reliable support and superior, professional solutions.

The warehouse is equipped with advanced logistics infrastructure, including 22 high-bay racks and 8,000 square meters of loft shelving, providing 25,000 storage positions. It currently holds Chery's original parts worth 44 million RMB, covers 22,000 product varieties, and handles four containers daily

to meet various vehicle repair needs.

To ensure accurate inventory management and operational efficiency, the warehouse employs 33 experienced staff members and features 14 shipping docks. The advanced logistics systems and optimized storage layouts have markedly improved shipping efficiency and reduced delivery times, offering customers faster and more convenient service.

The warehouse reflects Chery's ongoing efforts to explore new opportunities and refine its global supply chain. Looking forward, Chery remains dedicated to its "customer first" philosophy, continuously striving for excellence to provide high-quality products and services to



consumers worldwide.

Ahmed Al-Sabaa'i: "The Chery brand has become a key player in the development of the automotive industry globally."

The opening of the largest parts warehouse in the Middle East has enhanced after-sales support for Chery customers in the region, highlighting Chery's confidence in the growth potential of the automotive market in the Middle East and its commitment to improving spare parts supplies.

In this context, Engineer Ahmed Al-Sabaa'i, the Executive Director of Elite Motors, commented: "According to experts, the Chery brand has emerged as a key player in the global automotive industry's development due to innovations and updates that align

with the future of the automotive world. This is why Chery has developed a market expansion strategy and after-sales service. The opening of the largest parts warehouse in the Middle East and Africa has been well received by Chery customers, serving as clear evidence of Chery's commitment to the Middle Eastern markets in general and the Gulf region in particular. The warehouse is equipped with advanced logistics facilities, providing 25,000 storage spaces for a large inventory of spare parts. Thanks to its advanced logistics system and efficient design, the warehouse enhances the speed and efficiency of shipping, ensuring faster and more convenient service for customers."



UDST holds annual 'Takreem' ceremony

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) hosted its prestigious annual "Takreem" ceremony, which celebrates and recognises the invaluable contributions of all of UDST's esteemed stakeholders who have played an important role in its continued success.

In a press release, UDST said thanks to its partnership with esteemed stakeholders, it has successfully established new academic programmes, expanded the scope of scientific research, and enhanced the overall student experience.

The university added that these collaborative efforts have not only enriched the university's curriculum but have also created an environment of innovation and academic excellence.



During his speech at the honouring ceremony, UDST president Dr Salem Al-Naemi said: "Today, we celebrate the remarkable contributions of our stakeholders, whose dedication and support has been instrumental in



our journey toward excellence. "Takreem" event exemplifies our commitment to collaboration and innovation, reinforcing our shared vision for the future of education in Qatar. Thanks to shared efforts, over 800 students

have secured internships and work placements, while more than 750 students received sponsorships to further their studies in the last academic year," Dr Al-Naemi added. "Together, we have built state-of-the-art laboratories that give our

students access to cutting-edge technology, enabling them to excel in developing innovative solutions across various fields, from eco-friendly vehicles to AI-driven devices assisting individuals with special needs.

"Our partnerships have also facilitated numerous conferences and creative workshops, resulting in the publication of over 187 research papers in line with Qatar's Third National Development Strategy" (QNA)

UDST honours Ministry of Transport



The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has honoured the Ministry of Transport (MoT) with two awards recognising its partnerships with government entities and support and sponsorship of the scientific events. In a special ceremony, UDST president Dr Salem Al-Naemi handed over the awards to MoT's Information Systems Department director Fatima Mohammed Abulhussain. Several government and private sector officials were in attendance. MoT, according to a statement, has actively contributed to and sponsored the 17th International Coastal Symposium UDST hosted in late September for the first time in the Middle East.

Visit Qatar launches new global campaign: 'Surprise Yourself'

Visit Qatar has unveiled its latest global campaign, 'Surprise Yourself', marking a significant step in its mission to attract 6mn visitors annually and establish Qatar as a must-visit tourist destination by 2030.

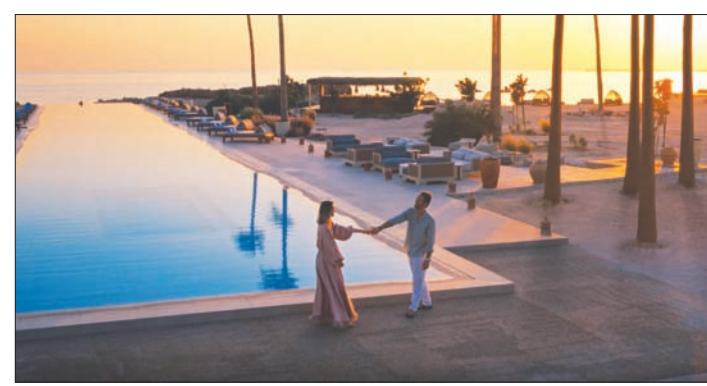
The campaign highlights the memorable experiences that Qatar offers for families, couples, and groups of friends. Designed to set Qatar apart, the campaign highlights the country's unique attractions and tourism offerings.

From the lush charm of Banana Island to the vibrant atmosphere of Souq Waqif, and thrill of dune bashing, Qatar's wide range of attractions are showcased, presenting numerous opportunities for relaxation and adventure in a warm, safe, and inclusive environment.

Through its theme and brand platform, "Moments That Stay With You", the campaign also showcases the emotional connections and lasting memories forged during visits to Qatar.

Featuring a modern rendition of Bobby Hebb's classic song "Sunny", the campaign will be rolled out across 10 international markets using a variety of platforms, including television, social media, digital channels, press materials, and out-of-home advertising.

In a press statement, Visit Qatar CEO engineer Abdulaziz Ali al-Mawlawi said: "Situated at the crossroads of East and West, Qatar's strategic location makes it exceptionally accessible. With just a six to eight-hour flight from most major cities around the world, Qa-



The campaign highlights the country's unique attractions and tourism offerings.

tar connects over 177 destinations, including the USA, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

"This makes Qatar an ideal choice for visitors seeking a stopover destination or a safe, family-friendly holiday filled with year-round sunshine, adventure, and fun for all. This campaign is designed to elevate Qatar's global profile by showcasing its unique attractions and cultural richness, ultimately driving increased visitor numbers in line with our strategic tourism objectives."

With its futuristic skyline, luxurious hotels, pristine beaches along the Arabian Gulf, and plethora of unique experiences, Qatar offers everything from relaxing poolside retreats to thrilling adventures. As the ultimate family-friendly destination, Qatar presents a rich blend of activities, entertainment, and luxurious hospitality.

The country's tourism land-

scape is bolstered by a high safety index ranking, state-of-the-art facilities, an award-winning national carrier and airport, seamless public transport, and open tourism visa policies.

Qatar is set for an exhilarating winter season filled with international sports and cultural festivities. Highlights include the much-anticipated return of Formula One, vibrant activities at Sealine Desert, and concerts featuring renowned regional and international artists.

Notable returning events such as the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition and the Qatar International Food Festival are also set to captivate audiences.

As Qatar prepares for 2025 with events such as the Web Summit and the Arab Cup on the horizon, the nation is quickly becoming one of the world's most exciting travel destinations.

Fine Art Award launched by VCUarts Qatar

The Department of Painting and Printmaking at the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts Qatar (VCUarts Qatar), in collaboration with the Division of Art and Theater, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, announced the opening of nominations for the 2024-2025 Fine Art Award for high school students in Qatar.

The competition is titled "God is Beautiful and Loves Beauty: A Dialogue on the Concept of Beauty in Arab and Islamic Culture".

"We hope the introduction of this new award will contribute to opportunities for students at the high school level to explore their creativity, engage with a top art and design school, and



perhaps be recognised on the national stage," said Dr Aissa Deebi, director of the Department of Painting and Printmaking, VCUarts Qatar.

The Fine Art Award for high school students seeks to explore beauty as it is expressed in nature, Islamic art, ethics, and the pursuit of knowledge. This dialogue is inspired by the noble Hadith: "God is Beautiful and Loves Beauty", which reflects the highest values of beauty in Arab and Islamic culture.

The competition is now open to receive entries. For more information on guidelines for participation, please contact us at: vcuqapapr@vcu.edu or click here to link to the submission form.

The competition closes for submissions on February 10, 2025. Later that month, an official announcement of award winners and an exhibition of top works will take place, a statement added.

Jaguar, Lincoln, Genesis models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Alfordan Premier Motors, has announced the recall of Jaguar E-PACE 2.0i4 R-Dynamic SE, 2021-2023 models, due to a possible defect in the passenger airbags, which may cause them to rupture during deployment.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, has announced the recall of Lincoln Nautilus, 2024 model, as in some of affected vehicles, the ABS Module may remain active and unintentionally keep other networked modules active for an extended period of time, which

may result in battery drain and failure to start the vehicle. The MoCI, in co-operation with Skyline Automotive, also announced the recall of Genesis G80, 2013-2016 models, as some affected vehicles might experience a starter damage while parked or driving, if operated in abnormally wet conditions, such as a flooded road.

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 repairs.

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealers to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The MoCI 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 @mociqatar, and mobile application MOCIQatar available on iPhone and Android devices.

Old Doha Port showcases Qatar's maritime tourism at Monaco

Old Doha Port had a prominent presence at the Monaco Yacht Show 2024, which was held from September 25-28, with a strong turnout for their booth, a statement said.

International audiences learned about Qatar's incredible maritime tourism, culture, history and offerings as well as the exceptional experience Old Doha Port provides for yacht and marine vessel owners.

The aim of Old Doha Port's participation was to encourage tourism, foster economic growth, and highlight Qatar's hospitality as part of Qatar National Vision 2030. Old Doha Port is being promoted as a premier marine destination with water sports, variety of



Old Doha Port had a prominent presence at the Monaco Yacht Show 2024.

outlets, and entertainment. Old Doha Port also spotlighted the Qatar Boat Show, taking place from November 6-9, as a remarkable

opportunity for tourists to immerse themselves in Qatar's maritime legacy and connect with industry leaders and professionals.

Japanese students visit central laboratory



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change welcomed a group of students from Akita University, Japan, to learn about and explore the Central Environmental Laboratory. The students were introduced to the latest technologies used in monitoring the quality of marine water and soil. The visit was part of efforts to enhance international co-operation in environmental fields and to foster understanding of the importance of environmental monitoring. It was also aimed at exchanging expertise between both sides in the areas of inspection and environmental laboratories. The delegation from Akita University reviewed the advanced equipment used in marine and soil monitoring in Qatar, with detailed explanations of how these are used to ensure environmental sustainability. They also learned about environmental monitoring programmes. The visit also included the Environmental Laboratory section and its role in preserving Qatar's biodiversity.

Mexico's first woman president takes office

Reuters/AFP
Mexico City

Claudia Sheinbaum (pictured) was sworn in as Mexico's first woman president yesterday, taking the reins at a time the country is struggling with violence from organised crime and a hefty deficit in Latin America's No 2 economy.

Sheinbaum, the 62-year-old scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, was inaugurated in a ceremony in Mexico's Congress for a six-year term lasting until 2030.

Her supporters chanted "President! President!" and "Long live Mexico!" after Sheinbaum took the oath of office in front of lawmakers. She will later attend a celebration in Mexico City's main square as leader of the world's most populous Spanish-speaking country, home to 129mn people, which has had 65 male presidents since independence.

Supporters began gathering from dawn on inauguration day, which authorities declared a national holiday.

"We arrived at five in the morning," said Marta Ramirez, a housewife who came by bus from the central city of Leon.

A woman president "understands the people better", she said. Sheinbaum has said on several occasions that "it's time for women and transformation" in Mexico, a nation with a history of gender-based discrimination and violence, with around 10 women or girls murdered every day.

Political watchers and analysts predict Sheinbaum will urgently look to calm investors following the passing of a controversial judicial reform pushed by her predecessor Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Markets will be looking to Sheinbaum for "a predictable and investment-friendly policy and regulatory framework", said Alberto Ramos, head of Goldman Sachs Latin American economic research.

"Disciplined management of the budget and of state-owned enterprises, progress on public security, and safe-guarding the integrity of key institutions will be key to preserving market sentiment and sovereign debt ratings," Ramos said, emphasising the importance of state energy firm Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex).

The November presidential elections in the United States, Mexico's largest trading partner, could add to market volatility, especially if former president Donald Trump, who has vowed to increase tariffs on Mexican goods, wins.

Sheinbaum's government will present its first budget before November 15, which is expected to be highly scrutinised for clues on whether Sheinbaum will make good on commitments to reduce the fiscal deficit to 3.5% of gross domestic product from 5.9%, where it is predicted to close the year.

Lopez Obrador, whose six-year term began in 2018, managed to double Mexico's minimum wage, reduce poverty and unemployment, broaden the base of social programmes and oversee a previous strengthening of the peso.

Touting these successes boosted his popularity and helped usher Sheinbaum, his protégée, to a landslide victory in the June elections.

Sheinbaum, however, who has promised "continuity with change", will inherit the largest budget deficit since the 1980s and lagging economic growth.

Experts have said Mexico's economy will require a tax reform to increase revenues, though Sheinbaum has said publicly she does not plan a sweeping tax overhaul.

Instead, she has said she will pursue other options, including improving the efficiency of tax collection at customs.



New Nato chief Rutte dismisses Trump fears

AFP/Reuters
Brussels

New Nato chief Mark Rutte (pictured) has downplayed fears over a potential Donald Trump victory in the US presidential election and pledged to keep backing Ukraine, as he assumed leadership of the world's most powerful military alliance.

The former Dutch prime minister steps into the role at a pivotal moment, as Russia presses its war in Ukraine, China flexes its growing might – and just weeks before US voters choose a new leader.

"I'm determined to prepare Nato for the challenges of the future," Rutte said as he formally took over as secretary general from Norway's Jens Stoltenberg at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato)'s Brussels headquarters.

The outcome of the November 5 US vote is set to be the straight-talking 57-year-old's first major test – and will shape his initial four-year term.

On the campaign trail, former president Trump has threatened not to protect Nato members who do not spend enough on defence and promised a quick deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to end to the war in Ukraine.

"I'm not worried. I know both candidates very well. I worked for four years with Donald Trump. He was the one pushing us to spend more, and he achieved," Rutte said. "I will be able to work with both, whatever is the outcome of the elections."

In opting for the veteran Dutch statesman, a staunch US ally and stalwart backer of Ukraine,

Nato's 32 nations have picked a leader who will keep pushing support for Kyiv and efforts to bolster the alliance's own defences against Russia.

"Nato will be in safe hands with you at the helm," said Stoltenberg, who has guided the alliance through one of its most tumultuous decades.

US President Joe Biden said he had full confidence that Rutte "will continue to build on our work to create a Nato that is stronger, larger, and more resolute than ever".

Rutte listed Ukraine among his priorities – along with ensuring Nato keeps on spending more on defence, and bolstering ties with partners, including the European Union and those in the Asia Pacific.

"Putin has to realise that we will not give in, that we want Ukraine to prevail in the end," Rutte warned, saying that he wanted "to step up our support for Ukraine and bring it ever closer to Nato".

"We must sustain this support into the future, because Ukraine's rightful place is in Nato," he added.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky pledged to work with Rutte as his country "continues on its path towards full-fledged Nato membership".

Kyiv faces difficulties as Russian forces advance on the battlefield more than two-and-a-half years after the Kremlin's all-out invasion.

And there is uncertainty over future Western support for Ukraine with growing calls for a resolution to the conflict.

"It's up to the Ukrainian government to decide when they are at a stage that they want to discuss peace," Rutte said. "That's for later."



Rutte backed Ukraine's right to use Western supplied weapons inside Russia, but said it was up to each Nato country to decide on any limitations.

Another central task for Rutte will be to keep pushing Nato members to carry on increasing military spending to counter any potential menace from Moscow.

Spurred on by the war in Ukraine – and pressure from Washington – European countries have already ratcheted up spending.

This year, 23 countries are set to reach Nato's target of spending 2% of gross domestic product on their militaries.

Stoltenberg, whose mandate was extended three times, trod a careful balancing act as Nato emerged reenergised in the face of Russia's aggression.

"One thing will not change, and that is Nato's core mission, and that is to make sure that we defend our people, our nations, and, of course, our values," Rutte said.

The Kremlin said yesterday that it did not expect any improvement in relations with Nato under Rutte.



A rescue worker carries the wrapped-up body of a victim following a fire on a bus that was carrying students and teachers on the outskirts of Bangkok. - AFP

At least 23 killed in Thai bus inferno

AFP/Reuters
Bangkok

A devastating fire on a Thai school bus killed at least 23 people, police said yesterday after rescuers pulled children's bodies from the charred wreckage of the vehicle.

The inferno engulfed the coach on a highway in a northern Bangkok suburb as it carried 38 children – ranging from kindergarten age to young teenagers – and six teachers on a school trip.

It is believed to be the deadliest road accident in a decade in Thailand, which has one of the world's worst traffic safety records with around 20,000 fatalities a year.

"We found 23 bodies inside the bus," Trairong Phiwpan, head of the police forensic science office, told reporters.

The victims' bodies were so badly burned that Trairong said it was not yet possible to confirm how many were adults and how many children.

DNA testing would be needed to identify the remains, police said.

Rescue workers put up screens around the wreckage to shield firefighters and investigators as they recovered bodies from the blackened shell of the bus.

"Some of the bodies we rescued were very, very small. They must have been very young in age," Piyalak Thinkaew, who led the search, told reporters at the scene, adding that the fire started at the front of the bus.

"The kids' instinct was to escape to the back so the bodies were there," he said.

Police are hunting the coach driver after he fled the scene, acting national police chief Kitirat Phanphet told reporters.

"We are investigating all individuals, including the bus company to see if this was a case of negligence," he said. "The driver is on the run, we will not wait for him to turn himself in – we will send a team to find him."

Some of the children who survived suffered horrific burns to their faces, mouths and eyes, doctors treating them told local media.

The bus was one of three carrying children from Wat Khao Phraya Sangkharam school in the northern province of Uthai Thani on a field trip to a science museum in northern Bangkok.

A video posted on the school's Facebook page just hours before the tragedy shows the group of youngsters in orange uniform shirts stopping off at the ancient Thai capital of Ayutthaya.

The disaster is believed to have begun when one of the bus tyres burst on the highway around 12.30pm (0530 GMT), sending it crashing into a barrier and triggering the inferno, officials said. Video footage from the scene showed flames engulfing the bus as it burned under an overpass, huge clouds of dense black smoke billowing into the sky.

The bus was a natural gas vehicle (NGV), according to Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit.

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra visited survivors in hospital and said that the government would pay for medical treatment and compensate the victims' families.

"As a mother, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families of the injured and deceased," she wrote on social media platform X.

Meechai Sa-ard, a motorbike taxi driver, heard the noise of the incident from a kilometre away.

"There was smoke everywhere. Poor children, I heard they were very little," he told AFP. "I was hoping that god would be kind so that the rain could put the fire out and the kids would survive."

Thailand has one of the worst road safety records in the world, with unsafe vehicles and poor driving contributing to the high annual death toll.

Around 20,000 people are killed every year on the kingdom's roads, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) – more than 50 a day on average.

A similar bus fire killed 20 Myanmar migrant workers in March 2018, while at least 30 people died when a bus careered off a mountain road into a ravine four years earlier.

Former US president Jimmy Carter turns 100

AFP
Washington

Jimmy Carter celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday – the first US president to reach the century mark and another extraordinary milestone for the one-time peanut farmer who found his way to the White House.

Carter's longevity – he began hospice care at his home in Plains, Georgia, more than 19 months ago – has defied all expectations.

No longer regularly appearing in public, the Democratic former president is spending his birthday in the home he and his late wife Rosalynn had built in Plains in the 1960s.

Celebrations include a lunch with some 20 members of his extended family, according to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

President Joe Biden, in a video posted on his official X account, hailed Carter as a "beloved friend" and "one of the most influential statesmen" in US history.

"Your unwavering belief in the power of human goodness continues to be a guiding light for all of us," he said.

The White House lawn was decorated yesterday with a sign that read "Happy Birthday President Carter".

Britain's King Charles III sent a private message of congratulations expressing "great admiration for the president's lifetime of duty and



public service", a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said.

And Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, currently overseeing the response to a major storm disaster, proclaimed "Jimmy Carter Day" across the state.

Beyond serving as commander in chief for a single term from 1977-1981, Carter worked as a global mediator, rights activist and elder statesman, founding the

well-respected Carter Centre in 1982.

His presidency included the 1978 Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt, the establishment of diplomatic relations with China following a rapprochement initiated by president Richard Nixon, and the return of control of the Panama Canal to Panama.

However, his administration hit numerous snags, including the Iran hostage crisis and a renewed oil crisis in 1979-1980, which saw Ronald Reagan sweep into power.

According to family, Carter remains keenly interested in politics and was highly motivated to make it to 100 and to vote in the November election for fellow Democrat Kamala Harris.

15 killed in Iran flood on Monday

A flash flood that swept through a southern city of Iran killed 15 people, state media reported yesterday, updating an earlier toll of six dead.

"After finding the last body of Halli River flood incident in Jiroft, a total of 15 are pronounced dead," said the official IRNA news agency.

The search and rescue operation had been brought to an end, it added. Almost all of those killed in Monday's flood were Afghan nationals living in the Islamic republic, Iran's ISNA news agency reported. - AFP

Doctors in India's Kolkata resume full strike

Junior doctors in India's West Bengal state resumed their full strike yesterday, complaining that the country's judiciary has not made adequate efforts to restore justice after the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in August.

Doctors from the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front, which represents about 7,000 physicians in the state, reinstated partial services last month, citing the flood situation in parts of the state.

The rape and murder of the 31-year-old female doctor in Kolkata, capital of the eastern state, set off a wave of protests by doctors demanding greater workplace safety for women and justice for their slain colleague, prompting India's Supreme Court to create a hospital safety task force.

The top court, in its latest hearing on Monday, urged the state government to put in place all measures by October 15 to meet the doctors' demands.

It also asked the information ministry to ensure

the identity of the victim was concealed and not shared online as required by law.

The doctors, however, said they were disappointed with the court's decisions and were "compelled to return to a full ceasefire".

"Unless we receive clear action from the government on safety, patient services, and the politics of fear, we will have no choice but to continue our full strike," the group said in a statement yesterday.

The doctors' demands include increased police protection in hospitals and investigation of what they say is corruption in several medical colleges.

West Bengal, ruled by the regional Trinamool Congress party, has been slow to create new tribunals to try sex crimes speedily, according to a Reuters report.

Only six tribunals are operational in the state, a far cry from the target of installing 123 fast-track tribunals by March 2021. - Reuters

Kenyan lawmakers seek to impeach deputy president

Kenyan lawmakers initiated a motion yesterday to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. The East African country's politics has been in turmoil since March following deadly protests over a spiralling cost of living crisis and deeply unpopular tax hikes. Gachagua is accused of undermining the government, being involved in corruption, insubordination, practising ethnically divisive politics among a slew of other charges.

Some 291 members of parliament appended their signatures to support the motion, well beyond the 117 minimum.

Gachagua, a businessman from the vote-rich Mt Kenya region, has denied the allegations as politically charged. - AFP

Two London teens in hospital after suspected acid attack

A suspected acid attack outside a London school left two teenagers in hospital yesterday, one with potentially life-changing injuries, police said. Three people were injured when a substance was thrown at students and a staff member on Monday. "Tests of the substance are ongoing. At this stage officers believe it to be acidic," London police said in a statement, which noted a 14-year-old girl's injuries "may potentially be life-changing".

A 16-year-old boy, whose injuries were not life-changing, was also in hospital after the incident at the Westminster Academy school in west London.

The third victim, a woman aged 27, was discharged from hospital after suffering injuries not said to be life-changing. - AFP

Boy 'seriously hurt' in Zurich stabbing attack on children

A stabbing attack on children heading to a Zurich daycare centre yesterday left one boy seriously wounded and two others injured, said police who detained a Chinese national. The children hurt in the attack were taken to hospital. The attack happened around midday on Berninastrasse, a largely residential street in the Oerlikon district in the north of Switzerland's biggest city.

"According to initial findings, a daycare worker was on her way to a daycare centre with several children when a man suddenly attacked the children with a blade," Zurich police said in a statement.

Police said a 23-year-old Chinese man was arrested and taken to a police station. - AFP

Shanghai knife attack leaves three dead, wounds 15 others

Three people were killed and 15 others injured in a knife attack at a suburban supermarket in Shanghai on Monday on the eve of China's week-long National Day holiday, the latest in a series of stabbing incidents in major Chinese cities this year.

The victims were rushed to hospital, but three died. The assailant, a 37-year-old man surnamed Lin, has been detained, local police of Songjiang district said in a statement yesterday.

According to an initial investigation by police, Lin had travelled to Shanghai to vent his anger following a personal financial dispute.

The knife attack came one day before China's National Day "Golden Week", when holiday travel was expected to surge. - Reuters



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The bright-dim prospects of global EV transition

Just as road transportation accounts for about 15% of greenhouse gas emissions, so transitioning to cleaner vehicles is a linchpin in national efforts to meet climate-change mitigation targets.

But the sales momentum for electric vehicles (EVs) is slowing globally.

For many years, governments offered generous subsidies to encourage drivers to switch to electric vehicles.

But this year, the EV transition is having a wobble.

Governments are scaling back financial incentives for EV buyers, sales growth is stalling and the auto industry is having second thoughts about some of the investment plans that were predicated on a rapid shift to electric.

According to BloombergNEF, sales of all-electric vehicles plus plug-in hybrids that can also be powered by gasoline or diesel more than doubled in 2021 and grew 62% in 2022. But growth slowed to 31% last year.

China was the main driver, accounting for 59% of global sales, excluding commercial vehicles.

Most notably, in Europe and the US, the shift to EVs effectively went into reverse. The market share of battery cars in Europe shrank to 14% in August from just over 15% a year earlier.

In Germany, the continent's biggest market, EV sales plunged by 69%.

The global EV fleet will expand to over 132mn by 2027, up from 41mn in 2023, according to a BNEF report in June

On average, all-electric vehicles are 30% and 27% pricier in Europe and the US, respectively. There are cheaper EVs out there, namely in China.

Several manufacturers, including GM, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo and Toyota, have now softened their EV ambitions.

Together, the legacy carmakers — those with a long history of making combustion-engine vehicles — are targeting 23.7mn EV sales in 2030, more than 3mn units fewer than they had forecast last year, according to BNEF.

Even Tesla, the pure-play EV maker that did much to

make EVs a hit with drivers, has stopped referring to its goal of delivering 20mn units a year by 2030.

There are some silver linings, though

Some governments alarmed by the recent downturn in EV demand are weighing whether to restore their financial incentives for buyers.

The auto industry operates on long product cycles. High-volume automakers develop new platforms that underpin vehicles over what is usually a six- to 10-year period.

The platforms take years to develop, cost billions of dollars and ideally are versatile, allowing automakers to use different body structures catering to a wider variety of consumer preferences.

And all the work carmakers have done reconfiguring their factories to make EVs means they are getting closer to offering a wider selection of more affordable models to entice wavering buyers.

In Europe, seven new electric models costing less than €25,000 (\$27,810) could hit the market this year and next, including a new Renault 5 and Stellantis' Citroen e-C3, according to the Transport & Environment lobby group.

In that optimistic scenario, EVs could grab as much as 24% of the European market next year, according to T&E, which advocates for clean transport and energy.

That would be a big leap from the 12.5% market share for EVs in EU countries over the first seven months of 2024, as measured by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

BNEF projects that global passenger EV sales will grow, though at a slower pace, rising from 13.9mn in 2023 to over 30mn by 2027. The annual growth rate will average 21%, down from 61% between 2020 and 2023.

By 2027, EVs will comprise 33% of global new passenger vehicle sales, with China and Europe leading at 60% and 41%, respectively.

Overall, the global EV fleet will expand to over 132mn by 2027, up from 41mn in 2023, according to a BNEF report in June.

The long-term market outlook for electric vehicles is positive despite near-term challenges.

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VW labour clash spotlights Europe car factory enigma

By Victoria Walderee and Nick Carey
Berlin

Volkswagen's showdown with powerful labour leaders over how to tackle spiralling costs at underused German factories has triggered intense soul-searching about the root causes of the carmaker's problems.

Complex governance structures, misjudged investments in EVs, poor management decisions, sliding revenues from China and Germany's crippling bureaucracy have all variously been blamed for the challenges facing the world's second-biggest automaker.

Yet a Reuters review of factory capacity utilisation data across Europe for six carmakers shows that Volkswagen is hardly an outlier and it may be in a better place than some of its major rivals when it comes to underused plants.

Renault and Stellantis, for example, both have lower average capacity utilisation rates in Europe than VW, according to the figures compiled for Reuters by GlobalData, which included numbers for BMW, Ford and Mercedes-Benz as well.

Reuters also sourced data for all automakers in eight major European car-making countries: four in higher-cost states - France, Germany, Italy and the UK - and four in lower-cost countries - Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey.

That data showed that there was a clear tendency towards higher factory utilisation rates in central and eastern Europe, where costs are lower, suggesting the problems most of the big automakers face are mainly in their home markets.

Across Europe, the capacity utilisation of factories making light vehicles such as passenger cars was 60% in 2023, down from 70% in 2019, the data showed.

In the lower-cost countries, the average utilisation rate slipped only slightly to 79% from 83%, but in the higher cost countries, plant use dropped to just 54% from 65%.

A utilisation rate of around 70% is considered the minimum for profitability, depending on the vehicle, according to GlobalData. Around 80-90% is seen as cost-effective, providing some flexibility for model changeovers and maintenance.

Volkswagen, Stellantis and Mercedes-Benz said they don't comment on capacity utilisation data. Renault said it uses a different benchmark that shows a higher number for its plants. BMW also said the data may underestimate its actual levels.

For Volkswagen, pressure by German unions and politicians to make its EVs at home - a move designed to future-proof jobs - has become a "poisoned chalice", said Justin Cox, director of global autos production at GlobalData, a data analytics provider based in London.

That decision means the automaker is now using its most expensive locations to make high-cost EVs, which are not selling in the numbers expected, Cox said.

"Premium costs and mobility for all are not compatible. This applies in particular to our German plants, which currently build the majority of our electric vehicles," Volkswagen CFO Arno Antlitz said in response to questions from Reuters.

Germany had the highest wages for factory workers in the automotive industry by international comparison at €59 (\$66) per hour in 2022, according to German autos association VDA, in contrast to €21 in the Czech Republic and 16 euros in Hungary. In China, wages hover around just \$3 an hour, according to a Reuters analysis.

At the same time, new car sales in Europe are struggling. They fell 18% in August to their lowest in three years, dragged down by a 44% drop in overall EV sales - which included a 69% slump for German EV sales.

"We are calling for Volkswagen to bring out more models that normal consumers can afford - a cheap electric car or cheap combustion engine that's sustainable," said Stephan Soldanski, a union representative in the German city of Osnabrueck, where one of VW's

most underused plants is located.

That plant is running at about 30% of its capacity, Soldanski said. The three models it makes - the Porsche Boxster, Porsche Cayman and the VW T-Roc Cabriolet - are all set to end by 2026 and unions have not heard what they will make next.

Under current labour agreements, if VW workers are idled, they continue to be paid. "We need ideas," Soldanski said. "We don't want a slow death."

Volkswagen's CFO has said it has one to two years to turn things around at its namesake brand in the face of Chinese competition, with a €10bn cost-cutting drive from last December no longer seen as enough to save the company.

Negotiations are due to begin with unions on September 25 over what further cost cuts are possible and VW has said plant closures in Germany cannot be ruled out.

It has already scrapped a decades-old job security agreement at six plants in Germany, enabling it to lay off workers from mid-2025, unless a new agreement is struck before then.

Labour representatives hold half the votes on the carmaker's supervisory board, however, making it hard for VW to force closures. Unions want a negotiated settlement but management says the scale of the challenges means something must give.

Managing overcapacity has long been a struggle for Europe's automakers, hamstrung by labour contracts and the risk of political blowback from shutting loss-making plants.

Now, high interest rates and a weakening economy mean demand is dropping, just as more Chinese exports arrive. Volkswagen says annual European car demand should bump along at about 14mn vehicles, down from 16mn before the pandemic.

Some of the mass-market carmakers burdened with too much capacity in Europe have already taken steps to reduce costs.

French automaker Renault has cut thousands of jobs in the region as part of a €3bn cost-cutting

drive set in motion in 2021.

Stellantis, formed through the merger of Fiat Chrysler and Peugeot maker PSA, will have cut almost 20,000 jobs in Europe since 2021 by the end of 2024.

Both cut production lines and reduced capacity so they are less dependent on large assembly plants, relying more on temporary workers with fewer permanent employees on payroll.

Ford, meanwhile, will axe 5,400 jobs in Europe and plans more cuts under a regional restructuring plan that includes stopping production at its Saarlouis plant in Germany, before ramping up output in Spain where costs are lower.

According to GlobalData, all three will have worse average capacity utilisation rates than VW at the end of 2024.

MOVING EAST

Auto industry experts say the east-west split in Europe is only likely to grow as Chinese entrants, including China's biggest EV maker BYD and its biggest exporter Chery, set up shop in countries such as Hungary, Turkey and Poland.

"It will accelerate," said Andy Palmer, chairman of Slovak battery maker Inobat and former Aston Martin CEO. "It's pretty inevitable."

They say markets such as Germany may be left making mainly premium or luxury cars with price tags that allow manufacturers to cover the higher operational costs.

Stellantis has already shifted some EV production to lower-cost markets. It will make EVs in Poland via a joint venture with China's Leapmotor. Its Citroen e-C3, which should sell for about €23,000, will be made in Slovakia. But like VW, Stellantis has severe excess capacity issues at home. Production slumped 63% in the first half of 2024 at its Mirafiori plant in Turin, the historic home of Fiat. Reuters was unable to determine capacity utilisation rates for the plant.

Production of its main model, the electric Fiat 500, has been on and off for months due to sluggish EV demand, while its Maserati luxury brand is limited to two low-volume cars. Workers at Mirafiori have been put on furlough schemes, partially funded by the Italian government.

Nevertheless, German unions argue that Volkswagen's wounds are self-inflicted. They blame management for not coming up with affordable, appealing EV models for them to make, which they argue would spur demand.

The German carmaker's cheapest EV is the ID.3 at over €36,000, while Stellantis brands have cheaper, if less powerful models such as the Fiat 500e, Citroen e-c3, and Opel Corsa.

"They have balanced out plants in countries with higher labour costs and lower labour costs for decades. Nothing has changed," said Georg Leutert, director of automotive industries at union federation IndustriALL.

"You can't blame the workforce." - Reuters



A general view of the Volkswagen power plant on the day when Volkswagen AG and the industrial union IG Metall started talks over a new labour agreement for six of its German plants in Wolfsburg last Wednesday. (Reuters)

Deputy Amir leads well-wishers to welcome Abu Dhabi crown prince



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani led the farewell of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, upon departure along with the accompanying delegation from Doha International Airport yesterday. Also present at airport were Qatar's ambassador to the UAE Dr Sultan bin Salmeen bin Saeed al-Mansouri and UAE ambassador to Qatar Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhboot al-Nahyan. (QNA)



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani led the well-wishers to welcome Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, upon his arrival and the accompanying delegation at the Doha International Airport yesterday on an official visit to the country. Qatar's ambassador to the UAE Dr Sultan bin Salmeen al-Mansouri and UAE ambassador to Qatar Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhboot al-Nahyan were present to welcome the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled was accorded an official reception ceremony upon his arrival at the Amiri Diwan. (QNA)



PM meets Abu Dhabi crown prince



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with the visiting Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. The meeting discussed the existing strong fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them, stressing the importance of continuing the co-operation in tourism, mutual investment, and education. In addition, they discussed a number of topics of common interest. (QNA)

Luncheon banquet



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani held a luncheon banquet at the Amiri Diwan yesterday in honour of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and his accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, a number of ministers, and senior officials. (QNA)

Qatar, UAE: Strong historical relations

QNA
Doha

The official visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan to Doha comes within the framework of the strong historical relations between Qatar and the UAE.

The visit comes to enhance co-operation and co-ordination between the two countries, and to raise them to new horizons. The visit reflects the depth and strength of bilateral relations, and the joint keenness of the two countries' leaderships to push them forward.

Qatari-Emirati relations are based on long years of deep history, the unity of language, religion, geographical proximity, social integration and cultural heritage. They are also based on common interests, mutual respect, co-operation and co-ordination to serve the interests of the two countries and their peoples as well as the Gulf region and the world.

The two countries are keen to exchange views on issues and developments in the region and the world, and exchange visits at the level of leaders and senior officials on a regular basis.

One of the most prominent recent visits was the one of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani paid to UAE

in June, during which His Highness met with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to support and consolidate them in various fields, especially in regard to strengthening the bonds of fraternal co-operation for the good and interest of their peoples, in addition to strengthening joint Gulf action.

During the meeting that was held in Abu Dhabi, the two sides also discussed regional and international developments, and exchanged views on several issues of common interest, especially developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. The two sides also confirmed the two countries' support for the efforts to cease fire in the Gaza Strip, and to reach a comprehensive and lasting peace based on the two-state solution, and to preserve the security and stability of the region.

His Highness the Amir paid a visit to UAE on Nov 9, 2023. On Jan 18, 2024, the Amir participated in a fraternal consultative meeting, alongside the leaders of Oman, Bahrain, Jordan and Egypt. The meeting was held at the invitation of the UAE president, under the title "Prosperity and Stability in the Region", at the St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi.

In December 2023, His Highness the Amir participated in the opening session of the 28th ses-



sion of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), held in Expo City Dubai.

In the context of continuous communication and permanent consultation between the two countries' leaderships, the UAE president came to Qatar on an official visit in December 2022. During the visit, the Amir held official talks session with him at the Amiri Diwan. The UAE president congratulated the Amir for Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and its exceptional success in organising and hosting this world championship.

During the talks, the two sides discussed the brotherly bilateral relations and ways to support and consolidate them in various fields, especially in regard to strengthening the bonds of co-operation for the good and interest of the two brotherly people, in addition to strengthening joint Gulf action. They also reviewed the developments of regional and international events and exchanged views on a number of current issues of common concern.

In October 2023, President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan visited Doha to participate in the opening ceremony of the International Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha. His Highness the Amir patronised the opening ceremony of the expo, under the theme 'Green Desert, Better Environment'.

Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and National Security Adviser of UAE Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed al-Nahyan visited Doha several times. In August, the Amir met at his Amiri Diwan office with Sheikh Tahnoun, during which they discussed the existing fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to develop and strengthen them, in addition to discussing a number of topics of common interest.

In March, His Highness the Amir met at his office at Lusail Palace with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of their visit to the country. During the meeting, the fraternal bilateral relations were discussed as well as ways to en-

hance them, in addition to discussing a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern.

In January, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan met HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani at the Qasr Al Shati in Abu Dhabi. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them, in addition to the latest developments in the region.

Qatar participated in Expo 2020 in Dubai, held between Oct 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, under the slogan "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future." Qatar's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai was organised under the slogan "Qatar: The Future Is Now." On the economic level and in terms of strengthening relations and ties between the two countries, QatarEnergy signed in July 2023 a long-term condensate supply agreement with the Dubai-based ENOC Group. The agreement was signed by QatarEnergy, for and on behalf of Qatar Petroleum for the Sale of Petroleum Products Company Ltd (QPSPP), and ENOC Supply and Trading LLC, a subsidiary of ENOC. The 10-year sale agreement stipulates the supply of up to 120mn barrels of condensates to ENOC Group starting from July 2023.

HE the Minister of State for

Energy Affairs, the President and CEO of QatarEnergy Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi said that signing this long-term condensate sale agreement further strengthening QatarEnergy's relationship with ENOC, which extends back to 2008, while Group CEO at ENOC Saif Humaid al-Falasi said the long-term agreement with QatarEnergy will contribute to strengthening the co-operation and partnership between both organisations.

The terms of the agreement allows parties to further increase the condensate volumes under the contract, as additional condensate volume is expected to be exported from Qatar once the North Field East (NFE) and North Field South (NFS) expansion projects come online.

In the context of supporting economic relations between Qatar and the UAE, represented by their ministries of finance, the two countries signed in May an agreement aimed at avoiding double taxation and preventing fiscal evasion concerning income taxes. The agreement aims to conclude tax treaties that eliminate all forms of double taxation between the two countries. This agreement will also enable both countries to prevent tax evasion and ensure justice and equality in the treatment of individuals, in addition to enhancing trade co-operation and increasing investment opportunities between governments and individuals.



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie delivering the opening speech.



HE Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah addressed the opening session of the QNDCC through a video message.



Dignitaries at the opening of the fourth edition of the QNDCC yesterday. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

Fourth QNDCC opens to discuss climate change impact and mitigation

The fourth edition of the Qatar National Dialogue on Climate Change (QNDCC) started yesterday at the Qatar National Convention Centre, bringing experts together to discuss the impacts of climate change and its mitigation.

The two-day event opened in the presence of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti, HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, and dignitaries from various government and private entities.

Co-hosted by Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future (Earthna) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), the dialogue shares ideas and best practices and develops strategies related to adaptation, eco-tourism and nature-based solutions, the pathway from COP28 to COP29, carbon management and emissions mitigation.

While delivering the opening remarks, HE al-Attiyah said that the QNDCC reflects the significance of solidarity and joint action to address the increasing challenges posed by climate change.



HE Dr al-Subaie explained Qatar's commitment towards addressing climate challenges and enhancing efforts to encounter them at local, regional and international levels.

"The wide participation at the QNDCC testifies Qatar's firm commitment and efforts," he said, noting that the MoECC is

keen to consider the opinions and ideas.

"The fourth edition focuses on several key themes that will support the sustainable development process and achieve a real transformation in how to deal with the challenges of climate change, including solutions for adapting to the effects of climate change in Qatar," HE Dr al-Subaie



Dignitaries touring the exhibition held as part of the QNDCC.

said, adding that the event is a step toward enhancing Qatar's active role on the international stage in dealing with climate change issues and a new stage in developing capabilities for innovation and finding sustainable solutions.

The chairman of the Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah International Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development, HE Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, said in a video message that climate change is a real and clear global problem.

"The results of climate change are evident in the rise in sea levels and their threat to coastal areas, and the increase in extreme weather phenomena, such as hurricanes, heatwaves, and droughts, which

threaten lives, agriculture, infrastructure and economies, leading to water shortages and food insecurity," he said.

Earthna executive director Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata said that the QNDCC plays a crucial role in forming the country's response to climate change by identifying and shaping the measures and actions to which collective commitment is needed to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt.

German ambassador Lothar Freischlager expressed the pleasure of being the official partner of the fourth edition of the QNDCC.

The dignitaries toured the accompanying exhibition after the opening.

Old Doha Port inks pacts with key partners for Qatar Boat Show 2024

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Old Doha Port led agreements signing yesterday with key partners for the inaugural edition of Qatar Boat Show 2024, strengthening its commitment to foster economic growth and enhance the country's tourism appeal.

In a press statement, Old Doha Port chief executive Mohammad Abdullah al-Mulla highlighted that the event seeks to position the port not only a premier tourist spot in the heart of Doha but also a leader in maritime tourism across the Middle East.

"The Qatar Boat Show will bring together leaders in the maritime community, providing engaging opportunities for all visitors," he said, adding that this occasion caters to all, from experts and enthusiasts to families and friends.

Al-Mulla highlighted the significance of Old Doha Port's latest partnerships, which align with Qatar's broader economic and tourism goals, noting that the Ministry of Transport will serve as a Strategic Partner, Visit Qatar as the Destination Partner, Qatar Airways as the Official Airline Partner, Al Kass Channels as the Strategic Media Partner, Mwan Qatar as a Platinum Sponsor, and QTerminals as a Gold Sponsor.

He said that this highly-anticipated event will feature superyachts and boats, informative workshops, exciting water activities, diverse entertainment options, and valuable networking opportunities.

Visitors will have the chance to explore a wide variety of yachting lifestyle brands, water sports, retail and culinary experiences for all types of attendees.

In addition to showcasing local, regional, and international yachting brands and shipyards, the Qatar Boat Show 2024 will also highlight the essence of luxury yachting and innovation.

Scheduled to take place on November 6-9, Old Doha Port is

preparing to host leaders from the global maritime industry in one prestigious location.

The Qatar Boat Show 2024 will bring together local, regional, and international yachting brands, shipyards, boat owners, and enthusiasts, showcasing the pinnacle of luxury yachting and marine innovation.

According to Old Doha Port, the Qatar Boat Show 2024 promises to be a landmark occasion, further enhancing Qatar's reputation as a premier destination for marine enthusiasts, cementing its position as a global maritime hub.

The Qatar Boat Show 2024 will also provide an opportunity for industry leaders and enthusiasts to



Mohammad Abdullah al-Mulla (third right) led the signing of agreements with key partners yesterday at the City Gallery - Cruise Terminal. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

visit Doha for a spectacular showcase that promises to be an unforgettable experience.

More than 450 exhibitors and brands, along with over 80 boats

and yachts, are expected to participate, making the Qatar Boat Show an integral part of Qatar National Vision 2030's efforts to promote economic growth and tourism.



WCM-Q faculty and students with visiting professors.

WCM-Q welcomes visiting professors

Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) has welcomed residency programme directors from leading US institutions as part of its annual Visiting Professorship Programme (VPP), a statement said.

Initiated in 2013, the VPP strengthens collaboration between the WCM-Q and leading medical institutions from the US.

This year's four-day programme saw participation from leading US medical institutions, including New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Centre, Tufts University School of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic, Memorial Healthcare System, Thomas Jefferson University, Lahey Hospital and Medical Centre, Cincinnati Children's/University of Cincinnati, Emory University School of Medicine, and the University of Alabama.

The programme included clerkship presentations on various topics.

Visiting faculty also covered essential topics in medical education and professional development, including simulation-based curricula for surgical training, competency-based education for medical students, and leadership in healthcare.

They offered practical advice for medical students

transitioning into residency and strategies for training and supporting female surgeons.

WCM-Q 2016 alumna AlReem al-Nabti, now an assistant professor of dermatology at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, also shared insights into her journey from student to faculty member.

The visiting professors toured Hamad General Hospital, Hamad Medical Corporation's Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Centre, West Bay Health Centre of the Primary Health Care Corporation, Sidra Medicine and visited Qatar Foundation.

Dr Thurayya Arayssi, vice-dean for academic and curricular affairs at the WCM-Q, said: "We are delighted to once again host residency programme directors from some of the world's most renowned institutions, offering our medical students a wealth of knowledge and guidance as they prepare for their residencies."

Dr Amine Rakab, assistant professor of clinical medicine and assistant dean for clinical learning at the WCM-Q, said: "Our Visiting Professorship Programme offers students valuable insights into potential career paths and helps them identify residency programmes that best align with their skills, interests, and aspirations."

MIA invites public to explore Ara Guler's legacy

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) has announced a series of public programmes complementing the exhibition "In the Footsteps of Ara Guler: Exploring the Photographer's Legacy"; on view until November 9.

The exhibition delves into the life and work of Ara Guler, the celebrated Turkish photographer and photojournalist.

Presented in collaboration with the Ara Guler Museum in Turkey, the exhibition brings Guler's powerful imagery to life, offering unique insight into his legacy.

The series of programmes began in September.

Members of the public are invited to engage with a range of events designed to deepen understanding of Guler's remarkable work, with activities that include curator-led tours, a special book display, photowalks, and expert masterclasses.

These programmes will provide an enriching platform for learning and interaction, bringing together the local and international photographic communities.

The programmes will be delivered in collaboration with a variety of partners, including the Qatar Museums (QM)'s Archaeology Department and Tasweer, the leading photography festival in Qatar.

Curator-led Tours: Dis-

cover the stories behind the images in "In the Footsteps of Ara Guler: Exploring the Photographer's Legacy" exhibition through a guided tour led by curator Maryam Hassan al-Thani.

Location: MIA, 4th Floor, Temporary Exhibitions Gallery.

October 18, 2pm-3pm; October 22, 3pm-4pm; November 5, 3pm-4pm (A special tour led by the Ara Guler team)

MIA Library Book Display: Explore the connection between Ara Guler and Godfrey Goodwin at the MIA Library's special book display. Guler's photographs often depicted the architectural wonders that Goodwin studied, united by their shared passion for Istanbul's rich history.

Entrance to the exhibition is free with museum admission.

On display until November 9 - Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9am-7pm; Friday: 1.30pm-7pm.

Photowalk in collaboration with Tasweer: These unique photo walks by Mahmut Dahli and Khalifa al-Obaidly are inspired by the themes of Ara Guler's photography. Only limited slots are available.

October 25, 2pm-4pm: Mahmut Dahli Street, meeting point: MIA to Corniche.

In the Footsteps of Ara Guler Photowalk: led by Khalifa al-Obaidly, director of Artist



in Residence and Tasweer Photo Festival.

November 8, 2pm-5pm, meeting point: MIA.

Masterclass by Baar Soysal, Ara Guler Museum team: In collaboration with Tasweer, the session on image conservation and archiving will be led by Soysal conservation specialist at the Ara Guler Museum. At the end of the masterclass series photographers will be given the opportunity to exhibit their work at Tasweer.

Fire Station, Room 101, October 26, 11am-3pm.

Exclusive photographic expeditions: As part of a collaboration between the QM's Archaeology Department and Tasweer, a group of photographers will be invited to visit active excavation sites with the QM's archaeological teams. Limited space available.

Unesco World Heritage, Al Zubarah Archaeological Site, December 6, 2.30pm-6pm.