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# Amir opens 3rd ACD Summit, stresses the urgent need to rein in Israel, end the war



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani with heads of delegations of countries and governments who attended the opening of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel – Doha, yesterday.

**QNA**  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani patronised the opening of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit yesterday at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel – Doha.

President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Paetongtarn Shinawatra, and a number of heads of delegations of sisterly and friendly countries and governments attended the opening.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also attended the opening along with a number of ministers and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the State, senior officials and representatives of several regional and international organisations.

His Highness the Amir delivered a speech, here is its transcript: "In

## Amir: ACD Summit shows Asia's major global position

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani stressed that the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD) reflects Asia's significant stance globally. In a post on his official X account, the Amir welcomed Their Excellencies participants of the 3rd ACD Summit in Doha; a summit that reflects the important stance of Asia globally with its enormous human resources and significant economic, political, and commercial influence, looking forward to strengthening the ties between Asian countries in various fields to achieve the aspired stability, development, integration, and good for Asian societies and all the peoples of the world. (QNA)

the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, Your Excellencies and Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen, May peace, mercy and blessing of God be upon you.

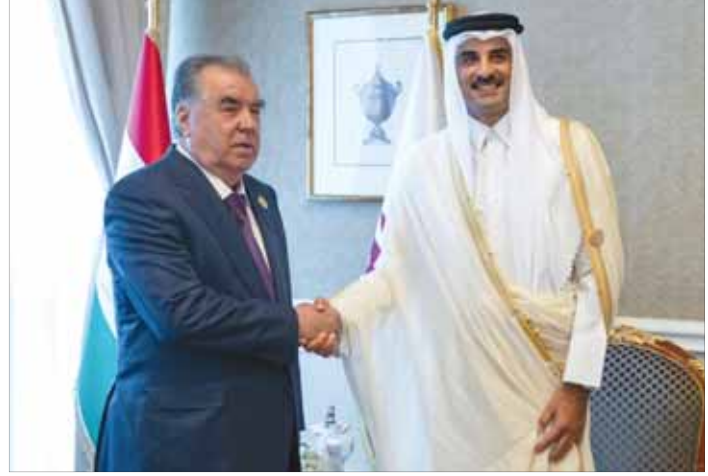
"At the outset, I am pleased to welcome you to Qatar, wishing you a pleasant stay. I would also like to extend my deep thanks to both the sisterly State of Kuwait and the friendly Kingdom of Thailand for their gracious hosting of the previ-

ous two summits of the Asian Co-operation Dialogue. I also thank the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran for the valuable efforts it has made during this presidency of the dialogue this year and its keenness to promote it.

"This summit is held under the theme: "Sports Diplomacy", which was chosen to express our firm belief that enhancing sports and co-operation in this regard is closely consistent with the vision of the Asian Co-operation Dialogue 2030, and out of our conviction in the importance of sports for the health of individuals and societies, and its role in promoting peace, spreading the values of tolerance and mutual respect, and dispelling stereotypes and preconceived ideas. We look forward to concretise this theme into a tangible reality that will reflect positively on our peoples and countries.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, We believe in the importance of intensifying efforts to contain the escalation and tension and to stem the bloodshed by resorting to rational dialogue, the rules of international law, the UN Charter, the international legitimacy resolutions, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and non-interference in their internal affairs in a way that guarantees the right for all countries and peoples to live in security, peace, and dignity. **To Page 12**

## Amir meets Tajikistan president



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, on the sidelines of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit, yesterday at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel – Doha. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance and develop them, in addition to a number of regional and international issues of common interest and several topics on the summit agenda. The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, and a number of senior officials. From the Tajik side, it was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Usmonali Usmonzoda, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Muhridin, Assistant to the President on Foreign Relations Sharifi Azamsho, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Zavqizoda Zavqi, Minister of Finance Faiziddin Qahhorzoda, and a number of members of the accompanying official delegation. (QNA)

## Amir meets Thai prime minister



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Paetongtarn Shinawatra, on the sidelines of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit, yesterday at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel – Doha. The two sides discussed relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them. They exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments of mutual interest and discussed a number of topics on the summit agenda. The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi. It was also attended from the Thai side by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Maris Sangiampongsa and a number of members of the official accompanying delegation. (QNA)

## More evacuations ordered in Lebanon

Israel's military told residents of more than 20 towns in south Lebanon to evacuate their homes immediately yesterday as it pressed on with its cross-border incursion and struck Hezbollah targets in a suburb of Beirut. The latest warnings took the number of southern towns subject to evacuation calls to 70 and included the provincial capital Nabatieh, suggesting another Israeli military operation was imminent against the Iran-backed armed group. Hezbollah also carried out new strikes, targeting what it called Israel's "Sakhnin base" for military industries in Haifa Bay on the Mediterranean coast of northern Israel with a salvo of rockets. As it pushes into Lebanon, Israel is also weighing its options for retaliation against its arch-foe Iran which launched its largest ever assault on Israel on Tuesday. Asked yesterday if he would support Israel striking Iran's oil facilities, US President Joe Biden told reporters: "We're discussing that." More than 1.2mn Lebanese have been displaced by Israeli attacks, and nearly 2,000 people have been killed since the start of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon over the last year. (Reuters)

**COMMUNITY**  
See Pages: 5 & 6

## Send relief materials to Lebanon, directs Amir

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani directed yesterday to send urgent medical and relief aid to the brethren in the Republic of Lebanon to contribute to addressing the displacement crisis resulting from the recent developments.

This aid comes within the framework of Qatar's supportive stance towards Lebanon and its constant support for the fraternal Lebanese people.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has directed the immediate provision of all necessary resources to provide humanitarian and relief support to all displaced persons and those affected by this aggression. (QNA)

port to all displaced persons and those affected by the aggression on Lebanon. In a post on his official X account, His Highness the Amir said that the failure of the international community to stop the war on Gaza was a green light to expand the conflict without the slightest degree of responsibility by the aggressors. His Highness the Amir stressed Qatar's full support for Lebanon and its fraternal people against the brutal attacks they are being subjected to, directing rapid action and the provision of all necessary resources to provide humanitarian and relief support to all displaced persons and those affected by this aggression. (QNA)

## Gaza massacre toll 41,788; economy in the doldrums

**Reuters**  
Cairo

Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip has killed at least 41,788 Palestinians and wounded 96,794 since Oct. 7, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said yesterday.

Ninety-nine Palestinians have been killed and 169 wounded in the past 24 hours, the ministry said in a statement.

Medics said scores of people were killed a day before in an Israeli strike that hit a school sheltering displaced families in Gaza City, while another struck the Al-Amal Orphan Society, which also houses displaced persons.

As the war in Gaza nears its first

anniversary on Oct. 7, there has been no let-up in Israeli military operations against the Palestinian resistance movement. The Gaza enclave has been left in ruins.

A year of conflict between Israel and Hamas has resulted in a "devastating impact on the economy" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the IMF said yesterday, including a nearly 90% drop in Gaza's GDP.

"Preliminary official estimates indicate an 86% decline in GDP in the first half of 2024" in Gaza, said International Monetary Fund communications chief Julie Koza-ck.

She added that Gaza's "civilian population faces dire socioeconomic conditions, a humanitarian crisis and insufficient aid delivery"

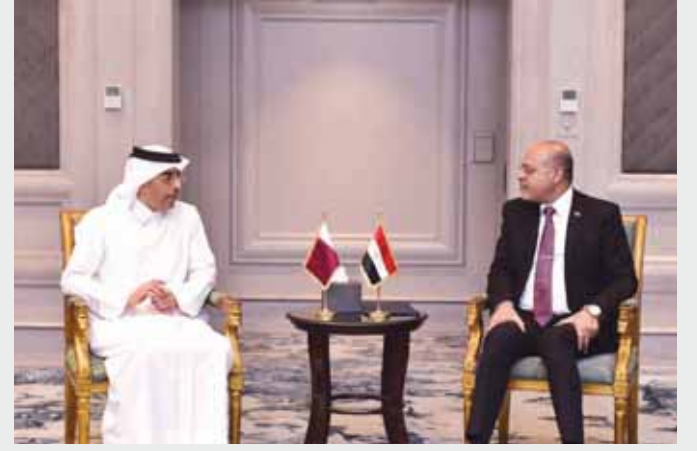
## Al-Muraikhi meets Indian minister

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with Minister of State for External Affairs of India Kirti Vardhan Singh, on the sidelines of the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, held in Doha. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and a number of issues of common interest. (QNA)



## Labour minister meets Egyptian counterpart

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met with Minister of Labour of the Arab Republic of Egypt Mohamed Gobran, on the sidelines of the Governing Board meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation, held in Cairo, Egypt yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed joint co-operation relations and leveraging successful experiences to enhance the labour environment. (QNA)



# Speakers at ACD summit praise Qatar's role in bringing peace to region, world

QNA  
Doha

A number of speakers at the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD), held under the theme 'Sports Diplomacy', praised the role played by Qatar in bringing peace to the Middle East and other parts of the world.

They appreciated Doha's hosting of this meeting, especially in light of the digital transformation, the recovery phase from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, and multiple global crises, including geopolitical rivalries and competitions, armed conflicts, natural disasters, food insecurity, and the exacerbation of conflicts and armed disputes in the Middle East and other regions.

The speakers called for seizing the opportunity of this summit to enhance the pivotal role played by the ACD in jointly addressing these challenges, especially since the situation in the Middle East is of great concern to all. They urged all parties to the conflict to respect international law, especially international humanitarian law, after the escalation of the conflict and the fall of thousands of victims and injured, and to exercise maximum restraint, reach a ceasefire, and resolve armed conflicts peacefully to

end human suffering. The speakers stressed that 'sports diplomacy' is an integral part of the ACD agenda to promote positivity, harmony, and co-operation among the countries of Asia, considering sports an important popular platform that contributes to bridging the gap, building ties, and enhancing mutual understanding through sports. They pointed out Qatar's successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which proved that sports diplomacy can be a platform that allows facing pressing challenges and promoting Asian values.

They indicated that hosting competitions and tournaments that benefit the younger generation can also be used to end conflicts, spread sportsmanship, and enhance discipline, leadership skills, and ethical principles and concepts among all societies. They noted that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has become a symbol of co-operation and solidarity, a model of sports diplomacy in promoting peace, a tool for overcoming challenges, a means for constructive dialogue, bringing peoples together, forming alliances, and building bridges of understanding, tolerance, and peace.

The speakers emphasised the significance of unifying the efforts of the Asian countries and working in a strategic manner that allows the ACD to combine efforts with

other forums, such as Asean, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), and other regional groupings to address existing and future challenges and achieve a sustainable economy that reflects the spirit of Asia and the will of the Asian people to live in peace and fraternity.

In order to face the profound international changes and pressing challenges, the speakers suggested that to achieve sustainable development and growth, opportunities, mutual education, coexistence, and collective action must be created to establish an Asian homeland of peace and coexistence, by expressing the Asian values of coexistence and peace and maintaining this peace amidst a world rife with conflicts.

They also called for respecting multilateralism, continuing to strive to build consensus among all parties concerned, and supporting each other on core issues by conducting dialogues, consultations, and co-operation on local, regional, and international issues. They also called for building partnerships among countries in the region to achieve prosperity, peace, and mutual benefit, as well as committing to economic integration and free trade, and building a multilateral Asian co-operation network to promote development in various Asian countries and facilitate integration



and peaceful and harmonious co-existence, while preserving multilateralism, encouraging cultural exchange, and defending Asian values.

The speakers discussed their countries' experiences and the progress they have made in the fields of energy, agriculture, education, healthcare, technology, financial co-operation, and governance, and how these developments have contributed to improving the quality of life for their people and expanding the opportunities available to them.

They also discussed the development of their countries' infrastructure and how they were able to raise growth rates and increase the gross domestic product, as well

as the measures they have taken to achieve these goals, while preserving the environment, following green economy models, renewable energy sources, and addressing climate change.

They pointed out the importance of sports diplomacy in enhancing co-operation and development in Asia, recalling their countries' hosting of many major sporting events and activities and how it was a means of preserving values and celebrating traditional sports, and their launching of various sports initiatives, which contribute to building societies, achieving sustainable development goals, and keeping young people away from the circle of terrorism and extremism.

## Official

### Amir sends cables of congratulations to Iraqi president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of Iraq Dr Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable to Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani on the occasion.

### Amir sends cables of congratulations to German president

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 congratulations to President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier on the occasion of the German Unity Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable to Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz on the occasion. (QNA)

## Regional challenges require consolidated efforts: Saudi FM

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah al-Saud said that the region is facing multiple challenges that require consolidated efforts and joint action to address.

In his speech during the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD) yesterday, Prince Faisal added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasises this platform's significance in enhancing dialogue and co-operation between Asian countries in various fields, whether economic, political, cultural, or others.

In this context, he pointed out that development challenges cannot be separated from the tense political and security situations in the region, especially in light of the ongoing events in Palestine and Lebanon, which represent a major obstacle to economic development and commercial progress.

He pointed out that the continuation of aggression and violations in the region hinders international trade and increases political tensions that threaten the flow of investments and economic co-operation between the countries of the region and the world.

He noted Saudi Arabia realises



Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah al-Saud

that sustainable economic development can only be achieved in the context of political and security stability, and therefore emphasises the importance of resolving regional conflicts through peaceful and diplomatic means to ensure the prosperity of the region.

He added that from this standpoint, Saudi Arabia thanks the ACD countries for their support for the two-state solution and their recognition of the State of Palestine, urging the rest of the world to follow suit, which prompted the kingdom to contribute with its brethren and friends to establish the international coalition for a two-state solution.

He emphasised the importance of enhancing collective action and co-operation among the ACD

countries to achieve the aspired goals of establishing it. He said that Asia has great potential and enormous energy, and if they can unify their efforts, they will be able to face challenges and transform them into opportunities for growth, by strengthening economic partnerships and developing co-operation in the areas of regional security, technology, and energy, and working together to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stressed the importance of enhancing co-operation, especially between developing countries, in light of the economic and development challenges facing many of these countries. (QNA)

## Asia must take decisive stance in Palestinian issue: Sheikh Sabah

Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah emphasised that the world today is facing numerous security, political, economic, social, and climatic challenges that require collective efforts and decisive action to address them.

In his speech at the third summit of the Asian Co-operation Dialogue (ACD), the Kuwaiti

Crown Prince highlighted that many of these challenges, unfortunately, are being witnessed across Asia, such as armed conflicts, disease outbreaks, extreme poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment, adding that despite these difficulties, Asia possesses vast human and material resources and significant capabilities, providing a solid foundation to overcome these obstacles and fulfil the aspirations of its people.

He explained that one of the prominent challenges is the ongoing Israeli occupation forces aggression against Palestine for nearly a year, which has resulted in the loss of over 41,000 Palestinian lives, primarily women and children.

Sheikh Sabah lamented the international community's failure to stop this genocide due to double standards in applying international law. He reiterated Kuwait's



Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah

condemnation and denunciation of the continued aggression on the State of Palestine and called on the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to take immediate action to halt the violence.

The Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait also called for continuing support and backing for the Palestinian people, their just cause, their right to self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He stressed that failure to bring Israel, which is an occupying force, to accountability has emboldened it to commit more crimes and expand its aggression, a thing which "we have already warned of and its consequences on the region's countries," citing the ongoing attacks on Lebanon.

Sheikh Sabah underscored that Asia must take a decisive and open stance defending justice, human conscience, and the right of the peoples of Palestine and the region to freedom, dignity, and peace.

On another note, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, said, "Our summit, held today under the theme: 'Sports Diplomacy', is considered a significant tool in public diplomacy and some sort of soft power that is able to bring together all peoples, communities and culture."

He explained that sports is a crucial way of attaining peace and development and contributing to disseminating the values of co-operation, tolerance, solidarity and people-to-people peaceful coexistence.

He added that the Asian continent has numerous examples of the practical application of sports diplomacy and its noble goals, the most significant of which is Qatar's exceptional hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar, as this unique edition of the tournament provided a successful model for uniting people and blending cultures and languages from around the world, helping to showcase and integrate Gulf, Arab, and Islamic cultures with others, looking forward to Saudi Arabia hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2034. (QNA)

## Bahrain FM: Palestinian people deprived of all human rights

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani stressed that the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and its spillover into Lebanon poses a significant threat to regional stability and global peace and security, emphasizing that the Palestinian people have been deprived of all their legitimate human rights.

In his address at the third Asian Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, held in Doha under the theme of 'Sports Diplomacy', Dr al-Zayani stressed the need for a just and sustainable peace in the Middle East.

He praised Qatar's leadership, government, and people for their excellent organisation of the ACD summit, noting that the focus on sports diplomacy underscores its essential role in fostering cultural exchange, empowering youth



Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani

and women, and strengthening shared human values between nations. Dr al-Zayani commended the significant developmental achievements across Asian countries, which have contributed to widespread economic growth. He emphasised the importance of enhancing strategic partnerships, now essential for leveraging the vast resources and opportunities available to nations.

He also highlighted the need to expand co-operation among

Asian nations in key areas such as renewable energy, food security, energy security, technology, innovation, climate change, and sustainable development goals, with its global goals, education, tourism and culture.

He further underlined the importance of fostering communication, understanding, and shared values of tolerance, coexistence, and brotherhood.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain said that achieving collective aspirations and goals should be a top priority through constructive dialogue, mutual trust, and active co-operation to promote peace, stability, and comprehensive development, which would bring prosperity to all friendly nations, in line with a shared commitment to sustainable partnerships based on mutual interests and values. (QNA)

## Summit offers platform to enhance impactful dialogue: President Abbas

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas stressed his country's efforts to get rid of the occupation and settlements and stop the Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Jerusalem, leading to the complete end of the occupation of the State of Palestine with its capital, East Jerusalem.

Giving his speech at the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD) yesterday in Doha, he stated that despite all the difficulties created by the occupation, Palestinian athletes – like the rest of their people – continue with perseverance and steadfastness to achieve proud accomplishments

and that the State of Palestine embodies sports diplomacy, through its participation in all international sports forums, where athletes carry the cause of their steadfast people who insist on life.

Abbas added that this summit is being held while the region is facing great dangers due to the insistence of the Israeli occupation state on the approach of aggression and violence, as the Palestinian people, including their athletes, as well as the brotherly Lebanese people are being subjected to a brutal Israeli war, which has claimed the lives of thousands of children, women and the elderly, pointing out that

the ongoing Israeli aggression has destroyed more than 90% of the infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, including sports facilities and installations.

He stressed that peace and tolerance cannot coexist with occupation, war of extermination, racial discrimination, ethnic cleansing, oppression, injustice, preventing the Palestinian people from achieving their aspirations for freedom and independence, and aggression against the brotherly Lebanese people, calling on the international community to intervene immediately to stop the brutal aggression against Palestine and Lebanon. (QNA)

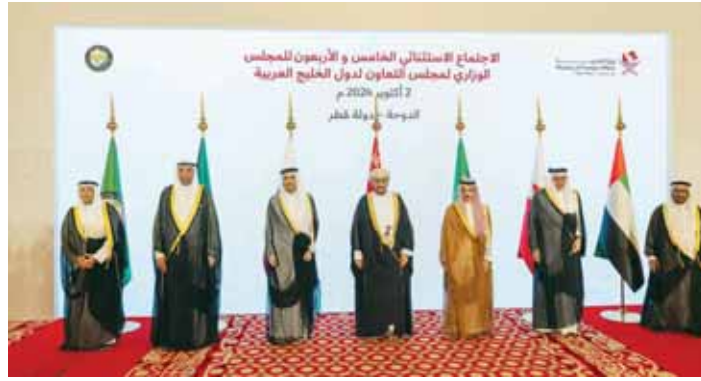
# PM chairs extraordinary meeting of GCC council

QNA  
Doha

**H**E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the 45th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in Doha, held in light of the military escalation and developments in the Middle East.

In a statement, the Council said that it reviewed the serious developments and escalating tensions that undermine the security and stability of the region, including those in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, the serious violations in the West Bank, the threats to the Al Aqsa Mosque and religious sanctities, and the rising tensions between Israel and Iran.

The council condemned the escalation in Lebanese and Palestinian territories and warned of the serious repercussions of this escalation, which extend beyond this region to a wider circle, posing a threat to international peace and security and undermining efforts for peace and security in the region and the world. It emphasised the necessity of protecting the region's security and preventing the expansion of the conflict.



The council called on all parties involved in this escalation to exercise restraint, cease violence, and prioritise dialogue. It also urged the international community to fulfil its responsibilities to maintain security and stability in the region and to implement international legitimacy resolutions related to the area.

Regarding Lebanon, the council affirmed the GCC's support for the brotherly Lebanese people in all its components during this critical phase. It called for intensifying international and regional efforts to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Lebanon to alleviate the suffering of civilians and protect them from any serious repercussions. The council also urged

restraint, avoiding involvement in regional conflicts, and preventing the expansion of the conflict in the region.

The council stressed the necessity of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701, related international resolutions, and the Taif Agreement, to restore lasting security and stability in Lebanon and ensure respect for the integrity of its territory, political independence, and sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders.

The ministerial council underscored the contents of the joint ministerial statement issued on Sept 25, 2024, by the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the United States of America, and sev-

eral other countries, which calls for an immediate ceasefire for 21 days along the Blue Line that marks the southern border of Lebanon, and for pursuing a diplomatic settlement to avert the danger of regional war.

The Council welcomed the statement issued on Sept 27, 2024, in New York, from the emergency ministerial meeting of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) to discuss the escalation of Israeli military attacks against the State of Palestine and the Republic of Lebanon.

Regarding Palestine, the ministerial council affirmed the GCC's support for the brotherly Palestinian people, condemning the Israeli aggression against Gaza and the West Bank. It called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the lifting of the siege imposed on the Strip, and the release of hostages and detainees.

The council emphasised the importance of opening all crossings immediately and unconditionally, ensuring the delivery of all relief, humanitarian, medical supplies, and basic needs to the residents of Gaza, in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law.

The council reiterated the contents of the joint statement issued



on Aug 8, 2024, by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, President of Egypt Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, and President of the United States Joe Biden, regarding the necessity of achieving a ceasefire, the release of hostages and detainees in Gaza, and the call to resume negotiations.

The council affirmed its full support for ongoing efforts to achieve a ceasefire and address the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza, praising the constructive role played by the GCC countries with their strategic partners, especially the United States, in de-escalating tensions, enhancing security and stability, protecting maritime navigation in the region, and ensuring its security, stability, and prosperity.

The council called on the Security Council to implement its resolutions No. 2735, 2712, and 2720, which call for an immediate, complete, and total ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the release of hostages, the exchange of prisoners, the return of civilians to their homes, the safe and effective distribution of humanitarian aid on a large scale, and the withdrawal of Israeli forces

from the Strip. The ministerial council emphasised the importance of the efforts of the ministerial committee chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was formed by the extraordinary joint Arab-Islamic summit to stop the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, as well as to mobilise international support for the State of Palestine in its quest for recognition by more countries, in addition to supporting its bid for full membership in the United Nations, and to convene an international peace conference.

The ministerial council welcomed the outcomes of the international meeting held in New York on Sep. 26, 2024, to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It underscored the importance of supporting the agency in light of the critical humanitarian conditions, ensuring that it can continue its work in providing essential needs for the Palestinian people. The council also acknowledged the generous assistance and support provided by the member states to the agency's activities.

## Leaders bid adieu to Qatar following ACD summit



President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas left Doha, following his participation in the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD). President Abbas and the accompanying delegation were seen off upon departure from Hamad International Airport by Director of the Department of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim bin Youssef Fakhro and ambassador of the State of Palestine to Qatar Fayez Majed Abu al-Rab.



Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah left Doha following his participation in the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD). The Crown Prince and the accompanying delegation were seen off upon departure from Doha International Airport by 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.



Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian left Doha yesterday after an official visit to the country. He and his accompanying delegation were seen off at Hamad International Airport by Director of Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim bin Youssef Fakhro, ambassador of Qatar to Iran Saad Abdullah Saad al-Mahmoud al-Sharif, and ambassador of Iran to the State Ali Salehabadi. (QNA)

## Ice Cube

The Mains d'Art of Haute Joaillerie embrace Chopard's iconic cube design

Chopard

THE ARTISAN OF EMOTIONS - SINCE 1860

مجوهرات الفردان  
Alfardan Jewellery  
70th ANNIVERSARY  
1954-2024  
LCLC

As Chopard ushers its Ice Cube collection into a new era with a groundbreaking campaign enhanced by Bella Hadid, the Maison reinvents its iconic design through an Haute Joaillerie capsule. A choker and a bracelet blend the cube shape with the brilliance of diamonds in an artistic

gesture guided by its workshops' Mains d'Art. The result is jewellery that adds unique artisanal craftsmanship and an undeniably glamorous aura to the urban inspiration and minimalist aesthetic of the collection.

Chopard enriches its Ice Cube collection with two new variations. While the



philosophy remains unchanged - harmonious composition around the cube shape - its approach is entirely innovative. This time, the Maison's Haute Joaillerie workshops have been tasked with creating pieces, where the cubes, each shaped individually by a jewellery Artisan, vary in height. The jewellery thus displays a relief profile, evoking buildings of different heights in an urban skyline.

In an ingeniously articulated design, the cubes weave a flexible mesh that follows the body's movements once placed on the skin. This flexibility gives the jewellery an eminently sensual character. The jewellery and the woman wearing it become one, evolving into complete symbiosis and enhancing their glamorous aura multifold: a feat the Maison's Haute Joaillerie workshops

have been mastering for a long time.

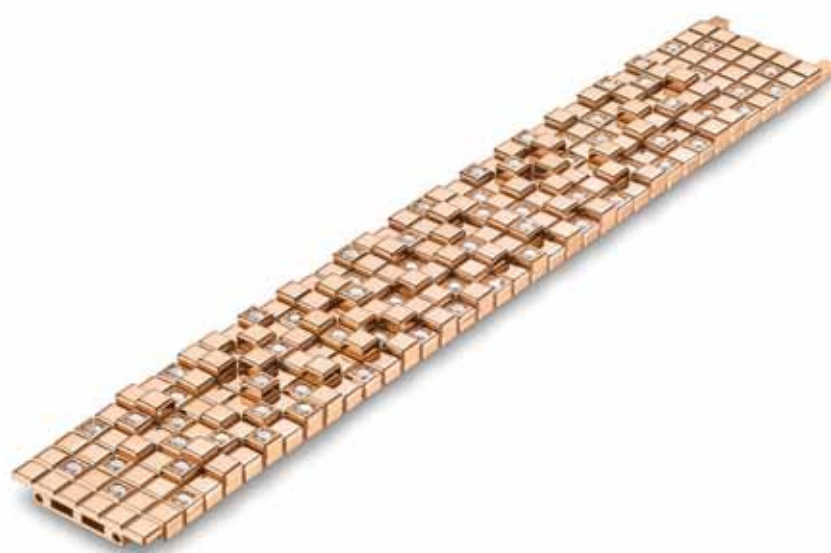
This Ice Cube collection capsule is crafted from ethical 18-carat rose gold, which, enhanced by a flawlessly executed mirror polish, engages in a constant dialogue with light. Like sunlight reflected off skyscrapers turned into mirrors, the rosy reflections of the gold, combined with the varying heights of the cubes and the sparkle of the diamonds, further evoke the reference to a metropolis skyline during the golden hour. Reflecting a city in constant motion, the Ice Cube identity is thus imbued with vibrant energy, dynamism, and verticality. Imprinted with the minimalist and pure character of Bauhaus principles, the architectural aesthetic of the collection uses only essential elements: light, form, and sustainable materials.

**Ice Cube, a unique craftsmanship**

The central motif in the collection, the cube, embodies an idea of geometric perfection and magnifies light through its reflective facets. Caroline Scheufele, Co-President and Artistic Director of Chopard, introduced this motif in 1999 through a watch that sacrificed flashy glitz in favour of focusing on pure shapes. Since then, the collection has continuously evolved in a dialogue with light, thanks to a combination of artisanal craftsmanship and innovation. Each cube is subtly faceted on each of its perfectly symmetrical edges. Within these micro-surfaces, the light finds numerous points of refraction, amplifying the jewellery's sparkle. The mirror polish is then finished with a pad, providing each creation with its ultimate shine and brilliance in a perpetual celebration of artisanal skills.

**Sculpted by Light: the new Ice Cube campaign with Bella Hadid**

These unprecedented jewellery creations feature in Chopard's new Ice Cube campaign. Captured by British fashion photographer and director Charlotte Wales, the campaign celebrates the purity, magnetic appeal and contemporary character of the collection through a captivating fusion of Bella Hadid's beauty and the solar radiance of the jewellery. The skilful use of light creates a hypnotic ambience while highlighting the perfect geometry of the pieces. This symbiosis between light and jewellery reveals the very essence of the Ice Cube design.



# MoECC opens registration for annual winter camping

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has announced that the opening of online registration for the annual Winter Camping Season for 2024-25, for all regions of the country, will be from Oct 15 to Nov 1.

The Winter Camping Season is set to begin on Nov 1, 2024, and concludes on April 30, 2025.

The ministry held a press conference yesterday to announce the updated requirements and obligations for the new camping season.

The conference was attended by Director of the Public Relations and Communications Department at MoECC, Mohammed Ahmed al-Dhahi, Director of the Wildlife Protection Department, Chairman of the Winter Camping Affairs Organisation Committee at MoECC Hamad Salem al-Nuaimi, First Lieutenant Abdul Hadi Ali al-Marri, Officer at Media and Preventive Education Section at the General Directorate of Civil Defence and Traffic Media Officer at the General Directorate of Traffic Lt Abdulmohsin al-Asmar al-Ruwaili.

Mohammed Ahmed al-Dhahi said the 2024-25 winter camping season will start on the first of November, after the end of the application and reservation processes, which begin in mid-October.

He pointed out that the esteemed Council of Ministers, in its regular meeting held last April, approved the draft decision of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, regarding



determining the fees for permitting winter camps, which includes reducing the fees for permitting winter camps from QR10,000 to QR3,000 for all areas, whether land or sea or those located within a nature reserve, with the exemption of people with disabilities and retirees from those fees. This decision comes with the aim of enhancing welfare and ensuring that society enjoys these places during the season.

He noted that the insurance amount applies to everyone, as it is worth QR10,000 which will be refunded immediately after removing the camp and returning the site to its original condition.

Al-Dhahi pointed out that the registration process for this year will be available through the MoECC's electronic application "Beeah", in addition to the ministry's official website, explaining that this system allows the registration procedures to be completed with ease and simplicity, which

contributes to providing a smooth and fast experience for all users.

He highlighted that winter camping is integral to Qatari heritage and reflects the people's connection to nature pointing out that the ministry views camping not only as a way to enjoy the outdoors but also as an opportunity to promote environmental awareness and preservation for future generations.

Director Hamad al-Nuaimi explained that the registration process will take place in three separate stages, with the registration for the central regions from Oct 15 to Oct 17, and for the southern regions, from Oct 18 to Oct 20, while registration for the northern regions will be from Oct 21 to Oct 24. The ministry has allocated the period from Oct 25 to Nov 5, 2024 for unreserved places in all regions of the country.

Al-Nuaimi explained that this year's new regulations require individuals aged 25 and older to

obtain a camping permit. Additionally, the fee for transferring a permit from one area to another is set at QR1,000.

He noted that the headquarters of the Wildlife Protection Department – Green Qatar opposite Tawar Mall has been designated as a centre to provide assistance to the elderly and people with disabilities in the event that they are unable to register electronically. Registration will be allocated to people with disabilities on Oct 8, 9 and 10.

Hamad al-Nuaimi announced that the Ministry of Environment will only issue one camping permit per person. Permit holders must allow inspectors to conduct camp inspections to ensure compliance with regulations. Failure to permit an inspection may result in permit revocation. He emphasised the importance of adhering to environmental protection laws and regulations.

He clarified that camping per-



mit fees are non-refundable in the event of cancellation. Reapplication for the same camping site as in the previous season depends on site availability and application priority. If a permit holder violates any conditions, the authorities may remove the camp. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change reserves the right to withdraw the environmental permit for non-compliance with these regulations.

Officials have announced that the Ministry will contact campsite owners to confirm their locations within 72 hours of booking. If there is no communication, owners can reach the Environmental Operations Center at 16066. It is important to note that the deposit for sites not confirmed by the ministry will not be refunded.

He added that Permit holders must begin setting up their camps in co-ordination with a ministry inspector, who must be present during the setup process. The permit is personal and cannot be rented or transferred. The permit must not be used for activities other than those specified, and harmful materials are prohibited. Officials emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness, protecting the environment, ensuring that camps are occupied and not abandoned, and disposing of waste only in designated containers. First Lieutenant Abdul Hadi Ali

al-Marri, presented essential guidelines for a safe camping season. He urged campers to hire professionals for electrical installations to prevent electrical accidents and recommended maintaining a distance of 5 to 6 metres between tents. Campers should equip their sites with necessary safety equipment like fire extinguishers and blankets and monitor any fires to avoid hazards. Proper ventilation is also essential to prevent suffocation, and all fires must be extinguished before sleeping or leaving the camp.

He advised placing generators away from tents and ensuring they are safely fuelled, as well as isolating cooking areas from living spaces.

First Lieutenant Abdulmohsin al-Asmar al-Ruwaili highlighted the General Directorate of Traffic's annual plan to ensure road safety during the winter camping season, particularly in the Sealine Beach and Khor Al Udaid areas. The plan aims to raise traffic safety awareness, facilitate traffic flow, and enforce regulations aligned with the Ministry of Interior's strategy. He noted that traffic patrols will be present in high-traffic areas, and drone technology will be used to monitor violations and manage events. The administration is also conducting statistical analyses of vehicle entries to Sealine Beach and accidents based on time and day to improve future traffic planning. (QNA)

## Ashghal receives international awards



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has won two international awards, a post on X said. Ashghal, represented by the IT Department, won the 'Best Use of Cutting-Edge AI Solutions at the 8th Middle East AI and Analytics Summit 2024' for its innovative solutions in streamlining operations and boosting productivity through automation. Ashghal also received the Strategic CIO of the Year 2024 award for its leadership in leveraging technology to drive business success and align with long-term strategic goals.



Dr Olawuyi and fellow speakers at the event.

## DICID event explores Islamic views on peaceful coexistence

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) has concluded an event on the principles of peaceful coexistence of various religious groups in Islam.

The event was held in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and other universities participating in the initiative to boost dialogue across universities.

Hosted by HBKU, the event brought together 25 students from five local universities – Qatar University, University of Doha for Science and Technology, HBKU, Community College of Qatar (CCQ), and Lusail University. The participants presented their countries' experiences in coexistence among various religious and cultural groups. The second in the initiative's activities, this event aimed to promote a culture of dialogue and un-

derstanding among university students from different religious and cultural backgrounds.

The first event was held at Qatar University in mid-September and sought to establish a culture of interfaith dialogue among scientific cadres.

DICID Chairman, Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi said the event bolsters the principles of religious coexistence among students. He added it is part of the DICID's interest in youth to enable future generations to understand the importance of dialogue and coexistence in diverse societies.

Among the speakers was Dean of HBKU's College of Islamic Studies, Dr Recep Enturk, who addressed the concept of coexistence in Islamic civilisation.

The third event of the initiative is due on Oct 15 at the CCQ. (QNA)

## Qatar organises discussion on sustainable trade at WTO forum

The Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, in collaboration with the Unesco Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and World Trade Organisation (WTO), held a high-profile session exploring actionable strategies to align global trade practices with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at this year's WTO Public Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

Titled 'Sustainable Trade and

Entrepreneurship: Pathways to Re-globalisation', the session featured the participation of HE Henda al-Muftah, ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva and Ahmed al-Sulaiti, director of the Office of Qatar to the WTO and other economic organisations in Geneva.

They were joined by experts Dr Damilola S Olawuyi, professor and Unesco chairholder on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, HBKU; Dr Mena Hassan, senior trade policy and trade facilitation expert, WTO;

and Elena Athwal, research fellow, Unesco chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, and SJD student, HBKU.

The participants delved into innovative approaches for integrating sustainability into trade, addressing the challenges and opportunities in promoting sustainable entrepreneurship, and examining the role of digitalisation and innovation in fostering inclusive trade practices. They also discussed how Qatar is embracing innovation to align its judicial processes with the SDGs, particularly SDG 16.

## QCPC national programming contest's third edition ends

Organised by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and Carnegie Mellon University – Qatar (CMU-Q), in co-operation with ICPC, the global organising body based at Baylor University, the QCPC National Programming Competition has concluded.

The competition's third edition witnessed participation from university students in Qatar and 26 teams from 19 government secondary schools. As a result, the team from Ali Bin Jassim Al-Thani Secondary School qualified to participate in the Arab Programming Competition (ACPC).

In their remarks at the conclusion of the competition, President of CMU-Q Dr Michael Trick, Dean of the School of Computer Science at CMU-Q Dr Khaled Haras, and Educational Guidance Consultant in the In-



formation Technology Department at the MoEHE Huda al-Emadi stressed the significance of the competition as a distinguished scientific event that contributes to enhancing the programming skills of its participants.

The results were announced and the teams that won the first three places at the secondary school and university levels in Qatar were honoured.

The National Programming Competition (QCPC) is a com-

petitive, multi-level programming contest held annually for university and secondary school students in Qatar. This competition aims to enhance programming and problem-solving skills and to develop students' logical and computational thinking abilities through collaborative work. Participants innovate correct programming solutions for the maximum number of proposed programming problems within a specified timeframe. (QNA)

## QRCS concludes surgical mission in northwestern Syria

Under Qatar Red Crescent Society's (QRCS) medical convoys programme, in co-operation with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Sidra Medicine, and Aspetar, a Qatari medical convoy completed its humanitarian mission of enhancing access to specialised surgical services in northwestern Syria, by deploying volunteering medical experts from Qatar.

Headed by Dr Abdullah Rashid al-Nuaimi, consultant urologist at HMC, the medical delegation performed 103 major surgeries typically not available in northern Syria, provided medical consultations for 200 patients with serious illnesses, and delivered three training workshops for 41 local doctors at hospitals, a statement said.

Also, the project involved capacity-building of Syrian hospitals, by procuring medical equipment and surgical tools to enable them to perform advanced surgeries.

Carried out in co-operation with Idlib Health Directorate and several hospitals in the target region, these efforts helped greatly alleviate the suffering of 344 patients, in addition to 1,720 indirect beneficiaries.

Over the coming few months, there will be more medical convoys in different medical specialisations. QRCS has already deployed medical convoys in Syria,



Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Palestine, Somalia, Bangladesh, and many other countries where conflicts and natural disasters affected the health sector and heightened the need for significant and life-saving surgeries.

In a statement, Mazin Abdullah, head of QRCS' representation office in Turkiye, said: "Over five days, we reached out to as many patients in need of surgeries as possible."

Dr Zuhair al-Qarrat, Idlib health director, said: "Thanks to the expertise and advanced technologies of the medical delegation, high-quality medical services were provided to improve the health conditions of the patients. The delegation also held intensive training courses for local doctors and nurses. This comprehensive approach makes QRCS' efforts a model of how to sustainably boost the local health system?"



## Pink delight



In the scorching summer months in Qatar, only a few species of flowering plants survive outdoors. *Jatropha integerrima* is one of them. The tropical, glossy shrub flowers all season and grows tall if not pruned. The bright cerise pink flowers have five widely flared rounded petals surrounding a protruding group of golden stamens. **PICTURE:** *Gulf Times* news editor Bonnie James (Instagram: theexplorer7).

# MES Qatar Cluster Volleyball champions

MES Indian School has bagged the Boys' overall championship at the Qatar Cluster Volleyball Competition conducted at Rajagiri Public School from September 22 to 25.

Not losing even a single set in the competition, MES has qualified for both the Boys U-19 and U-14 categories in the CBSE National Volleyball Championship at Kasauli International Public School, Himachal Pradesh, India, from October 21 to October 25.

In the Girls U-19 category, the MES team won the championship and qualified for the nationals to be

held at S S International School, Haryana, India, from October 22 to 26.

The Girls U-14 and the Boys U-17 categories of MES secured the first runners-up position.

The Boys U-19 category secured the championship for the 11th consecutive year in the CBSE Qatar Cluster Volleyball Tournament.

Principal Dr Hameeda Kadar and school officials congratulated the winning teams, captains Shameel Ali and A Poojitha and coaches Salim Nadaf and Shani G R.



## IIS champions in CBSE Qatar Cluster Taekwondo

Ideal Indian School (IIS) bagged the overall championship in both the boys' and girls' categories of the recently held CBSE Qatar Cluster Taekwondo Championship.

IIS won a total of 25 gold medals in the boys' category and 19 gold medals in the girls' category.

As many as 64 IIS students qualified to participate in the CBSE National Taekwondo

Championship in India during October.

Principal Shaik Shamim Saheb, Boys' Section head Azam Khan and Girls' Section head Dr Nazima Bi Shaikh congratulated the department and the winners.

The teams were coached by the school's martial arts trainer Amazad Khan, along with Physical Education teachers Suman Panwar and Ajanya.



## Pak Shamaa KG gets MoEHE honour



The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has awarded Pak Shamaa Kindergarten - Al-Mashaf the 'Clear Flag Award' - Certificate of Appreciation for completing the academic year 2023-2024 without any violations of the directives. The achievement is a remarkable milestone for the kindergarten as it indicates a year of exemplary behaviour and commitment to the highest standards of quality assurance. The award was received by the kindergarten's academic co-ordinator Roohi Babar from Omar Abdul Aziz al-Naama, Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs and Dr Rania Mohammed, director of the Private Schools and Kindergartens Department.

## Art fiesta on October 18



Sahachari Qatar Kasaragod District Committee has announced 'Aftab-24' Art Fiesta on October 18 from 12noon to 10pm at Al Waab Mirqab Compound's club house for school students. There will be a stage and non-stage art competitions. The official poster for the event

was unveiled by Al Haj Syed Hadi Tal al-Mashoor Mogral. A programme committee has been formed with Anwar Kanhangad, Rafiq Rahmani, Harris Ariel, Abid Udinur, Asif Hudavi Cherur, Sagheer Iriya, Abdul Rahiman Eriyal, Javid Hudavi, Shanif Paika, Mansoor

Thrikaripur, K B Muhammad Bayar, Anwar Kadankode, Naushad Chemeni, Ali Cherur, Abid Udinur, Harris Ariel, Anwar Kanhangad, Anwar Kadankode, Sagheer Iriya, K S Muhammad Kunhi, Moideen Bekal, K S Ubaid, Rafiq Mangad, Nasser Faizi and Salaam Habibi.

## Mar Thoma College Alumni celebrates Onam



The Thiruvalla Mar Thoma College Alumni Doha Chapter recently celebrated Onam, emphasising the importance of strengthening friendships and human relationships.

During the inauguration, renowned Malayalam film producer Santhosh T Kuruvilla highlighted that such events cultivate love, joy, and essential human values.

President Anish George Mathew presided. Birla Public School's Malayalam department head Shiju P R reminded the attendees of the significance of sharing joy and care.

Earlier, the programme commenced with a tribute to those who lost their lives in the recent natural disaster in Wayanad.

The event also recognised alumni members who achieved outstanding success in their 10th and 12th grades.



Senior alumni members Samuel Varghese and Rijo Jacob presented gifts to the guests.

The highlights included a traditional Onam feast, Thiruvathira, along with cultural performances and traditional games led by Aana-vandi Beats.

General secretary Nisha Jacob welcomed the gathering and vice-

president Sheela Sunny proposed a vote of thanks.

Support for the event came from committee members, including Jacob M Mathew, Jenson Thomas, Siby Abraham, Roney Mathew, Lijo Raju, Siju Sam Mohan, Raji Varghese, Jiji John, Joseph Varghese, James Palangatt, Sheen Cheryan Peter, and Bindu Jacob.



## KEF Gavel Club speech contests

KEF Gavel Club conducted its annual speech contests led by Najla Azad over two days. The first place winners will represent the club in the District 116 Gavel's Annual Speech Contest on October 18 and 19. The winners are: Evaluation contest - Nriha Neshi Kumar, Nivedya Vijay, Paavni Mahajan; Humorous speech - Rohan Nair, Shazana V Sadiq, Adil Abdunasser; Table topics contest - Christa Rose Anish, Aditi Pillai, Nriha Neshi Kumar; International speech - Nriha Neshi Kumar, Aditi Pillai, Shazana V Sadiq. Pradip Sadiye was the chief judge.



## DPS MIS fetes grade XII exam toppers



DPS Modern Indian School celebrated the meritorious achievements of its students in the grade XII (AISSCE) CBSE Board Examination 2023-24 at an award ceremony. This was the 14th grade XII batch of the school.

In Science Stream, Ajay Sharma Sambara and Himanshu Gupta topped the school with 97% aggregate percentage. Krish Nagrani led the Commerce stream with 96.8%, securing first rank in Qatar. Shreyas Ghosh topped the Humanities stream with 96%.

Principal Asna Nafees commended the students for their

exemplary performance and highlighted the healthy school average for both grades X and XII, which has always remained between 82 and 90.

School president Yasir Nainar, the chief guest, lauded the achievers and urged them to remain connected with their alma mater through the alumni forum.

A total of 80 students from grade XII (2023-24) were awarded trophies, blue blazers, blue ties, gold and silver medals, merit certificates and special awards as a hallmark of their academic genius, punctuality and all-round excellence.



## TOASTMASTERS EVENTS HELD

### ICC Eves TM celebrates Onam vibes



ICC Eves Toastmasters hosted their 334th meeting with the theme 'Onam Vibes,' celebrating the spirit of Kerala's harvest festival. Bharati Shetty, Tara Ashish, Chaitali Mehta, Ambily Vinod, Smita Manoj, Abhishek Chattopadhyay, and Priya Shembekar spoke. The event culminated with the traditional Onam feast.

### Marathi TM open house



The Marathi Toastmasters Club hosted an open house led by president Chandrashekhar Dudhe and his executive committee team. Attendees were introduced to the Toastmasters experience. Vice-president Vidya Mogare's organised the event.

### TM Area 15 meeting held



Toastmasters Area 15 in District 116 organised their first confluence meeting featuring members from Aitmaq, KEF and Parsons Doha Toastmasters clubs. Nivedita Ketkar, Najla Azad, Babu M K, Surya Narayanan, Rajini Naren, Raghavan Menon, Sherwin Olimpo, Smitha Bindu, Christopher Almeida and other guests were present.

### NIA Hindi TM meeting



NIA Hindi Toastmasters Club held its open house on the topic 'Hindi and Us.' Bindhu Singh, Vandana Raj, Kumaran C S, Alka Chaudhary, Vishwanath Iyer, Chandra Gururani, Priyabahi, Yatika, and Uttam were present. Teachers from Loyola International School presented a short play. Division B director Seema Bhardwaj and Area 8 director Shweta Koshthi provided guidance.

# Doha Women Forum wraps up seventh edition

**D**oha Women Forum, a leading platform for empowering women across diverse fields, concluded its seventh edition recently, a statement said.

The event featured a lineup of influential women leaders, entrepreneurs, industry luminaries, and thought leaders, discussing the critical role of women in building a more peaceful, secure, and inclusive world.

With close to 300 participants, the forum showcased its growing impact and relevance in the community since it was first launched in 2015. In her opening keynote speech, renowned Qatari composer, songwriter, and symphonic artist Dana Alfardan emphasised the importance of investing in women for sustainable growth and diversification. She highlighted the unique qualities that women bring to the table, such as empathy, creativity and problem-solving skills.



Some of the participants at the event.

embracing these feminine features, women can contribute significantly to the economic landscape and create a more balanced and harmonious society. "Embodying our unique feminine features is sitting in the source of our power, which is our heart... the scope of the heart is limitless, and this is the constructive force that allows us to see beyond the surface., to transform ideas into concrete matter." As the guest speaker, renowned Lebanese celebrity entrepreneur Joelle Mardinian, shared her inspiring journey and lessons learned along her way. She shared insights on becoming a successful businesswoman, emphasising the transformative power of female role models.

Mardinian also discussed the power of social media platforms for women's expression and the importance of perseverance in the face of setbacks. She encouraged attendees to stay true to themselves, understand their own

strengths, and define their own version of success. There were discussions on topics related to this year's theme, "Invest in Women: The Path for Peace, Security, and Inclusion." Guests and subject experts explored challenges and opportunities facing women, seeking strategies to advance their participation in various fields.

The key topics discussed included the evolving role of education, women in leadership, women in STEM, cultural change for peace,

women's health and economic growth, and technology and innovation. A fashion showcase by Istituto Di Moda Burgo Qatar, featured 10 pieces by five women designers.

"The Doha Women Forum is more than just an annual event; it's a platform for connection, inspiration, and empowerment," founder Conchita Ponce said.

"By bringing together women from diverse backgrounds and stages of their journeys, we've created a unique space for networking, part-



Dana Alfardan delivers the keynote speech.



Joelle Mardinian was the guest speaker.

nership, and discovering the abundant resources available for women in Qatar," she added.

# Gord's Synergia9n1 cooling system holds high potential for Qatari greenhouses

By **Joey Aguilar**  
Staff Reporter

**T**he Gulf Organisation for Research and Development's (Gord) award-winning Synergia9n1 hybrid cooling system has the potential to revolutionise greenhouse operations in Qatar.

Boasting a 50% energy efficiency improvement over conventional systems, Gord founding chairman Dr Yousef Alhorr highlighted the technology's suitability for application in greenhouses, particularly for high-value crops like strawberries.

"This is part of our objective to see how this system can be applicable in existing greenhouses or even model its performance using available data. Further, a full-scale trial during the peak summer months will validate our findings," he explained.

Synergia9n1, showcased at Gord's TechnoHub research centre at Qatar Science and Technology Park on Wednesday, is a key component of the organisation's sustainability drive, aligning with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Alhorr said that Gord is ready to collaborate with Qatar's Ministry of Municipality's Agriculture Department to test Synergia9n1 in existing greenhouses. He noted that initial trials will involve both theoretical modelling using data from existing cooling systems and practical field testing during August, the hottest and most humid month, to rigorously assess the system's performance.

He said the Synergia9n1 system offers several advantages for greenhouse environments. Its flexible design allows for pre-



Dr Yousef Alhorr at the live demo of Synergia9n1.

PICTURES: Thajudheen



Live demo of Synergia9n1 hybrid cooling system at Gord's TechnoHub research centre at the Qatar Science and Technology Park.

mise humidity and temperature control, crucial for optimal crop growth. In addition, the system's use of 100% outdoor air improves indoor air quality, while its eco-friendly design incorporates high-efficiency compressors and a non-toxic, non-flammable liquid coolant.

Beyond greenhouses, Synergia9n1's applications extend to barns and other indoor environments requiring climate control. Its adaptability to various weather conditions and support for multiple operational modes further enhance its versatility.

Dr Alhorr also noted that Synergia9n1's high efficiency makes the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar power, significantly more economically feasible. The system's reduced energy needs could mean a 25% decrease in required solar panel area.

The introduction of Synergia9n1 signifies a significant step towards sustainable agricultural practices in Qatar, potentially boosting the efficiency and profitability of greenhouse operations while minimising environmental impact.

## US embassy reveals Qatar premiere of *The Pearl Diver's Daughter*

**T**he US embassy in Doha announced the Qatar premiere of *The Pearl Diver's Daughter*, an innovative theatrical experience that blends Gulf folklore with state-of-the-art augmented reality technology.

The groundbreaking performance will premiere at the Katara Opera House on October 9 and 10 at 7.30pm.

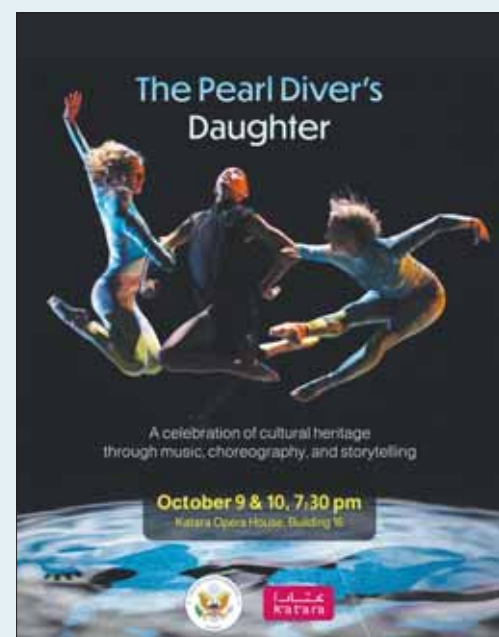
The hour-long show, is a collaborative creation of American and Gulf artists, featuring compositions by renowned Qatari musician Dana Alfardan, live music by members of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and local percussionists, and choreography by the contemporary dance Company E from Washington, DC.

By blending Qatar's rich maritime heritage with cutting-edge American technology, this collaboration not only celebrates shared values but also paves the way for future storytelling, a statement from the embassy said.

The performance tells a poignant story of family, tradition, and choice, brought to life through the lens of Qatar's pearl diving heritage.

"I look forward to this thrilling production that bridges Qatari and US artistic traditions and culture. Join me to witness the magic that happens when artists from different backgrounds come together to tell a story reflecting on the experiences and traditions that shape us," US ambassador to Qatar Timmy Davis said.

This free event, made possible in collaboration with Katara - Cultural Village, aims to promote



cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Qatari and US artists while preserving and revitalising local legends through contemporary artistic expression. Guests are required to register at <https://qa.usembassy.gov/pdd>

## Qatar National Archives opens registration for scholarships

The Qatar National Archives, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, announces the opening of applications for government scholarship opportunities for the year 2024/2025 in the following specialisations: Document and Archives Management,

Artificial Intelligence, Digital Documentation. Registration is starting from October 3 until October 10, 2024. If you wish to join one of these specialisations, you can submit your applications via e-mail: [naqcareer@naq.gov.qa](mailto:naqcareer@naq.gov.qa) The application conditions include that the applicant must not be over 21 years old. Must have obtained a high school certificate with a

minimum grade of 80%, or its equivalent for scholarships for the bachelor's programme, and 70% or higher for scholarships for the diploma programme. The applicant should pass the personal interview by the Qatar National Archives and must meet the government scholarship requirements of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

## MoEHE opens submissions for Scientific Excellence Award 2025

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has announced the start of electronic submission for the Scientific Excellence Award in its 18th session in 2025, to continue until Oct 31, calling on all those wishing to contest for the award in this session to expedite their early submission and attach all required documents. The announcement of the start of submissions came after the conclusion of a series of introductory meetings, which witnessed remarkable participation from those wishing to contest for the award from various categories.

The meetings for the nine award categories, which were attended by CEO of the Scientific Excellence Award Maryam Abdullah al-Mohannadi, and in which the heads of the arbitration committees spoke with the participation of all committee members, aimed to raise awareness of the award, including explaining its nature, vision, mission, categories, conditions, evaluation criteria for each category, and its evidence. In addition, it included reviewing the documents and papers required for submission, explaining how to prepare the excellence file, providing practical

models of evaluation criteria and how to document them, monitoring the elements required for school visits, personal interview questions, and answering the questions and inquiries of participants, in addition to explaining the electronic system of the award. The participants in the meetings stressed the importance of the information provided, especially on the vision, goals and criteria of the award, so that they become keen to participate more than ever, especially after learning about its electronic system, which facilitates uploading files and communicating with all parties. (QNA)

## Gord takes part in Cairo Sustainable Energy Week

Reinforcing its position among the leading organisations in the global sustainability milieu, Qatar-based Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) participated in the Cairo Sustainable Energy Week (CSEW) 2024 as a sustainability partner.

At the three-day event which concluded yesterday, Gord showcased its green initiatives through presentations and exhibitions focused on promoting sustainable practices and climate action across various sectors. This included initiatives supporting carbon offsetting, implementation of the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) for sustainable built environment, organising capacity building programmes, and supporting research and development projects to find innovative and sustainable solutions to climate challenges facing the world.

Founding chairman, Dr Yousef Alhorr, said: "At Gord, we recognise that the energy transition is indispensable for the Mena region, not only to enhance energy security but also to combat climate change and foster economic growth. By participating in Cairo Sustainable Energy Week 2024, we hope to collaborate with global partners, aiming to drive sustainable practices that will lead to a resilient and low-carbon future



for our region." At its booth, Gord showcased sustainability solutions and innovations related to energy performance assessment for all types of buildings. Energia Suite is developed as a cost-effective alternative to complex energy simulation tools. Climate Action Center of Excellence offers high-impact solutions to support governments and the private sector in accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement and achieving the essential goal of decarbonisation by mid-century. It provides countries with technical assistance to enter carbon markets, and facilitates the reduction and removal of emissions by mobilising climate finance, providing value for money for investors, and generating new projects. Gord's affiliate entity Global Carbon Council was also highlighted at CSEW.

## GCO partners with TikTok for creative content course

The Government Communications Office (GCO), in collaboration with TikTok, hosted a course titled 'Strategies for Creative Content' for communications professionals from government and semi-government entities across Qatar.

The course, which ran from Sept 29 to Oct 2, aimed to enhance local media capabilities within Qatar's communications ecosystem by exploring digital technologies. Twenty-six attendees from 24 different government and semi-government entities took part. Speaking on the occasion, HE GCO Director Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani, said: "This initiative, launched in collaboration with TikTok, comes as part of efforts to enhance Qatar's position as a leading destination for innovation and advanced technology across sectors. It underscores dedication to fostering a thriving digital future, powered by homegrown talent within the institutional communication sector." (QNA)

## Customs seizes banned pills

Customs officials at Hamad International Airport has foiled an attempt to smuggle 2,100 banned Lyrica pills, a X post by the General Authority of Customs said. When the customs officer in charge suspected the conduct of a traveller coming into the country, the latter was subjected to a X-ray examination and subsequent body search, leading to the discovery of the pills concealed in a cloth belt.





## CRIME

**Man arrested over suspected acid attack at UK school**

UK police investigating a suspected acid attack outside a London school that left two teenagers in hospital, one with potentially life-changing injuries, arrested a 35-year-old man. Three people in total were injured when a substance was thrown at students and a staff member outside the Westminster Academy school in west London on Monday afternoon. Officers arrested a 35-year-old man in the early hours yesterday. "The investigation team has been working tirelessly to piece together the events in which two young victims, aged 16 and 14, were approached outside the school by a lone man who threw a substance at them before fleeing," said a police officer.

## FALLOUT

**BBC cancels interview with Johnson after blunder**

The BBC cancelled a prime-time interview with former prime minister Boris Johnson after one of its best-known presenters accidentally sent him the notes prepared for her questions. Laura Kuenssberg, the BBC's former political editor and now the host of its flagship Sunday morning news programme, said she mistakenly sent Johnson the notes "in a message meant for my team" and this meant the interview had to be cancelled. "It's very frustrating, and there's no point pretending it's anything other than embarrassing and disappointing, as there are plenty of important questions to be asked," Kuenssberg said on X. "But red faces aside, honesty is the best policy."

## DISASTER

**Nine dead in Taiwan hospital blaze**

Nine people died yesterday after a fire ripped through a hospital in southern Taiwan just as a typhoon hit, making rescue operations "more difficult", authorities said. The blaze in Pingtung County was reported at around 7.40am, and was put out shortly after 1pm, according to an online post by the island's fire agency. Eight victims were confirmed dead after being taken away for treatment, and another was later found dead at the scene, the agency said. The fire broke out the same day that Typhoon Krathon made landfall in Taiwan's south, and the Pingtung county government said heavy rains made rescue operations "more difficult".

## AGREEMENT

**Nepal signs power export deal with Bangladesh, India**

Nepal signed an agreement with Bangladesh to export 40 megawatts of hydroelectricity annually via India as it seeks to tap into its snow-fed rivers to power its economy. Nepal currently has installed capacity of more than 3,200 megawatts from over 150 projects, with over 200 more projects under construction. "We are moving from the bilateral power trade to a trilateral framework, opening avenues for sub-regional and regional co-operation in the energy sector," Nepal Electricity Authority said. The agreement was signed with the Bangladesh Power Development Board and India's NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, which will facilitate access to transmission lines.

# Court pulls up authorities as air quality in Delhi worsens

Reuters  
New Delhi

India's Supreme Court yesterday asked authorities to report back within a week on what they were doing to stop farmers from burning crop residue as smog began to pollute the air in the capital Delhi and surrounding regions, local media reported.

Farmers in the northern states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh burn crop stubble after rice is harvested around October to clear the fields before planting wheat crops.

The smoke contributes to a toxic smog that engulfs Delhi, frequently making it the world's most polluted capital ahead of winter as calm winds and lower temperatures trap pollutants in the air.

Federal and state authorities have encouraged farmers to stop burning crop residue and penalised those that do but have not been able to fully curb the practice due to the large area involved and the hostility of farmers in some places.

"In some of the districts in Punjab and Haryana the incidents of stubble burning increased substantially as compared to 2023," legal news website Live Law reported the court as saying. "However, all (that) the states have done is to recover nominal compensation from 42 and 45 farmers respectively." A

government website monitoring crop burning showed about 200 fires almost every day in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh since the middle of September.

The court also pulled up the Commission for Air Quality Management, a government body responsible for air quality in the national capital region, saying it "does not seem to be making any efforts to follow up implementation of its own directions".

The court asked the commission, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and state authorities to report within one week on the action being taken to stop crop residue burning.

India was rated the third most polluted country last year by Swiss group IQAir, behind Bangladesh and Pakistan.

New Delhi ranked sixth on a real-time list of the world's most polluted cities with the air quality index at 115 yesterday, a level considered unhealthy for sensitive groups.

India's weather office has forecast moderate air quality in the capital until October 6 and then moderate-to-poor for six days after that.

Experts fear air quality could further deteriorate from mid-October when farm fires are expected to increase before peaking towards the end of the month and beginning of November.

**William visits Birtley Community Pool**

Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales (right), speaks with British Paralympian Louise Fiddes (left) and British Olympian Tom Dean during a visit to Birtley Community Pool in Tyne and Wear, north-east of England, yesterday to celebrate its reopening and highlight the importance of access to swimming.

# Dhaka recalls five envoys in diplomatic reshuffle

Reuters  
Dhaka

Bangladesh has recalled five envoys, including the ambassador to neighbouring India, foreign ministry officials said yesterday, in a major diplomatic reshuffle as the interim government clears out holdovers from the previous administration.

Political upheaval in the nation ushered in the interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus after weeks of violent protests forced the August 5 resignation

of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who then fled to India.

The foreign ministry ordered envoys in Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, New Delhi and the permanent mission to the United Nations in New York to immediately return to the capital, Dhaka, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It's possible the government doesn't want them to continue, as they were appointed by Hasina's administration," said one government official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

"It wouldn't be surprising if more changes

in the diplomatic corps follow."

The departure of Hasina's government has triggered a broad administrative overhaul, with hundreds of senior officials being re-assigned or transferred, and the contracts of some key ones terminated, forcing many of them to resign or retire early.

All the recalled diplomats are set to go on post-retirement leave in December, another foreign ministry official said.

"You are requested to leave your current posts and return to Dhaka without delay," the ministry told the diplomats in its notice, seen by Reuters.

**Manila voices concern at claims of foreign spying in country**

The Philippines expressed concerns yesterday over media reports alleging foreign covert operations in the country, saying it is co-ordinating with relevant agencies to address the matter.

The department of foreign affairs (DFA) did not name any foreign actor or entity in its statement, but its spokesperson told reporters it was responding to a documentary aired on a Chinese fugitive detained in Thailand.

The fugitive, She Zhijiang, is wanted by Beijing for allegedly running illegal online gambling operations.

In the documentary, he was quoted saying that he once spied for China and was recruited in the Philippines in late 2016.

He was quoted in the documentary also saying he and Alice Guo, former Philippine mayor of Bambang in Tarlac province, worked for China's ministry of state security, the main agency overseeing foreign intelligence.

**Philippines' midterm polls**

Philippines former national police chief and outgoing senator Ronald dela Rosa arrives to file his candidacy for senator in the May 2025 midterm elections, in Manila, yesterday.

# Work at India iPhone plant resumes after fire

AFP  
Mumbai

An Indian factory producing iPhone components resumed work yesterday after a fire that halted production - the third blaze to disrupt Apple's local supply chain since the start of last year.

India has pitched itself as an emerging manufacturing hub for tech giants diversifying production outside of China to insulate themselves against geopolitical friction between Washington and Beijing.

Local industrial behemoth Tata Group's plant in Tamil Nadu, which was shut down by the unexplained weekend fire, is a key linchpin of Apple's nascent supply chain in the country.

A spokesperson for subsidiary Tata Electronics earlier said the

company would restart work in "many areas of the facility today".

"We've been working diligently since Saturday to support our team and to identify the cause of the fire," they added.

The conglomerate did not say when the facility would resume full production or whether the fire would result in shipment delays.

Local analysts had initially projected a delay in production of older iPhone models.

The fire is the latest incident to affect Apple's supply chain in India, with two other blazes temporarily halting production at factories owned by Taiwanese suppliers Pegatron and Foxlink last year.

India has been a major beneficiary of Apple's decision to broaden its production outside of China.

# Singapore's former minister jailed for 12 months

Reuters  
Singapore

A Singapore court yesterday sentenced a former minister to 12 months in prison for obstructing justice and receiving more than \$300,000 worth of gifts, in the first jailing of a former cabinet member in a city-state famous for its clean governance.

S Iswaran, who was a cabinet member for 13 years and has held the trade, communications and transport portfolios, pleaded guilty last week to four counts of improperly receiving gifts and one of obstructing justice.

In a statement posted on the prime minister's office website, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said he was disappointed and saddened by the case. He said that while it was painful to act against a colleague and a friend, "it is our duty to do so when necessary".

"Our system of government and politics must always stay clean and free from corruption," said Wong, who took over as Singapore's fourth premier in May this year.

Property tycoon Ong Beng Seng, who gave Iswaran tickets to English Premier League soccer matches, the Singapore Formula 1 Grand Prix, London musicals and a ride on a private jet among other favours, will be

charged in court today, according to a court hearing list.

Iswaran was an adviser to the Singapore Grand Prix's steering committee, while Ong, 78, owns the rights to the race.

The sentence handed down was more severe than the six to seven months sought by the prosecution, which presiding judge Vincent Hoong said was "manifestly inadequate" given the gravity of Iswaran's offences and their impact on public trust.

"Trust and confidence in public institutions were the bedrock of effective governance, which could all too easily be undermined by the appearance that an individual

public servant had fallen below the standards of integrity and accountability," he said in sentencing Iswaran.

The case has shocked Singapore, which prides itself on its well-paid and efficient bureaucracy as well as strong and squeaky-clean governance. It was among the world's top five least corrupt countries last year, according to Transparency International's corruption perception index.

PM Wong said: "However stringently we act against corruption, from time to time some individuals will be tempted and will go astray. In Singapore, they must expect their actions sooner or later to

come to light, whereupon they will be held to account."

The last corruption case involving a Singaporean minister was in 1986, when its national development minister was investigated for alleged bribery but died before charges were filed in court.

The Iswaran investigation caused a stir in the Asian financial hub and centred on allegations that while he was transport minister he accepted expensive gifts from two businessmen that he had official dealings with.

According to the prosecution the value of the gifts Iswaran received totalled more than S\$400,000 (\$308,500).

Iswaran, 62, faced a huge media scrum as he arrived in court and declined to answer questions when he left. He showed no emotion during the court session.

The judge allowed him to remain on bail for the next few days and begin his jail term on Monday.

Iswaran had initially said he was innocent and would fight to clear his name but pleaded guilty last week to the five charges put before the court.

The former minister faced a total of 35 charges, two of which were corruption-related but were later amended to charges of receiving gifts while a public servant.



## Pakistan's highest court rules MPs can cross aisle on major votes

AFP  
Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court has ruled that lawmakers can vote separately from their parties on major issues, allowing parliamentary horse-trading as the government tries to rally support for constitutional reform.

Elections in February were marred by allegations of rigging that favoured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who heads a shaky coalition lacking the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution.

He is reportedly planning to give the executive more power over the judiciary, where dozens of cases are playing out

against jailed opposition leader Imran Khan.

Yesterday's ruling allows his government to court individual MPs for their votes and pressure lawmakers loyal to Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for their support.

"This has cleared the way for them for the constitutional amendment," political analyst Zahid Hussain said. "This is also being used by the ruling party to weaken PTI."

A 2022 Supreme Court decision said MPs crossing the aisle would have their ballots discounted on major votes including constitutional amendments, no-confidence votes and the election of prime ministers. However, yesterday's ruling "unani-

mously" backtracked that ruling, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said in court.

Opposition parties say the amendments proposed by Sharif's government would create a new court to rule on the constitution, with a head judge picked by the prime minister.

The Supreme Court and other Pakistani tribunals would be beholden to the new court's rulings.

"Not only would this constitutional amendment weaken the judiciary but also democracy and the constitution itself," said PTI lawyer Ali Zafar.

Khan was barred from contesting February's election and sidelined in jail on charges he says are politically motivated.

Candidates loyal to the former interna-

tional cricket star became the biggest bloc in parliament after that election but fell short of the majority needed to rule.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) party sealed a deal to rule with other parties also considered close to the powerful military establishment.

However, the PTI has been a vocal opposition force, holding regular street protests and needling the government in parliament.

Khan has seen his cases, many alleging corruption, ping-pong through different courts, one of which has openly alleged intimidation by state intelligence agencies.

The 71-year-old has been jailed for more than a year and the PTI has called for fresh protests in the capital Islamabad today.

## Nurse jailed 8 years for denouncing Ukraine campaign

Russia has sentenced a 59-year-old nurse to eight years in a penal colony for denouncing Moscow's Ukraine offensive on social media.

Moscow has banned criticism of its military campaign, punishing thousands of people with jail terms or fines for speaking out against it.

Moscow's Dorogomilovsky court found Olga Menshikh guilty of spreading "fakes" about the Russian army, under legislation adopted shortly after the Kremlin sent troops to Ukraine that has been used to silence dissent.

The court ruled that she had published posts "motivated by political hatred".

Menshikh had criticised a deadly 2022 Russian strike on the Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia and alleged the killings of civilians in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha.

She pleaded not guilty and said in court that she felt sorry for the wounded Russian soldiers arriving at the Pirogov National Medical and Surgical Centre in Moscow where she worked as a nurse anaesthetist.

"When a young man passes by, do you know what a woman feels? Compassion, not the hatred of which I am being accused," she said, according to the independent website Mediazona. "I felt really sorry for them."

Wearing a checked shirt, she looked sternly through the glass defendant's box in court.

Addressing the prosecutor, she said: "You want to give me a sentence like one for murder, but I was fighting for your health."

"I have treated so many prosecutors and judges from the whole of Moscow."

Menshikh was arrested in April and placed under house arrest, but was moved to pre-trial detention in September. - AFP

## Mexican president vows justice after soldiers kill 6 migrants

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has pledged that soldiers who opened fire and killed six migrants, apparently mistaken for criminals, would face justice.

The killings late on Tuesday during a highway chase in southern Chiapas state "must be investigated and punished", Sheinbaum said, adding that the victims were from Egypt, El Salvador and Peru.

The state prosecutor's office would investigate the incident, including whether commanders were also responsible, she told a news conference.

"A situation like this cannot be repeated," she added.

Peru called for "an urgent investigation" into what it called a "reprehensible act".

In recent years, Mexico has given an increased public security role to its military, which human rights group Amnesty International in April accused of using "unnecessary and excessive force". The United Nations human rights office earlier this week voiced concern about "the growing role that the military has taken in public security and other law enforcement functions".

Migrants "are exposed to great risks during their journey, which is why it is essential to have legal pathways for access, transit and integration to avoid tragedies like this one", it said on Wednesday in response to the six deaths.

The shooting happened on the same day that Sheinbaum was sworn in as president, vowing to respect human rights and avoid repression by security forces.

According to a police report, soldiers chased a truck after it failed to stop at an army checkpoint, firing gunshots to try to stop it.

The defence ministry said the two soldiers who opened fire had been removed from their duties pending an investigation.

It said a military patrol saw a vehicle - followed by two flatbed trucks similar to those often used by criminals - travelling at speed and apparently attempting to flee.

"Military personnel reported hearing gunshots, so two soldiers activated their weapons, stopping one of the flatbed trucks," the statement said.

The patrol found 33 migrants from countries that also included Nepal, Cuba, India and Pakistan.

Four of the migrants died at the scene while two of the 12 injured lost their lives at the hospital, it said.

Chiapas, home to lush jungle, Indigenous communities and ancient Mayan ruins, has seen intensifying turf wars between two powerful cartels involved in drug and people smuggling.

Thousands of migrants from many countries travel through Mexico each year in buses, overcrowded trailers operated by people smugglers and on freight trains in an attempt to reach the US-Mexican border. - AFP

## At least 78 dead after boat capsizes at DR Congo lake

Reuters/AFP  
Goma

At least 78 people drowned when a boat carrying 278 passengers capsized in Lake Kivu in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) yesterday, a provincial governor said.

Relatives sobbed on shore as victims were placed in body bags and carried away, a Reuters witness said, and video footage shared widely online showed a packed multi-deck vessel listing sideways in calm waters before it overturned and pitched flailing passengers into the lake.

Reuters was not immediately able to verify the footage.

It was not clear how many people were still missing and regional officials gave contrasting death tolls.

The governor of South Kivu province, said the death toll was 78 and that 278 had been on board.

"It'll take at least three days to get the exact numbers, because not all the bodies have

been found yet," Governor Jean Jacques Purisi told Reuters.

The governor of neighbouring North Kivu province said 58 people had survived the accident and that 28 people were confirmed dead so far.

The boat capsized around 700m from port and the causes of the accident are being investigated, he said in a statement.

Deadly boat accidents are common in Congolese waters, where vessels are frequently loaded beyond capacity.

"The boat started to tilt and suddenly we were all in the water," survivor Theo Basimane told AFP.

His wife and their two-month-old baby, as well as three other family members who were travelling with him, are still missing.

"I feel like I'm the only survivor," Basimane added.

At a local hospital, one survivor said conditions were calm when the crowded boat overturned.

As others drowned around him, he struggled to stay afloat until he was rescued by Congolese troops.

## Biden, Harris tour storm areas as deaths surpass 160

Reuters/AFP  
Washington

President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris visited South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia on Wednesday to see first-hand the devastation wrought in the US Southeast by Hurricane Helene, which has killed at least 160 people.

Biden landed in Greer, South Carolina, where he was met by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, US Senator Lindsey Graham and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, among others, before boarding Marine One for an aerial tour of the region.

From the helicopter, Biden could see the grim devastation brought to parts of North Carolina, including Asheville and Chimney Rock.

Over the Asheville metropolitan area, homes were smashed to bits, with the damage greatest near rivers, reporters in a trailing helicopter observed.

Many of the people living in the area remained cut off from contact with the outside world, even as the US president passed overhead.

In Asheville's River Arts District, set alongside the French Broad River, the receding floodwaters left behind chaos.

Rescuers continue to scour the state's mountains for survivors.

"You can see homes that have moved clearly from one side of the river down the river to another side," Biden said in Raleigh, North Carolina, before an operational briefing. "And I can only imagine what it's like to have been in one of those homes."

"It's going to cost billions of dollars to deal with this storm and all the communities affected," he added.

Harris, meanwhile, was briefed in Augusta, Georgia, alongside Georgia Senator Jon Ossoff and Representative Rick Allen.

She joined Augusta Mayor Garnett Johnson to survey the city's Meadowbrook neighbourhood.

"There is real pain and trauma that has



US Vice-President Kamala Harris speaks after she surveyed the damage from Hurricane Helene, in the Meadowbrook neighbourhood of Augusta, Georgia, on Wednesday. - AFP



US President Joe Biden participates in a tour and briefing of an area affected by Hurricane Helene in Keaton Beach, Florida. - AFP

resulted because of this hurricane and what has happened in terms of the aftermath of it," Harris said, adding that she had spoken with a community member whose daughter lost her husband.

"We are here for the long haul," Harris said. "There's a lot of work that's going to happen."

Rebuilding will be extremely costly and take years, US officials say.

Former president Donald Trump, a Republican running against Harris in this year's presidential election, has falsely claimed that Biden, a Democrat, has been unresponsive to the hurricane's destruction, an allegation local officials deny.

"In a moment like this, we put politics aside," Biden said in Raleigh. "There are no Democrats, Republicans, there are only Americans. And our job is to help as many people as we can, as quickly as we can and as thoroughly as we can."

"What I saw was heartbreaking," the president wrote said on X later. "But back on the ground, we're witnessing neighbours helping neighbours, volunteers and workers standing side-by-side, people leaning on each other. That's America."

However, he also warned how climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of extreme weather events.

"Nobody can deny the impact of the climate crisis anymore, at least I hope they don't," Biden said. "They must be brain-dead if they do."

Before leaving Washington, Biden directed up to 1,000 active-duty troops to help with response and recovery efforts.

Almost 6,000 members of the National Guard are deployed across the six states affected by the storm, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said.

Search-and-rescue teams have conducted nearly 1,500 structural evaluations and hundreds of rescues and evacuations, Mayorkas said.

Biden also approved on Wednesday requests from Georgia Governor Brian Kemp and North Carolina's Cooper for federal funds for debris removal and emergency protective measures for three months and six months, respectively.

Biden headed to Georgia and Florida yes-

terday, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Harris will travel to North Carolina in the coming days.

Over \$10mn has been provided directly to those affected by the storm, Jean-Pierre said.

More than 4,800 personnel from across the federal workforce have been deployed to help recovery efforts, along with 8.8mn meals, 7.4mn litres of water and 150 emergency power generators, said Mayorkas.

Still, the Homeland Security secretary said federal funding may not be enough should another hurricane hit.

"We are meeting the moment, but that doesn't speak about the future," Mayorkas said. "We are expecting another hurricane hitting. FEMA does not have the funds to make it through the season."

Hurricane Helene slammed into Florida last Thursday as a powerful Category 4 hurricane before tearing a destructive path through Southeastern states for several days.

## Trump 'resorted to crimes' to overturn 2020 election: special counsel



AFP/Reuters  
Washington

Donald Trump launched a "private criminal effort" to subvert the 2020 US election and should not be shielded by presidential immunity, Special Counsel Jack Smith said in a court filing unsealed on Wednesday.

Smith, in a 165-page motion arguing for the historic case against Trump to move forward, also provided new evidence of the former president's efforts to overturn the results of the election won by Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump, 78, the Republican candidate in November's White

House election, was to go on trial in March but the case was frozen while his lawyers argued that a former president should be immune from criminal prosecution.

The Supreme Court ruled in July that an ex-president has immunity from prosecution for official acts while in office, but can be pursued for unofficial acts.

Smith, in the filing unsealed by District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is hearing the case, said that Trump should not escape prosecution because "at its core, the defendant's scheme was a private criminal effort".

"The defendant asserts that he is immune from prosecution for his criminal scheme to overturn

the 2020 presidential election because, he claims, it entailed official conduct," Smith said. "Not so."

"Although the defendant was the incumbent president during the charged conspiracies, his scheme was fundamentally a private one."

Trump, acting as a candidate and not in his official capacity, "resorted to crimes to try to stay in office", the special counsel said.

"With private co-conspirators, the defendant launched a series of increasingly desperate plans to overturn the legitimate election results in seven states that he had lost," he said.

Trump's efforts allegedly in-

cluded lying to state officials, manufacturing fraudulent electoral votes and seeking to get then-Vice-President Mike Pence to obstruct congressional certification of Biden's victory.

"When all else had failed," the special counsel said, Trump directed an "angry crowd" of supporters to the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, to disrupt the certification.

According to Smith's filing, a White House staffer told Trump during the January 6 rioting at the Capitol that Pence had been taken to a secure location, to which the president replied "So what?"

Smith said there was abundant evidence that Trump knew his

claims of electoral fraud were false because advisers had told him so.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social after the filing was unsealed, said: "Democrats are Weaponizing the Justice Department against me because they know I am WINNING."

Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung blasted the disclosures, saying: "This entire case is a partisan, Unconstitutional Witch Hunt that should be dismissed entirely, together with ALL of the remaining Democrat hoaxes."

Chutkan has not set a date for a trial but it will not be held before the November 5 election between Trump and Vice-President Kamala Harris.



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# Africa's food security depends on adaptive crops

Africa's food systems are facing myriad challenges, from climate shocks and low productivity to supply-chain disruptions and soil degradation. In 2022, one in five Africans was undernourished, even though the continent's cultivated land could more than meet its food needs. But that would require effective management and, perhaps most importantly, planting adaptive crops such as millet, sorghum, teff, and fonio. These underutilised crops have long been staples in African communities and offer nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits. Unfortunately, food companies and retailers often overlook them – which must change to have any hope of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Rapid urbanisation and changing tastes have dampened demand for traditional crops in Africa, increasing reliance on the small number of staples that dominate global agriculture. Only 20 plant species provide more than 90% of the world's food requirements, with maize, rice, and wheat accounting for 60% of total caloric intake. But relying on a few staples is unsustainable, especially given rising temperatures. Without effective climate adaptation strategies, yields for such crops could decline by as much as 30% by 2050, in which case demand would outstrip supply and even more people would go hungry.

African governments must work with the agri-food industry and farmers to increase demand for climate-resilient and nutrient-rich adaptive crops that would enable the continent to feed its growing population. There are more than 300 such "opportunity crops," a few of which are popular globally, including lentils, cassava, pumpkin, and sweet potato. But many more are known mainly by the communities that grow them.

## Rapid urbanisation and changing tastes have dampened demand for traditional crops in Africa, increasing reliance on the small number of staples that dominate global agriculture

Interest in these crops has been growing. Efforts to commercialise fonio in West Africa have been relatively successful, and the ancient gluten-free grain is gaining international attention, with the global brand Knorr naming it as a "Future 50 Food" for a healthier planet. Teff, a cereal grain from the Horn of Africa, is also growing in popularity as a so-called superfood. National policymakers and international partners have an important role to play in reducing Africa's overdependence on global staples such as maize and wheat. The Ghanaian government has used policies that promote cereal-flour blending to boost consumption of locally grown sweet potatoes. In Kenya, the International Potato Center has encouraged local women to make chapatis, a type of flatbread, with orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Making greater use of these crops has nutritional benefits and creates new investment opportunities, especially because consumers have shown a preference for these substitutions.

But to change eating habits and create new markets, policymakers must ensure that African farmers and communities reap the benefits of growing adaptive crops. That is not the case today: climate-resilient and nutrient-dense grains such as fonio are not as commercially viable as traditional staples. In Senegal, the labour-intensive process of removing fonio's tough hull results in just 10% of the crop reaching market, with the rest consumed by farmers and their families. Therefore, at present, there is little financial incentive to grow fonio. But this can change. Providing farmers with better equipment and processing methods could make the grain more competitive in wider markets. The large-scale adoption of adaptive crops and their associated technologies requires market and policy incentives, research funding, and regulatory reform.

The private sector in Africa and elsewhere must invest in research and development to scale up production of a new wave of food products made with adaptive crops that are attractive to consumers in Africa and elsewhere. Policymakers, for their part, must promote the commercialisation of opportunity crops by co-ordinating with pioneering companies, small- and medium-size enterprises, and non-state actors to address constraints. That could mean leveraging policies like blending targets, providing incentives such as tax breaks and subsidies, and launching public-awareness campaigns. Governments could also use procurement to introduce adaptive crops into meals for schools, hospitals, and other public-sector catering.

Closer collaboration between governments, development partners, the private sector, and farming co-operatives can accelerate the uptake of adaptive crops. Such initiatives promise to help many African countries meet their goals of diversifying their agricultural practices, reducing their dependence on maize, wheat, and rice, and achieving growth that is good for people and the planet. – Project Syndicate

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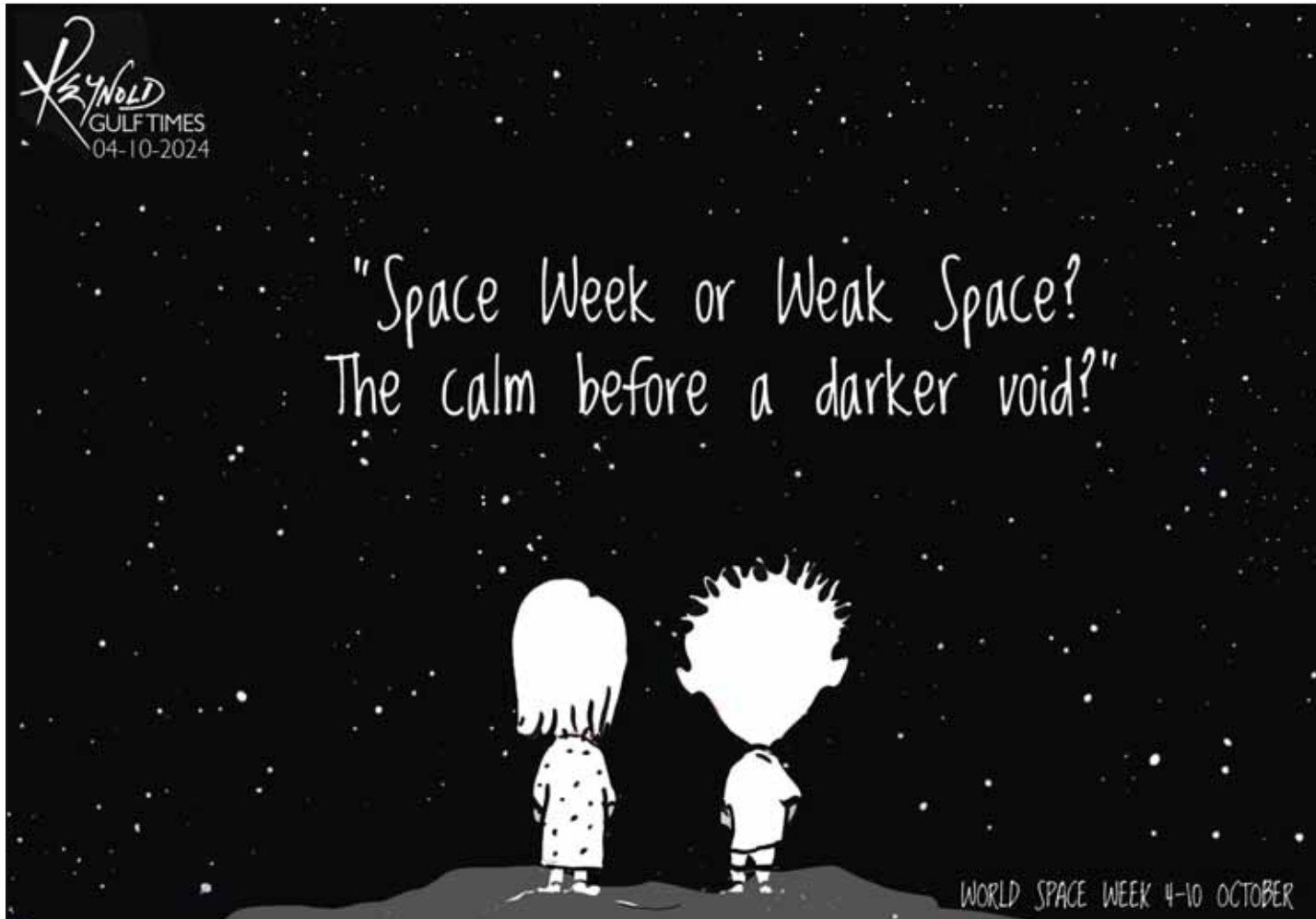
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# How is the world really doing on the SDGs?

By **Homi Kharas and John W. McArthur**  
Washington, DC

Any reader of the daily news could be forgiven for thinking the world is in decline. Amid so many conflicts and societal strains, the United Nations regularly warns that only 17% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the economic, social, and environmental targets all countries set in 2015 – are on track to be met by 2030, as agreed, leading many to wonder whether such goals still serve any purpose.

But rather than succumb to pessimism, we would do better to examine where the world is making sound progress, where it seems stuck on autopilot, and where things are indeed moving backwards or approaching a tipping point for the worse.

This is what we set out to do in a recent study, with our colleague Odera Onyechi, estimating country-level progress around the world. One of our topline findings is that "business as usual" aptly describes many trends since 2015.

Yet the SDGs must be evaluated remembering the nature of their ambition. They were not established merely to perpetuate longer-term patterns of progress toward more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable societies. Instead, they sought to hasten such progress dramatically. SDG 5, for example, does not just call for a secular continuation of the centuries-long journey toward gender equality. It calls for rapid, transformational change to achieve full gender equality by 2030 – and rightly so.

Even if the pace of progress is not sufficient to achieve what 193 countries committed to delivering, this does not mean everything is getting worse.

Our study examined 24 SDG-relevant, country-level indicators and started with a basic question: Have things improved since 2015? We found humanity-wide improvements for 18 – ranging from the enlargement of marine protected areas to expanded access to water and sanitation. Such gains do not minimise the pain of backsliding on the six remaining measures, especially those linked to hunger and food security, not to mention the horrendous health and educational consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

But they do show why we need to differentiate progress toward the SDGs more systematically.

When we investigate which trends have changed since the SDG agreement in 2015, the results are more muted. The clearest accelerations in progress are in HIV incidence, antiretroviral coverage to treat AIDS, and access to electricity.

The AIDS-treatment data include extraordinary breakthroughs in low-income countries with limited infrastructure, such as Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For a global issue that lacked any systematic policy response in the early 2000s, this represents remarkable progress for humanity.

For eight indicators, however, we found no change in the long-term rate of progress, and spotted signs of a slowdown in nine others. (For four indicators, we did not have sufficient pre-2015 data to assess long-term changes.)

The takeaway is that there is no single overall story to tell about the SDGs. Most countries are doing better on some issues and worse on others, suggesting that the world needs a more balanced scorecard

for cataloguing successes and failures.

Moreover, the slowdowns do not always come as a surprise. The pandemic caused a clear short-term increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty, but most of that impact has now faded. Notwithstanding all the big global shocks of the past few years, one finds that the same core challenge persists: Extreme poverty remains concentrated in those countries that were already struggling to reduce it.

On some measures, the apparent rate of progress doesn't tell the right story. With respect to the environment, for example, annual changes in protected areas or greenhouse-gas emissions don't say much about the risk of hitting a catastrophic tipping point. If you are stuck in a car careening toward a cliff, you shouldn't obsess over the readings on the speedometer; you should be focusing on pumping the brakes in time.

Although tipping points cannot be predicted precisely, there is growing evidence that many planetary boundaries already have been crossed.

The world is far off track from the goal of keeping global warming within 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels or adequately preserving nature to halt the risk of mass extinctions.

Other individual SDG-related issues can feed into competing narratives. Consider the challenge of child mortality. From 2015 to 2022, annual child deaths under age five fell by more than one million, from 6.1mn to 4.9mn.

The country-level trends driving this were a mixed bag. Twenty developing countries notched faster improvements while more than 40 had slower gains. If current trends continue, 60 countries will not meet the SDG target of no more than 25

deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. These shortfalls will add up to more than ten million deaths by 2030.

One can feel both buoyed by the progress and anxious about the challenges. Remarkably, more than half the excess child mortality could occur in just three countries by the end of the decade – Nigeria, Pakistan, and the DRC. Thus, it is conceivable that concerted international efforts could help local leaders achieve breakthroughs that would fundamentally change the global picture.

Overall, a nuanced assessment of the SDGs can offer encouragement alongside the sober realism that current conditions demand. Breakthroughs in technology – ranging from pioneering health interventions to digital cash safety nets reaching people even in the world's toughest environments – continue to drive new forms of progress. When the institutions, financing, and transparent governance systems align, progress can still be rapid.

The world is full of warning signs, and too much of humanity continues to carry an extraordinary burden. But despite the big global disruptions of the 2020s, we continue to make overall gains – if far too slowly – toward our common benchmarks of success. There is no reason to give up hope. The problem is not that everything is getting worse. It is that many things are not getting better any faster than they were before. – Project Syndicate

• *Homi Kharas is a senior fellow at the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution. John W McArthur is Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution.*



AI generated representational picture.



# Fever: A blessing in disguise

**F**ever wipes out one's sins and rids his body from dead substances and germs. It is a blessing in disguise.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), said: "When a believer gets sick or feverish, it is like metal when put on fire, the bad is gone and the good remains." [Al-Bayhaqi]

He, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, also describes the intensity of fever by saying: "Fever is coal from hell, get rid of it by using cold water." [Ibn Majah]

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, forbade the cursing of fever by saying: "Do not curse a fever because it abolishes sins like fire abolishes dirt from iron." [Ibn Majah]

## What is fever?

The increase of body temperature caused by bacterial or viral infection is called fever. A bacterial or viral infection usually raises the temperature of a person, antibiotics are useless with viral infections, such as the influenza and the common cold, although the patient might sweat and have a very high fever.

Fever occurs when the body temperature level rises above the normal level of 37C (98F). There is an area in the brain (an area that lies over the pituitary gland in the front of the head) which is a temperature regulator.

When a germ enters the body, it starts secreting toxins. Toxins affect the temperature regulator causing its temperature to rise. The substances that cause this rise in temperature are called pyrogens. Pyrogens are caused not only by germs but also by the ruined tissues in the body after being affected with germs.

When the temperature rises in the temperature regulator, the rest of the body has to comply. It increases its temperature in response. Soon, the whole body feels feverish and the patient's temperature rises. This explains the saying of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, when he described the believers in their kindness and affections like the body. If a part of it suffers from a germ or a virus, like inflammation in the respiratory pathways or inflammation of the urinary tracts and others, all of the body suffers from fever and restlessness.

Yes the whole body suffers. The whole body has a rise in temperature and not only where it is affected. When the inflammation worsens, the germs increase and consequently ruin the tissues. The germs and the pyrogens will find the body's defense system ready to attack and eat the by-products of the germs and rid the body



of them. While doing this, it releases to the body fluids a substance called leukocyte pyrogens or endogenous. Therefore the fever remains while the body is cleansing itself from the by-products.

Didn't the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, say, when a man cursed the fever: "Don't curse it because it abolishes sins like fire abolishes dirt from iron."

It is a cleansing of our sins, a cleansing of dead substances such as dead tissue and the by-products of the germs, like fire cleans the dirt from iron.

The famous book on physiology by Guyton, 1992 edition, stated that an amount equal to one over 10 billionth of a gram of endogenous is enough for a fever to occur.

Such a small amount of a substance se-

creted in the body due to a very small germ or a virus is enough to transfer a person from being healthy, to becoming sick, feverish and bed ridden.

Recent scientific studies have shown that this leukocyte pyrogens cause fever by making a substance called prostaglandin in the local glands in the area of the hypothalamus. When the growth of this kind of prostaglandin is inhibited, by using medicines, the fever is reduced. This explains how aspirin reduces fever. It inhibits the growth of prostaglandin and prevents its making.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "For every ailment, there is a cure. If the cure reaches the ailment, it is cured by the will of Allah." [Muslim]

That explains the known phenomena

that aspirin does not reduce the temperature of a normal person who is not feverish. That is because he does not have these endogenous in his body to work on the hypothalamus.

## How do chills occur and why?

The temperature level in the temperature regulator rises suddenly from its normal level to a higher level, due to damage in the tissues, due to the release of temperature generating substances or due to dehydration. When this happens, the body temperature rises within a few hours to attain the new temperature.

During this period, the patient shivers and feels cold, even though the body temperature is high, because blood vessels in

the skin contract. The chills remain until the body temperature reaches the new level set by the temperature regulator.

When the body temperature reaches that level, the chills stop and the patient feels neither warm nor cold. As long as the infection continues and the reason for the rise in temperature continues, the body temperature remains at this new level until Allah permits recovery.

## What is the cure for fever?

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, tells us to reduce the fever with water. The same is still applied today. Putting cold pads on a patient's forehead is still used in a lot of hospitals and by doctors even though fever reducing medicines are abundant, like aspirin, paracetamol (or acetaminophen, which is the active ingredient in Tylenol) and others.

Using water to reduce fevers is not limited to using cold pads. Drinking a lot of fluids is also helpful. This is also understood from the wordings of the Prophetic narration: "cool it with water." Water is either what the patient drinks, what is given intravenously or what the patient puts on his face or body to cool the fever.

We have seen a lot of patients where fever reducing medicines (antipyretics) were not effective with their rising fever. At the same time, cold water had an immediate effect. That's why pediatricians advise parents to take a child's clothes off and give a lot of fluids if a fever occurs. An antipyretic might also be give like paracetamol. Aspirin has been banned for children under 12 years of age.

[Imam Ibn Al-Qayyim may Allah have mercy upon him said: "I remember once, when I was feverish, a poet cursing the fever, saying:

The sin purifier has visited and left.

How evil it is when visiting and when leaving

She asked while getting ready to leave What do you want?

I replied, to never come again.

I said, shame on him, he cursed what the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, forbade to be cursed. If he had said:

The severe-sin cleanser has visited.

Greetings to it while visiting and while leaving

She asked while getting ready to leave What do you want?

I replied, to not leave.

It would have been better for him and it still would have left."]

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/mainpage/>

## The Prophet's guidance on treating skin rashes and scabies

**I**n the books of Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim, may Allah have mercy upon them, it is narrated that Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "The Messenger of Allah, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), has allowed Abdur-Rahman Ibn 'Awf and az-Zubayr Ibn al-'Awwam, may Allah be pleased with them, to wear silk garments because of a skin rash they had."

In another narration, "Abdur-Rahman Ibn 'Awf and az-Zubayr Ibn al-'Awwam complained to the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, during a battle that they had a skin rash, and he allowed them to wear silk garments which I saw them wearing."

There are two areas of interest regarding this narration, one in the area of *Fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence) and another medical.

In the area of *Fiqh*, in principle, wearing silken garments is allowed only for women and is disallowed for men, except when there is a legitimate need. For instance, men are allowed to wear silken garments in cold weather, when one has only a silken garment to wear and when complaining from mange, rashes, mites or lice, as evident by the last narration.

According to Imams Ahmad and Shafi'i, may Allah have mercy upon them, wearing silken garments is allowed for men if a necessity warrants it. The permission given to some Muslims due to special circumstances applies to all those who face similar circumstances.

Several scholars said that the narrations that prohibit silken garments for men apply in general. They said that the aforementioned narration might entail a specific permission for only 'Abdur-Rahman Ibn 'Awf and Az-Zubayr. They say that it is possible, though, that this permission applies to other Muslims. When there is a probability regarding a certain ruling, adhering to the general text is warranted. This is why some of the narrators of this narration commented: "I do not know if the permission does apply to whoever comes after them ('Abdur-Rahman Ibn 'Awf and Az-Zubayr)?"

The correct opinion is that the permission is general in its indication and that there is no evidence that it is specific or restricted. Simi-

larly, the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, once said to Abu Burdah: "This permission applies to you and none else after you." Also, Allah said to His Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, regarding the woman who offered herself in marriage to the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, (what means):

"...A privilege for you only, not for the (rest of the) believers..." [Qur'an, 33:50]

In the medical area, silk is produced by an animal and is a remedy. Silk has many benefits, such as soothing and strengthening the heart and helping relieve several of its ailments. Silk also helps against black bile and whatever ailments it might cause. Further, silk strengthens the eyesight when used as eyeliner. Raw silk, which is used in preparing medications and remedies, is hot and dry in the first degree. When silk is used in clothes, it is mild and heats the body. Sometimes it could chill the body.

Ar-Razi, may Allah have mercy upon him, said: "Silk is hotter than linen, colder than cotton and develops the flesh. Every type of thick clothes weakens the body and hardens the skin."

There are three types of clothes, one that brings warmth and also heats the body. Another type of clothes brings warmth but provides no heat to the body. The third type does not bring warmth or heat. There is no type that brings heat but not warmth to those wearing it. For instance clothes made of wool and animal hair elevate body temperature and bring warmth to the skin. On the other hand, silk, Kattan (linen) and cotton garments only bring warmth to the skin. Kattan clothes are cold and dry, wool clothes are hot and dry, while cotton garments are moderate. Silken garments are softer and less hot than wool. The author of *Al-Minhaj* stated that wearing silk, "Does not bring as much warmth as cotton, because it is milder."

Every type of soft, polished clothes heat the body less and in less effective in helping the decomposition process. That is why it is better that this type of clothes is worn during summer and in hot areas.

Since silken garments are neither dry nor thick as the other types of clothes they help as a treatment

for skin rashes that result from dry, thick material. Hence, the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, allowed Az-Zubayr and 'Abdur-Rahman to wear silken garments due to their skin rash. Also, silken garments are the least hospitable to mites or lice, for it is not the best environment where mites live and thrive.

The types of body wear that neither elevates the body temperature nor brings warmth are made of iron, lead, wood, sand, and so forth.

If one asks, "since silk provides the best type of clothes and the most suitable for the body, why was it prohibited for men by the Islamic legislation, which is the most honourable, perfect legislation and which allows the good and pure things and only prohibits the impure things?"

Scholars answered this stating different reasons, such as, that Islam prohibited silken garments for men so that they observe patience and abandon wearing them for Allah's sake. Others say that silk was prohibited because it leads to arrogance and pride.

Yet others say that silk was prohibited because of its softness on the skin that leads to feminine behaviour while weakening manhood and masculinity. Hence, you rarely see a man wearing silken garments who is not affected by its softness by inadvertently imitating feminine behaviour and softness, even if he was among the most masculine men. Wearing silken garments will certainly diminish the manly qualities and masculinity, although these qualities will not disappear all together.

As for those who do not comprehend these facts, let them submit to Allah's wise decisions and adhere to the texts that prohibit it for men.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "Allah has allowed silk and gold for the females of my nation and prohibited them for the males of my nation." [An-Nasa'i]

In another narration, the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "Wearing silk and gold is prohibited for the males of my Nation and allowed for the females."

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/mainpage/>



## What is Hijaamah (cupping)?

**T**he word *hijaamah* (cupping) comes from the word *hajm* which means sucking. *Al-Hajjaam* means the cupper, *hijaamah* is the profession of cupping, and the word *mihjam* is used to describe the vessel in which the blood is collected and the lancet used by the cupper.)

In *fiqh* (jurisprudence) terminology, the word *hijaamah* is applied by some scholars to the extraction of blood from the nape of the neck by means of cupping after making an incision with the lancet. Al-Zarqaani, may Allah have mercy upon him, stated that cupping is not limited to the nape of the neck, rather it may be done on any part of the body. This was also the view of al-Khattaabi, may Allah have mercy upon him.

In conclusion, *hijaam* refers to the extraction of blood from the body by means of cupping using a suitable vessel or whatever modern equipment serves the same purpose.

Cupping was known since ancient times. It was known to the Chinese, the Babylonians and the Pharaohs. Their relics and carved images indicate that they used cupping to treat some diseases. At first they used metal cups or bull's horns, from which they would remove the air by sucking it out after placing the cup on the skin. Then they used glass cups from which they would remove the air by burning a piece of cotton or wool inside the cup.

## Virtues of cupping:

Al-Bukhari, may Allah have mercy upon him, narrated from Sa'eed Ibn Jubayr from Ibn 'Abbaas, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, (may Allah exalt his mention), said: "Healing is in three things: drinking honey, the incision of a cupper, and cauterising with fire, but I forbid my Nation to use cauterising."

Al-Bukhari and Muslim, may Allah have mercy upon them, narrated that Anas Ibn Maalik, may Allah be pleased with him, was asked about the earnings of the cupper, and he said:

The Messenger of Allah, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, was treated with cupping by Abu Taybah, may Allah be pleased with him. He, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, ordered that he (Abu Taybah) should be given two saa' (quantity unit) of food, and he spoke with his masters so that they reduced what they used to take from his earnings. And he, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "The best medicine with which you treat yourselves is cupping, or it is one of the best of your medicines."

It was narrated that Jaabir Ibn 'Abdillaah, may Allah be pleased with him, said: I heard the Messenger of Allah, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, say: "If there is anything good in the medicines with which you treat yourselves, it is in the incision of the cupper, or a drink of honey or cauterisation with fire, but I do not like to be cauterised." (Al-Bukhari, Muslim).

## Benefits of cupping:

Cupping has real benefits in treating many diseases, past and present. The diseases which have been treated by cupping and for which it has been of benefit by Allah's Leave include the following:

- 1- Circulatory diseases
- 2- Treating blood pressure and infection of the heart muscle
- 3- Diseases of the chest and trachea
- 4- Headache and pains in the eyes
- 5- Pain in the neck and stomach, and rheumatic pain in the muscles
- 6- Some diseases of the heart and chest, and pain in the joints

In addition, cupping may offer a unique treatment which may reduce pain, and it does not have any side-effects. For more information on the benefits of cupping see *Zaad al-Ma'aad* by Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy upon him.

## How cupping is done:

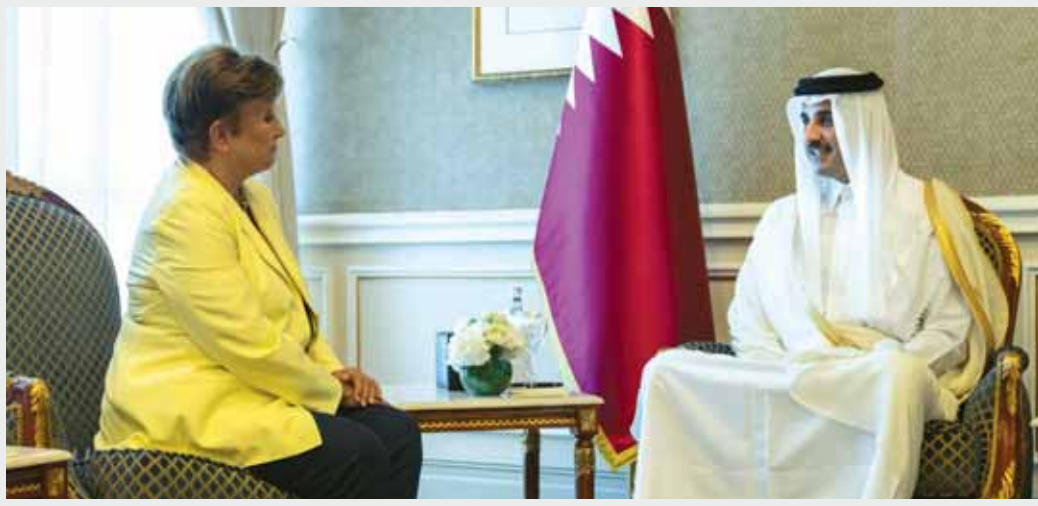
The mouth of the cupping vessel (nowadays they use glass vessels) is placed on the skin at the site chosen for cupping. Then the cupper rarefies the air inside the vessel by burning a small piece of paper or cotton inside the vessel (the old method), so that the mouth of the vessel will cling to the skin. Sometimes a machine is used instead of the method described above. The vessel clings to the skin and is left for a period of three to ten minutes.

Then it is lifted off and a very small incision is made in the skin using a clean sharp instrument such as a razor blade or the like. Then the cup is put back in the same manner as described above, until it is filled with the bad blood that comes out of the veins. Then it is taken off, and may be put back once more if needed. When it is finished and the cup is taken away, a dry dressing is placed over the site of the incision.

Before ending we should point out that no one should undertake cupping except one who can do it well, because of the harm that may result if it is done by one who is incompetent.

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/mainpage/>

## Amir meets IMF managing director



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD), held yesterday morning at the Ritz-Carlton, Doha. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation and relations between Qatar and the IMF and ways to enhance and support them. In addition, they discussed a number of topics on the ACD Summit's agenda. - **QNA**

## Amir meets UAE vice-president



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with the Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, on the sidelines of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit. The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, and a number of senior officials. From the UAE side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Suhail bin Mohamed al-Mazrouei, Minister of Sports Dr Ahmad bin Abdullah Belhoual al-Falasi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani bin Ahmed al-Zeyoudi, and a number of members of the accompanying official delegation. - **QNA**

# Amir opens 3rd ACD Summit

From Page 1

"This summit is being held amidst challenges and tensions facing the international community, many of whose institutions have been marginalised, while the endemic violations and un-addressed 'elephant in the room' crimes have made it appear as if it is devoid of international law and its values," His Highness the Amir said.

"The world is still witnessing a dangerous escalation of the war waged by the Israeli occupation authorities against our Palestinian brothers in the Gaza Strip and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories," he continued. "The defenceless civilians are targeted by non-stop aerial bombings that led to the killing of tens of thousands of innocent victims, children, women and men."

"The toll exceeded 41,000 martyrs, in addition to the targeting of the headquarters of international organisations and destroying residential, health and educational infrastructure, and all facilities necessary for survival.

"It has become crystal clear that what is happening is genocide, in addition to transforming the Gaza Strip into an area unfit for human habitation in preparation for forced displacement.

"On this occasion, we renew our rejection and condemnation of the aerial strikes and escalating military operations unleashed by the Israeli occupation forces against the sisterly Lebanese Republic recently, which claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians who committed no error, and displaced more than a million citizens.

"Israel is exploiting the inter-



## Deputy Amir leads well-wishers to welcome UAE VP

His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani led well-wishers to welcome UAE Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan upon his arrival at Doha International Airport yesterday morning, along with his accompanying delegation, on a visit to participate in the 3rd Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD) Summit. Also present were HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, Qatar's ambassador to the UAE Dr Sultan bin Salmeen al-Mansouri, and the UAE's ambassador to Qatar Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhboot al-Nahyan. - **QNA**

national failure to implement the occupation plans to expand settlements in the West Bank in prepa-

ration for annexing it, or at least annexing parts of it," His Highness the Amir said.

"Its rulers also believe that they can avail themselves of this opportunity to implement its schemes in



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the opening of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit.

Lebanon," he added. "The institutions of the international community stand helplessly by vis-a-vis this dangerous escalation of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, which is spilling over day after day, in flagrant violation of all international norms and laws.

"We have previously warned of the consequences of not holding Israel accountable for its crimes against humanity and its refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy on ending the occupation and resolving the Palestinian issue justly.

"This has prompted it to heedlessly disregard the international law, and gave its rulers a free hand in Palestine and Lebanon.

"We call for serious action to cease fire and stop the aggression carried out by the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories.

"Security will not be achieved without achieving just peace, and this in turn will not be achieved in our region without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, based on pre-June 4th 1967 border with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative," he stated.

"The State of Qatar will continue to uphold the Palestinian rights and support its people to obtain all their legitimate rights.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the Asian continent occupies an important position, geopolitically

and economically, in addition to its prominent impact on global trade as the largest continent that contains strategic energy reserves, global markets and stock exchanges that are the largest of their kind worldwide, as well as its enormous human resources," His Highness the Amir stated.

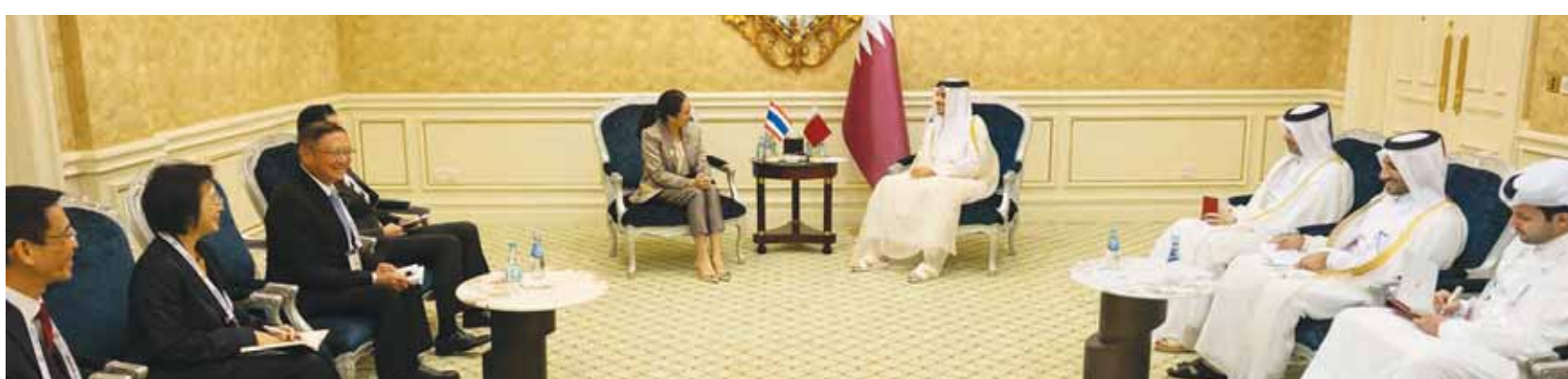
"In order to leverage the comparative advantages of each country, we must work to strengthen the synergy between our countries in various fields by identifying common strengths, exploring opportunities and putting forward proposals aimed at developing our societies.

"In conclusion, I would like to thank the General Secretariat for its efforts to reach a final version of Doha Declaration due to be adopted at this summit, in addition to following up on the implementation of previous dialogue resolutions and the good preparation for this summit, which we hope will achieve its desired goals.

"We also wish the friendly Kingdom of Thailand every success during its presidency of the dialogue next year.

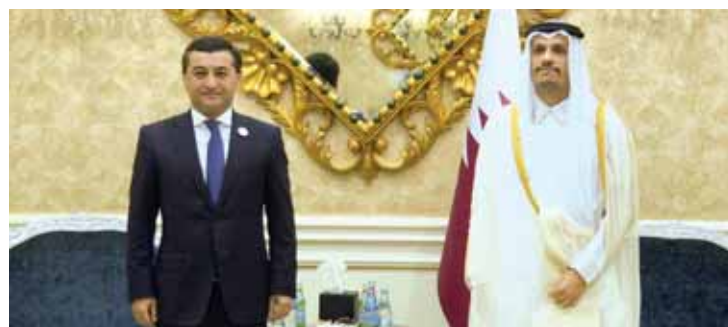
"I reiterate welcoming you to Doha. May peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you."

His Highness the Amir attended the luncheon banquet held for the leaders and top officials of states and governments participating in the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel - Doha.



## PM meets Thai premier, Uzbek foreign minister and top French official

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on the sidelines of the 3rd Asian Co-operation Dialogue Summit (ACD), held in Doha. HE Sheikh Mohammed also held meetings yesterday with Uzbekistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Bakhtiyor Saidov and the French president's envoy to Lebanon Jean-Yves Le Drian. During the meeting, they discussed the co-operation and relations between the countries and ways to support and develop them. In addition, they discussed a number of regional and international issues of common interest. - **QNA**



## QFFD, Uzbekistan foundation sign grant to restore Bibi-Khanym Mosque

The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation have signed a grant agreement worth \$4,175,000 to restore the Bibi-Khanym Mosque Complex in Samarkand, the capital of Uzbekistan.

The project will be carried out by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

The signing ceremony was attended by HE the Chairperson of Qatar Museums Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, assistant to the Uzbek president Saida Mirziyoyeva, and Qatar's ambassador to Uzbekistan Hassan bin Hamza Hashem.

Following the 1897 earthquake in Uzbekistan, the architectural structure of the Bibi-Khanym Mosque suffered severe damage,

leading to the collapse of the inner arch of the main hall and destabilising the main dome.

This project aims to complete previous restoration efforts and rebuild the mosque, while also providing job opportunities to support the economic empowerment of the poorest segments of the Uzbek community.

The project also seeks to revive the mosque by offering necessary training and teaching new skills that will facilitate in-depth research and precise implementation plans to preserve the mosque using traditional building techniques.

During the ceremony, acting QFFD director-general Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri said: "The Qatar Fund for Development strongly believes in the importance of sup-



porting the friendly Republic of Uzbekistan through the restoration of the historic Bibi-Khanym

Mosque to protect heritage while ensuring job creation and promoting economic growth."

"The fund is proud to support the restoration of this great architectural landmark, contributing to economic empowerment and boosting tourism through sustainable methods that ensure the continuity of Uzbekistan's rich culture for future generations," he said.

In her speech, Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation chairperson Gayane Umerova praised the significance of the project and said that "the restoration of the Bibi Khanym Mosque is not just about preserving an architectural marvel but it is also a vital investment in Uzbekistan's cultural heritage and economic future."

"By engaging local communities in this transformative project between the Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Fund alongside

the Qatar Fund for Development, we aim to empower the safeguarding of Uzbekistan's history while creating sustainable livelihoods that benefit generations to come," she said.

This project underscores the ongoing support from the QFFD in the development and restoration of cultural centres through collaboration with leading Uzbek institutions, further strengthening the bilateral relations between Qatar and Uzbekistan.

The restoration of this mosque, which dates back to the 15th century, represents a crucial step in reviving and revitalising cultural heritage in the heart of Samarkand.

The mosque is considered one of the largest and most magnificent in the Islamic world. - **QNA**