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## Municipality minister opens Cityscape 2024

Cityscape is held in conjunction with the second Qatar Real Estate Forum (QREF), Big 5 Construct Qatar, and INDEX Design Qatar



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah officially inaugurating Cityscape Qatar yesterday in the presence of HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the Minister of Justice and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, and HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah officially inaugurated Cityscape Qatar yesterday, which will run until tomorrow at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

The three-day Cityscape Qatar is held in conjunction with the second Qatar Real Estate Forum (QREF), Big 5 Construct Qatar, and

INDEX Design Qatar exhibitions.

HE the Minister of Municipality led the ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the Minister of Justice and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, and HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, followed by a tour of the exhibition where they explored key exhibitors and learned about Qatar's latest development projects and

real estate offerings.

The three-day real estate exhibition, under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, witnessed the participation of several ministry officials, major developers, and international delegates.

The exhibition commenced with the opening of the second QREF, which announced an impressive QR27bn in trade value for 2023 and the first half of 2024. **To Page 6**

## QFA forms new LOC for premier football events

The Executive Committee of the Qatar Football Association (QFA) has issued a decision to reconstitute the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup under the name of Local Organising Committee for Football Events from 2024 to 2034. The new LOC will be headed by HE the Minister of Sports and Youth **Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani** and Jassim Abdul Aziz al-Jassim as Executive Chairman. The committee will supervise the organisation of the 2024 Intercontinental Championship, the 2025, 2029 and 2031 Arab Cup, in addition to the Under-17 World Cup from 2025 to the 2029 edition.



## PM meets Saudi media minister



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with Minister of Media of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Youssef al-Dosari. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them. The meeting was attended by HE the Chairman of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani. **(QNA) Page 4**

## 5th Qatar Economic Forum to be held from May 20-22

QNA  
Doha

Media City Qatar (MCQ) announced the dates of the highly anticipated 5th edition of the "Qatar Economic Forum, Powered by Bloomberg" that will take place from May 20-22, 2025.

According to a MCQ press release, the event will gather global business and government leaders, academics, and entrepreneurs to engage in discussions on the world's biggest challenges and emerging trends shaping geopolitics, business, the economy, and technology in Qatar.

Chairman of MCQ and the Organising Committee of the Qatar Economic Forum, Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Ali bin Saud al-Thani will oversee the Organising Committee's engagement and co-ordination with government bodies to ensure seamless organisation and collaboration.

It pointed out that the forum not only aligns with Qatar's national priorities, but also amplifies its global impact.

CEO of MCQ Eng Jassim Mohamed al-Khori highlighted the significance of the agreement by saying, "The Qatar Economic Forum, Powered by Bloomberg is a cornerstone of Media City Qatar's efforts to support the nation's vision by fostering global dialogue and collaboration. Since inception, the forum has brought together over 6,500 attendees,

including world leaders, CEOs, and innovators to tackle the most pressing challenges in business and geopolitics. Through this annual event, Media City Qatar is not only driving meaningful conversations but also reinforcing Qatar's position as an important global hub for business, media, and innovation."

CEO of Bloomberg Media Karen Saltser commented, "Our meaningful multi-year collaboration with Media City Qatar has grown the Qatar Economic Forum into an influential international platform, elevating vital conversations during a time of profound global change." Saltser continued saying, "As we approach the forum's fifth edition, we are committed to delving deeper into the issues that matter most to business leaders and policymakers, and to drive actionable insights that shape the future of the global economy." Each year since its inception, the forum has successfully brought government and business leaders together to spark innovation and strengthen international co-operation, evidenced by the many MoUs signed and the new partnerships formed.

MCQ remains committed to supporting the nation's diverse creative sectors, from digital media to emerging technologies, cementing its role in shaping Qatar's media and innovation landscape. Each new initiative strengthens the country's global influence and contributes to its knowledge-based economy.

## Amir to open Shura Council's ordinary session tomorrow

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will patronise the opening of the fourth ordinary session of the legislative term - corresponding to the Shura Council's 53rd annual session - at the Council's headquarters tomorrow. On this occasion, His Highness the Amir will deliver a speech on the State of Qatar's domestic policies and future priorities across various sectors. The speech will also address Qatar's positions on various regional and international issues. **(QNA)**

## 15th Milipol Qatar to start on October 29

Under the esteemed patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Ministry of Interior is set to organise the 15th edition of Milipol Qatar at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center from October 29 to 31 under the theme "Technology in the Service of Security." **Page 4**

## US sends anti-missile system to Israel

The United States said yesterday it will send to Israel an advanced anti-missile system - and US troops to operate it - in a bid to bolster the country's air defences following missile attacks by Iran. President Joe Biden said he was sending the system "to defend Israel."

## 67 hurt in Hezbollah drone strike in Israel

An Israeli volunteer rescue service yesterday said 67 people were wounded south of Haifa, where Hezbollah earlier claimed a drone strike that targeted a military base. "With the help of United Hatzalah ambulance teams, we provided assistance to over 60 wounded people with varying degrees of injuries - critical, serious, moderate and mild," the rescue service United Hatzalah said. Earlier yesterday, Hezbollah, which is at war with Israel, said it launched "a squadron of attack drones" at a military training camp in Binyamina, south of Haifa, in response to Israeli air strikes on the country. The incident comes two days after air raid sirens sounded in central Israel after two aerial drones entered the country from Lebanon, with at least one building damaged north of Tel Aviv during the incident. Hezbollah has been regularly firing

rockets and drones across the border into Israel for more than a year, but has reached further since late September when fighting escalated. Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes across Lebanon on Saturday killed 51 people. Increased air strikes on what Israel describes as sites of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon since September 23 have killed more than 1,300 people. Meanwhile, the United Nations said yesterday Israeli tanks had burst through the gates of a base of its peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, the latest accusation of Israeli violations and attacks denounced by its own allies. The UNIFIL peacekeeping force said two Israeli Merkava tanks destroyed the main gate of a base and forcibly entered before dawn. After the tanks left, shells exploded 100 metres away, it said in a statement. **(AFP)**

## Over 300 killed in nine-day Israeli assault on N Gaza

Reuters  
Cairo

An Israeli air strike in northern Gaza killed five children yesterday, according to official Palestinian news agency Wafa and media affiliated with Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

A group of children were playing near a cafe in the Al-Shati area when they were killed by a drone strike, according to Wafa, which cited local sources.

Israeli forces have widened their raid into northern Gaza, and tanks reached the north edge of Gaza City, pounding some districts of the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood and forcing many families to leave their homes, residents said.

They said Israeli forces had effectively isolated Beit Hanoun, Jabalia, and Beit Lahya in the far north of the enclave from Gaza City, blocking access between the two areas except upon their

permission for families willing to heed evacuation orders and leave the three towns.

Nine days into a major Israeli operation in northern Gaza, the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said Israeli strikes had killed around 300 Palestinians there.

More than 42,227 Palestinians have been killed and 98,464 injured in Israel's military offensive on Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023, the Gaza health ministry said in a statement yesterday.

Hamas said Israel's bombardment of civilian houses and displacement shelters was intended to force residents to leave Gaza once and for all, which Israel denies.

Gaza's health ministry says dozens of people have been confirmed killed in the assaults on northern areas, with many dozens of others feared dead on roads and under the rubble of houses beyond the reach of medical teams.

Many Jabalia residents posted on social media platforms: "We will not leave, we die, and we don't leave."

The northern part of Gaza, home to well



A member of the Palestine Red Crescent Society assists a wounded Palestinian in a wheelchair, during the evacuation of people from Kamal Adwan Hospital to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

over half the territory's 2.3mn people, was bombed to rubble in the first phase of Israel's assault on the territory a year ago.



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## PM meets GCC heads for protecting integrity



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with the participants in the meeting of the heads of the bodies responsible for protecting integrity and combating corruption in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries. He welcomed the guests, wishing them success in their meeting in Doha. (QNA)

## PM meets Colombian FM

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with the visiting Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo. The meeting discussed aspects of bilateral co-operation and ways to support and enhance them, as well as a number of regional and international issues of common concern. (QNA)



## Qatar reiterates support for Sudan



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met yesterday with the visiting Sudanese Acting Federal Minister of Health Dr Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim. The meeting reviewed co-operation between the countries and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. During the meeting, HE AlKhater renewed Qatar's support for Sudan and standing by its brotherly people. She also stressed Qatar's firm position on the necessity of preserving the security of Sudan, its official institutions, its stability and the safety, unity of its territories. (QNA)

# Shura Council all set to convene for new session

The Shura Council has completed the preparations to commence the fourth ordinary session of the first legislative term – corresponding to the 53rd annual session of the Shura Council, slated for Tuesday.

At a meeting with the representatives of the local press, HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud said that the Council is fully prepared to start this session, noting that the General Secretariat has trained administrative and technical teams to ensure the provision of the necessary support to the Council members during the new session. This contributes to improving work efficiency and raising the level of legislative and oversight performance.

The main hall and meeting rooms are ready with the latest technologies provided to ensure that sessions and meetings proceed smoothly and in an organized manner, he added.

He outlined that the General Secretariat has created a new organisational structure that is consistent with the highest administrative standards in order to meet the requirements and developments of the stage, and in line with its role as the cornerstone in enhancing parliamentary work.

HE al-Mahmoud pointed out that the General Secretariat has obtained the ISO certificate for its comprehensive quality management system in the scope of planning and quality.

He explained that this achievement demonstrates the General Secretariat's commitment to applying the best performance standards and for



HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud.

continuously improving work methods, ensuring the provision of high-quality services to the Council and contributing to achieving its goals.

He indicated that the General Secretariat is in the process of launching its strategic plan 2025-2030, with the aim of developing institutional performance to support the legislative and oversight work of the Council and to consolidate the principles and values of the Shura.

He stated that this strategy is based on the contents of the speeches of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the opening of the sessions of the Shura Council, and the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

He stressed the importance of this strategy to enhance institutional innovation, upgrade the digital infrastructure to facilitate access to information and support decision-making, and develop human competencies.

Regarding the empowerment of national cadres, he said that the General Secretariat is continuously working to empower Qatari competencies through specialised training programmes aiming at developing their skills and keeping pace with developments in

parliamentary work, noting that the percentage of Qataris working in the General Secretariat exceeds 90% of the total employees, which shows the Council's commitment to the policy of nationalisation.

He stressed the keenness of the General Secretariat to provide national cadres with the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure their ability to keep pace with parliamentary developments and updates, through courses, workshops and training programmes in co-operation with prestigious educational institutions.

He also stressed the keenness of the General Secretariat to strengthen the second tier of Qatari leaders and qualify them to assume leadership positions in the future, which enhances the sustainability of institutional performance and contributes to empowering these competencies to lead in the long term.

Regarding upcoming parliamentary events, he explained that Doha is preparing to host the meeting of the Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly on Budget and Planning next November.

He emphasised that Qatar's hosting of such events highlights its role in enhancing regional and international parliamentary dialogue and confirms Qatar's position as a platform for co-operation and dialogue between countries.

Within this framework, His Excellency indicated that the Shura Council will host during the next session a number of heads and officials of regional, international parliaments and legislative councils, with the aim of strengthening parliamentary co-operation between the Shura Council and other parliaments. (QNA)

# Alian Industry showcases innovative sustainable construction solutions at Big 5 Construct Qatar

Alian Industry, a leading regional player in sustainable building solutions, is making waves at Big 5 Construct Qatar, held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). The company is presenting a range of innovative construction elements that promise to reshape the future of building, aligning with global sustainability trends, reducing construction costs, and speeding up project execution. The showcase highlights the brand's commitment to delivering high-quality, environmentally friendly solutions for the rapidly evolving construction industry.

## Revolutionizing Construction with Emmedue Technology

At the heart of Alian Industry's offering is the Emmedue Panel system, a groundbreaking construction solution known for its versatility and efficiency. The Emmedue Panel is industrially produced using a slab of expanded polystyrene, sandwiched between double layers of galvanized steel mesh. On-site, these panels are completed with two coats of shotcrete, forming robust, durable structures.

Alian's innovative panels can be customized in terms of thickness and height, allowing architects and builders to adapt them to the specific needs of their projects.

"We can do multiple products using expanded polystyrene, such as slabs, walls, and even stairs, with different thicknesses and densities," said Eng. Hussain Abdunnasser Zanoon, factory director of Alian Industry. This customization capability is crucial for projects that require both flexibility and sustainability, as the company's advanced building technology reduces waste and boosts construction efficiency.

Quality has always been at the forefront of Alian Industry's approach to construction. Eng. Zanoon noted that Alian consistently performs rigorous testing on its panels, obtaining certifications and approvals from recognized institutions worldwide. The company operates under a certified quality management system in accordance with the standards UNI EN ISO 9001 and UNI EN ISO 14001. These certifications underscore Alian's commitment to maintaining the highest standards in both environmental and structural quality.

This emphasis on quality is reflected in the Emmedue Panel's design. The single panel, with its lightweight yet sturdy composition, can support structures up to three stories high. For larger projects, the double panel—reinforced with a layer of poured concrete and additional polystyrene—can support buildings of up to six or seven stories. The stair system is also uniquely designed to provide greater durability and efficiency.

"Our stair system is unlike traditional systems. It incorporates beams to carry the dead and live load, and the steps are precision-cut at our factory, ensuring faster construction and improved quality control," Zanoon explained.

## Fast, Cost-Effective, and Sustainable Building Solutions

Alian's participation at Big 5 Construct Qatar underscores its strategic focus on the residential



HE Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah with CEO of Alian Industry Meshal Al Kathiri.

sector, particularly in the Qatari market. The company aims to introduce its advanced building technology to individual homeowners, developers, and contractors who are looking for cost-effective, sustainable, and high-quality building solutions.

"Our technology allows us to build residential structures, such as villas, within three months, compared to the typical timeframe of six months to a year," Zanoon stated. This time-saving advantage, combined with the reduced construction costs, is poised to make a significant impact on the housing sector in Qatar.

The panels not only reduce building time and costs but also promote sustainability. According to Zanoon, Alian's materials, including expanded polystyrene and galvanized steel, are sourced from top-tier suppliers such as SABIC, ensuring premium quality. The thermal insulation provided by these materials exceeds global standards.

"Our panels have a U-value of 0.25, which is more than 50% better than most other building systems. This helps reduce carbon emissions by up to 40%, contributing to the construction of more energy-efficient buildings," Zanoon added.

## A Proven Technology with a Long History

Though Alian Industry's solutions may seem cutting-edge, the technology behind them has a well-established history. The Emmedue building system has been in use since 1976, with more than 45 years of successful implementation worldwide. This legacy of proven reliability, combined with modern innovations, positions Alian as a leader in the sustainable construction movement.

"We are proud to offer a technology that has been tested and refined over decades, ensuring that our clients receive durable and sustainable buildings," Zanoon emphasized.

## Expanding into Qatar and Beyond

While headquartered in Saudi Arabia, Alian Industry is actively expanding its footprint in the region, starting with Qatar. The company has recently established a local subsidiary, Mosanada Contracting Company, which will serve as the execution arm for its building technology in the Qatari market.

"We believe that Qatar is the right market for us at this time. The demand for high-quality, sustainable

► **Our goal in entering the Qatari market through the establishment of "Musnada Contracting" in Doha, and supporting its operations with "Alian Industry" in manufacturing and exporting modern building panels to Qatar, is to help meet the growing demand for development and housing projects, as well as the market's need for affordable, high-quality building solutions. We aim to achieve this through Alian panels, which offer modern construction methods that can accelerate the building process by 70% and reduce costs by up to 20% compared to traditional construction methods.**

► **We entered the Qatari market only after achieving significant success with this modern technology in Saudi Arabia, particularly in Ministry of Housing projects and the Red Sea projects. We are confident that this technology will be in high demand for development and housing projects in Qatar, especially among the individual segment.**

► **Alian Industry plays a pivotal role in driving the transition towards modern construction practices. The company is dedicated to refining its processes to boost energy efficiency and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 40% through its innovative construction systems.**

construction solutions is growing, and we are in a prime position to meet that demand," Zanoon shared.

Looking ahead, Alian has ambitious plans for expansion across the Gulf region. However, the immediate focus remains on consolidating its presence in Qatar, where the construction industry is booming, driven by rapid urbanization and major infrastructure projects. "While we have our eyes on expanding into other Gulf countries, Qatar is our priority right now. We are confident that our innovative solutions will be well-received here," Zanoon affirmed.



## Transport minister attends Global Logistics Forum

**H**E the Minister of Transport Jassim Saif Ahmed al-Sulaiti yesterday participated in the Ministerial Roundtable (Diwan) at the Global Logistics Forum in Riyadh with attendance of several Arab and foreign ministers and senior officials, according to a statement from the Ministry of Transport.

Highlighting the current challenges to supply chains and world trade, the Minister of Transport, in his remarks, stressed the importance of working together to make a fundamental change in the warehousing and logistics market to ultimately create several gainful opportunities by adopting digital transformation, clean energy in transportation to improve the efficiency of logistics services, streamlining the regulatory procedures and enhancing international co-operation.

"The initiatives Qatar launches to keep pace with the transformation in the

logistics, warehousing and transportation industries are creating promising investment opportunities, by providing an eco-friendly infrastructure that is equipped with the latest technologies and compliant with highest efficiency and competitiveness standards, in addition to flexible laws and legislation that meet investors' aspirations," he said.

These efforts, he said, led to Qatar being ranked 14th and 19th globally on the World Bank's latest Logistics Performance Index and the Global Quality Infrastructure Index, respectively.

To reinforce these initiatives, he said, work is underway to put in motion a national strategy for the logistics services sector, aiming to solidify Qatar's ranking as a global logistics hub and to enable traders, investors with less time and cost and this would support the requirements of economic diversification

clusters for logistics services and shipping.

The Minister of Transport said Qatar's vision for developing its logistics industry, and the various associated services is not just an ambitious thought, but a necessity to achieve economic growth and sustainability. He also welcomed working closely with governments, global bodies and the private sector to make this vision a reality.

The minister also attended the opening ceremony of GLF. Numerous Arab and foreign ministers, high-profile officials, logistics and transportation industry leaders from around the world were in attendance.

Themed "Reshaping the Global Map of Logistics", GLF brings together more than 100 speakers, thought leaders, experts, renowned CEOs of global logistics and transportation companies, as well as public and private sector representatives.

## Milipol Qatar's 15th edition to focus on innovations in security

**U**nder the esteemed patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Ministry of Interior is set to organise the 15th edition of Milipol Qatar at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center from October 29-31 under the theme "Technology in the Service of Security".

Milipol Qatar is one of the region's most significant exhibitions dedicated to homeland security and safety. It brings together global security policymakers, academics, industry leaders and government officials to discuss solutions for tackling security threats on land, sea, air and in cyberspace.

The exhibition will feature participation from numerous international exhibitors showcasing the latest innovations in security, safety and prevention technologies and systems.

### Exhibition to be held from October 29

In preparation for the 2024 edition, Chairman of Milipol Qatar Maj Gen Nasser bin Fahd al-Thani stated that Milipol Qatar 2024 will demonstrate Qatar's commitment to leveraging advanced technological capabilities to address the increasing security challenges. He added that the event will serve as a global platform for showcasing innovative tools and solutions while fostering discussions on the latest security trends and technologies.

Milipol Qatar 2024 aligns with Qatar's growing security needs in line with the security objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The event will also feature an international conference and security seminar that cover a range of topics,

including fire safety, rescue operations, challenges in protecting high-rise buildings, advancements in fire prevention methods, enhancing road safety and security.

The exhibition will also focus on cybersecurity, AI, and cyber threats, with discussions centred on adopting physical and cybersecurity measures to protect critical infrastructure, utilising modern technology for smart and safe cities, and developing forensic sciences used in investigations. Additionally, the event will address securing ports, airports, borders, and transportation projects within Qatar National Vision 2030, along with border protection programmes and the challenges faced by coastguards. (QNA)

### AlKhatir meets WHO official



**H**E the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir met yesterday with the visiting WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Hassan Balkhy. The meeting discussed co-operation between Qatar and the WHO. The deliberations also covered developments in the region, especially in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon and Afghanistan, in addition to several topics of common interest. (QNA)

### Qatar reaffirms stance in support of Libya

**H**E the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulafai met yesterday with the visiting Acting Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Stephanie Khoury. The meeting discussed the latest developments in Libya and ways to enhance the work of the UNSMIL in order to achieve lasting peace and stability in the country. During the meeting, HE Dr al-Khulafai reaffirmed Qatar's firm stance in support of a political solution to the Libyan crisis in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and all peaceful solutions that preserve Libya's unity, stability and sovereignty. (QNA)



### QMC chairman meets Saudi media minister



Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) Chairman HE Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani discussed ways to push forward media co-operation with Saudi Arabia in a meeting with Saudi Minister of Media Salman bin Yousef al-Dosari in Doha yesterday.

The deliberations covered the roles of various media outlets in both countries to advocate national content that highlights their bilateral ties and extended relations and translates their exemplary ties of brotherhood and common culture between the two societies.

HE Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani stressed the importance of co-ordinating efforts and effective Qatari-Saudi media partnership to achieve common media aspirations and objectives.

The QMC chairman said the Saudi minister's visit to Doha will open new horizons through close co-operation and strategic partnerships between the QMC and the Saudi Ministry of Media across various media sectors.

He praised the strong and deep-rooted fraternal ties and



relations between the leadership and people of Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, al-Dosari said that Qatari-Saudi media relations have reached their highest levels, stressing the need to further boost them on the ground.

He pointed out that there is fruitful and continuous co-operation between the QMC and the Saudi Ministry of Media, expressing his aspiration to expand co-operation to broader levels, and to present media initiatives that reflect the level of distinguished ties and relations between the two countries.

Saudi ambassador to Qatar Prince Mansour bin Khalid bin Abdullah al-Farhan al-Saud attended the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, a framework agreement for news co-operation was sealed between Qatar News Agency (QNA) and Saudi News Agency (SPA), with the aim of strengthening bilateral co-operation, co-ordination and close partnerships between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by QNA Director-General HE Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi and SPA President Ali Alzaid. (QNA)

### QNA chief meets SPA president

**H**E Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with President of the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Ali Alzaid. The meeting took place following the signing of the executive framework agreement for co-operation and news exchange between QNA and SPA. The meeting discussed areas of mutual collaboration and ways to develop both agencies' work by benefiting from artificial intelligence and new technologies. The two sides also focused on enhancing innovation and the use of technology in media and news content. (QNA)



### Qatar, Barbados sign air services agreement

Qatar and Barbados signed an air services agreement yesterday. Mohamed bin Faleh al-Hajri, In Charge of Managing Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, and Barbados Minister of Tourism and International Transport Ian Gooding-Edghill signed the agreement. Following the signing, the two sides discussed ways to enhance and develop bilateral relations in civil aviation and addressed many topics of common interest in this field. (QNA)



### Al-Sulaiti meets Saudi, Omani and Egyptian counterparts

**H**E the Minister of Transport Jassim Saif Ahmed al-Sulaiti yesterday met with Oman's Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology engineer Saeed bin Hamoud al-Mawali, Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Industry engineer Kamel El Wazir and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Transport and Logistic Services engineer Saleh Bin Nasser al-Jasser. The meetings, according to an official statement from the Ministry of Transport was held on the sidelines of the Global Logistics Forum in Riyadh. The meetings discussed aspects of co-operation in transportation and its associated activities, particularly sustainable and eco-friendly transportation.



The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

#### Important Notice:

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Effective from 1st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Laws of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempt from this requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period		Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
		Start Date	End Date					
1	GT24110600	14.10.2024	20.10.2024	24.11.2024	2,000,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: PROVISION OF MARINE VESSELS FOR RLIC AND MIC PORTS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location: To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time: To be advised if required								
2	LT24107400	14.10.2024	20.10.2024	04.11.2024	70,000.00	QAR	200.00	QAR
Title of Tender: PROVISION OF SPECIALIZED CONDITION MONITORING SUPPORT AT OFFSHORE LOCATIONS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location: To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time: To be advised if required								

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- \* Brief Copies of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal.
- \* Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushtaryat Portal on urgent basis.
- \* No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.
- \* QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.
- \* Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - <https://icv.qa/en-US>

## QCS honoured for achievements at Qatar Community Responsibility Week



Dignitaries at the event.

At a special ceremony, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad honoured the Qatari Cancer Society (QCS), represented by chairman Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jaber al-Thani, in recognition of its outstanding and ongoing achievements through-

out 2023. This was part of the Qatar Community Responsibility Week, organised by the Ministry of Social Development and Family in collaboration with the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and the Regional Network for Consultations.

Sheikh Dr Khalid expressed his pride and appreciation for the

honour, noting that it serves as a strong motivation for the organisation to continue its efforts in serving the community. He emphasised that the recognition reflects dedication and creativity in social work, and it places additional responsibilities on the society that contribute to the welfare of the community.

Sheikh Dr Khalid also extended his deep gratitude to the minister for her pioneering initiatives aimed at achieving Qatar National Vision, which seeks to enhance social cohesion and public welfare.

He highlighted the importance of social responsibility as a collective commitment that requires integrated efforts from all stakeholders. "The honouring of the society represents the embodiment of serious and constructive collaboration among all parties and institutions, which supports social work, particularly charitable efforts," added Sheikh Dr Khalid.

## Qatar 'committed to disaster risk reduction'

Secretary of the Civil Defence Council Brigadier General Ahmed Abdullah al-Abdullah affirmed Qatar's commitment to implementing disaster risk reduction policies and its endeavour to enhance co-operation in this field.

In a press statement on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, which falls on October 13, Brigadier General al-Abdullah stressed that Qatar is also keen to continue working to achieve the goals and objectives of the Sendai Framework and to enhance and develop national policies to reduce these risks.

Qatar, he said, pays special attention to developing resilient societies, reducing disaster risks, increasing their ability to manage recovery and providing greater flexibility in this field.

He explained that Qatar has developed a general framework

for disaster management, conducted a comprehensive assessment of national risks, prepared a register of vital infrastructure, and strengthened national action and joint efforts among all concerned parties to implement action strategies to reduce disaster risks.

In implementation of the slogan of this year's celebration "The role of education in protecting and empowering youth for a disaster-free future", the Civil Defence Council sought to enhance co-operation with the relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and the General Directorate of Civil Defence, in order to support efforts that focus on raising the capabilities of youth in the field of disaster risk reduction and integrating disaster risk awareness into educational activities and events to increase awareness, understand-

ing and response to these risks and reduce their repercussions, he added. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 focuses on the role of education in protecting and empowering youth for a disaster-free future.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. It is the outcome of stakeholder consultations and inter-governmental negotiations at the request of the UN General Assembly.

The framework aims to build the capacities of nations and communities to cope with the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological risks and hazards. (QNA)

## Qatar Charity empowers Chad families

Qatar Charity (QC), with the generous support of benefactors in Qatar, has successfully implemented over 1,430 income-generating projects for vulnerable families through its office in Chad's capital, N'Djamena, since its establishment in 2016.

These initiatives have directly benefitted around 30,000 persons, with a total cost of QR10mn. These initiatives contribute to reducing unemployment, supporting the local economy, and enhancing productivity. Beneficiaries also receive training opportunities to enhance their skills.

These projects contribute to alleviating the hardships faced by the people of Chad, where 42% live below the poverty line, according to World Bank statistics. Furthermore, 2.4mn people in the country are currently experiencing food insecurity, according to figures from the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Qatar Charity's economic



empowerment projects implemented in Chad encompass noodle-making machines, sewing machines, vegetable stalls, traditional restaurant equipment, agricultural tools, tractors, sheep farming, motorcycles, motor-cycles for the disabled, grain mills, bean or sesame oil press machines, and the establishment and equipping of grain banks, as well as fish farms.

Hababa Abdul Rahim, 45, who became a widow at a young age and struggled to provide food and essential expenses for her seven children, is now running

three traditional restaurants, thanks to QC.

"Qatar Charity provided essential cooking utensils, food supplies, dishes, stoves and gas cylinders to kickstart the project. From day one, I was fortunate to attract customers, and I managed to open two more restaurants over time, significantly increasing my income. I also employed six women to help manage the restaurants. As a result, my living conditions have improved dramatically, and my seven children are now continuing their education."

## Qatari aid plane arrives in Beirut



A Qatari Amiri Air Force aircraft arrived at Rafic Hariri Airport in Beirut, carrying aid, including medicines and shelter supplies, provided by Qatar Fund for Development, as part of the air bridge operated by Qatar to provide relief to the brotherly Lebanese people in view of the humanitarian crisis they are undergoing due to recent developments. The aid was received by Minister of Public Health in the Lebanese Caretaker Government Dr Firass Abiad and Qatar's ambassador to Lebanon Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. (QNA)

## Vodafone Qatar hosts blood donation drive with HMC



As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Programme (CSR), Vodafone Qatar recently hosted a blood donation drive in collaboration with the Blood Donor Unit at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), and Msheireb Properties.

Various organisations took part, including Msheireb Properties, Meeza, Qatar Charity and Grand Central Bakery and Kitchen, with employees coming together to show their full support. A fully equipped HMC blood donation unit along with

a team of medical professionals assessed each individual's eligibility for blood donation, a statement said. Red blood cells from the blood donations are used for surgery, kidney dialysis and to treat anaemia, while the plasma is used to treat burn victims and trauma patients. The extracted platelets are used for surgery, and to treat leukaemia and other forms of cancer.

There is always a critical need for blood, especially from rare blood groups, to meet the growing demand for patients undergoing surgeries, recovering from

accidents, and facing medical emergencies.

Ali Atiq al-Abdulla, head of Media Relations and CSR at Vodafone Qatar, said: "At Vodafone Qatar, we take pride in our social investment initiatives that have benefitted a wide segment of the society. This year, we organised a drive that not only involved our employees but also included several of our partners. This ensures our social investments align with our purpose of connecting people in Qatar and adheres to Vodafone Qatar's leading social responsibility programme."

## HMC's Tobacco Control Centre holds awareness campaign in schools

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Tobacco Control Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), a World Health Organisation (WHO) collaborating centre for treating tobacco dependence, organised an awareness and educational campaign across several schools.

The aim was to educate students and young people about the dangers of tobacco products.

The campaign included a series of interactive educational workshops and lectures in many preparatory and secondary schools for girls and boys. Students were educated about the dangers of all kinds of tobacco. The importance of quitting smoking, in addition to correcting misconceptions about new tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products and nicotine pouches was emphasised.

Students were also warned about the marketing tricks used by companies to market new tobacco products, emphasising that these products are not safe alternatives and are no less dangerous than traditional smoking methods. Awareness leaflets were also distributed to students and



The campaign included a series of interactive educational workshops.

educational staff. They were also informed of the Tobacco Control Centre and the services it provides.

The campaign, launched in co-operation with the Programmes and Activities Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, witnessed a wide response, benefitting nearly 500 students in 10 different preparatory and secondary schools during September and October 2024 in the first phase of the campaign.

Dr Ahmed al-Mulla, director of HMC's Tobacco Control Cen-

tre, emphasised the importance of fruitful co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

He also praised the ministry's efforts to provide awareness and educational activities for school students in order to protect the health of young people, educate them about the dangers of tobacco products, and offer them the best health options to protect their health and to build a generation that is aware of the harm of these products and is able to make sound health decisions and build a smoke-free society.

## Municipality ministry, EU delegation hold event on Sustainable Food Security

The Ministry of Municipality launched yesterday the "Forging Qatari-EU Partnerships for Sustainable Food Security" event, in partnership with the EU delegation to Qatar.

Part of the EU-GCC economic co-operation activities, the one-day event brought together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, research groups, companies and producers to exchange expertise with the EU tech firms, discuss co-operation prospects, and learn about the latest agricultural technologies, in a bid to develop local production amid climate, soil and water scarcity challenges.

In opening remarks, European Union ambassador to Qatar Dr Cristian Tudor said the event enables both sides to exchange views on the global solutions that boost



sustainable and innovative food security efforts.

He hailed Qatar's food security accomplishments over the past decade despite climate challenges and limited arable land, achievements that led to a resilient and sustainable food system. He highlighted the country's impressive local food production increase that led to self-sufficiency in a number of products and reflected its commitment to overcoming obstacles.



Speaking about the prospects for massive EU-Qatar co-operation across agricultural technology, sustainable agriculture, and the integration of renewable energy into food production, Tudor said both sides could harness bilateral collaboration to bolster food security and sustainability, specially with the EU demonstrating unique expertise in key areas such as modern agricultural technologies, innovative trade frameworks,

and sustainable investment opportunities.

Qatar is focusing on renewable energy and sustainable agriculture after the emergence of new technologies, such as hydroponics and other less resource-intensive and more climate-adapted technologies, which are in line with the EU's commitment to advance green technologies and sustainable practices, he added.

He added that Qatar's food se-

curity strategy sets a roadmap for further progress in raising self-sufficiency, integrating data-driven agricultural practices, and ensuring resilience in food supply chains. He pointed out that the EU is ready to contribute its expertise in the areas of climate change adaptation, data use and sustainable agricultural systems, and that EU countries are keen to explore joint initiatives with Qatar in research and development, as well as trade

and investment opportunities that can contribute to achieving these goals.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director of Food Security Department, the Ministry of Municipality, Hamad Hadi al-Hajri, detailed the pillars of the 2018-2023 Strategy, intended for achieving the national food security.

The strategy focuses on international trade, logistics, local market empowerment, self-sufficiency, and strategic reserves. It was prepared following interviews, joint technical discussions and workshops with all the local food system stakeholders.

Al-Hajri said Qatar maintained a steady improvement in the gross domestic product, achieving self-sufficiency in a number of strategic food products and commodities. (QNA)



## Commerce minister inaugurates The Big 5 exhibition at the DECC

HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani officially inaugurated The Big 5 exhibition yesterday at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

Following the opening, HE Sheikh Mohammed toured the exhibition's sections and pavilions, where he was introduced to cutting-edge technologies and services pre-

presented by leading companies in the construction sector.

As a premier platform for the construction industry, The Big 5 exhibition spotlights every aspect of the sector, offering a comprehensive environment to showcase the entire procurement cycle of building materials.

It is also a must-attend event for architects, project managers, and construction professionals seeking innovative products and services for their future projects.



## Municipality minister opens Cityscape 2024

From Page 1

Cityscape Qatar is supported by Qetaifan Projects as the platinum sponsor and United Development Company (UDC) as the official registration sponsor.

The exhibition welcomed key developers and real estate companies, including Qatari Diar, Barwa Real Estate, Alwaab City, Sobha LLC, and Bin Al Sheikh, showcasing their flagship projects and latest offerings.

Cityscape Qatar features an extensive exhibition floor, showcasing a diverse range of residential, commercial, and hospitality projects from both local and international developers.

Developers are participating from Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the UAE, and the UK.

The event allows visitors the chance to explore innovative architectural designs, discover lucrative investment opportunities, and gain valuable insights into the market's future trajectory.

Barwa Group marked its presence at Cityscape Qatar with the unveiling of its latest residential development, Barwa Hills.

The project features 57 exclusive apartments, where visitors can tour the development through an interactive digital viewing experience to allow potential buyers to explore their chosen unit in precise detail.

In addition, Barwa Real Estate Group signed a memorandum of cooperation with Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) to provide financial solutions to those who wish to buy residential units in the Barwa Hills project.

"Cityscape Qatar 2024 opened with a resounding success," said Alexander Heuff, exhibition director of Cityscape Qatar. "Our partners have unveiled several exciting projects, making key announcements throughout the event. Cityscape has attracted visits from ministers, key media, potential buyers and both regional and international exhibitors."

With the huge success already seen on its opening day, Cityscape Qatar promises to be a dynamic showcase of Qatar's thriving real estate landscape, bringing together key stakeholders, investors, developers, industry experts and visitors.

Attendees can expect an immersive experience filled with networking opportunities, exclusive project launches, and transformative discussions on the latest trends shaping the sector.

Visitors can obtain free tickets through Cityscape Qatar's website.

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attayah addressing the opening ceremony yesterday.

Right: HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attayah and other dignitaries touring the exhibition.



## 2nd Qatar Real Estate Forum kicks off in partnership with Cityscape

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) inaugurated the 2nd edition of the Qatar Real Estate Forum (QREF) yesterday.

The three-day event is being held in partnership with Cityscape under the slogan *Aqarat's Future*, with the participation of an elite of the key national and international entities concerned with the real estate sector.

The forum aims to enhance the attractiveness of real estate investment in Qatar, as the largest window through which investors and real estate developers from all over the world can explore promising real estate investment opportunities.

In his speech during the opening ceremony, HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attayah emphasised the importance of the QREF, which provides a comprehensive picture of the real estate sector system in the country, to identify the sector's potential and explore the opportunities it offers.

The huge investments in infrastructure projects played a major role in enhancing the attractiveness of the real estate sector in the country, he said while pointing out that Qatar leads the world in terms of security, health, quality of life, and various positive indicators, all thanks to the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and the state's huge investments in infrastructure projects as well as modern legislation.

HE al-Attayah stated that the real estate sector is one of the key sectors that benefited from this tremendous development in infrastructure and economic renaissance.

Qatar is one of the fastest growing economies in the region, with the volume of real estate transactions during 2023 and the first half of 2024 reaching more than QR27bn.

The minister highlighted the role of Aqarat in building a strong and sustainable real estate system based on transparency and innovation to enhance the position of Qatar

as a leading global investment destination in the real estate sector, in addition to facilitating the investor's journey and providing all information from the beginning of studying the investment idea until property ownership.

Aqarat, HE al-Attayah said, is working on several initiatives that contribute to facilitating the investor's journey, including developing the national plan for the real estate sector, activating legislation and laws, adding a professional character to services to enhance quality and performance, and launching advanced digital solutions such as the real estate platform.

The QREF provides a unique platform to discuss challenges and exchange ideas among all those interested in the real estate sector and provides an opportunity to establish partnerships between the public and private sectors and major international companies.

The forum will feature 29 speakers in the discussion sessions and seven speakers in the workshops.

The discussions will cover various topics, mainly enhancing transparency, the role of advanced technology in improving infrastructure, the growing demand for affordable housing, commitment to green building practices, managing risks related to global economic fluctuations, and the latest developments related to real estate market trends.

This year's edition is held with the participation of 60 exhibitors, comprising 56% local exhibitors, and 44% international exhibitors.

It includes pavilions for major Qatari real estate companies to showcase real estate investment opportunities in Qatar, in addition to a government pavilion for the entities concerned with real estate investment to introduce investors to the procedures, laws, and all controls and details related to real estate investment.

The 2nd QREF will also witness the announcement of a number of initiatives and plans aimed at developing the real estate sector, including improving infrastructure and increasing investments. - QNA

## QT chief lauds role of tourism, real estate in national development

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

Qatar Tourism (QT) chairman Saad bin Ali al-Kharji has underlined the country's ambitious tourism goals and their impact on economic diversification, highlighting the strong partnership between the tourism and real estate sectors and how they mutually complement each other's growth.

He shared key insights during the panel discussion on *Tourism's Contributions to the Real Estate Sector* during the Qatar Real Estate Forum, which will run until tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

During the discussion, leading industry experts, such as Auric Road co-founder and chief investment officer Jason Liebman, Habitas Group founder and chief executive Oliver Ripley, and Fetah Tamince, founder and chairman of Rixos Hotels and The Land of Legends and president of SML



Qatar Tourism chairman Saad bin Ali al-Kharji during the Qatar Real Estate Forum panel discussion on *Tourism's Contributions to the Real Estate Sector*. PICTURE: Thajudheen

Construction Co, also shared their outlook on the topic.

Al-Kharji expressed optimism that the QT will be able to meet its annual target of 6mn tourist arrivals by 2030, citing steady growth in visitor arrivals this year, which currently stands at 3.7mn.

He noted that this growth is expected to double employment in the sector and increase tourism's contribution to GDP to 12%.

"All these goals reflect directly on real estate and development in the country," al-Kharji said. "By these numbers we have today, I

think we are reaching these goals way ahead...and it's very promising and very encouraging for international investment and real estate investment in Qatar."

The tourism chief emphasised the mutual relationship between tourism and real estate development.

"The relationship between tourism and real estate is not only interconnected, but it's a real partnership in both sectors," he said. "This partnership is expected to drive improvements in both sectors, enhancing the quality of life

for residents and visitors alike."

Al-Kharji also underscored Qatar's significant investments in infrastructure, including smart technology, eco-friendly buildings, and state-of-the-art public transportation, saying that these investments aim to position Qatar as a leading destination for both tourists and potential residents.

According to al-Kharji, the 2022 FIFA World Cup served as a catalyst for Qatar's rapid development.

He said the global sporting event transformed Qatar into "one of the best destinations" for tourists and

sports events.

"The 2022 FIFA World Cup became the catalyst of this development," al-Kharji reiterated. "We reached a very advanced level in very short time because of this event."

In addition to tourism, he highlighted other investment opportunities in Qatar, citing fields like artificial intelligence (AI).

He also lauded the government for its ongoing efforts to enhance regulations to attract innovative investments, especially in real estate.

Al-Kharji underlined Qatar's commitment to safety and high quality of life, presenting the country as an attractive destination for both visitors and long-term residents.

"Qatar's initiatives are part of the country's broader strategy to diversify its economy and reduce reliance on hydrocarbons," he said. "As we continue to invest in our tourism and real estate sectors, Qatar aims to establish itself as a global destination for visitors, residents, and investors alike."

## Justice ministry takes part in QREF, Cityscape Qatar 2024

The Ministry of Justice is participating in the Qatar Real Estate Forum (QREF) and Cityscape Qatar 2024 exhibition with a pavilion that includes a display of the services of the real estate registration and documentation sector.

The pavilion includes the services it provides throughout the exhibition days, and displays of real estate registration and documentation transactions included in the laws that were recently issued, which introduced transactions being implemented for the first time, especially in the field of digital transformation and completing transactions electronically.



For the first time at the Cityscape Qatar, the Real Estate Brokerage Department will conduct field visits to the companies participating in the exhibition, to introduce real estate brokerage procedures, raise awareness of

the provisions of the Real Estate Brokerage Law, and ensure that licensed companies practice the real estate brokerage profession.

The Ministry of Justice is participating under the umbrella of the government pavilion, which includes the Real Estate Development Authority (Aqarat) and the Investment Promotion Agency, to provide an integrated real estate experience for visitors to the exhibition.



The Ministry of Justice pavilion provides legal services and consultations related to judicial transactions supporting the real estate sector, including services for non-Qataris to own and benefit from real estate following Cabinet Decision No 28 of 2020 specifying the areas in which non-Qataris may own and benefit from real estate, and the conditions, controls, advantages, and procedures for their ownership and benefit. - QNA

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, who officially inaugurated Cityscape Qatar, listens to a briefing at the UDC pavilion yesterday as other dignitaries look on.



Visitors are given a glimpse into the future of luxury and sustainable living on Gewan Island, making UDC's pavilion a must-see destination at the exhibition.

# UDC unveils smart chatbot at Cityscape Qatar 2024 pavilion

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, captivated audiences at Cityscape Qatar 2024 yesterday with a pavilion that showcases the innovative spirit and luxurious living experience embodied by Gewan Island, UDC's latest flagship development.

Designed with cutting-edge technology and breathtaking visual elements, the pavilion is a testament to UDC's commitment to excellence, luxury, and forward-thinking development.

Visitors are given a glimpse into the future of luxury and sustainable living on Gewan Island, making UDC's pavilion a must-see destination at the exhibition.

UDC's primary focus at Cityscape Qatar this year is promoting investments in Crystal Residence, one of the most significant additions to its growing portfolio of premium developments.

Crystal Residence offers an exceptional blend of luxury and modern convenience, featuring a variety of opulent units from one to three-bedroom apartments and four-bedroom duplexes.

With stunning sea or city views, each residence is thoughtfully designed with high-end materials, state-of-the-art appliances, and energy-efficient systems, ensuring a premium living experience.

The low-rise buildings (four to five storeys) include luxurious rooftop amenities, such as swimming pools and gyms, creating an oasis of comfort and leisure.

With 15 buildings compris-



Designed with cutting-edge technology and breathtaking visual elements, the pavilion is a testament to UDC's commitment to excellence, luxury, and forward-thinking development.

ing 586 units and a 1,442-capacity parking facility, Crystal Residence is a family-friendly community designed to offer the perfect balance of privacy and modern lifestyle, making it an attractive investment in Qatar's real estate landscape.

Among the pioneering experiences and new innovations in real estate marketing in Qatar, UDC's pavilion unveiled a smart chatbot as a key attraction designed to provide real-time assistance and answer visitor inquiries using artificial intelligence technology.

This advanced feature enhances visitor engagement by offering instant access to detailed information about UDC's developments, including residential,

commercial, and leisure offerings at Gewan Island and The Pearl Island.

The AI chatbot has quickly become a favourite among attendees, setting a new standard for customer interaction in the real estate industry with its advanced AI capabilities.

The climatized walkway's elegant design reflects the luxury and sophistication that defines UDC's developments, providing visitors with a breathtaking visual experience that captures the essence of Gewan Island's unique lifestyle offerings.

The replica also serves as a testament to UDC's vision of creating spaces that blend aesthetics with functionality.

UDC's pavilion is a showcase of cutting-edge technology and fresh, modern design. From interactive screens to 3D visualisations, the entire space is crafted to provide an immersive experience that goes beyond traditional exhibition booths. The pavilion reflects UDC's ongoing commitment to innovation, capturing the imagination of visitors with its futuristic approach.

Upon entering UDC's pavilion, guests are greeted by a holographic display that welcomes them with a modern twist on traditional hospitality.

This striking use of visual technology immediately grabs attention and sets the tone for a futuristic, technology-driven ex-

perience inside the pavilion.

The immersive room within the pavilion provides visitors with a fully engaging experience, allowing them to explore Gewan Island through a state-of-the-art virtual fly-through. This simulation showcases the island's luxurious residences, world-class amenities, and sustainable features, offering an in-depth look at what future residents can expect. The immersive room has become a crowd favourite, offering an unparalleled view of UDC's vision for Gewan Island.

UDC has also introduced a new sales strategy at Cityscape 2024, emphasising the use of innovative technology over traditional sales models. This new approach allows potential buyers to experience UDC's properties in an interactive and dynamic way, visualising their future investments through engaging tools such as virtual tours and 3D renderings. This shift not only enhances the buying process but also sets UDC apart as a pioneer in real estate marketing.

Further elevating UDC's presence at Cityscape, Commercial Bank is participating alongside UDC, offering visitors expert financial advice and assistance. For those interested in exploring financing options for UDC's luxury developments, CBQ's on-site representatives are providing tailored solutions to support investment decisions, making UDC's pavilion a one-stop destination for potential buyers.

UDC's pavilion embodies the company's unwavering commitment to sustainability, featuring

dedicated sections that showcase its green initiatives.

From energy-efficient designs to the use of eco-friendly materials, UDC's projects align with Qatar's National Vision for sustainable growth.

These efforts highlight UDC's dedication to responsible development, benefiting both the environment and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

By prioritising sustainability, UDC not only upholds its core values but also resonates with the growing demand from environmentally conscious investors and homebuyers seeking meaningful, future-focused investments.

The opening day of Cityscape 2024 has been a tremendous success for UDC, with its pavilion receiving widespread praise for its unique features and innovative design.

Visitors and investors alike have been drawn to the immersive experiences and cutting-edge technology that define the pavilion, making it a key attraction at the exhibition.

As Cityscape 2024 runs until October 15, UDC's pavilion is expected to draw even more attention, reaffirming its status as a leader in premium real estate development and smart living solutions in Qatar.

With its visionary projects and unwavering commitment to excellence, UDC is shaping the future of sustainable living. For more information about UDC's latest properties, investment opportunities, and financing options, visit stand C10 at Cityscape Qatar.

## Qatar, a global investment hub for real estate, economic diversification

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

Key figures from Qatar's investment landscape highlighted the country's bid to emerge as a global investment destination in specific areas like the real estate sector during a panel discussion at the Qatar Real Estate Forum yesterday.

The discussion titled 'The National Economy: Development & Investment Opportunities', included chief executives from Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar), Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ), and Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), underscored the country's commitment to economic diversification and its ambitious plans for the future.

Invest Qatar CEO Sheikh Ali Alwaleed al-Thani underscored the country's three-stage growth strategy.

Following the development of the hydrocarbon sector and infrastructure culminating in the 2022 World Cup, Qatar is now focusing on its third national development strategy. Sheikh Ali noted that this strategy targets financial services, manufacturing, logistics, and ICT sectors, with a strong emphasis on human capital development.

"However, what underlines all this and what is central to the strategy is the growth of human capital. If you look at Qatar, traditionally where hydrocarbons played the leading driver of growth...we need to invest in our human capital. And this investment was evident through education, healthcare, and creating an environment that can attract and retain talent.

"The government is focused on building upon that and having that being the most significant growth driver



Invest Qatar CEO Sheikh Ali Alwaleed al-Thani (second from left) makes a point during the panel discussion titled 'The National Economy: Development & Investment Opportunities', while QFC CEO Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida and QFZ CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani look on. PICTURE: Thajudheen

into the future. I think Qatar targets that as an eventual outcome where our human capital innovation could be the main driver for growth," Sheikh Ali emphasised.

QFZ CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, on the other hand, highlighted Qatar's unique "one integrated family approach" to attracting investments, citing examples of successful public-private partnerships, which contribute to knowledge transfer and sustainability goals.

"Concerning the Qatar National Development Strategy, we are focused on diversifying the economy through three key sectors, such as manufacturing, logistics, and within the IT and digital space. But we're also looking to enable knowledge transfer, and we do this by enabling public-private partnerships," Sheikh Mohammed noted.

QFC CEO Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida detailed QFC's role in providing a robust legal and regulatory framework for investors, explaining how the centre offers various structures, such

as special purpose vehicles, holding companies, and trust structures to help investors manage risks in real estate investments.

Al-Jaida also revealed plans for innovation in the sector, including the potential tokenisation of real estate assets to increase accessibility and liquidity.

According to al-Jaida, Qatar's ambitious targets include achieving 4% growth in the non-hydrocarbon sector and attracting \$100bn in foreign direct investment (FDI) over the next seven years.

"All of us are involved in achieving that target. Within the clusters that are named in the National Development Strategy: manufacturing, logistics, and tourism, real estate is indirectly in every single one of those clusters because to develop these clusters, there's always an indirect impact on the real estate sector because all these companies eventually attract investment and manpower. And that has an indirect impact on the real estate sector," al-Jaida further explained.

## Crystal-adorned development 'to boost Qatar's tourism appeal'

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

One of United Development Company's (UDC) new projects, Crystal Walkway, is expected to shine the spotlight on Qatar as a world-class and leading tourist destination in the region and beyond, an official said yesterday.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of Cityscape 2024, UDC Public Services executive director Abdullatif Ali al-Yafei announced that Crystal Walkway will feature "the world's largest collection of crystals in one location."

He explained that Crystal Walkway is one of the stunning amenities of Crystal Residence at Gewan Island.

UDC is the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, al-Yafei said, adding that Gewan Island and its residential and commercial projects are being highlighted at Cityscape, which will run until tomorrow at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

Al-Yafei believes Crystal Walkway, a 450-m fully air-conditioned outdoor promenade adorned with 10 tonnes of crystals and consisting of 45 crystal shades providing 14,000sq m of shade, "will be Qatar's top destination."

"The walkway comprises 10 tonnes of crystals of different sizes ranging from 5mm to 10cm distributed in different ways. We will have 180 illuminated crystal flooring boxes protected by glass that people can walk on. These floors represent five different themes: desert, snow, forest, sea, and machinery," al-Yafei said.

Additionally, Crystal Walkway will showcase two five-metre-high crystal clocks, and 15 building signages made entirely of crystals. Additionally, the development includes 18 crystal trees and crystal plantations along the promenade, creating a mesmerising environ-



UDC Public Services executive director Abdullatif Ali al-Yafei. PICTURE: Thajudheen

ment for visitors, al-Yafei pointed out.

Al-Yafei said UDC's latest crystal-laden attraction is part of the larger Gewan Island project, which includes Crystal Residence, which comprises 586 residential units distributed across 15 mixed-use buildings. Al-Yafei also reported that "80% of the apartments have already been sold, with all retail spaces fully occupied."

He also emphasised that while the project's opulence is evident, the company has not overlooked environmental concerns: "UDC cares a lot about the environment and reducing CO2. The development boasts extensive green spaces, with approximately 50% of the 450,000sq m area dedicated to landscaping, including 13,000 tropical plants within the Crystal Walkway.

According to al-Yafei, the project also aims to achieve sustainability certifications, having already secured GSAS certification for its design, with operational certification "expected in early 2025."

Al-Yafei said, "We are confident that the project would become a top destination in the country and the region, supporting Qatar's tourism goals while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability and luxury."



## Agrico opens new urban farm at QF's Green Island

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

Agrico, a leading agricultural company in Qatar, announced the opening of a new urban farm at Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Green Island, marking a significant step towards promoting sustainable practices and inspiring future generations.

The initiative, a collaboration between Agrico and QF, was announced on social media by prominent agriculturist and Agrico's managing director Nasser Ahmed al-Khalaf.

Expressing his pride in the partnership, al-Khalaf thanked Ouassim Alami, strategic initiatives adviser at QF's COO Office; and Nawal al-Sulaiti, sustainability manager at QF's COO Office for their roles in establishing Green Island.

He underlined the farm's aim in inspiring students and young people to develop innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture, benefiting both Qatar and other countries.

"The purpose of this initiative is to inspire and enlighten our students and the next generation – the true future of our country. With their talent and innovation, they have the potential to not only evolve this locally-developed technology but also to create new solutions that will benefit both our country and humanity," he said.

According to QF, Green Island is a multisectoral learning hub that provides experiential education to the community. As an open platform, it welcomes collaboration with companies and individuals passionate about sustainability.

A key element is community education, focusing on inspiring environmental leadership. Schools will participate in organised field trips, offering hands-on learning about recycling and sustainable practices.

The Agrico urban farm joins several other local organisations involved in Green Island's initiatives, including Arab Engineering Bureau, Milaha, Qa-



tarEnergy, Seashore Group, and Al-Awalia (Qatar Primary Materials Company).

Al-Awalia will lead upcycling workshops, transforming demolition materials into art.

This new urban farm adds to Agrico's existing operations, which currently deliver fresh produce and seafood daily to more than 1,400 outlets across Qatar from its main farm located 58km from Doha.

The company utilises advanced technology and local expertise to achieve year-round production with minimal water and electricity consumption. Agrico also offers turnkey and customised farming solutions to aspiring farmers.

## Breaking boundaries: Qatari mountaineer first Arab to complete Explorer's Grand Slam

Qatari record-setting mountaineer Sheikhha Asma bint Thani al-Thani made history as the first Arab and Qatari to complete the Explorer's Grand Slam. The Qatari champion summited the Castrensis Pyramid in Central Papua, on October 11, 2024, the last phase of the prestigious adventure challenge. Fewer than 75 people in history have completed this incredible feat. Speaking to the media, Sheikhha Asma bint Thani al-Thani said the achievement

was the outcome of her determination to achieve a 2014 dream to break boundaries. Along the way, each summit represented a step closer to realising potentials, but more importantly, a testament to staying true to one's dreams, even when the path ahead seems impossible, the Qatari champion added. The Qatari

champion expressed her deep gratitude to everyone who supported her and made this journey possible, starting with the encouragement of her family, friends and teammates, and the support teams who stood by her until her dream came true. (QNA)



## QRCS chief speaks at CMU-Q lecture series

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a partner university of Qatar Foundation (QF), hosted Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) secretary-general Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi to discuss his organisation's strategy for economic and educational empowerment.

The talk was the latest instalment in the CMU-Q Dean's Lecture Series, a forum for community leaders to share their views on the issues that impact society.

CMU-Q dean Michael Trick said: "His inspiring lecture informed this community of the many facets of humanitarian aid and the excellent work QRCS is doing to improve life in the most vulnerable communities".

Al-Emadi shared QRCS' strategy to support vulnerable people economically and educationally. This strategy involves meeting the needs of refugees in conflict areas by providing in-kind and cash assistance, alongside educational and developmental support.



The dean's lecture series hosts industry leaders and senior officials from government institutions, the private sector, humanitarian organisations, and academic circles to share

their unique perspectives.

The series provides a space for constructive dialogue on various global challenges and plays a vital role in engaging students in the issues facing the world.

## DFI in call for Ajyal volunteers

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) is calling for volunteers aged 18 and over to support the 11th Ajyal Film Festival, running November 16-23, a statement said yesterday.

Interested candidates can register on the DFI website ([www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival/volunteer](http://www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival/volunteer)).

Festival director and DFI CEO Fatma Hassan Al-remaihi said: "Volunteers are at the heart of Ajyal Film Festival, playing a pivotal role in creating a dynamic and welcoming atmosphere, and making an invaluable impact on its achievement. Their passion, dedication, and hard work are what make Ajyal such a special experience for everyone."

A unique demonstration of the community spirit fostered by DFI, Ajyal's Volunteer programme offers an opportunity for the country's residents to gain firsthand experiences and interactions in the vibrant growing film industry, working across diverse aspects of the festival while strengthening personal and professional skills, it was explained.



Volunteers will be exposed to the inner workings of the major cultural event including venue operations, Ajyal jury, transportation, guest services and registration among others.

In addition to gaining invaluable experience, all Ajyal volunteers are also presented with a certificate of appreciation to honour their involvement, the statement added.

## Qatar Boat Show exhibitors announced

The inaugural Qatar Boat Show 2024 at Old Doha Port is nearing full capacity, with more than 95% of on-water slots already reserved by numerous international and local companies and yacht manufacturers.

More than 90% of the on-ground yacht displays for boats, marine equipment, and corporate spaces are also reserved for the event.

The exhibitors themselves represent the forefront of the marine industry, showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and groundbreaking luxury marine vessels, a



statement said yesterday.

The Qatar Boat Show will be receiving leading companies and brands within the maritime industry. Many boats and other marine vessels made in Qatar will be exhibited for the first time in the region.

Exhibitors will enjoy exclusive previews of more than 75

yachts and watercrafts, including groundbreaking new models and innovative designs. They will gain insights into the latest trends and developments in boat technology, design, and sustainability through insightful seminars and workshops led by industry experts.

The exhibitors include Corinthia Yacht Club, Antoine Karam, Milaha, Pacific Marine, Fendress, Captain's Club, Al Kous Marine, Aldhaen Marine, Oceanco, Feadship, The World of Yachts, and Heesen Yachts amongst many others.

## Stars of Science finalists for Top Arab Innovator title revealed

Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Stars of Science TV programme revealed yesterday the three contestants who qualified for the final stage to win the title of Top Arab Innovator, in the aftermath of a fierce competition witnessed during the past weeks.

Nada al-Kharashi, Haitham Yahyaoui and Yaman Tayar passed all the rounds of the competition, becoming just one step away from winning the grand prize in the final episode of the Stars of Science 16th season scheduled to air next Saturday.

Egyptian contestant al-Kharashi said she was able to complete her project that aims to generate energy from air humidity by using protein nanowires made from bacteria thus providing energy to communities that lack its sources. She explained that her project opens new horizons for renewable energy and that her invention is not only related to science but also leaves a lasting impact.

Tunisian contestant Yahyaoui



said that his innovation is an application for early detection of Alzheimer's disease and his project relies on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning techniques to analyse the linguistic and phonetic features of recorded voices.

The application may represent a turning point in the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease,

Yahyaoui said.

Syrian contestant Tayar explained that his innovation is a low-cost device that repairs or replaces defective genes for those suffering from genetic disorders and diseases.

Tayar said that thanks to the Stars of Science programme, gene therapy can become available to everyone.



Beginning with initial designs to now prototypes competing for the grand prize, the three contestants went through the stages of developing their innovation during the programme's 16th season, highlighting their creativity and ability in passing rigorous development stages.

Voting is now open on [www.starsofscience.com](http://www.starsofscience.com) and will end

next Friday at 6pm Doha time. The season finale will air on Saturday. The winners will be determined based on the jury's vote and the public's online vote.

The 16th season of Stars of Science, an educational and entertainment TV initiative launched by QF, began airing on September 7 and will wrap up on October 19 airing on five channels in the re-

gion as well as through streaming.

Stars of Science represents a key platform for Arab inventors that transforms ideas into practical solutions, making it a leading program in the Arab world in the field of innovation. It aims to support and encourage aspiring entrepreneurs in science and technology in the region.

Over the course of 12 weeks, contestants develop and present their solutions through scientific experiments within a shared innovation space done in a limited timeframe and with the guidance and support of a group of experienced engineers and product developers.

Each week, a panel of experts evaluates and selects the projects and prototypes of promising innovators through testing rounds until only three remain to compete for the Top Arab Innovator title and the grand prize. The deliberations of the jury as well as online public voting determine first and second-place winners in each season. (QNA)



**OBITUARY**

**S Africa former finance minister Tito Mboweni dies**

South Africa's former finance and labour minister and first Black central bank governor Tito Mboweni has died aged 65 following a brief illness, the presidency said. Mboweni was an anti-apartheid activist as a student who later became democratic South Africa's first labour minister from 1994-1999 under former president Nelson Mandela. He then served as governor of the South African Reserve Bank for a decade from 1999, and later as finance minister from 2018-2021 under President Cyril Ramaphosa. "His role in shaping our democratic future particularly during the dying days of apartheid, cannot be overstated," said his party, the African National Congress

**CRIME**

**Seven shot dead in home in South Africa**

Seven people were gunned down southwest of Johannesburg before the alleged shooter turned the gun on himself, police said. Five family members, including a three-year-old boy, were killed at Mokokotlong, yesterday morning, police said. The shooting occurred after a man had gone to a local tavern and, finding it closed, had an altercation with the tavern owner, who then followed him home. The tavern owner entered the home of the man and "opened fire at the family members". "The suspect then drove back home... where he allegedly shot himself. He was rushed to the hospital but he died on arrival" police said.

**OUTBREAK**

**Zimbabwe reports first two mpox cases**

Zimbabwe has confirmed its first two cases of mpox, the health ministry said yesterday, without specifying which variant had been recorded. The first case was detected in an 11-year-old boy who developed symptoms last month after travelling to South Africa, the statement said. The second case was in a 24-year-old man who fell ill after travelling to Tanzania, it said. Both patients are recovering and contact tracing is underway, the statement said. The cases were in capital Harare and the southern town of Mberengwa. Neighbouring Zambia also reported its first case last week without disclosing the strain.

**DECISION**

**Australia commits \$64mn to protect against bird flu threat**

Australia's government said it would spend an extra \$64.13mn to protect against a destructive bird flu strain that has spread through bird and mammal populations worldwide but not yet reached the island continent. Oceania is the last region of the world free of the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b avian influenza that has killed hundreds of millions of birds and tens of thousands of mammals since appearing in Asia, Europe and Africa in 2020. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Julie Collins said the new funding was additional to more than A\$1 billion being spent to bolster the country's biosecurity.

# Reliance lobbies govt on satellite spectrum in new face-off with Musk

Reuters  
New Delhi

Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance has argued that the telecom regulator incorrectly concluded that home satellite broadband spectrum should be allocated and not auctioned, intensifying a face-off with Elon Musk's Starlink.

The methodology of giving out spectrum for satellite services in India - a market set to grow 36% a year to reach \$1.9bn by 2030 according to Deloitte - has been a contentious issue since last year.

Musk's Starlink and global peers like Amazon's Project Kuiper back an administrative allocation, while Ambani - Asia's wealthiest man who runs India's Reliance Jio - is arguing for an auction process.

The current dispute is over an interpretation of Indian law that some in the industry say paved the way for the allocation of spectrum last year as Musk wanted.

But Reliance is arguing no provisions are in place for satellite broadband services for individual or home users, industry sources said yesterday.

The telecom regulator, TRAI, is holding a public consultation, but Reliance in a private October 10 letter asked for the process to be started afresh as the watchdog has "pre-emptively interpreted" that allocation is the way forward. "TRAI seems to have concluded, without any basis, that

spectrum assignment should be administrative," Reliance's senior regulatory affairs official Kapoor Singh Guliani wrote in the letter to India's telecoms minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

TRAI has in its consultation paper indicated Indian laws mandate allocation of spectrum for such services without conducting any studies, Reliance added in its letter.

"We have requested (the) TRAI to amend the consultation paper" to ensure a level playing field, Reliance Jio said in a statement yesterday, adding that "it is imperative upon TRAI to also consult on the methodology of assignment" of spectrum.

A senior TRAI official yesterday said that due process is being followed and Reliance is welcome to share feedback during the consultation period.

The recommendations of the watchdog will form the basis for the government's decision on the matter.

Tesla boss Musk is keen to launch Starlink in India, though a final decision on spectrum allocation remains a sticking point.

Starlink argues that the administrative allotment of licences is in line with a global trend. Reliance says an auction is needed for a level playing field as foreign players could offer voice and data services and compete with traditional players.

Reliance's Jio is India's No 1 telecoms player with 480mn users.

## Tens of thousands flee Nigeria floods



Houses lie submerged under water in Adankolo in Kogi State. Two major rivers have flooded across central Nigeria displacing tens of thousands of people, the Red Cross said. Rescue workers in Kogi State have been helping residents move away from the confluence of the Niger and Benue rivers to displacement camps or nearby villages. Umar Y Mahmud, the Red Cross disaster management officer in Kogi, said there were more than 60,000 people displaced and about 150,000 acres of land under water.

# Taiwan on alert as China aircraft carrier group detected

AFP  
Taipei

Taiwan said it was "on alert" as it detected a Chinese aircraft carrier group to its south yesterday, days after the US warned Beijing against taking "provocative" actions on the self-ruled island.

US State Secretary Antony Blinken warned China on Friday against taking action in response to a speech by Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te during the island's National Day celebrations.

China has ramped up military activity around Taiwan in recent years, sending in war-

planes and other military aircraft while Chinese ships maintain a near-constant presence around its waters.

Taiwan's defence ministry said yesterday a Chinese Liaoning aircraft carrier group had entered the Bashi Channel, a waterway that separates the island from the Philippines, "and is likely to proceed into the western Pacific".

"The Taiwanese military is employing joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems to closely monitor related activities and remains on alert, prepared to respond as necessary," it said in a statement.

China's military meanwhile released a video yesterday saying it was "prepared for battle",

with a small map of Taiwan included in its title.

The video, posted on the People's Liberation Army Eastern Theater Command's social media channels, shows missiles, jets, helicopters, and warships. China's military was "ready for battle at any time" the post added.

Taiwan and US officials had warned of possible Chinese military drills in response to Lai's speech.

The US is Taiwan's most important backer and biggest supplier of weapons, but does not hold formal diplomatic relations with Taipei.

Lai, who took office in May, has been more outspoken than his predecessor Tsai Ing-wen in defending Taiwan's sovereignty, angering Beijing, which calls him a "separatist".

**UK apologises for accidentally sharing billionaire's e-mail**

Britain has apologised after Sky News reported the government had accidentally disclosed the e-mail address of Bernard Arnault, one of the world's richest men, in the run up to a major investment summit, blaming the blunder on human error. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Finance Minister Rachel Reeves will today host some of the world's most prominent financial and tech leaders at the event which is aimed at drumming up investment in Britain. Arnault, the chairman and chief executive of the world's biggest luxury group LVMH, was amongst those Reeves was hoping to convince that Britain is "open for business". But government officials had neglected to make Arnault's e-mail private when they pressed send on details for the event, meaning all recipients were able to see his address plus those of a number of other executives, Sky reported.

## Indian politician shot dead in Mumbai



Bollywood actor Salman Khan (front centre) leaves after paying his last respects to the assassinated Indian politician and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique, in Mumbai, India, yesterday. Baba Siddique, 66, a local lawmaker and former minister in Maharashtra, was shot multiple times in the chest outside his son's office in Mumbai. Two suspected attackers have been arrested and police were searching for another.

## Asean urges early accord on South China Sea code

Reuters  
Bangkok

Southeast Asian leaders yesterday called for swift agreement on a code of conduct for the South China Sea based on international law, while demanding an immediate halt to fighting in Myanmar and inclusive peace talks to end its civil war.

The Asean chairman's statement represents the consensus from meetings ended on Friday of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos, which included diplomats from the US, Russia, China, Japan, India and South Korea.

Confrontations have been rising in disputed waters of the South China Sea between China, which claims sovereignty over almost all the vital waterway, and Asean members including the

Philippines and more recently Vietnam. The rows have raised risks of an escalation that could eventually involve the US, which is bound by treaty to defend the Philippines if it is attacked.

The sea, where \$3tn worth of trade passes annually, was a major point of contention at the Asean meetings, particularly with Russia and China objecting to a reference to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a US official said.

The Asean statement called for confidence-building measures that could "reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings and miscalculation" in the South China Sea.

It cited "positive momentum" in talks on a maritime code that could help settle disputes. China and Asean agreed on this in 2002, but the formal process of creating one did not start until 2017.

# Blair, King Charles hail Salmond's 'devotion' to Scotland

AFP  
London

Former UK prime minister Tony Blair yesterday joined King Charles III among a host of British personalities to pay tribute to former Scotland figurehead Alex Salmond after his sudden death at the age of 69.

"Very sorry to hear the news about Alex Salmond," Blair said in a statement.

"Whatever our disagreements he was a huge figure in Scottish and UK politics and was clearly dedicated to Scotland and its people."

Salmond, a figurehead of the in-

dependence movement and leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP) during two 10-year spells, died on Saturday whilst in North Macedonia.

Salmond, who led Scotland between 2007 and 2014, was taken ill after giving a speech, UK media reported.

His political career was marked by electoral highs, dashed dreams of independence, controversy and frequent fall-outs, including with his former protege Nicola Sturgeon, who succeeded him as Scotland leader.

But supporters and critics recognised him as a politician of consequence and skill, leading to tributes

from across the spectrum.

Widely seen as one of Britain's most shrewd and charismatic politicians of recent times, Salmond turned the SNP from a small party at Westminster into Scotland's dominant political force.

His combative nature saw his fame spread beyond Britain. A dispute with Donald Trump led the former US president to call him "Mad Alex".

King Charles III said late Saturday that he was "greatly saddened" by Salmond's death, adding that "his devotion to Scotland drove his decades of public service".

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called Salmond a "monumental

figure of Scottish and UK politics" who "leaves behind a lasting legacy". Salmond quit as Scotland's leader after losing a 2014 independence referendum, and resigned from the SNP in 2018 over allegations of rape and sexual assault.

He was acquitted of all 14 charges made after a trial in 2020 - having already won £500,000 (\$653,000) in compensation from the Scottish government over the way it had handled its investigation.

Salmond later became leader of the new pro-independence Alba Party, but it has failed to match the political successes of the SNP.

His former party still called him "a titan of the independence

movement." Scotland's current First Minister and SNP leader John Swinney said "Alex worked tirelessly and fought fearlessly for the country that he loved and for her independence."

Salmond's electoral high point was Scotland's devolved parliament's 2011 election, when the SNP achieved what was previously thought impossible by delivering an outright majority.

The win smashed the two-party system of Labour and the Conservatives, transforming Scottish politics.

It also gave him the political weight to press for a referendum on Scottish independence from the

UK, which the then prime minister David Cameron finally granted in 2014.

Scotland voted by 55% to 45% to remain a part of Britain.

The abuse charges against Salmond generated huge animosity between him and his successor Sturgeon over how she had handled the allegations.

Sturgeon said she was "shocked and sorry" to hear about Salmond's death.

"Obviously, I cannot pretend that the events of the past few years which led to the breakdown of our relationship did not happen, and it would not be right for me to try," she said.



**CHAIRMAN**

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

**Deputy Managing Editor**

K T Chacko

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
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# Climate change 'supercharging hurricane season'

With hurricanes, floods, drought and sea level rise happening across the world, the perils of climate change are staring humanity in the face like never before. The brutal wind and torrential rainfall of Hurricane Milton that killed 17 people in Florida last week were worsened by human-caused climate change, a team of international scientists said.

Global warming made wind speeds around 10% stronger and rainfall greater by between 20% and 30%, according to an analysis by World Weather Attribution. The group of climate scientists studies the role of climate change in fuelling extreme weather. Milton intensified from a Category 1 storm into a tempestuous Category 5 in less than 24 hours, feeding off record- and near-record-warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico. It made landfall in Florida as a Category 3 hurricane.

Previous scientific analyses have shown climate change has made such temperatures in the Gulf between 400 and 800 times more likely. This extra heat made Milton the third-fastest intensifying Atlantic hurricane on record, the US National Hurricane Center said, with maximum sustained wind speeds reaching 290kph. The scientist group noted that rainfall storms similar to Milton are now about twice as likely as they would be without human-induced warming.

## Global warming made wind speeds around 10% stronger and rainfall greater by between 20% and 30%

"This study has confirmed what should already be abundantly clear: climate change is supercharging storms, and burning fossil fuels is to blame," said Ian Duff, a campaigner at environmental nonprofit Greenpeace. "Millions of people across Florida – many of whom lack insurance – now face astronomical costs to rebuild shattered homes and communities."

Scientists have previously identified a concerning trend of rapid hurricane intensification in the Atlantic

over the past 50 years, which they said may be tied to climate change. In light of extremely warm surface-water temperatures around Florida and the Caribbean, forecasters had expected a supercharged Atlantic hurricane season, with between four and seven major storms.

Milton is the second Category 5 hurricane this season, which runs from June through November. There have only been five other years since 1950 that registered more than one Category 5 hurricane in one season, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has long warned of rising sea levels linked to global warming, with populations living along Africa's coastlines particularly at risk. The UN body says climate change will mean more frequent and severe flooding, increased coastal erosion and extreme weather events, which could occur every year instead of once a century in the past.

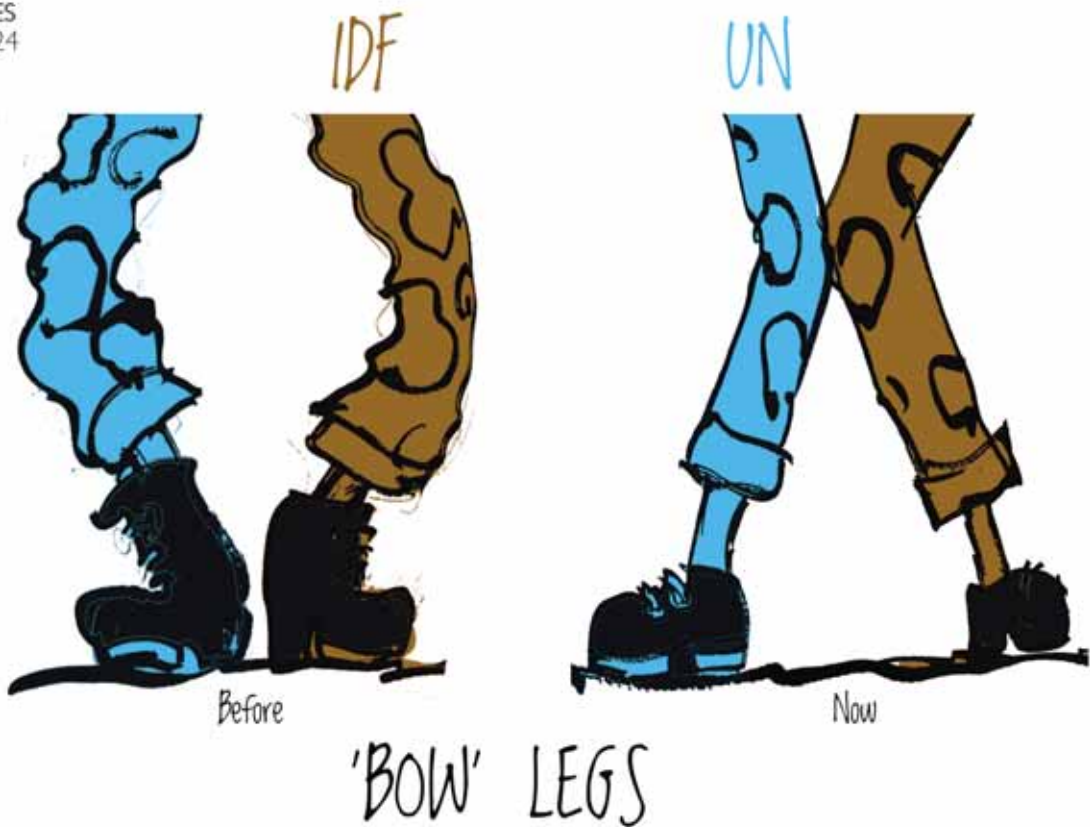
For example, Senegal loses 0.5 to 2m of coastline every year. In Bargny, on Senegal's western Atlantic coast, which is home to some 70,000 people, residents say the coastline has receded by around 60m since the early 1980s, with the problem worsening in recent years.

Some 893,000 people have been affected by flooding in South Sudan and more than 241,000 displaced, the UN's humanitarian agency OCHA said Thursday in a grim update on the disaster. Aid agencies have warned that the world's youngest country, highly vulnerable to climate change, is facing its worst flooding in decades.

On another front, harsh weather is reducing wheat production in major exporting countries, cutting inventories that have already been projected to hit nine-year lows while fuelling a sudden surge in prices. On top of everything, a major academic study has dampened the hopes of scientists that even if global temperatures temporarily exceed climate targets, the planet could eventually cool back down.

The report highlights the dangers of "climate overshoot" – a temporary breach of the 1.5C warming limit set in the 2015 Paris Agreement, an increasingly difficult goal to achieve. Even a brief overshoot could lead to long-term impacts, including rising sea levels and other lasting effects that may persist for thousands of years.

Keyhole  
GULFTIMES  
14-10-2024



# Trump's tax cut pledges are coming fast and furious in waning days of campaign

By Gram Slattery, James Oliphant  
Washington

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is rolling out a new tax-cut proposal about once a week in an unusual rush in the final stretch of the campaign to sway voters in an election that could be decided by just a few thousand votes.

Trump's parade of giveaways comes at a time when presidential hopefuls are typically busy fine-tuning existing proposals rather than making a host of new ones with little acknowledgment of the fiscal cost to be paid down the road.

Want to buy a car? Trump has a tax cut for you. Wish you did not have to pay taxes on tips, or working overtime, or your Social Security? Trump has proposals to help you there, too.

With a little over three weeks left until Election Day, both the former president and his Democratic rival, Vice-President Kamala Harris, are indulging in some economic populism to lure voters.

Many economists say Trump's promises, if fulfilled, are by far the biggest budget-busters. Trump pledged in a marathon Detroit Economic Club speech last Thursday to allow consumers to deduct the interest on car loans, a plan he said would boost the US auto industry. He did not mention the bill American taxpayers could be left footing.

Less than 24 hours earlier, he had promised Americans living abroad that he would end double taxation.

Some American expats are

required to pay taxes to both the US government and foreign authorities. And on Friday, he said he would let Americans in some states that are vulnerable to hurricanes write off the cost of purchasing home generators on their income taxes.

Michigan, an automotive manufacturing hub, is a pivotal battleground in the November 5 election and opinion polls show the race there between Trump and Harris to be neck and neck.

"He's a salesman at heart, and one of his advantages in sales, as in politics, is that he's unencumbered by shame or consistency or policy details," said Liam Donovan, a Republican strategist in Virginia who doesn't work for Trump's campaign.

"In this case, Trump is trying to close a deal, and the spate of policy proposals are a bid to give the customer what they want."

Seven of Trump's tax ideas were rolled out in September and October, while another three were announced since mid-May, according to a Reuters tally. Along with the auto loan and generator tax credits, Trump has promised to do away with taxes on tips and overtime hours for wage workers, eliminate a cap on a tax deduction known as "SALT" enjoyed mainly by wealthy taxpayers, and eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. Trump recently also promised to reduce the corporate tax rate from 21% to 15% for companies that make their products in the US and give companies purchasing heavy machinery a tax credit.

Some of the proposals appear geared toward groups Trump will need to win on November 5. Trump first rolled out his

pledge to eliminate taxes on tips during a rally in Las Vegas in June. The service sector is a major employer in Nevada, and many hotel and casino workers in that hotly contested battleground state would stand to gain directly from the proposal.

Harris has also put forth tax proposals in recent weeks that would cut taxes for a large swathe of voters and expand the deficit. She has also pledged new investments in child care and healthcare. In August, she said she too would eliminate taxes on tips.

Michael Bloomberg, the former New York mayor and former Democratic presidential candidate, was critical of both campaigns, accusing them of "pandering" and of being fiscally reckless. The Harris campaign declined to comment.

"Pandering for votes is standard practice in election campaigns," Bloomberg said in an opinion piece posted on the Bloomberg LP news site. "But the tax-policy proposals on offer during this presidential contest are setting new standards for shamelessness."

Most of Bloomberg's venom was aimed at Trump, whose policies, he said, are "a recipe for disaster."

The Trump campaign said its proposals would put more money in the pockets of everyday Americans, though it did not address fiscal concerns in a statement to Reuters.

"If Americans want less taxes and more money in their pockets, the only option is to vote for President Trump," Trump campaign press secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

The campaign says revenue from increased tariffs and a broadened tax base from higher growth would make up for any shortfall. Economists are not convinced. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which advocates reducing federal deficits, estimated that Trump's tax cut proposals up to then would add \$7.5tn to the federal deficit over 10 years – compared with \$3.5tn for Harris. Other economists have said his proposals would disproportionately benefit the richest Americans.

Most, if not all, of Trump's tax proposals would require approval by Congress, control of which is currently divided between Democrats and Republicans. While that may change after the election, both chambers will likely be closely divided, making approval of complex legislation a challenge.

Arthur Laffer, a longtime economic adviser to Trump who frequently discusses tax policy with the former president, said Trump was no different from other politicians who make campaign promises on the trail.

Polls show voters trust Trump more on the economy than Harris, with a Wall Street Journal poll on Friday giving the former president a 10 percentage-point lead on the issue. But Harris has narrowed the gap since July, when she took the reins from President Joe Biden, the Democrats' previous candidate.

"He's trying to get elected," Laffer said. "He's thinking of what things can I do that would be good politically, and also be good for the economy." – Reuters



Former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures as he arrives for a campaign rally at Calhoun Ranch in Coachella, California. (AFP)

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LuLu Group's 24th outlet in Qatar has opened at North Plaza Mall in Umm Al Amad.

Left: Sheikh Faisal Khalifa cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the new LuLu store in Qatar, marking the 24th branch in this wonderful country," ambassador Vipul said. "As he rightly said, we are deeply grateful to His Highness the Amir and the Qatar government for their continued support to the Indian community as well as to the Lulu Group."



## LuLu Group opens its 24th outlet in Qatar

LuLu Group, a prominent retailer in the region, celebrated yesterday a momentous achievement with the grand opening of its 24th outlet in Qatar, situated at the North Plaza Mall, Umm Al Amad.

The new outlet was opened by prominent Qatari businessman Sheikh Faisal Khalifa Sultan al-Thani, a statement said.

Indian ambassador Vipul, Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed M A al-Thani, LuLu Group International chairman and managing director Yusuf Ali M A, group director for global operations and chief sustainability officer Dr Mohamed Althaf, and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

The new outlet offers a wide selection of fresh produce from local and around the world, an in-house bakery, and innovative shopping experiences, including the popular Planet Y, which features plant-based alternatives and a zero-waste refill station.

It has plenty of parking, self-checkout options, and eco-friendly green checkout counters,

ensuring a smooth and sustainable shopping experience.

Yusuf Ali expressed his gratitude for the continued support of the Qatar leadership.

"It is with immense pride and gratitude that I stand before you today to inaugurate our newest Lulu Hypermarket and Express Store in Umm Al Ahmad," he said. "This marks a significant milestone as it is our 24th store in Qatar and the 273rd in the Lulu Group's ever-growing family of hypermarkets around the world."

"I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to HE Sheikh Faisal bin Khalifa al-Thani for gracing this occasion," Yusuf Ali continued. "Your presence today is a great honour and it reaffirms the strong and enduring bond between the Lulu Group and Qatar."

"I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Indian ambassador Vipul and our many esteemed Qatari and international friends who have supported us along this journey," he added.

"Our success and growth in this beautiful nation would not have



been possible without the visionary leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and the tremendous support of the Qatar government," Yusuf Ali said. "We are deeply grateful for the business-friendly environment that has allowed us to serve the people of Qatar and contribute to the nation's vibrant economy."

"At LuLu, our commitment has always been to provide a world-class shopping experience, offering a wide range of quality products and unmatched customer service," the official stated.

"This new store, spanning 25,000sq ft, is a testament to our continued dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our customers in Qatar," Yusuf Ali said. "As we look to the future, we are excited to share that we will be opening three more stores soon - one later this year and two more in the first quarter of next year."

"With each new opening, we aim to bring even more convenience, variety, and value to the communities we serve," he noted.

"I am very pleased to be here today as the LuLu Group chairman Yusuf Ali opens yet another LuLu store in Qatar, marking the 24th branch in this wonderful country," ambassador Vipul said. "As he rightly said, we are deeply grateful to His Highness the Amir and the Qatar government for their continued support to the Indian community as well as to the Lulu Group."

"It fills me with great pride as the Indian ambassador to see an Indian entrepreneur achieving such remarkable success here in the Gulf, particularly in Qatar," he added.

"Looking ahead, I am confident that the bond between India and Qatar will continue to grow even stronger in the months and years to come," Vipul said.

The new outlet of LuLu prioritises sustainability, offering amenities like wheelchair accessibility, seating areas, gift wrapping services, and a Reverse Vending Machine for recycling plastic bottles.

Smart technology is embedded

throughout the store, providing a smoother shopping experience with self-checkouts and an efficient checkout system.

LuLu at Umm Al Amad offers key features like smart technology for a seamless shopping experience, including self-checkouts, a Zero Waste refill station for reusable containers with dry goods, and a dedicated "Planet-Y" section for vegan and vegetarian options.

Additional features include dedicated sections for Vegan, Organic, Keto-friendly, Superfoods, Gluten-free, Protein, Dairy-free, Under 100 Calories, and No Added Sugar products.

There's also a Juice Station serving a range of freshly made juices, a Superfood Pantry offering affordable superfood items, and an extensive Fresh Market produce section.

## 'Walk the Talk, Health for All Challenge' at Oxygen Park

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, along with several World Health Organisation (WHO) officials and Qatari sports celebrities led the "Walk the Talk, Health for All Challenge" yesterday at Oxygen Park, Education City, Qatar Foundation as large number of people participated at the event.

Organised by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the WHO in Eastern

Mediterranean, the event helped to promote physical activity for health and well-being.

It was held a day before the 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in Doha.

HE Dr al-Kuwari was joined by WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Balkhy, ministers and health leaders from 21 member states, delegates of the regional committee, and leaders and frontline staff from Qatar's healthcare sector.

"Walk the Talk" was also attended by members of Qatar's Olympic team, includ-

ing weightlifter Fares Ibrahim Hassouna, sprinter and long jumper Bashayer Almani, and sprinter Shahad Mohammed.

Addressing the participants, HE Dr al-Kuwari said: "We are delighted to collaborate once again with the WHO to organise this 'Walk the Talk; Health for All Challenge. This is the second time we have hosted this important event in Doha, following the successful 'Walk the Talk' event held on the eve of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022."

"It is a wonderful demonstration of our ongoing commitment to promote health and well-being," she said. "Walking is a simple yet powerful way to enhance both physical and mental health, and it is heartening to see so many people come together to support this important cause."

"I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who participated and made this event a success," the minister added.

"Physical activity is fundamental to good health and well-being," said Dr Balkhy. "We must transform our communities into vibrant hubs of health and activity."

"To make physical activity accessible and effective, we must advocate for inclusive programmes, invest in facilities that encourage physical activities, create enjoyable and safe environments and encourage policy-makers to prioritise active living in urban planning," she said.

"Qatar is setting a great example of



Large number of people took part in the walk.

walking the talk towards an active life for all," the official added. "Together we can break down barriers and create a culture in which physical activity is a fundamental part of everyday life."

The walking route provided an ideal setting, allowing participants of all ages and abilities to come together in a celebration of health.

The event featured a range of interactive booths, including a joint booth by the MoPH and Generation Amazing.

Generation Amazing played a pivotal role as a key partner in implementing the Healthy Cities Programme, making Qatar the first country in the region to have all municipalities as "Healthy Cities".

The event concluded with an exhibition football match, organised by Generation Amazing.

Sports legends played alongside children from Gaza who are recovering following medical care and support in Qatar, in a display of the unifying power of sport.



Participants warming up for the walk. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Dignitaries with the football team members.



Dignitaries at the start of the walk.