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Amir, Iran president discuss ties, Gaza and Lebanon developments

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held an official talks session with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Masoud Pezeshkian at Lusail Palace yesterday.

At the beginning of the session, His Highness the Amir welcomed the Iranian president and the accompanying delegation, wishing them a pleasant stay and for relations between the two countries further development and growth in various fields in a way that achieves the interests of the two peoples. His Highness the Amir praised the level of Qatari-Iranian co-operation based on joint interests and good neighbourliness.

For his part, the Iranian president expressed his thanks to His Highness the Amir for the warm reception and generous hospitality, hoping that his first official visit to Qatar would contribute to pushing co-operation to broader horizons in various fields.



The session dealt with relations between the two countries, the means to enhance them in different fields, particularly in economy, energy, and culture. The session also dealt with the most prominent regional and international issues of joint interest, particularly developments in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories as well as Lebanon.

The session was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister

of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qasim al-Thani, HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad



bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, and a number of senior officials.

From the Iranian side, it was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi, Chief of Staff of the Iranian President Dr Mohsen Haji-Mirzai, Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi, Minister of Sports and Youth Ahmad Donyamali, and a number of members of the official delegation accompanying the president.

His Highness the Amir and the

Iranian president also held a bilateral meeting during which they discussed the most important developments in the region and the world, in addition to a number of issues of joint interest.

His Highness the Amir hosted a dinner in honour of the president and his accompanying delegation.

Earlier upon arrival at Lusail Palace, the Iranian president was accorded an official reception ceremony. **Page 12**

Israel massacres dozens of civilians across Gaza Strip

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 65 Palestinians overnight, including in a school sheltering displaced families, medics said, as Israeli tanks advanced in areas of Khan Younis in the south of the enclave. Israeli tanks carried out a raid on several areas in eastern and central Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, before partially retreating, leaving at least 40 people dead and dozens wounded, according to the official Voice of Palestine radio and Hamas media. In Gaza City, at least 22 Palestinians were killed, the medics said. One Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced families in Gaza City killed 17 people, while another hit the Al-Amal Orphan Society, which also houses displaced persons, killing at least five others, the medics said. Later yesterday, an Israeli strike on a school sheltering Palestinian displaced families in Nuseirat in central Gaza killed three people and wounded 15, medics said.

GCC calls for truce in Gaza

The Gulf Co-operation Council affirmed its support for Lebanon during such a "critical stage" and called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the council said late yesterday after holding an extraordinary ministerial meeting in Doha. The meeting was held to discuss the latest regional developments. The council also condemned the escalation of conflict in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories, calling on all involved parties to exercise self-restraint and refrain from violence, it added in a statement.

8 Israeli soldiers die as Hezbollah repels incursion

Hezbollah said it repelled an Israeli infiltration into southern Lebanon yesterday, as Israel reported eight soldiers were killed - its first losses since launching cross-border raids this week. A day after its military said it was conducting "targeted ground raids" in south Lebanon, Israel reported the first death of a soldier in the Israel-Hezbollah war, a toll that later rose to eight dead. Israel bombed Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold, having dealt a significant blow to the group last week.



His Highness the Amir and the Iranian president addressing a joint press conference in Doha yesterday.

Deputy Amir meets Kuwait crown prince



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani welcomed the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah, along with his accompanying delegation, at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. They discussed the strong bilateral fraternal relations and ways to boost them, in addition to several topics of common interest. In attendance were ministers and the members of the official delegation accompanying the crown prince. His Highness the Deputy Amir hosted a dinner banquet in honour of the crown prince and the accompanying delegation. **(QNA) Page 6**

UN chief barred from entering Israel

Israel's foreign minister said yesterday that he was barring UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres from entering the country because he had not "unequivocally" condemned Iran's missile attack on Israel. Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz said Guterres' failure to call out Iran made him persona non grata in Israel. "Anyone who cannot unequivocally condemn Iran's heinous attack on Israel, as nearly all the countries of the world have done, does not deserve to set foot on Israeli soil," Katz said.

Amir: Stop the war in Gaza, Lebanon; Qatar continuing with ceasefire mediation

Joint press statements of Amir, Iranian president

His Highness the Amir

- ◆ The Iranian president and I stressed the importance of exploring potential opportunities for co-operation in the commercial and economic fields.
- ◆ The martyrdom of thousands of people as a result of Israeli aggression puts the entire region on the brink of the abyss and expands the circle of violence.
- ◆ Qatar supports all efforts aimed at reducing escalation and maintaining stability in the region and calls on the international community to take urgent action to compel the Israeli occupation to stop its brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.
- ◆ Qatar continues its efforts to stop the war in Gaza and release the hostages and detainees. Mediation is a strategic option for Qatar.
- ◆ The establishment of an independent, viable Palestinian state is the key to a lasting and sustainable peace in the region.

President Pezeshkian

- ◆ Iran looks forward to strengthening its relations with Qatar in many fields through discussions.
- ◆ Iran is keen on peace and calls for calm. Wars do not serve the interests of countries in the region.
- ◆ Co-operation and brotherhood among Islamic countries have to be enhanced.
- ◆ Co-operation between Qatar and Iran supports the stability and security of the region.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani affirmed that his talks yesterday with President of the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Masoud Pezeshkian addressed areas of co-operation, noting that himself and the Iranian president stressed the importance of exploring potential opportunities for co-operation between the two countries in the commercial and economic fields.

His Highness the Amir explained that the talks are being held in light of the delicate circumstances that the region is going through in terms of the Israeli aggression on Gaza, the West Bank, Al-Aqsa Mosque and Lebanon, pointing out that the martyrdom of thousands of people who were killed and wounded as a result of the aggression puts the entire region on the brink of the abyss, and leads to the expansion of the circle of violence in it.

His Highness the Amir affirmed Qatar's support for any regional or international efforts aimed at reducing escalation and maintaining stability and security in the region, explaining that Qatar calls on the international community to take urgent action to compel the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

His Highness the Amir noted that Qatar has warned of the recent escalation in Lebanon, since the beginning of the increasing Israeli aggression, indicating that it has worked intensively to reach a ceasefire and contain the conflict, stressing that de-escalation in light of these rapid developments means that the occupation army stops its unjust war on brothers in Gaza and the West Bank and its aggression on Lebanon.

Regarding mediation to cease fire, His Highness the Amir affirmed the

continuation of Qatar's efforts and endeavours to stop the war in Gaza and release the hostages and detainees, explaining that mediation is a strategic option for Qatar.

His Highness the Amir also reiterated that the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent, viable Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital is the key to a lasting and sustainable peace in the region, noting that any other

proposals or solutions to circumvent this are doomed to failure.

For his part, the Iranian president expressed his thanks to His Highness the Amir for the warm reception and hospitality, stressing that his country looks forward to strengthening its relations with Qatar through discussions that cover many fields, hoping that the two countries will employ their capabilities to enhance co-operation between them. **(QNA) To Page 12**



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Minister of culture, Brunei's counterpart hold dialogue



HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam Haji Nazmi Haji Mohamad. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed aspects of cultural co-operation. **(QNA)**

Amir receives message from Egyptian president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a written message from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, pertaining to bilateral relations. The message was received by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi during a meeting yesterday with Egypt's ambassador to Qatar Amr Kamal El-Din El-Sherbiny. **(QNA)**



Official

Amir sends cables of congratulations to Nato chief

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Mark Rutte on the occasion of his assumption of the position of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (Nato) Secretary-General, wishing him success in his duties, and for the relations between Qatar and Nato further development and growth. 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 also sent similar cables of congratulations to Rutte.

Cabinet nod for revision of civil human resources law

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting at the Amiri Diwan yesterday morning. After the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi issued the following statement:

The Cabinet considered the topics listed on its agenda as follows:

First - Approval of:

1- A draft law amending some provisions of the Civil Human Resources Law issued by Law No. 15 of 2016, and referring it to the Shura Council.

2- A draft Cabinet decision amending some provisions of the executive regulations of the Civil Human Resources Law issued by the Cabinet's Decision No. 32 of 2016.

The preparation of the draft law is based on the proposal of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau and within the framework of achieving the goals of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, with regard to enhancing the efficiency of the workforce to be ready for the future, providing avenues for excellence for government institutions, and consolidating the strengths of a cohesive society.

The draft law generally aims to improve the work environment, regulate the performance evaluation system and methods, organise incentives and rewards, and

achieve a balance between family life requirements and job duties in government entities.

Second - Approval of:

1- A draft law amending some provisions of Law No. 16 of 2018 regulating non-Qataris' ownership and use of real estate, and referring it to the Shura Council.

2- A draft Cabinet decision amending some provisions of Decision No. 8 of 2019 forming a committee for the regulation of non-Qataris' ownership and use of real estate.

The aim of the aforementioned draft law and decision is to transfer the jurisdiction of the Committee for Regulating Non-Qatari Ownership and Use of Real Estate from the Ministry of Justice to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority.

Third - Approval of a draft Cab-

inet decision amending some provisions of Decision No. 1 of 2021 on the establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Classification and Evaluation of Contractors, Suppliers, and Service Providers.

Fourth - Approval of a draft decision by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry adopting a GCC technical regulation as a Qatari technical regulation.

The preparation of the draft decision comes in line with the ongoing developments in the field of specifications at both global and regional levels and contributes to supporting water conservation policies and preserving the country's natural resources.

Fifth - Approval of:

1- Qatar's accession to the founding statute of the Integrated

Industrial Partnership for Sustainable Economic Development.

2- A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority in Qatar and the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority in Saudi Arabia for co-operation in enhancing integrity, transparency, and the prevention and combating of corruption.

Sixth - The Cabinet reviewed a study by the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau on the views of the relevant entities regarding its recommendations on the results of the evaluation of the experience of reducing working hours for female employees (mothers) in government entities during the mid-academic year vacation 2023-2024, and took the appropriate decision thereon. **(QNA)**

Amir sends cables of condolences to president of Nepal

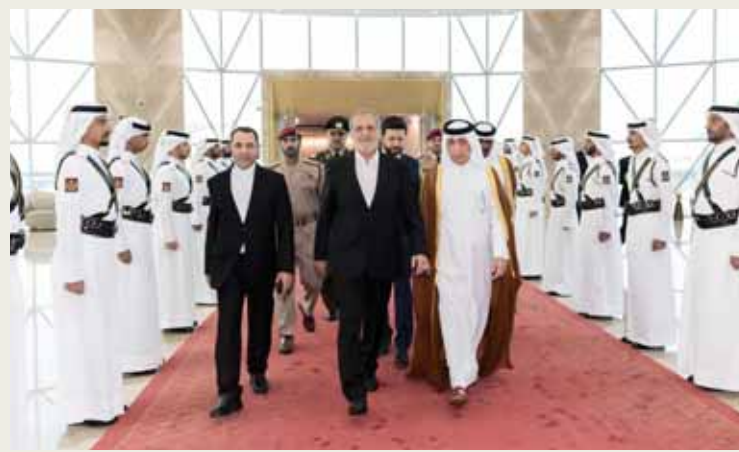
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of condolences to President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel, on the victims of the floods that hit several areas in the country, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of condolences to Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli. **(QNA)**

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon arrived in Doha yesterday to participate in the Third 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 Tajik ambassador to Qatar Nurmurod Mahmadi. **(QNA)**



Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra arrived in Doha yesterday to take part in the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue Summit. She 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 Thai ambassador to Qatar Sira Swangsilpa. **(QNA)**

Leaders welcomed in Doha



Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Doha yesterday, on an official visit to Qatar. 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, Qatar's ambassador to Iran Saad Abdullah Saad al-Mahmoud al-Sharif and Iran's ambassador to Qatar Ali Salehabadi. **(QNA)**

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KDD TOMATO PASTE (135G X 16)

~~24 QR~~
18.50 QR

مشروب باربيكان متنوع ٦ × ٣٣٠ مل
BARBICAN NON-ALCOHOLIC MALT DRINK (330ML X 6) ASSORTED

~~4,999 QR~~
2,599 QR

جوال سامسونج اس ٢٣ الترا
SAMSUNG GALAXY S23 ULTRA

2 Year Warranty

~~129 QR~~
59 QR

خلاط بلاك اند ديكر
BLACK&DECKER BLENDER GRINDER (BX4000-B5)

~~39 QR~~
22 QR

كرسي تخييم متنوع
ALM CAMPING CHAIR (ASSORTED)

~~22 QR~~
8 QR

سائل غسيل الصحون فيري ٢ × ٧٥٠ مل
FAIRY ROSE PETALS DISHWASHING LIQUID 750ML X 2

~~1,549 QR~~
849 QR

ثلاجة ال جي
LG TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR (GR-C3425LBB)

~~279 QR~~
179 QR

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MOTOROLA E14 MOBILE

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ACD top official emphasises on significance of AI in driving innovation

QNA
Doha

The Secretary-General of the Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) ambassador Nasser Thamer al-Mutairi stressed that artificial intelligence (AI) has become essential for commercial operations worldwide and for enhancing efficiency and innovation, as well as being a key factor in changing industry and sectors in general — large and small — and its integration has become a must for any company that wants to maintain its competitiveness.

In his speech during the inauguration of the 2nd ACD Business Forum, the secretary-general added that the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, despite the challenges it posed, accelerated the pace of digital transformation in the world and forced companies to quickly adapt and adopt digital solutions, virtual operations, and automated services. He noted that AI technology played an important role in meeting consumer needs and facing economic challenges until it became the backbone of new business models focusing on quick-decision-based data.

Ambassador al-Mutairi affirmed his commitment to enhancing co-operation among the 35 member states and promoting economic development and technological advancement. He noted that this forum is a valuable platform for exchanging information and in-



The Secretary-General of the Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) ambassador Nasser Thamer al-Mutairi.

vestment opportunities, in addition to strengthening cross-border partnerships, especially since Asia includes more than 60% of the world's population, and its position allows it to play a leading role in AI and technological advancement.

He pointed out that integrating AI into business requires continuous research so that we can learn from our shared experiences. He voiced his hope that the discussions of the forum will contribute to inspiring new ideas and the growth of Asian societies.

In the speech of the ministers of the ACD member states, Foreign Minister of Nepal Dr Arzu Rana Deuba said that AI has witnessed a lot of development and transformation and is no longer just a technological tool, but has become a basic driver in shaping and reshaping the global landscape, governance, and human lives, including education, health, and security.

She addressed the significance of AI in light of the intense global competition, which has become a major turning point, and has entered all fields such as services and goods, through analysing customer data and preferences, and has also contributed as an analytical tool that helps businesses access markets and meet customer needs. It has also contributed to developing informed strategies based on improving resources and efficiency in manufacturing processes and opening windows for dealing between companies to maximise benefits and increase business based on real-time information to respond to dynamic markets.

Deuba discussed the challenges and risks facing developing and least developed countries in the use of AI and its impact on business and industry, its impact on employment and jobs, data privacy, ensuring its security and compliance with regulatory frameworks, in addition to its social and economic impacts, the spread of misleading and malicious information, deepfake, data manipulation, and others.

The Nepalese minister emphasised the importance of the forum to discuss the regulatory frameworks for AI and deal with this extremely important technology to help grow businesses and enhance economic growth. She called for social integration, communication between the peoples of Asia, and strengthening partnerships between Asian nations to harness the capabilities of AI.

Deputy Amir leads well-wishers to welcome Crown Prince of Kuwait



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani led well-wishers to welcome Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah upon his arrival at Doha International Airport yesterday, along with his accompanying delegation, on a visit to participate in the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) Summit. Also present were HE the Minister of State Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Saud al-Thani; ambassador of Qatar to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, and ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar Khaled bin Badr al-Mutairi. (QNA)

Al-Hammadi meets Korean deputy minister



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Korean Deputy Minister for Public Diplomacy Hong Seok-in on the sidelines of the third summit of the Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD). During the meeting, the two sides discussed relations of bilateral co-operation between the two countries and ways to support and develop them. (QNA)

'ACD opportunity to strengthen Qatari-Iranian co-operation'

Iranian ambassador to Qatar Ali Salehabadi noted that Third Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) summit, hosted by Qatar today, presents an opportunity to discuss ways to enhance economic co-operation between Qatar and Iran, as well as consult on bilateral, regional, and international issues, especially given the current complex circumstances and the political, security, and economic crises facing the region and the world.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador said that economic discussions between Qatar and Iran will be among the key topics of the sum-

mit, particularly as relations between the two countries have been continuously developing, reaching advanced levels in recent years.

Salehabadi stressed that the official visit of Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian to Qatar will strengthen the bonds of brotherhood between the Qatari and Iranian peoples and open new horizons in various fields, in light of the good neighbourliness and shared historical ties between the two countries, as well as their growing and deeply rooted relations.

He highlighted the commitment of the leaderships of both coun-

tries to enhance bilateral co-operation in order to elevate political, economic, cultural, educational, health, and judicial relations, along with ongoing high-level co-ordination and consultation on many regional and international issues of mutual interest, as well as ways to achieve peace and security in the region and the world.

Ambassador Salehabadi reaffirmed the strength and resilience of the bilateral relations between Qatar and Iran, pointing to the historical ties and cultural, social, and economic commonalities shared by the two countries and their peoples. (QNA)

Qatar chairs 28th meeting of undersecretaries of GCC culture ministries



Under the presidency of Qatar, the 28th meeting of undersecretaries of the ministries of culture of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries convened in Doha yesterday. The meeting comes in preparation for the 28th meeting of the ministers of culture of the GCC states taking place today, with the aim of solidifying joint cultural work. Assistant Undersecretary for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture Dr Ghanem bin Mubarak al-Ali chaired the meeting.

Ministers share digital transformation experiences in their countries at ACD

A number of ministers participating in the second Business Forum of the Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD), held in Doha yesterday, stressed the significance of artificial intelligence (AI), its applications, and related technology in accelerating the digital transformation in their countries, enhancing the flexibility and sustainability of supply chains, facilitating trade and investment flows, especially since Asia is a promising market based on its population and the availability of skilled workers.

The ministers participating in the forum, held under the theme 'AI and New Businesses', emphasised the importance of AI and advanced technology applications in facilitating trade flows and the major transformations they bring about in the labour market and business sectors and enhancing the flexibility, efficiency and sustainability of global supply chains.

They noted that activating the promising opportunities for artificial intelligence applications and uses and new business models will bring about qualitative shifts in enabling global trade, enhancing productivity, supply chain flex-



ibility, developing skills, and facilitating operational processes. This transformation requires the co-operation of governments, institutions, and business sectors in Asian countries to invest in digital infrastructure, integrate innovation, and develop a modern, flexible, and future-ready continental and global trade system.

In their speeches during the forum's inaugural session, they pointed out that what the world is witnessing today is a new foundational stage in the global economy and international trade that requires co-ordination and concerted efforts through comprehensive partnerships that enhance investments, build



bridges, and achieve governance of the use of AI in the economy and international trade to overcome challenges and ensure common and mutual benefits for all in Asia and the world.

The ministers discussed their countries' experiences in the use of AI and its entry into many fields, the challenges they faced, and their launch of initiatives to accelerate digital transformation in their countries. They noted that they have thus entered a new era of stability, prosperity, and development, and have amended dozens of laws to enhance and create a creative environment in many sectors.

They pointed out that their countries

have created various businesses that rely on AI and related technology, giving priority to manufacturing, tourism, the digital economy, infrastructure development, education, and agriculture.

They urged business sector representatives to explore areas of trade co-operation with their countries and enter into partnerships, especially since they are a fertile environment for these projects, relying on human power and trained labour to achieve mutual interests, ensure global stability and prosperity, and provide better opportunities for future generations.

The ministers participating in the opening session of the forum included Thai Minister of Commerce Pichai Nariphaphan, Co-ordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, Tajikistan's Minister of Economic Development and Trade Zavqizoda Zavqi Amin, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Ahmed al-Zeyoudi, Kazakhstan's Vice-Minister of Trade and Integration Kairat Torebayev and Myanmar's Deputy Minister for Commerce Min Min. (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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to

MARNELLI COLELORIO MERCADO

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SHAIK ZAINAB FATHIMA

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ZAINAB ESA MOHAMAD

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MoPH organises workshops on Qatar's vector management

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), organised two workshops, one on Qatar's National Integrated Vector Management Plan, and the other on Integrated Vector Management and Pesticide Management.

The workshops were attended by 160 participants, including liaison officers and representatives from relevant health authorities across both public and private health sectors, as well as other ministries concerned.

The workshops featured a series of lectures delivered by three consultants from the visiting WHO team. These sessions aimed to raise awareness of Qatar's updated National Integrated Vector Management Plan, which is based on several key pillars: evidence-based decision-making, an integrated approach, awareness, social mobilisation and necessary legislation, enhancing multisectoral collaboration and capacity building.

During the workshops, Qatar's updated National Integrated Vector Management Plan was reviewed, with discussions



highlighting the need for community engagement in disease vector control efforts. Policy guidelines, tools, and areas for monitoring pesticide resistance and management were also updated. The current malaria situation in the Eastern Mediterranean region was also discussed, alongside the growing challenges posed by vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. The workshops also explored initiatives to reinforce capacity building in integrated vector management and pesticide management, along with updating methods for managing vectors effectively.

This included enhancing the medical workforce's capacity in investigation, surveillance, response and vector management. Training was provided to medical staff across public and private health sectors, as well as other relevant ministries, in accordance with WHO guidelines.

Director of Health Protection and Communicable Disease Control at the MoPH Dr Hamad al-Romaihi stressed the importance of developing and implementing Qatar's National Integrated Vector Management Plan to reduce the spread of vector-borne diseases on both a global and regional scale. He noted that various factors, such as climate change, increased humidity, rainfall create optimal conditions for the proliferation of disease-carrying vectors.

At the conclusion of the workshops, practical recommendations were made to enhance multisectoral collaboration, expand efforts to combat and prevent vector-borne diseases, reduce their spread within the country, and ensure the implementation of Qatar's updated National Integrated Vector Management Plan. (QNA)



Awqaf's expo wins praise from visitors

An exhibition highlighting the distinctiveness and the significance of the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has won praise from visitors.

Being held at Awqaf's women's activities division office at Al Waab until October 10, the educational expo is organised by the Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance.

More than 200 students and visitors from Awqaf's Al Noor Qura'n Centre, Al Saliya Sports Club, Al Arabi Sports Club, Al Wakrah Sports Club, Qatar Sports Club, Al Sadd Sports Club, Barzan Youth Centre, Doha Youth Centre, Semaisma Youth Centre and Al Dhaayen Youth Centre visited the expo.



The exhibition includes a large number of pictures, brief educational and illustrative tools about the Prophet's (PBUH) biography, illustrative maps and the most prominent Hadiths that contain advice for the individual and society. It aims to introduce school students, clubs, youth centres and

the public to the Sunnah and its role in the life of a Muslim in addition to arousing feelings of love for the Prophet (PBUH) and instilling meanings of glorification of the Prophet (PBUH). The exhibition is open to the public, school students, clubs and youth centres on Thursdays from 4pm-8pm.

Registration opens for GSMA M360 Mena's Doha debut

November event will bring together top experts for discussions on impact of mobile technology

The GSMA has officially opened registration for the GSMA M360 Mena 2024 to be held for the first time in Qatar under the patronage of HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai.

Hosted by Ooredoo, the event will take place on November 18 and 19 at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel.

M360 Mena will bring together C-suite executives, policymakers, and technology leaders for in-depth discussions and debates, focusing on the transformative impact of mobile technology on economies and societies across the Mena region.

The agenda will emphasise industry-wide collaboration, with a focus on initiatives like the GSMA Open Gateway. The event will also explore how innovations in AI, 5G, and digital infrastructure are reshaping business models and driving digital inclusion.

Confirmed speakers include Aziz Aluthman Fakhro, Group CEO of Ooredoo, and Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammed al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Qatar.

HE al-Mannai said: "Digital transformation is vital to Qatar's development strategy. With mobile advancements and regional collaboration, we aim to build a resilient digital infrastructure that drives sustainable growth and enhances the quality of life for our citizens. M360 Mena is a crucial platform to exchange insights, form digital partnerships, and to accelerate innovative technology adoption."

GSMA director general Mats Granryd said: "Hosting M360 Mena for the first time in Doha marks a significant milestone for the region. This event will showcase the transformative power of



Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammed al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Qatar.



HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai.

mobile technology across industries, highlighting innovations in AI, 5G, and digital infrastructure. We invite everyone to engage, explore and witness firsthand how connectivity is shaping the future for the Mena region."

Sheikh Ali said: "This event is a powerful testament to the region's role as a global digital hub and aligns perfectly with Ooredoo's commitment to fostering innovation, advancing digital infrastructure, and driving digital inclusion. We look forward to welcoming industry leaders from across the globe and showcasing the transformative potential of AI, 5G and next-generation technologies."

The Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region has become a global hub for digital innovation, with a digital economy predicted to rise from \$180bn to \$780bn by 2030. M360 Mena's packed agenda will begin with a high-profile opening ceremony featuring HE al-Mannai, GSMA head of Mena Jawad Abbassi, and Fakhro.

Al-Mannai will deliver an opening speech, followed by Granryd and Sheikh Ali discussing the transformative power of 5G, AI, and the API economy in shaping the region's digital future.

Over two days, M360 Mena will

highlight major partnerships that are accelerating digital transformation across industries. Mikhail Gerchuk, CEO of Power International Holding; Sergey Nazarenko, CEO of Tele2 Kazakhstan; Mohamed-Slim Alouini, distinguished professor at KAUST; Erol Ozguner, CIO of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality; Lara Dewar, GSMA's chief marketing officer; and Andrew Dunnett, SVP of Sustainability and ESG at e&; will share their insights on the future of tech. Keynotes and sessions across the two days will spotlight collaborations driving digitisation across industries, featuring speakers, including Dunnett, Dewar, Ozguner, Gerchuk, Alouini and Nazarenko.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage with leading global exhibitors like China Mobile, Comarch, iHorizons, and Protei, which will showcase cutting-edge solutions that are reshaping industries. Presented by the GSMA, M360 is a series of global events that unify the regional mobile ecosystem. The events aim to discover, develop and deliver innovation that serves as the foundation for positive business environments and societal change.

National Traffic Safety panel honours award winners



The National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC) at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) yesterday honoured winners of the Traffic Safety Research Awards. This was part of the activities of the 16th National Week for Academic Research and Innovation, held from September 29-October 3, a MoI statement said. The awards ceremony was attended by NTSC secretary Brigadier Dr Mohammed Radi al-Hajri. This year, six research projects were awarded across the three educational levels. The winning research addressed issues such as traffic congestion around schools and proposed solutions, encouraging the use of school buses, speeding problems and their consequences, mechanisms for tracking traffic violations, as well as reckless behaviour of drivers, passengers and road users.



QF teachers visit Green Island recycling hub



Teachers from Qatar Foundation (QF) have visited the recently opened Green Island recycling facility at Education City to gain a better understanding of how the space can be used for learning experiences. The visit to QF's unique, community-centric recycling hub - which aims to inspire a new generation of environmental leaders and advocates for sustainability - was part of the ongoing Qatar Sustainability Week 2024. Teachers can schedule school activities and workshops within Green Island, and also connect school projects and campaigns, such as sustainability initiatives for plastic-free month, to the facility. More information about Green Island is available from <https://www.qf.org.qa/green-island>



Closure at Sharg Intersection



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a temporary partial closure of Sharg Intersection for those heading left from the C-Ring Road towards Ras Abu Abboud Road (towards Al Rufaa Interchange) from midnight on October 4 until October 6 morning. The closure in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic is to implement works within the Flood Prevention Scheme - Phase 3. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and has requested all to abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.

Fire Station in call for NY, Paris residencies

Fire Station: Artist in Residence has announced the open call for two of its residency programmes, the three-month 2024 New York Residency and the three-month 2024 Paris Residency. Applications will be open until November 2 and offer unique opportunities for selected artists. Fire Station's Artist in Residence programme is nearing its ninth edition and has since expanded to include a three-month residency at the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York City and a similar three-month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts (Cité des Arts) in Paris. These programmes offer an opportunity for emerging artists to

showcase their talent and creativity on an international platform. They also offer a chance for the artist to engage with the international community, explore diverse cultural perspectives, and develop their creative practice. In a press statement, Fire Station director Khalifa al-Obaidly said: "These programmes highlight Fire Station's commitment to fostering an environment of artistic development and progressing Qatar's art scene." Saida al-Khulaifi, head of Programmes and Exhibitions of Fire Station, added: "By the end of the programmes, the selected artists will gain enriched perspectives and newly developed skills, ready to

showcase their work and prove their mettle on the global stage." Applications are open for artists from all nationalities who are above 21 years of age. The applicant must hold a Qatar ID card valid for at least six months, must be born in Qatar or have lived in Qatar for at least 10 years and pass the jury committee selection process. The applicant is responsible to apply for the visa and provide it one month before starting the programme. The applicant's visa should be for the whole residency term: three months for the US and 90 days visa for France. Only one artist will be selected for each residency per residency term.



New York residency building



Paris residency building

'A Night of Mozart' concert on Oct 4



Daniel Hrinda



Peter Davida



Rony Moser

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) will perform 'A Night of Mozart' concert tomorrow at the Qatar National Convention Centre, Auditorium 3. The concert features conductor Andreas Weiser, alongside a distinguished quartet of wind soloists. The concert commences with the spirited overture to "The Marriage of Figaro," an opera buffa in four acts that ranks among the ten most frequently performed operas globally.

Following this, soloists German Diaz Blanco, Rony Moser, Daniel Hrinda, and Peter Davida will take the spotlight for the "Sinfonia Concertante." This composition exemplifies Mozart's exceptional ability to harmonise solo instruments with the orchestra. It represents one of the most celebrated musical forms of Mozart's era, known in Italian as "sinfonia concertante," which merges the symphony's rich sound with structural clarity, showcasing its charm and melodious nature.

The evening will conclude with Mozart's final and arguably most magnificent symphony, the "Jupiter." Symphony No. 41 is marked by profound serenity and expressive power, blending the traditional fugal style in its finale with the classical balance of sonata form in its first, second, and fourth movements. Its innovative orchestration employs woodwinds independently, enhancing their unique timbral identity and contributing to greater formal clarity.

Disney On Ice returns to Doha

Visit Qatar welcomes back to Doha the new instalment of Disney On Ice presents "Let's Celebrate!", an all-new show for families and Disney fans of all ages. Produced by Feld Entertainment Inc, the show will take place from November 22 to 30 at the Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena. Mickey Mouse is joined by Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy on a journey to discover his favourite memories. Using Mickey's "Mouse Pad", show hosts encourage fans to be part of the action and help the gang venture through Disney stories, sharing memorable moments from treasured tales.



talabat is new Nojoom partner



Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari and Francisco Miguel De Sousa at a signing ceremony.

Ooredoo has announced that talabat has become one of its Nojoom loyalty programme partners. Founded in 2004 and currently operating in eight markets across the region, talabat has become a household name - conveniently connecting customers to restaurants, pharmacies, grocery shops, and speciality stores. Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, director of PR, Sponsorships and

CSR at Ooredoo Qatar, said: "By joining forces, we can significantly enhance the Nojoom programme, offering our customers not only increased flexibility and variety but also access to higher-quality rewards." Francisco Miguel De Sousa, managing director of talabat Qatar, said: "This partnership underscores talabat's commitment to continuously enhancing our offerings. We look forward

to expanding our partnerships to allow for better opportunities and incentives for our valued customers to spend and redeem more conveniently." This strategic alliance is the latest in a series of successful collaborations within the Nojoom programme, which includes partnerships with both local and international brands across various industries, the statement added.

Students in smart shopper programme



Al Daayen Municipality in co-operation with Al Meera Consumer Goods Company organised a smart shopper activity to introduce students to the best ways to choose food products. The students were briefed on how to store these foods to avoid any potential damage and loss. The event was organised as part of marking the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss.

Tree-planting campaign



On the occasion of Qatar Sustainability Week 2024, the Ministry of Municipality represented by Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality in co-operation with Qatar Leadership Academy organised a campaign as part of the Plant One Million Trees initiative, aimed at enhancing the green cover of the country and support environmental sustainability.

Qatar Airways' new Toronto service begins from Dec 11

Qatar Airways will launch a new service to Toronto Pearson International Airport, from December 11, with three weekly non-stop flights from Doha's Hamad International Airport, a statement said. As the airline's 14th gateway to the Americas, the new Toronto route marks the airline's second destination in Canada, joining Montreal, which has served more than 1.6mn passengers across seven daily flights to and from Montreal-Trudeau International Airport since its launch. The new Toronto service will be operated by a Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, equipped with 42 Qsuite business class seats and 312 economy class seats. Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed al-Meer, said: "The Toronto route is a strong and en-



Operated by a Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, equipped with 42 Qsuite business class seats and 312 economy class seats, the new Toronto service will provide travellers from Canada and beyond with "seamless access" to destinations across Qatar Airways' extensive global network.

during commitment towards providing Qatar Airways' Canadian customers with the enhanced connectivity they deserve, as well as access to our world-leading service and Qsuite in-flight product."

Qatar Airways currently flies to more than 170 destinations worldwide, connecting through its Doha hub and continues to expand on its global network, the statement added.

LuLu Hypermarket partners with QCS for breast cancer awareness

LuLu Hypermarket has once again demonstrated its commitment to community well-being by supporting the 'Strides in Pink' campaign launched by the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) on October 1, a statement said. The initiative aims to raise awareness about breast cancer throughout October, globally recognised as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As part of its support, LuLu Hypermarket has introduced the 'Shop and Donate' campaign, in which a portion of the proceeds from over 1,000 selected products will be donated to support QCS's breast cancer awareness programmes. "This contribution is a reflection of LuLu Hypermarket's Corporate Social Responsibility and its ongoing efforts to align with Qatar's National Vision 2030," it was explained. In line with the campaign, LuLu showroom staff have embraced the symbolic pink ribbon, a global emblem of breast cancer

awareness, to engage with customers and promote the importance of early detection and adopting a healthy lifestyle as preventive measures. The pink ribbon serves as a visual reminder of the critical need for awareness to encourage more individuals to prioritise their health. QCS general manager Mona Ashkanani expressed appreciation for LuLu's continued support, stating: "This initiative is another significant contribution from LuLu Hypermarket in helping QCS achieve its vision of becoming a community partnership platform, positioning Qatar as a leader in cancer prevention and control. Through our collaboration with partners like LuLu, we aim to educate, support, and advocate for individuals affected by cancer, while advancing professional development and research in the field." She also thanked LuLu's management and staff for their unwavering commitment to



supporting patients who cannot afford the costs of cancer treatment, thereby alleviating their financial burden. As part of the co-operation, QCS will be

present in LuLu stores throughout the month to engage with shoppers, share information about the campaign, and encourage early screening.



In last year's campaign, LuLu Hypermarket's efforts led to a donation of QR125,000 to QCS from the sales of selected products, further highlighting its dedication to cancer awareness and support. LuLu's long-standing partnership with QCS is a testament to its deep-rooted responsibility to

the health and well-being of the community. By supporting this campaign, LuLu Hypermarket continues to play a pivotal role in the fight against breast cancer, driving awareness, and contributing to the ongoing efforts to make Qatar a leader in cancer prevention, the statement added.

The Plaza Doha gets new GM

The Plaza Doha, LXR Hotels & Resorts announced the appointment of Ahmet Antepli as its new general manager. Born and raised in Qatar, Antepli, a Turkish national, has a deep-rooted connection to the region and brings extensive international expertise to his new role at the luxury 290-rooms and suites hotel owned by Samrya Group.

"The Plaza is an extraordinary property, defined by its timeless elegance, exceptional service, and unique experiences"

Fluent in Arabic, Turkish, and English, his multicultural background mirrors Qatar's rich diversity and positions him as a uniquely suited leader for this property, a statement said yesterday.

As general manager, Antepli will oversee all aspects of the hotel, ensuring The Plaza Doha continues to offer its signature French-inspired palatial luxury.

Antepli's career spans over two decades and includes pre-opening and conversion projects across Turkiye, Qatar,



Ahmet Antepli

the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

"The Plaza is an extraordinary property, defined by its timeless elegance, exceptional service, and unique experiences," Antepli said. "From our luxurious suites to the stunning rooftop infinity pool and our exceptional dining experiences, we are committed to delivering an unparalleled guest experience."

The Plaza Doha, LXR Hotels and Resorts is part of Hilton Honors, the award-winning guest loyalty programme for Hilton's 24 world-class hotel brands, the statement added.



Qatar University's CCP students support Gaza's resilience

Qatar University (QU) concluded a two-day event titled 'Gaza: The Nation's Pain and Pride', organised by students from the Community Service Learning (UNIV 220) and Leadership, Innovation, and Civic Engagement (UNIV 200) courses, part of the Core Curriculum Programme (CCP).

Aiming to raise awareness and support for the Palestinian cause, in collaboration with Qatar Charity, the event underscored the role of volunteerism in building leadership skills and foster community engagement among students, a statement said.

The event drew significant attendance from both the student body and faculty, reflecting widespread support for the Palestinian people. A range of activities, including a charity auction and a student-organised charity market, were held to encourage involvement and contributions to the cause. These efforts resulted in a donation of QR148,773, with an additional QR22,825 raised through the charity auction.

The event was held across two venues, the College of Business and Economics for male students and the GCR building for female students, providing space for all participants to contribute meaningfully.

Dr Mohammad al-Khohaj, UNIV 220 course co-ordinator, said: "This event embodies the spirit of community solidarity among our students and members of Qatari society at large. It is an opportunity to apply community service principles to important humanitarian issues."

Dr Ola Shadid, the UNIV 200 course co-ordinator, highlighted the event's role in shaping a proactive youth community. "We are proud of our students' commitment to national issues. Such events highlight the role of youth in building a conscious and proactive community that seeks to achieve positive change."

Nesreen Koffa, UNIV 220 lecturer and auction co-organiser, remarked: "We felt great support



from students during this event, as the charity auction was an opportunity not only to raise funds but also to enhance the spirit of giving and participation among students."

Jasem Fakhro, an engineering student, shared his motivation for participating, stating: "My

presence at the event is part of my support for the Palestinian cause. Such events reaffirm the concept of Arab and Islamic solidarity and that all Muslims are one nation."

English Literature student Shahd al-Mraikhi said: "My classmates and I participated in

this event with a booth through which we raised awareness of the Palestinian cause. The booth featured a mural where students expressed their support of our brothers in Palestine, particularly Gaza. We also welcomed financial and in-kind support for the Palestinian cause."

Queen's Qatar opens doors in Al Markhiya

Queen's Qatar, the latest addition to Doha's educational landscape, opened its doors yesterday, welcoming its first cohort of students from FS1 to Year 9, a statement said.

Located in Al Markhiya, the school is part of the Artemis Education group. Leading Queen's Qatar is founding principal, Ann Djedid, a seasoned international educator with over 30 years of experience. Her background spans roles in teaching, school leadership, and curriculum development across the Middle East and Africa.

"It is an honour to lead Queen's Qatar as we embark on this exciting journey," said Ann Djedid. "Our aim is to create a school where every student feels empowered, inspired, and supported to reach their fullest potential. We are committed to fostering an



environment that not only values academic achievement but also promotes empathy, creativity, and a strong sense of community."

Queen's Qatar's mission is to develop purposeful, proactive learners who are ready to face the challenges of an ever-evolving world, it was explained. Following a British curriculum infused with international perspectives, Queen's Qatar offers education from FS1 to Year 9 in its inaugural year.

"The curriculum combines academic rigour with a strong emphasis on personal and social development, ensuring students are well-rounded and prepared for the future. With subjects ranging from core academics to modern languages, arts, and physical education, students receive a comprehensive and balanced education. "Queen's Qatar places a spe-

cial emphasis on the Early Years Foundation Stage, providing young learners with a solid foundation for their future education. The EYFS programme encourages communication, creativity, and independence, while fostering collaboration between teachers, parents, and caregivers to support each child's individual journey.

"Queen's Qatar offers a rich co-curricular programme through The Artemis Experience, designed to encourage students to explore their passions and talents beyond the classroom. From sports to the arts, students have the opportunity to engage in activities that build life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and creativity.

"The modern campus at Queen's Qatar boasts cutting-edge facilities designed to support both academic and extracurricular activities. With

technology-enhanced classrooms, specialised labs, art and music studios, and comprehensive sports facilities, the school offers a dynamic environment where students can thrive.

"As a member of Artemis Education, Queen's Qatar benefits from the group's network of expertise, resources, and a shared commitment to continuous improvement."

"We are incredibly proud to see Queen's Qatar open its doors to its first students," said Niall Brennan, CEO of Artemis Education. "This school embodies our vision of creating inspiring, innovative learning environments where students are equipped not just with academic skills, but with the qualities needed in a globalised world. We look forward to watching Queen's Qatar grow and flourish under Ann's leadership."



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China economy needs a stimulus package

In January, shortly before the Chinese government set its annual growth target at 5%, it was estimated that if net exports stopped declining, achieving 5% growth would require boosting investment growth to 5.3%, given a slowdown in consumption this year. To offset the expected sharp decline in real-estate investment, these calculations suggested that infrastructure investment would need to “increase significantly” – a goal that seemed within reach at the time.

But the latest data show that China's annual consumption growth, measured by total retail sales of consumer goods, was just 3.4% in August. Spending on fixed assets, a proxy of investment growth, was similarly weak at 3.4%. Although net exports increased by roughly 8%, they account for just 2.5% of GDP, rendering their contribution negligible.

To be sure, the Chinese economy has historically experienced higher GDP growth in the final quarter of the year, and the real growth rates of the aggregates may be higher because of negative producer price index growth. But it is clear that without significant government intervention, China will struggle to reach its 5% growth target for 2024.

China's GDP growth rate has steadily declined over the past decade, falling from 10.6% in 2010 to 6.1% in 2019 and 5.2% in 2023. China's CPI has been in negative territory for much of this period, while the consumer price index has increased by less than 2% on average since 2012, recently falling below 1%.

China's “economic miracle” of maintaining an average annual growth rate of 10% is over

It is fair to say that China's “economic miracle” of maintaining an average annual growth rate of 10% is over. Still, one believes that with wise macroeconomic policy, market-oriented reforms, and a genuine commitment to opening up its economy, the economy should be able to maintain a solid growth rate of 5-6% for the foreseeable future.

Chinese economists have debated for years whether policymakers

should adopt more expansionary fiscal and monetary policies to stimulate GDP growth, or focus instead on structural reforms aimed at eliminating overcapacity. But given this year's lacklustre economic performance, their views are increasingly aligned. In fact, one could even say that all Chinese economists now advocate expansionary measures.

On September 24, the People's Bank of China lowered banks' mandatory reserve ratio by 50 basis points and cut its benchmark policy rate by 0.2 percentage points. To stabilise the property market, the PBoC also cut interest rates on existing mortgages by 0.5% and reduced the minimum down payment on second homes from 25% to 15%. Governor Pan Gongsheng revealed plans to boost the stock market by providing institutional investors with liquidity support.

Financial markets reacted positively to these surprising measures, with the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges rising by 4.2% and 4.4%, respectively, on the day of the PBoC announcement. But when the economy is caught in a liquidity trap, the central bank's role is limited, requiring the government to step in. Consequently, public attention has now shifted to the Ministry of Finance.

As GDP growth slows, economists are increasingly urging the government to introduce a large-scale stimulus package. In 2023, China's budget-deficit-to-GDP ratio was 3%, and its total debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 24%, suggesting that the government certainly has the capacity to pursue an expansionary fiscal policy.

Of course, not everyone agrees with this assessment. Fitch Ratings, for example, estimates that China's government budget deficit will reach 7.1% of GDP in 2024, while the debt-to-GDP ratio will increase to 61.3%. Notably, China's fiscal risks may be greater than these figures suggest, given the government's implicit support for heavily indebted local-government financing vehicles.

Despite these concerns, China's fiscal resources remain substantial compared to other major economies. Moreover, the country's high savings rate helps it maintain an international investment surplus of nearly \$3tn. And while GDP growth has slowed, it is still robust enough to cover interest payments on government debt. – Project Syndicate



Climate change is making us sick

By Paul Hudson
Paris

In Australia, California, the Amazon, and many other places nowadays, red skies, glowing and thick with smoke and ash, have become increasingly common. Beyond destroying homes, wildlife, and ecosystems, wildfires often cause air quality to deteriorate sharply, with serious consequences for human health.

Even in normal times, 99% of all people breathe air that exceeds World Health Organisation air-quality limits. But disasters such as wildfires make matters far worse: as air pollution and airborne allergens increase, so do hospital admissions for respiratory ailments, even in areas far from the blaze.

Last year, during the 19 days when smoke from wildfires in Canada was wafting over the US, emergency-room visits for asthma were 17% higher than normal.

With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of such disasters, the health impact will only grow. People suffering from respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), are at particularly high risk, owing to their susceptibility to air pollution and allergens.

Rising temperatures compound the problem: one study found that COPD

hospitalisations rise by 1.5% for every 1°C increase above 23.2°C.

People with certain allergies are also vulnerable to respiratory issues as climate change progresses. For example, over the past 20 years, the combination of rising temperatures and increased levels of carbon dioxide in the air has caused pollen counts to increase steadily. Already, climate change has brought an increase in new diagnoses of respiratory diseases, while exacerbating the symptoms of those who already suffer.

The same is true for immunity-related diseases, as many of the same environmental factors that affect the respiratory system – such as higher temperatures and increased airborne allergens – put the immune system under stress. This often results in inflammatory conditions, which contribute to more than half of all deaths globally.

Moreover, a robust body of evidence links outdoor air pollution to skin conditions, such as hyperpigmentation, atopic dermatitis, and psoriasis. The effects of climate change can also exacerbate other diseases that affect the immune system, including infectious diseases like meningitis and neglected tropical diseases.

Taking cover indoors cannot keep us safe. Indoor air pollution – which is also exacerbated by climate change – is responsible for an estimated 1.6mn deaths annually, more than half of

which are children under five years old in countries that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Given the worsening climate crisis, urgent action is needed to protect human health. For starters, the healthcare sector must identify key environmental risks created or exacerbated by climate change, clarify their potential health implications, and strengthen responses to – and prevention of – the relevant conditions and diseases. Healthcare pipelines must be supplemented with targeted treatments.

Any effort to deal with the health effects of climate change should make use of artificial intelligence. AI will undoubtedly play an important role in climate action: research shows that, by scaling currently proven applications and technology alone, AI could help reduce global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by as much as 10% by 2030, equivalent to the annual emissions of the entire European Union. AI can significantly bolster climate-related adaptation and resilience initiatives as well.

On the health front, by detecting patterns of incidence of potential climate events, AI can help us to identify and prepare vulnerable populations and develop plans for responding to extreme weather events before they happen.

AI has already proven its ability to predict events like heat waves. This predictive

capacity means that AI can also help to improve the efficiency of renewable-energy sources like wind and solar, optimize energy grids, and reduce downtime in energy production.

Finally, the healthcare sector should work with local and philanthropic organisations and community workers to get treatments to those who need them most.

Low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately affected by climate change, owing to a range of factors, including food insecurity, exposure to polluted air, lack of clean water and sanitation, and limited access to quality medicines and vaccines. With many of the most vulnerable communities also the hardest to reach, on-the-ground support from those who are most familiar with local conditions will be essential.

When it comes to limiting the health effects of climate change, there is no substitute for global action to limit temperature rise, especially by eliminating GHG emissions. But some amount of global warming is unavoidable, so devising strategies for dealing with associated health risks, especially among the most vulnerable patients and communities, is essential. The application of AI and effective collaboration among relevant organisations should be central to such plans. – Project Syndicate

• Paul Hudson is CEO of Sanofi.



Smoke billows from a forest fire affecting the Brasilia National Park in Brasilia. Brazil is suffering the effects of a multiplication of fires from north to south in the midst of an extreme drought linked to climate change.

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New Tasdeer trademark a boost for Qatari exporters

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

The new trademark of Tasdeer, Qatar Development Bank's (QDB) Export Development, Finance, and Promotion Agency, is seen to usher in a new era of services for Qatari exporters.

QDB CEO Abdulrahman Hesham al-Sowaidi made the statement during the recent launching of the trademark 'Qatar Exports' as part of efforts to boost Qatari exports, enhance the competitiveness of Qatari products and streamline access to global markets.

The event showcased QDB's latest initiatives and solutions in providing financial and logistical support to Qatari exporters to enhance competitiveness in international markets and an important step towards achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030, which seeks to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on the energy sector.

Al-Sowaidi said over the years, Tasdeer has worked to modernise and develop various services and programmes to keep up with the latest developments and changing market dynamics.

"We have accompanied Qatari exporters through all stages of their journey, from securing and promoting their exports to providing financing solutions to sustain their growth. Our efforts enabled Qatari companies to access 98 international markets by the end of last year.

"Through this initiative, we seek to strengthen Qatar's global presence and enable Qatari SMEs to export their products to new markets in line with the Third National Development Strategy, reflecting our strong belief in the key role that exports play in enhancing Qatar's position in international trade."

"Introducing 'Qatar Exports' represents a strategic step towards achieving our aspirations in terms of empowering the private sector to contribute effectively to Qatar's sustainable development."

In the context of its latest initiative, QDB plans to open Qatar Exports offices across the region and



QDB CEO Abdulrahman Hesham al-Sowaidi delivers a speech during the launch of Tasdeer's new trademark, 'Qatar Exports'.
PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

throughout the world. In line with its revamped strategy, QDB will first cement Qatar's presence in regional markets across the GCC before expanding to international ones, all while strengthening Qatar's trade partnerships with neighbouring countries and other strategic markets, according to its export priorities.

These offices will streamline the entry of Qatari products and services to new markets, and facilitate matchmaking between Qatari exporters and international buyers, while also providing exporters with valuable insights on laws, regulations and market opportunities.

Within the framework of Qatar Exports, QDB introduced 'Going Global', a tailor-made bundle of solutions designed to support SMEs in expanding internationally through direct and indirect financing solutions.

Under the Buyer's Credit Programme, QDB provides financial support to enable international buyers to purchase goods, raw materials, machinery, equipment, and services from Qatari exporting companies leveraging Shariah-compliant, flexible and long-term payment terms. Through this programme, QDB provides attractive credit solutions to international clients of Qatari exporting companies on par with major international export credit agencies. Credit solutions include loans, guarantees, and insurance extending up to 20 years according to the importer's needs, which would enhance demand for Qatari products.

To date, QDB has approved QR2.7bn in long-term buyer cred-

its for GCC importers and provided over QR500mn in medium-term lines of credit to Mena banks, engaging export credit agencies around the world to enable Qatari exporters to participate in international supply chains.

Al-Sowaidi said QDB has already concluded memoranda of understanding with export credit agencies in Italy, France, the UK, the US, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye, among other countries, making it easier for Qatari exporters to engage contractors in these markets.

In terms of financing exports, QDB will support companies seeking to kick start or expand their operations overseas through its Internationalisation Financing programme. Under the programme, QDB provides Shariah-compliant direct financing, as well as guarantees to Qatari partner banks and international financial institutions.

Qatari exporters can also benefit from the Whole Turnover Insurance, which provides the necessary protection against post-shipment risks if approved overseas buyers fail to pay for exports.

The programme is based on flexible and effective mechanisms that save companies time and effort.

To support Qatari contractors with their international expansion plans, QDB also introduced the Overseas Contract Financing (OCF) programme, which provides guarantees to Qatari partner banks and international financial institutions.

The product covers funding for various international projects, from construction to technical consultancy. Through medium to long-term financing that can be extended based on the contractor's creditworthiness, OCF enables Qatari contractors to expand to global markets, contributing to the growth of Qatar's economy.

Through this integrated support, QDB continues to serve as a strategic partner for Qatari exporters regardless of their legal structure to enable firms operating in free, economic, and industrial zones, to access its products and services in line with its belief in the importance of diversifying Qatar's business landscape.

Gord's Synergia9n1 hybrid cooling system unveiled at QSTP

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) unveiled yesterday, its award-winning hybrid cooling system, showcasing a technology that offers a 50% improvement in energy efficiency compared to conventional systems.

Held at Gord's TechnoHub research centre at Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), the first public demonstration of Synergia 9n1 was witnessed by more than 300 attendees (physically and remotely), including researchers, government officials, engineers and sustainability experts, among others.

With funding from the Qatar National Research Fund, the innovative and ultra-efficient system was developed by Gord's founding chairman Dr Yousef Alhorr and his team at the Gord Institute.

"Look at the performance of the Synergia9n1, the more challenging condition the better the performance," he said during his presentation, noting that it has been tested year-round, especially during the hottest and humid summer period.

Synergia9n1 has received widespread international acclaim, including UK Patent Office approval, World Intellectual Property Organisation registration, the Association of Energy Engineers' 2022 Energy Innovation of the Year award (in the US), and the League of Arab States' 2024 Best Patent in Energy Efficiency Award.

Synergia9n1 is designed to cool and ventilate both open and indoor spaces while reducing its impact on the environment. It can work in one, two, or three different modes depending on the weather and the desired temperature for the space being cooled.

"Synergia 9n1 is our com-



Dr Yousef Alhorr at the live demonstration of Synergia9n1 yesterday at Gord's TechnoHub research centre at QSTP.
PICTURES: Thajudheen



A view of the audience at the event.

mitment to combating climate change through actionable solutions tailored for harsh hot and humid climate encountered in many geographic locations across the world," Alhorr said.

"By achieving up to 50% energy savings, Synergia not only reduces our carbon footprint but also enables the cooling of outdoor areas, allowing communities to embrace and enjoy their natural surroundings."

Gord, having completed the locally-manufactured commercial prototype of Synergia 9n1 cooling solution, is actively seeking partners for commercialisation.

"For end-users, now we are looking for investors to invest either to manufacture here in

Qatar or to align with AC existing brands so that we can license them this technology, to use it as one extra line of their products. Two options here, we are looking for investors and collaborators," Alhorr told reporters on the sidelines of the event.

Synergia9n1's broad applicability spans diverse settings, from open-air sports and entertainment venues to centrally air-conditioned buildings needing fresh air, and from hospitals and clean rooms to temporary, off-grid facilities, greenhouses and even barns.

"For target users, there are so many applications for it, it can be big malls, parks, souqs, greenhouses, all those applications are targeted," Alhorr added.

DHFC partners with QSW



Earthna executive director Gonzalo Castro de la Mata and DHFC's Christopher Barton.

Doha Festival City (DHFC) has announced its partnership with Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW), organised by Earthna Center for Sustainable Future and running until October 5.

Aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, DHFC continues to implement impactful sustainability initiatives, a statement said yesterday. Since 2022, DHFC has recycled 2,286.29 tonnes of waste and reduced overall mall waste by 16%.

Office recycling efforts have achieved a 38% reduc-

tion in plastic bottle consumption and a 59% decrease in plastic bottle box orders. DHFC's Food Digester Machine converts wet waste into greywater for irrigation, while reverse vending machines have recycled 463,273 tonnes of plastic and cardboard.

With 23 EV charging stations facilitating 4,029 sessions by June 2024, and advanced water recycling systems reducing fresh water usage by 35%, these innovations, alongside energy-efficient LED lighting, have led to a 25% drop in energy consumption at DHFC.

Following QSW, DHFC will continue its efforts with a Tarsheed-led activation running from October 24 to November 7, aimed at educating the younger generation on recycling and sustainability.

"Our partnership with Qatar Sustainability Week 2024 is a natural extension of Doha Festival City's long-standing commitment to sustainability," said Christopher Barton, director, Asset Management, DHFC.

Shireen Obeidat, head of Partnerships and Outreach at Earthna, said: "Building on the success and momentum from Qatar Sustainability Week 2023, we are poised to continue driving impactful action. This year, we are committed to expanding our efforts, and initiatives like those taking place at Doha Festival City demonstrate that by working together, we can build a better tomorrow."

Qatar Charity in co-operation pact with Morocco's ministry of solidarity



Qatar Charity signed a co-operation and partnership agreement with Morocco's Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration, and Family. This collaboration aims to unite their efforts to efficiently and effectively achieve their shared goals, contributing to comprehensive development efforts.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration, and Family of Morocco Aawatif Hayar, and CEO's Assistant for the International Operations sector at Qatar Charity Nawaf al-Hammadi at the ministry's headquarters in Rabat.

The agreement reflects the desire of both parties to strengthen co-operation and exchange expertise, fostering a constructive partnership to support family issues, enhance women's capacities, and to empower

them economically. It also focuses on vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly, while advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, enhancing social care institutions, and ensuring the sustainability of services by supporting income-generating projects.

At the conclusion of the signing ceremony, Aawatif Hayar thanked Qatar Charity for its outstanding contributions to development and humanitarian work in Morocco. Nawaf al-Hammadi praised the ongoing support from the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family, as well as from all bodies and partners in Morocco to implement Qatar Charity's projects for the targeted groups. He expressed hope for continued co-ordination and co-operation to ensure the success of various development initiatives. (QNA)

MoEHE holds ninth session of 'Illuminations' initiative

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) held the 9th session of the 'Illuminations' initiative in celebration of World Teachers' Day, with the participation of over 300 students, teachers, parents, school headmasters, and senior officials from the ministry.

During the session, several educational consultants and teachers spoke about the significance of this year's theme, "The Teacher: Giving That Inspires Generations", sharing their journeys in the teaching profession, their reasons for choosing this career, personal experiences in the educational field, their evaluations of it, and how they inspire their colleagues and students to increase their passion for education. They also discussed the influences and challenges they faced, how they overcame them, the role of the community in supporting them, their relationships with their students and the surrounding community, and the messages they wish to convey to their fellow teachers on this occasion, emphasising that teaching is a mission before it is a job.

In his remarks during the session, Ed-



Education ministry to mark World Teachers' Day

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education will celebrate World Teachers' Day on Sunday, under the theme "Giving That Inspires Generations". The ceremony will honour elite educators, in acknowledgment of their lifelong commitment and pivotal role in shaping future generations as well as in recognition of their outstanding professional achievements. (QNA)

ucational consultant Dr Abdulrahman al-Harami discussed the significance of the Teachers' Day theme, affirming that teachers are the most giving members of society. He highlighted the impact of nurturing teachers in shaping generations and leaders, calling on the commu-

nity and parents to support teachers and to elevate their status.

Salman Youssef, a teacher at Ahmed Mansour Primary School for Boys, reminded teachers of the importance of feeling responsible and to seek rewards from God for their work, stating that stu-

dents deserve the best. Haya al-Kaabi, a teacher at Al-Nahda Primary School for Girls, shared her journey as a teacher, stressing that her desire and passion for educating generations motivated her to join the profession, adding that teachers are the foundation of society and its development. She highlighted her educational methods, which involve listening to students and valuing what they say, and addressing her fellow teachers by saying, "you are in the right place and in the right profession."

At the end of the session, Director of the Public Relations and Communication Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Supervisor of the 'Illuminations' initiative Maryam Abdullah al-Mohannadi honoured the speakers for their valuable contributions that enriched the dialogue.

The 'Illuminations' initiative serves as a dialogue platform that brings together educators from within and outside the ministry for discussions on specific educational and academic issues of common interest, aimed at developing effective and inspiring ideas. (QNA)

GMC, BMW, Volkswagen models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Mannai Trading Company, has announced the recall of GMC Acadia, 2014-16 models, over a possible defect in the driver's side front airbag, which may cause it to rupture during deployment. The MoCI, in co-operation with Alfaridan Automobiles, announced the recall of BMW X1 sDrive 20i, 428i, 528i, X4 xDrive, X3 sDrive, 228i, 328i, and Z4 sDrive, 2011-2016 models, as liquid may leak into the plug connection of the electric water pump, causing overheating. The MoCI, in co-operation with Q Auto, also announced the recall of Volkswagen Passat, Jetta, Golf, Polo, CC, and Eos, 2006-13 models, over deterioration of front air bag propellant due to humidity, which may cause burst of the gas generator housing and harm the occupants. 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 urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries and suggestions through the following channels: Call Center: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, social media channels @mociqatar, and mobile application MOCIQatar available on iPhone and Android devices.

Iranian president accorded official reception ceremony



Amir: Iranian president's visit reflects shared desire to boost ties

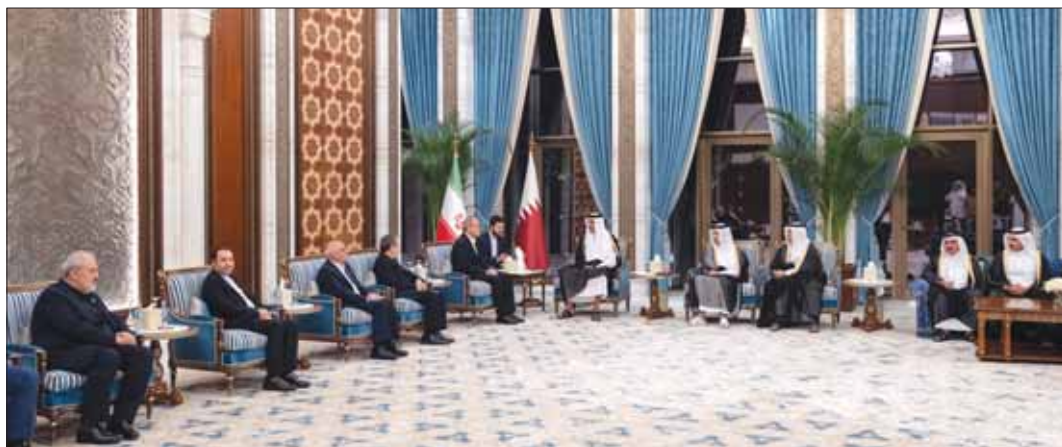
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian's visit reflects the two countries' shared desire to continue boosting across the board constructive cooperation relations. In a post on X, the Amir expressed pleasure at welcoming President Pezeshkian, hailing the visit as a reflection of the two countries' common desire to press ahead with consolidating constructive co-operation relations at all levels. His Highness said that yesterday's bilateral talks in Doha came at a critical stage that the Middle East is going through amid the ongoing aggression on the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon, and the mounting pace of escalation in the region. Qatar will press on with endeavours intended for achieving the coveted security, stability and peace in the region and the world, His Highness the Amir added. (QNA)

Qatar, Iran enhance ties in several fields



Qatar and Iran signed a joint declaration, three executive programmes, a memorandum of understanding and a protocol to enhance co-operation in a number of fields, on the sidelines of Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to the country. A joint declaration was signed on enhancing cultural co-operation, the second executive programme of the cultural and technical co-operation agreement for 2024, 2025 and 2026, the

fourth executive programme of the educational and scientific co-operation agreement for 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, and the executive programme of the co-operation agreement in youth and sports for 2025-2026. A memorandum of understanding was also signed for the development project of Port of Dayyer in Iran, and a co-operation protocol in the field of animal health and welfare and live animal trade. (QNA)



President Pezeshkian's visit will boost bilateral relations: envoy

Qatar's ambassador to Iran Saad Abdullah Saad al-Mahmoud al-Sharif underlined that Qatar and Iran work constantly to promote co-operation in line with the growing bilateral relations.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador said that the visit of Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian to Doha will certainly contribute to promoting the relations between the two countries, stressing the keenness of both countries' leaderships to develop bilateral co-operation in service of both peoples' interests.

The ambassador pointed to several joint committees between the two countries, noting that this visit will set the future framework for these committees in the political, economic and consular fields.

He highlighted numerous memorandums of understanding and agreements signed between

the two countries, as well as new MoUs that are still under study to reach common understandings regarding them.

The ambassador noted co-operation in light of the shared maritime borders between the two countries, aimed at facilitating trade exchange by removing customs barriers and providing more solutions in the ports that receive goods from both sides.

He emphasised the historical and distinguished relations between Qatar and Iran which share many common cultural and social aspects that are considered a strong foundation for strengthening the relations.

Highlighting areas of bilateral co-operation, the ambassador noted both countries' keenness on developing the relations in the political field to serve joint interests, and that both countries have shared similar visions on a number

of regional and international files.

In the economic field, he stressed the keenness of the two countries to raise the level of trade exchange, pointing to a joint economic committee that meets annually to discuss areas of co-operation in various fields, including trade, industry, energy and infrastructure.

On co-operation in the fields of culture and education, he explained that the ministries concerned with culture and education in both countries seek to prepare a suitable ground for enhancing co-operation in these areas.

He noted that the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in higher education and scientific research, and there are Qatari students studying in various types of programs in Iranian universities, and also Iranian students studying in Qatari schools and universities. There is also an educational centre that in-

cludes all academic stages for the Iranian community in Doha.

In cultural aspects, the ambassador noted the wide participation of Qatari publishing houses in book fairs hosted by Iran, and vice versa. In addition, there is a remarkable participation in exhibitions concerned with handicrafts, which confirms the common cultural and social aspects that both Qatari and Iranian people share.

Ambassador al-Sharif said that the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip will take a considerable part of the discussions between the leaderships of the two countries during the visit, in light of the latest regional and international developments, and Qatar's active role in the negotiations for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, in addition to the recent developments in Lebanon receiving the attention of both countries' leaderships during the visit. (QNA)

Amir: Stop the war in Gaza, Lebanon

From Page 1

The Iranian president also stressed the importance of multiple mechanisms to develop relations between Qatar and Iran, noting that this is what Qatar is doing, and expressed the need to enhance co-operation and brotherhood between Islamic countries in general, highlighting that that co-operation between Qatar and Iran supports the stability and security of the region.

Regarding the recent developments in the region, the president explained that Iran is keen on peace and calls for calm, indicating that wars do not serve the interests of countries in the region. (QNA)

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 Qatar Riyal 26.75 لحم ضائي تنزالي 1 كجم Tanzanian Mutton 1kg	 Qatar Riyal 30.75 سمك سالمون نرويجي 1 كجم Fresh Salmon Norway 1kg	 Qatar Riyal 22.75 جمبري سعودي وسط 1 كجم Fresh Prawns Medium KSA 1kg	
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 Qatar Riyal 21.50 سمك قاروس الدوحة 1 كجم Fresh Sea Bass Doha 1kg	 Qatar Riyal 10.00 بيض ابيض 30 حبة White Fresh Egg 30s Tray	 Qatar Riyal 6.00 موز اصفر كبير هندي 1 كجم Yellow Banana Big India 1kg	 Qatar Riyal 3.75 برتقال فالنسيا افريقيا 1 كجم Orange Valencia Africa 1kg
 Qatar Riyal 3.75 رمان مصري 1 كجم Pomegranate Egypt 1kg	 Qatar Riyal 4.00 موز اكوادور 1 كجم Banana Ecuador 1kg	 Qatar Riyal 10.00 امريكانا ناجتس دجاج 400 جم + 200 جم Americana Happy Nuggets 400gm + 200gm	 Qatar Riyal 10.75 بوك حنية مثلثات 120 جم x 5 حبة Puck Cheese Triangles 120gm x 5pcs
 Qatar Riyal 23.00 البادية حليب كامل الدسم اللتر 1 لتر x 4 حبة Al Badia Milk Full Cream 1Ltr x 4pcs	 Qatar Riyal 10.00 ساديا دجاج شواية 1100 جم x 1 حبة Sadia Chicken Griller 1100gm x 1pc	 Qatar Riyal 21.50 نوتيللا 750 جم x 1 حبة Nutella Jar 750gm x 1pc	 Qatar Riyal 65.00 علبة مسحوق حليب نيدو كامل الدسم 2500 جرام Nido Full Cream Milk Powder Tin 2500gm

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