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# GULF TIMES



TUESDAY Vol. XXXV No. 13164

October 15, 2024  
Rabia II 12, 1446 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

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## PM visits Real Estate Forum exhibition

QNA  
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani toured the exhibition accompanying the 2nd Qatar Real Estate Forum, during which he visited the government pavilion and the pavilions of a number of national companies participating in the three-day forum, which is organised by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center.

Joined by HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Ha-

mad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah and President of Aqarat Eng Khalid bin Ahmad al-Obaidli, HE the Prime Minister toured the government pavilion, an informational hub, detailing investment opportunities, regulatory procedures, and legal frameworks aimed at bolstering transparency and investor confidence in Qatar's real estate sector.

HE the Prime Minister also engaged with several local real estate companies, gaining insights into their latest projects, initiatives, and innovations. This high-level visit showcased the importance of private sector entities in advancing Qatar's urban development journey.

As part of his tour, HE Sheikh

Mohammed attended a panel session titled 'Future Prospects for the Real Estate Sector'. It featured expert discussions of key trends and promising investment opportunities within the country's thriving real estate market.

Launched on Sunday under the theme 'Aqarat's Future,' the 2nd Qatar Real Estate Forum unites prominent government, semi-government, and private sector players, offering a unique platform for investors and developers to explore Qatar's market potential. With 60 local and international exhibitors, including major Qatari real estate firms, the forum showcases diverse real estate opportunities across the country. **Page 2**



## Fears of siege as Israel steps up attacks in North Gaza

●10 killed in strike on food distribution centre

Reuters  
Cairo

Israeli forces tightened their squeeze around Jabalia in northern Gaza yesterday, killing at least 10 people queuing for food, according to Palestinian medics, and instructing people to evacuate as they pushed in against Palestinian resistance movement Hamas fighters.

Jabalia has been the focus of an Israeli offensive for around 10 days and the military has now encircled the camp and sent tanks into nearby Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun towns.

As the operation has continued, people there have been caught between Israeli demands to move south and Hamas calls not to leave because it was too risky to do so.

Yesterday, 10 people were killed and 40 wounded by tank shelling



A Palestinian boy gestures as people check the destruction following an Israeli army strike around tents inside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital.

in Jabalia, including women and children, Palestinian medics said, while another eight were killed in a separate incident in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan district.

The United Nations human rights office said the Israeli military appeared to be "cutting off North Gaza completely from the rest of the Gaza Strip".

## Israel kills 21 in strike on Christian town in Lebanon

Israel expanded its targets in its war with Hezbollah militants in Lebanon yesterday, killing at least 21 people in an air strike in the north, health officials said, while millions of Israelis took shelter from projectiles fired back across the border.

So far the main focus of Israel's military operations in Lebanon has been in the south, the Bekaa Valley in the east and the suburbs of Beirut.

The strike in the Christian-

majority town of Aitou hit a house that had been rented to displaced families, the town's mayor Joseph Trad said.

Rescue workers at the site of the strike searched through piles of rubble, where burned vehicles and trees could be seen strewn across the ground.

Israel ordered residents of 25 villages in southern Lebanon to evacuate to areas north of the Awali River, which flows some 60km north of the Israeli frontier.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, visiting a military base in central Israel where four soldiers were killed on Sunday by a Hezbollah drone strike, said Israel would continue to attack the Iran-backed movement "without mercy, everywhere in Lebanon - including Beirut".

In central Israel, residents rushed to shelters as sirens sounded. The military said three projectiles that had crossed from Lebanon had been intercepted. **(Reuters)**

## Cityscape day two: more projects, deals unveiled

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

Day two of Cityscape Qatar 2024 was in full swing yesterday, building on the momentum of a successful opening, with exhibitors and attendees eager to dive deeper into the latest trends, innovations and investment opportunities shaping Qatar's dynamic real estate landscape.

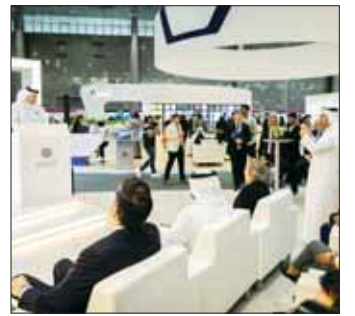
Qetaifan Projects made two major announcements yesterday, revealing two flagship projects: SLS Doha and The Groove Residence. It also announced BBD International as the operator of the Qetaifan Island North school, through a build-operate-transfer (BOT) agreement, and hosted a fireside chat on 'Education in Real Estate Development: Shaping Master Communities'.

The session provided insightful discussions between Hesham Sharaf, chief operating officer of Qetaifan Projects, and Ralph Tabberer, owner and chief executive of BBD Education, with Adam Stewart moderating.

On the other hand, Qatari Diar announced a strategic partnership with ST Engineering to develop and operate a smart city platform in Lusail City, utilising Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics.

Additionally, the company revealed significant investment opportunities in their Lusail developments, including the luxurious waterfront townhouses in the Seef project, which set a new standard for upscale living in a city celebrated for its modern infrastructure and sustainable design.

Moreover, Commercial Avenue,



a subsidiary of Qatari Diar, signed three long-term leases with Kate Real Estate for Joud residential units, Harley Davidson, and Nesto Group.

Ariane Real Estate announced two of its esteemed residential units in Lusail named Lago 2 and Sierra 2.

Barwa Group signed agreements with Al Waha for Strong Motors and Jetour. Additionally, Barwa entered into an agreement with Lesha Bank for the Waseef and Barwa Hills projects.

Alexander Heuff, exhibition director of Cityscape Qatar, said: "Cityscape Qatar continues to deliver valuable experiences. It was yet another successful day for business and real estate in Qatar, filled with insightful discussions, exclusive project launches, and networking opportunities throughout all three conferences. We encourage everyone to explore all that Cityscape Qatar 2024 has to offer."

Meanwhile, the Qatar Real Estate Forum hosted a panel titled 'Sustainable Infrastructure Insights and Goals', featuring Dr Engineer Saad Ahmed al-Mohannadi, President of Public Works Authority (Ashghal). **To Page 2**

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## Cityscape: more projects unveiled

From Page 1

Al-Mohannadi discussed the role of AI in making construction more sustainable and highlighted the importance of innovative construction that enhances accessibility of locations. He emphasised that the main factors Ashghal considers in construction projects are technology, safety, sustainability and facilitation of accessibility.

Today, the Qatar Real Estate Forum will host several informative sessions on 'Financing Strategies and Regulatory Frameworks in the Real Estate Sector', featuring Joseph Abraham, Group CEO, Commercial Bank; and 'Property Platforms: Driving Investment and Development', among others.

Qatar Real Estate Forum will also host a workshop with the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Qatar University, titled 'Future Architects - Student

Competition! Cityscape Qatar is supported by Qetaifan Projects as Platinum Sponsor for the second year.

Similarly, United Development Company (UDC) is the Official Registration Sponsor and features leading developers in Qatar, such as Qatari Diar, Barwa Real Estate, Al Waab City, Sobha LLC, and Bin Al Sheikh, who have been highlighting their most important projects and newest property offerings.

Visitors can still register for free online and attend Cityscape Qatar, the Qatar Real Estate Forum, Index Design Qatar, and Big 5 Construct Qatar to take advantage of the opportunity to network with industry leaders, explore the latest real estate projects, and gain insights into the future of sustainable urban development. Cityscape Qatar concludes today (Tuesday) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani touring the exhibition accompanying the 2nd Qatar Real Estate Forum yesterday.



## UDC, QSTP sign agreement to foster technological innovation, sustainability

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), a member of Qatar Foundation, to foster collaboration on innovative and sustainable solutions in real estate development.

The MoU was signed by Ibrahim Jassim al-Othman, UDC president, CEO, and member of the board, and Dr Jack Lau, president of QSTP, on the sidelines of Cityscape Qatar 2024, which concludes today at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

The strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in UDC's ongoing commitment to integrating smart and sustainable technologies into its developments, further enhancing The Pearl Island and Gewan Island as premier destinations for living, working, and entertainment. The collaboration

will focus on areas, such as technological advancements, research and development in environment and sustainability, and the implementation of smart city technologies.

Al-Othman said, "This MoU aligns with UDC's vision of creating sustainable, technologically advanced communities that meet the evolving needs of our residents and investors. Through this partnership with QSTP, we aim to leverage cutting-edge technologies to enhance the quality of life in The Pearl and Gewan Islands, while also contributing to Qatar's national environmental and sustainability goals."

The collaboration will explore various initiatives, including the development of smart sustainable cities, capacity building through training programmes, and research and development (R&D) to support sustainable innovations. Both parties will work closely to ensure the implementation of these projects under joint agreements to achieve impactful, environmentally friendly solutions.

Lau said, "At the heart of our



Ibrahim Jassim al-Othman and Dr Jack Lau during the signing ceremony on the sidelines of Cityscape Qatar 2024 yesterday.

PICTURE: Thajudheen

mission is the commitment to foster innovation that contributes towards the advancement of a vibrant technological ecosystem in Qatar. We are delighted to establish this collaboration with UDC - a distinguished leader in the real estate

sector - to expand our efforts and collectively explore opportunities to advance technological research and development, hi-tech skills building, and the implementation of innovative solutions that will contribute to the growth of smart

cities and communities. We look forward to our joint work in promoting smart technologies for a more sustainable environment for all." As part of the MoU, UDC and QSTP will focus on delivering sustainable, high-tech solutions that will be implemented across both The Pearl Island and Gewan Island. These solutions will include smart energy management, waste reduction systems, and advanced digital infrastructure aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The collaboration is expected to bring about tangible benefits for investors and residents alike, offering advanced amenities, improved resource management, and a modern, eco-friendly living experience. The integration of these technologies will also create new investment opportunities for businesses looking to engage in sustainable urban development. The MoU reflects UDC's commitment to innovation and sustainability, aligning with Qatar's Vision 2030 to foster a knowledge-based, environmentally conscious economy.

On the sidelines of the signing

ceremony, al-Othman told *Gulf Times* that UDC's collaboration with QSTP underscores the company's commitment to the environment, focus on technology and innovation, and continuous initiatives that support sustainability.

"UDC is incorporating AI technology for various purposes, including an unmanned boat for water quality monitoring. We are also using AI to support sales and after-sales services and to improve efficiency in building management and maintenance," he emphasised.

Similarly, Lau spoke to this paper about AI applications in real estate and urban management, including the benefits of AI technology and the challenges in AI implementation. He also discussed QSTP's role in AI development, as well as the future of AI and automation.

Additionally, al-Othman participated in a key discussion panel at the Qatar Real Estate Forum, where his insights on real estate investment opportunities further emphasised UDC's strategic vision and commitment to fostering growth and innovation within Qatar's thriving real estate landscape.

# Qatari industry experts highlight real estate sector's challenges, opportunities

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

The Qatar Real Estate Forum gathered yesterday a panel of leading Qatari industry experts who discussed various aspects of the country's real estate market, each offering insights from their respective positions and areas of expertise.

Titled 'Real Estate Investment Opportunities' the panel comprised Engineer Ali Mohamed al-Ali, CEO of Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company; Engineer Ahmad Mohamed al-Tayeb, Group CEO of Barwa Real Estate Company; Sheikh Nasser bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani, chairman & managing director of Qetaifan Projects, Dr Abdulla al-Mehshadi, CEO of Al Waab City, and Ibrahim Jassim al-Othman, president, CEO, and member of the board of United

Development Company (UDC). Al-Othman shared insights and highlighted both the challenges and opportunities for Qatar's real estate market post-FIFA World Cup 2022. He also discussed the market's stability and potential for growth, with expected returns on investment ranging from "5% to 10%."

Al-Ali noted that Qatar has several important factors needed to attract foreign investors and boost the country's real estate sector. He said the country boasts of leading developers with experience and expertise, as well as the infrastructure and government incentives that help both domestic and international players to invest in real estate.

Sheikh Nasser, meanwhile, stressed that Qatar has many world-class entertainment facilities and upcoming destinations that cater to tourists as a follow-through for the success of the

country's hosting of the World Cup. He lauded the initiatives of Qatar Tourism to attract more visitors to the country even as he emphasised the need to study the market and innovate to support the economy.

Al-Tayeb, for his part, emphasised the government's role in real estate development, especially in balancing supply and demand and preventing real estate bubbles. He noted the establishment of Barwa Real Estate Company is an example of government intervention to provide affordable housing solutions.

Al-Mehshadi, on the other hand, highlighted the importance of financial institutions in supporting both developers and investors. He also called for new financing solutions to meet the needs of potential buyers and to ensure the continuity of construction projects.



(From left) Engineer Ali Mohamed al-Ali, engineer Ahmad Mohamed al-Tayeb, Sheikh Nasser bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani, Dr Abdulla al-Mehshadi, and Ibrahim Jassim al-Othman, during the Qatar Real Estate Forum panel discussion titled 'Real Estate Investment Opportunities'. PICTURE: Thajudheen

## Philippine delegation debuts at Big 5 Construct Qatar

By Peter Alagos  
Business Reporter

By establishing ties with industry leaders in Qatar, the Philippines supports Qatar National Vision 2030 and aims to position itself as a preferred partner in addressing Qatar's growing infrastructure demands, an official of the Philippines Overseas Construction Board (POCB) has said on the sidelines of Big 5 Construct Qatar has said.

POCB Executive Director Doris U Gacho made the statement amidst the Philippines' inaugural participation in Big 5 Construct Qatar, which concludes today (October 15) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

Gacho emphasised that the Philippines' debut in the event to unveil the country's expertise in construction, architectural, and engineering services, is a milestone that marks a significant step in strengthening the Philippines' presence in Qatar's construction market.

Spearheaded by the POCB and supported by the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) and the Competitiveness Innovation Group's (CIG) 'Tatak Pinoy Programme', Gacho said the country's maiden participation aligns with the Philippines' goals of expanding its export of construction services and architectural and engineering services outsourcing (AESO).

She said, "The Big 5 Construct Qatar is a pivotal platform for the Philippines to showcase the world-class talents and capabilities of our construction industry. We are committed to creating synergies between Philippine key players and their counterparts in Qatar and the UAE."

Gacho also said the Philippine delegation represents leading Filipino contractors, architectural and engineering companies, and government agencies, including organisations, such as Aidea Integrated Technologies, Inc, ESCA Engineering, RD Interior Junior Construction, Sta Clara International Co, the United Architects



(From left) Erika Baylon of the Philippines Overseas Construction Board (POCB), Catherine Palomo of the Philippine Embassy in Qatar, Consul General Cassandra Sawadjaan, POCB Executive Director Doris Gacho, and POCB Division Chief Irma Merza. PICTURE: Thajudheen

of the Philippines (UAP), and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

The delegation highlights the Philippines' expertise in areas, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD), road development,

large-scale infrastructure projects, architectural design, engineering services, and Building Information Management (BIM).

Gacho said the PRC plays a vital role in ensuring that the Philippines' skills and competencies are

globally recognised as professional practices through Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with key partner countries, including Qatar. To showcase the Philippines' robust construction, architecture and engineering (CAE) capabilities, the POCB also hosted the Philippine Forum titled 'Building Beyond Borders: The Philippine Advantage' at the exhibition's Seminar Theater. Speaking at the event, Philippine ambassador Lilibeth V Pono said: "As the Philippine ambassador to Qatar, I am happy to take part in this event, not only to celebrate and strengthen the bonds between our two nations but also to shine a spotlight on the remarkable talent and expertise of Filipino contractors and professionals."

Pono reiterated that "Filipinos have played and continue to play an outsized role in spurring the development and progress, not only of Qatar but of the broader GCC region." She added: "And so I am proud to inform you that I am joined here today by the key players and leaders of the Philippine construction, architecture, engi-

neering, and design services. Their presence highlights the collective strength, innovation, and commitment of the Philippines to contribute to the ongoing development in Qatar. Together, we aim to build stronger ties, share expertise, and collaborate on projects that benefit both our nations."

"As construction and infrastructure continue to drive the global economy, both the Philippines and Qatar are well-positioned to benefit from each other's strengths with Filipino companies and professionals offering expertise in project management, architectural design, and engineering solutions, while Qatar provides a thriving and vibrant market with immense potential for growth and innovation."

Gacho said members of the Philippine delegation are available to engage with global partners, project developers, and Qatari AE firms at Booth Stand Number 5189, Hall No 5 from 12pm to 8pm. E-mail POCB@construction.gov.ph to schedule future meetings with Philippine partners.

### Qatari Diar signs pact to transform Lusail into Smart City

Qatari Diar has announced the signing of a strategic agreement with ST Engineering to develop and operate a smart city platform based on artificial intelligence and data analysis technologies in Lusail City. The announcement came during the company's participation in the Cityscape Qatar 2024, currently being held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center. The smart platform, which is scheduled to be implemented from the fourth quarter of 2024 to 2027, will improve city management with high

efficiency and enhance network connectivity, in addition to supporting sustainability goals and improving the quality of life for residents. Qatari Diar has revealed exclusive investment opportunities, particularly in its prominent projects in Lusail City, which is the company's most ambitious project. Visitors will be able to learn about the latest real estate developments in Lusail, which aim to enhance its position as an integrated investment and commercial destination that combines housing, entertainment, and business. — QNA

# Qatari Diar unveils exclusive waterfront townhouses at The Seef Lusail

Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company yesterday announced the launch of exclusive upscale waterfront townhouses at The Seef in Downtown Lusail, offering exceptional investment opportunities with 0% interest, direct financing, and flexible payment plans.

Known for its state-of-the-art infrastructure and forward-thinking design, Lusail offers a mix of residential, commercial, and entertainment districts just minutes from Qatar's newest community, a statement said.

Situated in the heart of Lusail's waterfront district, The Seef offers a limited collection of luxurious townhouses starting from QR3.4mn and apartments starting from QR1.7mn. These residences offer immediate occupancy.

With breathtaking sea views overlooking Qetaifan Islands and Lusail's iconic skyline, the townhouses redefine modern living.

The Seef offers freehold ownership, providing residency in Qatar for foreigners, with mortgage financing options from leading local banks, in addition to direct payment plans with 0% interest extending to six years for apartments and four years for townhouses.

Situated in a location known for attracting substantial foreign investment, The Seef promises robust returns whether for resale or long-term residence.

Engineer Ali Mohamed al-Ali, CEO of Qatari Diar, said: "The launch of our exclusive waterfront townhouses at The Seef marks a significant milestone in offering unparalleled luxury living in Qatar. Lusail represents more than just a place to live; it's a lifestyle destination that combines convenience, sophistication and investment potential."

"With the recent advancements in the Qatari mortgage law, we are thrilled to extend flexible financing options in partnership with several Qatari banks that make owning a piece of this vibrant community achievable for a broader market."

Each townhouse features spacious layouts with high-end finishes. Residents will enjoy uninterrupted sea views, offering a tranquil escape within the city, and lush green landscapes that create a serene environment for relaxation.

The prime location provides proximity to key attractions, including the Meryal Waterpark – the largest in Qatar – Lusail Marina, and Place Vendôme.



Situated in the heart of Lusail's waterfront district, The Seef offers a limited collection of luxurious townhouses starting from QR3.4mn and apartments starting from QR1.7mn.



The Seef is also located near transit hubs, major highways, shopping centres, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions.

The Seef reflects Qatari Diar's commitment to sustainability, with eco-friendly design elements that include energy-efficient infrastructure and green landscaping.

The project's unique architectural innovations, including sky bridge swimming pools and modern areas amenities, such as kids' playgrounds, squash courts, gym facilities, retail outlets, and serene promenades, sets it apart from typical residential projects.

Prospective buyers and investors are invited to explore The Seef firsthand at Cityscape Qatar, which concludes today and Cityscape Global in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from November 11 to 14. More information is available on Qatari Diar's website.



Hesham Sharaf, Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, Prof Ralph Tabberer and Samer Malaeb at the press conference.

# Qetaifan announces school operator at Cityscape

Qetaifan Projects, the real estate developer for Qetaifan Island North and a subsidiary of Katara Hospitality, has announced the name of a school operator at Cityscape Qatar, which concludes today at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Qetaifan Projects chief operations officer Hesham Sharaf, business development head Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, Professor Ralph Tabberer, the former director general of the UK education sector and vice-chairman of GSM Middle East; and Samer Malaeb, COO of British company Aptomado Investments were present at a press conference in this regard.

The school, located within the service areas in the centre of Qetaifan Island North, next to the medical centre and the mosque, will be managed by Global School Management (GSM), currently managing approximately 165 schools worldwide with a total capacity of 45,000 students.

The school on Qetaifan Island North will offer education from

kindergarten to pre-university, following both the British curriculum and the International Baccalaureate (IB) system, with a capacity of 1,600 students. The campus will also include a car racing academy at all levels, in partnership with a leading British team renowned for its global achievements in this field.

The school will span an area of 30,245sq m, with a total built-up area of approximately 17,000sq m. The project will include classrooms, a main school hall, a library, a science and technology building, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria/restaurant.

The announcement of the school operator is part of a partnership with the British companies Aptomado Investments and Fenton Whelan, with a foreign investment of up to £150mn, backed by UK-based investors and banks, to develop and operate the school and the medical centre.

Sharaf, said: "This step comes as part of completing the vision of creating a fully integrated island, which includes various aspects of life, such as education and health-

care. We hope its benefits will extend to the residents of the island and those around it."

Sheikh Nasser, said: "Creating constructive and purposeful partnerships is a strategic choice for us at Qetaifan Projects. Our goal is to establish a significant educational institution that enriches the educational landscape in our country. We expect the school to attract investors to the island, as it will offer all educational services at a high and competitive global standard. We also anticipate that the school's reach will extend beyond the island's residents and open its doors to neighbouring areas."

Malaeb, said: "Qatar, being a promising investment market, makes us proud of our partnership with Qetaifan Projects, and we look forward to more opportunities and investments."

Tabberer, said: "With our global track record of academic achievements and our expertise in education, we believe this school will make a significant impact, aligning with the high standards of education in Qatar."

## Ashghal participates in BIG 5 activities



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has participated in the BIG 5 Construct Qatar activities. Engineer Hamad al-Bader, assistant manager of the Building Projects Department, delivered a presentation at the BIG 5 Talks, an X post by Ashghal said. Titled 'Building Qatar's Future:



The Role of the Construction Industry in Achieving Vision 2030', the presentation focused on key topics such as driving infrastructure development exploring investment opportunities in Qatar's market, implementing

sustainability practices and overcoming industry challenges. Abdulrahman Rajab Mchaweh, project management advisor at Ashghal's Technical Office, gave a presentation on 'PPP in the Public Sector: The Future of Investment in Mega Projects'.

# CGIS' 3D imaging project underway at key Doha sites

A project for 3D imaging of some important areas and landmarks in the country, including the Dafna Towers, Lusail, and The Pearl is underway at the Geographic Information Systems Centre (CGIS) at the Ministry of Municipality, said Amer Mohamed al-Humaidi, CGIS assistant director.

He said that the imaging process has been going on for three months and the project is now processing the images.

The CGIS uses land mobile imaging process, wherein a device is fixed on a vehicle is driven through the streets and take 3D images. These images will be made available to users across various state entities according to the nature of their work.

Speaking to local Arabic daily *Ayyah*, al-Humaidi confirmed



Amer Mohamed al-Humaidi, CGIS Assistant Director

that the CGIS is also working on a maritime survey project for all the country's coasts. The project will benefit the Ministry of Municipality, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and many other entities in the country.

The survey will be especially useful in creating better marine

environments for fish breeding in addition to selecting the best locations for planting mangrove trees. It will also help various organisations carry out their projects more accurately and safely, such as in the construction of ports and tourist resorts.

He also pointed out that the CGIS has completed the numbering of around 300,000 facilities since its launch of "My address in 2009" and the project is a continuous process that helped in building an effective data base that benefit various educational, economic, planning, health and other entities across the country.

There is a plan to establish a museum within the CGIS headquarters at the Urban Planning Tower, which will showcase all the old devices used in the surveying operations.

هيئة الأشغال العامة  
Public Works Authority

STATE OF QATAR  
Public Works Authority

**QATAR PRIVATE SCHOOLS PPP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - 4 PRIVATE SCHOOLS AT AL WUKAIR, AL MANSOORA & AL SAILIYA (PROJECT ID: BP 2024 C 049 P)**

Four (4) government land plots have been allocated in Al-Wukair, Al-Mansoorah and Al-Sailiya for private sector participation in the development of K-12 mixed schools with foreign curriculum.

The initiative aims to encourage private sector involvement in developing and operating low-cost private schools as part of the overall provision of a comprehensive education system catering to all demographics.

Ashghal is looking for a suitably qualified private sector developer / operator (the "Project Company") with international or regional experience in developing and managing similar education projects. The Project scope includes the licensing and operation of the schools.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS**

Each of the four (4) sites will be provided for development as is and, if applicable, the Project Company will be required to clear the sites including carrying out demolition work at any evacuated schools that may be present on the sites. The Project Company shall be responsible for the identification of the utility requirements for each development and for the coordination with the relevant authorities for connection to existing infrastructure. Other existing site conditions can be confirmed by the bidder during their site visits.

The following four (4) plots have been designated for the private sector to Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Maintain as private K-12 schools. The decision to award the plots either as a group or separately will be described during the RFP stage:

Site No.	Parcel No.	Location	Area	Proposed Curriculum	Proposed Type
1	91065445	Al-Wukair	15,000 m <sup>2</sup>	Indian or National	Mixed (For Indian Curriculum) or Boys (For National Curriculum)
2	91065446	Al-Wukair	15,000 m <sup>2</sup>	Filipino or Pakistani	Mixed
3	25010069	Al-Mansoorah	11,752 m <sup>2</sup>	Indian or Filipino	Mixed
4	55730474	Al-Sailiya	15,000 m <sup>2</sup>	Indian or Filipino	Mixed

It shall be the Project Company's responsibility to obtain all necessary approvals for the facilities in relation to the design, construction, and educational requirements.

The developer/operator will be fully responsible for the Design, Build, Finance, Operation and Maintenance of the facilities over a period of 25 years. It is anticipated that the construction period for the Project will be approximately eighteen (18) months.

The full scope of services will be defined as the Project output specifications (which will be included in the Project Lease), further details of which will be provided during the RFP Stage.

The purpose of the Request for Qualification ("RFQ") is to invite interested parties to indicate their interest in, and submit qualifications for, the Project and to participate in the tender process.

Following the RFQ stage, if Ashghal proceeds with the Request for Proposal ("RFP") stage, only the pre-qualified bidders will be requested to participate in the RFP stage.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES:**

The scope of services for the Project will include but not be limited to:

**1.** Design **2.** Construction **3.** Financing **4.** Operation and Maintenance (Hard & Soft Facilities Management and Educational Services) **5.** Transfer back to the Contracting Authority at the end of the Contract Term

**COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE**

The successful bidder will sign a lease agreement with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and will need to adhere to the Project Output Specifications. No payments will be required from the successful bidder to the Authority during the contract term and the successful bidder will be required to take the full demand and revenue risk.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT(RFQ)**

The RFQ document can be downloaded as follows:  
Bidders will need SFTP Client application to download the Document. Please find below link to Download SFTP Client (WinSCP – Free to Use).  
<https://www.linode.com/docs/tools-reference/file-transfer/transfer-files-with-winscp-on-windows>

After download, please install and use the same application to download the Documents, which can be downloaded using the given user name and password:

FTP Server IP : 213.130.100.91  
User Name : rfg-ppp-4-Privateschools  
Password : rRQppp109245  
Port : 22  
Folder Name : :RFQ-PPP-4\_PRIVATE\_SCHOOLS

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Engineering Services Department Manager  
E-Mail : esd.tenders@ashghal.gov.qa

## Shura Council deputy speaker meets Russia's human rights commissioner



HE the Shura Council Deputy Speaker Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti met yesterday with Russia's Human Rights Commissioner Tatyana Moskalkova, who is visiting the country to participate in the International Conference on the Protection of Children and Other Vulnerable Groups. The meeting discussed a host of topics regarding efforts to consolidate human rights and the role of parliamentarians in these efforts. It also touched on the developments pertaining to the Palestinian cause, the ongoing aggression on the Gaza Strip, in addition to the current situation in Lebanon and the region. During the meeting, the Russian official expressed appreciation for Qatar's prominent role in mediation efforts to resolve conflicts and its continuous efforts in supporting regional and global peace and stability. **(QNA)**

## Official

### PM holds phone call with speaker of Lebanese Parliament

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held yesterday a phone conversation with Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri. The discussion focused on bilateral relations and ways for enhancing and developing them. It also addressed the latest developments in Lebanon and ways for de-escalation, in addition to a range of issues of mutual concern. During the call, HE Sheikh Mohammed expressed Qatar's deep concern about the recent developments in Lebanon, and its support for efforts aimed at reaching a ceasefire. He emphasised that Qatar's priority is to do everything possible to stop the aggression on Lebanon, de-escalate the situation, and promote security and stability in the region. For his part, the Lebanese Speaker expressed his thanks and appreciation to Qatar for its support to Lebanon to overcome its difficult circumstances. **(QNA)**

### Lebanese speaker meets Qatar's envoy

Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri met yesterday with Qatar's ambassador to Lebanon Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. The meeting discussed the co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them, in addition to a number of issues of common concern. The speaker of the Lebanese Parliament expressed his thanks and appreciation for Qatar's support to Lebanon, noting the air bridge that was launched to provide medical and relief aid to the Lebanese people to confront the humanitarian crisis they are undergoing due to recent developments. **(QNA)**



## Azerbaijan president receives credentials of Qatar's diplomat



President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received the credentials of Mohammed bin Hamad al-Hajri as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Qatar to Azerbaijan. The ambassador conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the President, and continued progress and prosperity to the government and people of Azerbaijan. For his part, the President entrusted the ambassador with his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness, and Qatar continued progress and development. **(QNA)**

# Prominent Qataris, tech leaders to address web summit in 2025

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

**W**eb Summit Qatar 2025, scheduled to take place from February 23-26 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), has announced a diverse range of speakers featuring prominent Qatari figures, alongside international tech giants.

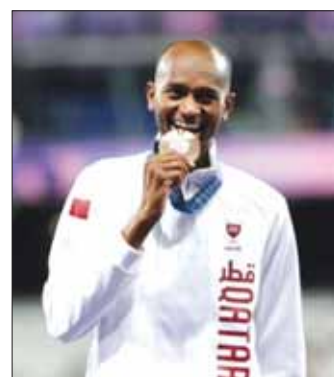
The event is expected to draw more than 15,000 attendees, 400 investors, and 1,000 startups, connecting the global tech community in a dynamic exchange of ideas and innovation.

The speakers extend beyond the traditional tech industry, including authors, athletes, and actors. Qatar will have a significant presence, with several high-profile presenters contributing their expertise, organisers said.

One of the prominent Qatari speakers include Snoonu founder and CEO Hamad al-Hajri, who is an award-winning entrepreneur and startup expert with more than two decades of experience in inter-



Hamad al-Hajri



Mutaz Barshim



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla al-Thani

national business innovation, AI, and app development. His insights into the rapidly evolving tech scene will be highly anticipated.

Mutaz Barshim, Olympic and World Championship gold medalist in high jump and the most decorated Qatari Olympian, will bring a unique perspective on the intersection of technology and sports.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulla al-Thani, co-founder and chairman of Musafir.com, and a renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist, is also one of the first

25 speakers at the summit. Beyond his business acumen, Sheikh Mohammed's remarkable mountaineering achievements, including conquering Mount Everest and the Seven Summits, add a compelling dimension to his participation. His experience as president of the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum further underscores his expertise.

Besides speakers from Qatar, talabat CEO Tomaso Rodriguez, will also share his experience in scaling a major player in the Mid-

dle Eastern e-commerce market, highlighting strategies for success in a dynamic regional context. Amani Alazzam, secretary-general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in Jordan, will bring valuable insights from the energy sector.

Building on the success of Web Summit Qatar 2024, which attracted thousands of participants, the 2025 event promises to be even bigger and more impactful, solidifying Qatar's position as a major player in the global tech arena.

## Qatar backs commitment to combating organised crime, establishing effective criminal justice system


Qatar affirmed its commitment to combating organised crime by focusing on prevention and control measures, upholding the rule of law, and establishing a successful and effective criminal justice system.

This came in Qatar's speech to the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, which kick-started in Vienna yesterday.

The speech was delivered by HE the Legal Adviser to HE the Minister of Interior Major General Dr Abdullah Yusuf al-Mal, who is also Head of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, adopted by the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

In his remarks, he noted that Qatar has maintained a high ranking among the safest countries according to the Global Peace Index and the Global Organised Crime Index.

He stressed Qatar's eagerness to enhance its partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), highlighting the inauguration of the UNODC Regional Center for Combatting Cybercrime in Doha this year, which serves the Middle East and North Africa region. **(QNA)**



### The Transport Company MOWASALAT (KARWA)



**Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:**

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-042-EGS-2024	Supply of X-Ray Baggage Scanning Machine with Annual Maintenance	QAR 800	15th October to 22nd October 2024	QAR 26,000	18th November 2024
TC-045-LTS-2024	Call-off Contract for Lease of Vehicles	QAR 1,000	15th October to 22nd October 2024	QAR 45,000	17th November 2024

**CONDITIONS:**






- Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:
- Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: [tenders@mowasalat.com](mailto:tenders@mowasalat.com)
- Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment due dates to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested (i.e., 23rd October 2024).
- Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents. *Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.*
- Tender validity:** Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.
- Tender documents submission:** Bids must be submitted in 3 separate sealed (**IN RED WAX**) envelopes addressed to **Secretary - Tender Committee** clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
  - Envelope 1# must** include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB)
  - Envelope 2# must** include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied in a USB)
  - Envelope 3# must** include the Tender Bond (1 Original)
- Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is **12.00 noon Doha Local Time** as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.


Tel.: 4458 8724 Fax: 4458 8850

Supplier Registration

Mowasalat Location



### Dolphin Energy Limited

#### Invitation to Tender

Tender Number	Description	Tender Bond	Deadline for Submission, 12 Noon (Qatar Time) on
ITT-QC-OPU-1813	Laboratory Instrument and Equipment Maintenance	QAR 15,000	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
ITT-QC-TSU-1805	Pilot System for Ground Water Extraction	USD 10,000	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2024
ITT-QC-OPU-1815	Call-Off Agreement Tribology Service	Not Applicable	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dolphin Energy Limited (Qatar) is inviting companies to participate in the above Tenders.

Only companies registered in the State of Qatar with proven experience, the required facilities and technical knowledge as well as a demonstrated track record in the supply of the services required should apply.

**How to Tender**

Expression of Interest (EOI) Form and Scope of Services/Works can be downloaded from the company's website [www.dolphinenergy.com/procurement](http://www.dolphinenergy.com/procurement)

Interested companies must complete the EOI Form and submit it to company's email address within two (2) working days from the publication date of this advertisement.

Following receipt of the completed EOI Form, interested companies will receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) through Dolphin Energy's SAP Ariba to tender.



Spanish ambassador Javier Carbajosa Sanchez (centre) is joined by HE Dr al-Marri and HE Dr al-Kawari in cutting a cake at the event, as other dignitaries look on.

## Spanish envoy highlights strong ties with Qatar

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

Spanish ambassador to Qatar Javier Carbajosa Sanchez has expressed deep concern over the escalating violence in the region, particularly the situation in Gaza, as he highlighted Spain's shared position with Qatar.

"This celebration of our National Day is tainted with a bitter-sweet taste," the envoy said at the Spanish National Day reception on Sunday (October 13), which also highlighted the strong relationship between Qatar and Spain.

The event was attended by HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Saeed bin Smaikh al-Marri, HE the Minister of State and Qatar National Library president Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Protocol director HE Ibrahim Fakhro and other dignitaries.

Citing the worsening situation in the Middle East, Sanchez underlined Spain's shared concerns with Qatar and stressed their unified stance on the urgent need for a ceasefire in Gaza.

"Our countries hold a similar position. We demand the complete opening of cross points to allow the arrival of the massive

humanitarian aid needed. We are also calling for the immediate release of hostages and prisoners.

"We are in favour of any measure leading to the de-escalation of this conflict, preventing a generalised war in the Middle East. In this light, Spain appreciates very much the efforts that Qatar has been deploying, both at national level, and on his capacity of rotating presidency of the GCC countries," he said.

Sanchez underscored Spain's unwavering commitment to a two-state solution, saying: "We believe that only the establishment of an independent Palestinian State will guarantee stability and security in the region. The solution to the Palestinian issue is fundamental for a lasting peace in the area."

"That is the reason why Spain took the historical decision on May 28 this year to fully recognise the Palestinian State."

Sanchez also announced that Spain had joined the chorus of nations supporting the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on Israel's responsibilities in the occupied Palestinian territories, and that Spain had stopped all arms exports to Israel.

"We are at a critical juncture, and perhaps darker days are ahead. Therefore, there is a need to intensify our calls for peace, for wisdom, and for restraint," he said.

Sanchez also highlighted the flourishing bilateral relationship between Qatar and Spain. He cited several high-level visits between the two countries, including the Spanish Prime Minister's visit to Doha in April and the Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's visit to Spain in May.

The inaugural session of the Spain-Qatar Strategic Dialogue in June, he said: "Opened a large number of avenues to work together in the future, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030."

"A parallel meeting, shared by both ministers of industry and commerce also took place at very same day, reuniting representatives of both private sectors, laying the foundations of our future work and co-operation," Sanchez said. "Before the end of the year, we are expecting a number of delegations including those dealing with trade and commerce, and defence."

The envoy noted the strong co-operation between the two countries' ministries of interior, with frequent exchanges of police officers for knowledge sharing. Looking ahead, he hoped the upcoming GCC-EU summit tomorrow (October 16) will lay the foundation for a strengthened strategic partnership.

## QIIB names September winners of 'Joud'

QIIB has announced 10 lucky winners of the monthly prizes for its 'Joud' savings account, a unique product that offers customers opportunities to win a variety of cash prizes throughout the year, including monthly, quarterly, and annual draws, with a grand prize of QR1mn.

The second draw since the launch of the 'Joud' savings account took place at the QIIB headquarters, in the presence of senior bank officials and a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The winners of the QR10,000 prizes for the September draw are: Sughra Mohammed Ali, Hadi Jaber al-Marri, Ahmad Mohammed al-Binali, Fatma Hashim A S Mohammed, Ghada Awadh al-Kaladi, Abdulaziz Mahmoud al-Emadi, Maryam Shehab al-Reyahi, Badriya Jassim al-Hail, Abdulrahman Ali al-Malki and Mohammed Aqeel al-Enazi.

According to QIIB, 'Joud' savings account stands out as a competitive product, offering a wide range of benefits to QIIB customers. Among the most attractive features is the chance to win significant cash prizes.

In addition to these opportunities, account holders benefit from quarterly dividends, as well as the flexibility to make deposits and withdrawals based on their needs.

The total number of prizes for the 'Joud' savings account from QIIB is 141 throughout the year. This



includes the annual grand prize of QR1mn, 20 quarterly prizes (five per quarter) each valued at QR50,000, and 120 monthly prizes (10 per month) each worth QR10,000. Every QIIB customer with a 'Joud' savings account is eligible to participate in these draws. For every balance of QR10,000 maintained, customers receive an additional entry into the prize draws conducted throughout the year.

## Qatar Airways enhances support for EAA

Qatar Airways has announced that as part of its partnership with Education Above All (EAA), airline's 'Beyond Business' members can now redeem their Qrewards to help support educational programmes and resources for children in underserved communities.

Beyond Business is the airline's corporate travel programme. EAA is a non-profit organisation founded by its Chairperson Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, a Sustainable Development Goals Advocate.

Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed al-Meer said: "Access to education is a right for everyone, and we at Qatar Airways are immensely proud of being able to contribute to ensuring education for underserved communities with our esteemed partners at



Education Above All through our Beyond Business programme."

EAA's director of Communications and Private Sector Partnerships, Taj Sulaiman, said:

"EAA Foundation and Qatar Airways have been long-time partners and are advancing access to education in marginalised regions through this new initiative."

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## HEALING FROM WITHIN: NUTRITION-ENRICHED RETREATS TO SUPPORT THE SECOND BRAIN



*Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som highlights the importance of nutrition in nurturing the body's second brain for optimal wellbeing*



At Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som, the first and largest immersive wellness destination in the Middle East, the culinary experience is underpinned by the belief that healthy eating sustains a wholesome way of life, and that nutrition is the key to healing the body's second brain.

Commonly referred to as the "second brain", the gut serves as the foundation for a healthy body and mind and has the remarkable capacity to address persistent gut issues and even overall brain function. The process of gut healing is integral to ensuring that guests at Zulal Wellness Resort attain the utmost benefits from their stay.

As a pioneering wellness resort dedicated to inspiring positive and sustainable lifestyle changes, Zulal Wellness Resort adheres to the philosophy that food serves not only as fuel but also as medicine. In line with this ethos, the resort offers two distinct retreats: the Therapeutic Cleanse Retreat and the Natural Slimming Retreat.

Each retreat follows a carefully structured and guided process aimed at effectively cleansing, detoxifying and rejuvenating the gut. Both programs are complemented by a nutrient-rich, anti-inflammatory diet and incorporate a wide range of physical activities, spa treatments, and holistic therapies to enhance physical and mental well-being from within.

The Therapeutic Cleanse Retreat includes a sequence of treatments and therapies that assist with reducing inflammation, regulating stress and anxiety, and increasing immunity by treating the gut environment where important microbes exist. Benefits of this retreat programme include detoxification, stress relief, weight management, improved digestion, enhanced mental clarity - all of

which contribute to overall wellness, leaving guests feeling revitalized and rejuvenated during and after their stay.

Similarly, the Natural Slimming Retreat facilitates healthy and sustainable weight loss through a lifestyle-oriented approach that promotes long-term weight management via dietary guidance, physical activities, spa treatments, and holistic therapies. This retreat aims to help individuals achieve their weight loss goals while focusing on overall health and wellness. The Natural Slimming Retreat works best when digestive function is optimized, which is where Zulal's signature wellness cuisine comes in.

Juliana Habchi, Senior Nutritionist at Zulal Wellness Resort, commented, "Nutrition is the cornerstone of a healthy life. It not only affects physical health but also influences mood and overall wellbeing."



At Zulal Wellness Resort, we are dedicated to helping guests achieve their state of total well-being through the power of nutrition. We believe that a well-balanced diet is the key to unlocking the full potential of a healthier, happier life. Our gut healing retreats and programmes involve a three-step journey involving cleansing, repairing, and healing.

With this principle in mind, the fundamental tenet of nutrition is seamlessly integrated into the retreats, elevating the physical and mental wellbeing of all guests by optimizing digestive function.

Guiding guests on a path to health and vitality through a blend of nutritional science and culinary artistry, Zulal Wellness Resort offers nutrient-rich meals that are not only flavourful but also designed to enhance happiness, vitality, and longevity.

The award winning dining outlets at Zulal Wellness Resort - Aizoon, Al Sidra, Acacia, Casuarina, and Malbu - are all unique. Their menus feature purposeful ingredients which are anti-

inflammatory, high in fibre, low in fat, contain heart healthy antioxidants; promote heart health; support digestion; offer a source of high energy; and an elevated sense of satiety.

With sustainability and longevity at the heart of Zulal Wellness Resort's ethos, and the recipes for longevity begins with a dash of nutrition and pinch of mindfulness. The wellness cuisine at Zulal Wellness Resort aims to change the lives of guests and the environment. The culinary concept follows an ingredient-focused approach where each ingredient serves a purpose, is fresh, seasonal, locally sourced and organic in line with the ancient principles of Traditional Arabic Islamic Medicine (TAIM), that Zulal Wellness Resort is renowned for.

With a focus on Sustainability, portion sizes are half the size of a normal restaurant, yet guests are satiated with the nutrient-dense flavourful food. Every ingredient is fresh, there are no tinned or packaged products, everything is cooked from scratch. Most food waste is recycled into flavourful powders or used in fermenting to create Umami taste. Nothing is fried, cooking techniques blend modern & classic: slow cooking sous vide, fermentation, pickles, smoking.

**The Therapeutic Cleanse Retreat and Natural Slimming Retreat programmes feature:**

- Three wellness cuisine meals per night of stay.
- Full board accommodation
- Tailormade treatments and therapies dedicated to the individual wellness goals of the guest, and depending on which retreat is selected
- Choice of one additional daily treatment per night of stay, choose from: invigorating massage, oriental scalp massage, signature full body Tadleek massage, signature relaxing Al Qadam foot massage.
- Access to the resort's state-of-the-art gym and serene wellness centre facilities
- Daily group activities and exercise classes.
- Complimentary laundry services for up to three pieces of sportswear per night of stay.

For more information or reservations, please email Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som at [reservations@zula.com](mailto:reservations@zula.com), call/WhatsApp +974 4477 6585 or visit [zula.chivasom.com](http://zula.chivasom.com).



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## Experience the Ocean's Finest at Caravan Fish Market Seafood Restaurant

through our doors, you are embraced by the soothing sounds of waves, the cool ocean breeze, and the aroma of freshly prepared seafood, all in an ambiance designed to evoke the charm of a coastal retreat. Our vision is to recreate the peaceful yet lively energy of the seaside, bringing it to life right here in Doha.

grilled seafood, Caravan offers a wide selection including Seabas, Hammour, and King Fish, all prepared in various masala styles—whether it's the zesty Lemon Salt Masala or the rich flavors of Arabic Masala.

If indulgence is what you seek, our Lobster in Creamy Bechamel is the ultimate treat. This luxurious dish features tender lobster cooked in a creamy bechamel sauce and topped with crispy breadcrumbs, delivering a perfect blend of rich textures and delicate flavors. For those who enjoy a bit of spice, our Spicy Beach Prawn Bites and Squid Musharmal bring the heat with bold flavors, making them popular choices among our guests.

The heart of Caravan's culinary philosophy is a dedication to showcasing the best of the ocean's bounty. Our chefs combine traditional and contemporary techniques to craft dishes that celebrate the ocean's rich diversity while catering to the varied tastes of our guests. Whether you're a seasoned seafood enthusiast or someone exploring these flavors for the first time, Caravan's menu has something for everyone—from classic dishes to bold, innovative creations.

One of our standout starters is the Creamy Coastal Delight Soup, a light, refreshing blend of prawns, squid, and crab seasoned with sea salt and fresh herbs. This soup is the perfect introduction to a meal, capturing the essence of the sea in every spoonful. Similarly, our Crispy Ocean Squid Rings and Golden Beach Prawns offer a satisfying combination of crispy textures and succulent flavors, transporting you to the shores with every bite.

For fish lovers, the Coastal Crusted Fish Fillet is a must-try. This dish features a crispy, flavorful exterior paired with a juicy fillet, seasoned with coastal spices and served with a wedge of fresh lime for a zesty finish. And if you're in the mood for

At Caravan Fish Market Seafood Restaurant, every detail—from the food on your plate to the welcoming coastal ambiance—is carefully crafted to provide an unforgettable dining experience. Our commitment to excellence, quality, and sustainability ensures that each visit leaves a lasting impression, blending the finest flavors of the sea with the warmth of genuine hospitality.

*We invite you to embark on this culinary journey with us, where the magic of the ocean is served on every plate. Whether you're looking for a casual lunch, a family dinner, or a special occasion, Caravan Fish Market Seafood Restaurant is the perfect destination. Come and experience the fusion of flavors, the charm of the seaside, and the warmth of our team, and discover what makes us more than just a seafood restaurant.*

**Dr. Noushad Ck**  
Global CEO  
Caravan International Group of Companies

In the vibrant heart of Doha, on Al Khaleej Street next to the Jaida Fly Over, Caravan Fish Market Seafood Restaurant offers a dining experience that transcends the ordinary, transporting diners to the serene shores of the ocean. A proud division of CAN F&B, the food and beverage arm of the CAN International Group of Companies, Caravan Fish Market redefines the seafood dining experience by merging the freshness of the ocean with exceptional culinary artistry.

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# Qatar's collaboration with WHO is an inspiring model for us: health minister

Doha hosts WHO's regional committee session for Eastern Mediterranean

The 71st session of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean began in Doha yesterday.

It is hosted by Qatar from October 14-17 under the theme "Health Beyond Borders: Action, Access, Equity in the Eastern Mediterranean Region."

The opening ceremony was attended by HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, along with several ministers and representatives from member states in the region, as well as Director of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region Dr Hanan Hassan Balkhy. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, also took part via video conference.

In her speech at the opening ceremony, HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, Minister of Public Health and Chair of the 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, said that the theme of this session "is of exceptional relevance to our region, where conflicts, natural disasters, epidemics, and political unrest have deteriorated healthcare services in several countries."

She stressed that "this situation calls for responsibility, solidarity, and fairness to improve the lives of all people." She also expressed her hope and confidence that the session's meetings would deliver impactful results that will significantly improve the health and well-being of the population in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and beyond.

HE Dr al-Kuwari added: "We



have learned from epidemics and pandemics, especially Covid-19, the importance of solidarity in achieving 'Health Beyond Borders: Strengthening health systems and services within our national borders, although essential, may not be enough, as health protection requires global efforts and the pivotal role of the World Health Organisation." She reaffirmed that "The State of Qatar strongly believes that investing in global health and in the WHO is an investment in global stability, security, and health."

"Recognising its humanitarian and international responsibilities, and in the implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar attaches great importance to international co-operation and is committed to supporting programmes and initiatives that promote health and well-being in our region and the world. Our country also provides development support to the coun-

tries most in need, especially for sustainable development projects in health and education."

HE Dr al-Kuwari further stated, "As we approach the final stages of achieving our Qatar National Vision 2030, we launched in September our Third National Health Strategy (2024-2030) aimed at improving population health and well-being, health system efficiency and resilience, and excellence in service delivery and patient experience. The strategy also supports our national efforts to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals."

She affirmed Qatar's commitment to strengthening fruitful partnerships with international organisations, adding, "Our collaboration with the WHO is an inspiring model for us. Qatar was one of the first countries in the world to respond to the WHO's call for core voluntary contribution in 2021 in order to support the response to the Covid pandemic and other emergencies."



She mentioned, "The Sport for Health partnership between Qatar, WHO, and FIFA signed in 2021, created and implemented a model for integrating health and well-being into sports events."

"We were pleased with the adoption at the 77th World Health Assembly of a resolution on strengthening health and well-being through sporting events inspired by this partnership. Tomorrow, Insha Allah, we will launch the joint report between Qatar and the WHO on sports and health."

She further stated, "The collaboration with the WHO extended to a number of other areas. For example, we are proud that Qatar has become the first country in the world to have all its municipalities awarded the title of 'Healthy City' by the WHO. To promote this model regionally, Qatar, in partnership with the WHO, hosted the Eastern Mediterranean Region Healthy Cities Conference in 2023. The conference culminated

in the issuance of the Doha Statement on Healthy Cities to sustain health and

well-being in urban areas, fully supported by the Regional Network of Healthy Cities."

HE Dr al-Kuwari went on to mention that "Next month, the 7th World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, organised in collaboration with the WHO, will address some of the most pressing global health challenges from the elimination of tuberculosis, to the growing importance of palliative care, and the protection of health in armed conflicts."

"Next year in April, we will have the pleasure of hosting the WHO Mental Health Summit. 1 out of 8 people live with a mental health condition, and the expected increase over the coming decades is of tremendous importance for the sustainability of the health system worldwide."

She shed light on "The humanitarian tragedy inflicted on the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip, by the ongoing Israeli aggression claiming the lives of thousands of children, women, and the elderly, with no regard to health facilities and health workers," and called "for intensified efforts to end such a tragic and senseless war in Palestine and Lebanon."

HE Dr al-Kuwari stressed, "We have significant work ahead of us in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to address health challenges. The region continues to face large-scale emergencies. Until last June, conflicts and crises had left more than 107mm people in desperate need of assistance while healthcare facilities and workers continue to be under attack."

She also underscored the importance of the Strategic Implementation Plan for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2025-2028), as well as the introduction of three new flagship programmes presented by Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, which are vital for advancing universal health coverage and require ongoing support.

During the opening ceremony, winners of the State of Kuwait Award for Combating Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region were honoured.

In the field of cancer, Dr Asem Hamza Mansour from Jordan, received the award, and in the field of cardiovascular diseases, Dr Davood Khalili from Iran received the award. (QNA)

## QU workshops train students to use Qatari heritage in art

Qatar University rolled out a string of workshops intended for enabling female students to integrate Qatari heritage themes in contemporary artistic production.

Giving an inaugural speech, Vice-President for Student Affairs, Dr Mohammed Diab highlighted the importance of the workshops in refining students' talents and introducing them to the characteristics of Qatari heritage and identity. The event aims to foster female students' capacity to deeply employ Qatari heritage in modern expressive methods, he told the event co-organised by the Student Affairs Department and College of Education.

Director of Student Activities Department, Abdullah al-Mulla said the workshops would enable female



students to produce contemporary art inspired by Qatari heritage and identity, amplifying understanding

of Qatari traditions. Some of the workshops focused on employing ceramic art. (QNA)

## Awqaf advises early registration for Haj

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has urged applicants to complete the registration for Haj as early as possible.

While attending Qatar TV's 'Hayatna' programme on Sunday, director of the Haj and Umrah Department at Awqaf Ali Sultan al-Musaifari stressed the importance of early registration for the Haj season.

He explained that early registration has proven successful in terms of getting the actual number of pilgrims on time and gives ample time to prepare the services that pilgrims need in Makkah. He said Awqaf developed a plan for the Haj registration after the Saudi Ministry of



Director of the Haj and Umrah Department at Awqaf Ali Sultan al-Musaifari.

Haj announced the beginning of preparations for the Haj season and the quota of each country. "Some fields in the registration system were modified to facilitate the procedures for the public considering that this played a major role in developing the pre-plan for registration procedures and studying the observations related to the last season, and avoiding them and setting some

points to serve pilgrims during registration," he said. The deadline for submitting the registration is on October 22.

Awqaf urged all those wishing to perform Haj this year to obtain the Haj permits and to contract with licensed Haj operators.

The electronic raffle will begin immediately after the completion of the Haj registration and approvals will be sent to applicants during November. Qatar's quota of pilgrims this year is 4,400 pilgrims.

For Qatari pilgrims, the age of those wishing to register for Haj must not be less than 18 years, and they are allowed to register three companions with them. Gulf citizens and expatriates need to be at least 45 years old, and their period of residence in the country must not be less than 15 years. They are allowed to register only one companion per application.

## Al Jazeera institute wins Stevie Awards

Al Jazeera Media Institute (AJMI) won two Stevie Awards in a special ceremony in Istanbul recently, a statement said yesterday.

AJMI won the gold award in the category of the Company of the Year in Advertising and Marketing in addition to the bronze award in category of Thought Leader.

The awards were received by AJMI's Planning and Projects Department director Hamad al-Houl, who attributed it to "the teamwork and dedication of the Institute's employees."

"We are committed to innovating and providing media content that achieves the desired impact, and such awards motivate us to continue improving



AJMI's Hamad al-Houl with the awards.

and developing our programmes to meet the needs of the chang-

"We are committed to innovating and providing media content that achieves the desired impact, and such awards motivate us to continue improving and developing our programmes to meet the needs of the changing media society..."

ing media society, and we are always happy to add new awards to our balance of other awards that we have recently received."

Stevie Awards, among the world's most prestigious in business and management, recognises outstanding achievements in various sectors, the statement added.

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## Qatari aircraft carrying aid for Lebanese arrives in Beirut



A Qatar Amiri Air Force aircraft arrived yesterday at Rafic Hariri Airport in Beirut, carrying aid, including medicines, shelter supplies and foodstuffs, 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 Environment and Head of the Emergency Committee in the Lebanese caretaker government Nasser Yassin, Minister of Economy Amin Salam, Adviser to the Minister of Health Dr Hicham Fawaz and Director-General of the Ministry of Health Fadi Salam. (QNA)



## PHCC oral health programme benefits over 60,000 students

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC)'s Oral Health Promotion and Prevention Department reached over 60,000 students in Qatar during the last academic year, PHCC said in a statement.

The department led by Dr Najat Alyafei, completed analysing the oral health data for the academic year 2023-24 and released the Asnani School Oral Health Programme Report recently.

The Asnani School Oral Health Programme aims to improve the oral health of kindergarten and primary school students. The programme welcomes students at designated health centres equipped with dedicated oral health rooms and clinics, where they receive guidance, undergo examinations and receive preventive treatments such as fluoride application to reduce tooth decay.

PHCC's preventative health executive director Dr Hamad al-Mudahka stressed the im-



The programme aims to improve oral health of kindergarten and primary school students.

portance of annual oral health education, oral screening and preventive treatment for young children in schools. Dr Alyafei mentioned that during the academic year 2023-24, as many as 30,214 students from 140 schools participated in Asnani School Oral Health Programme. These included 3,190 students from 52 Kindergartens and 27,024 students from 88 Primary schools. Report shows

that prevalence of tooth decay was 70% in kindergarten students and 36% in primary school students.

Asnani School Oral Health Programme aims to improve oral health of students through education and prevention. To prevent tooth decay, evidence-based highly effective treatment of fluoride varnish is provided for the students in the Asnani programme.

## QRCS, OCHA support Yemen's health sector

The representation office of Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) in Yemen has recently completed the construction and equipment of an operating room, an intensive care room, and an incubator section at Al-Hafi Medical Complex in Sanaa, at a cost of \$108,714.

Funded by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), the new facilities will enhance the hospital's medical capacity and ensure a safe environment for natural childbirths, C-section, and other medical and surgical services provided for refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and the host community.

This is part of a health and shelter response project for the neediest people in inaccessible areas of Dhale, as well as refugees and IDPs in Sana'a, a statement said yesterday.

The project involves support and rehabilitation of two hospitals and one health centre, as well



as maintenance and rehabilitation of 500 makeshift IDP shelters at seven camps in Qa'atabah District.

QRCS also completed a health project to meet the health and nutritional needs of vulnerable people in inaccessible parts of Maqbana District, Taiz, which involved the rehabilitation, operation and upgrading of two hospitals and four health centres.

Over the past eight years, QRCS implemented many health projects in Sana'a, Marib, Sa'ada,

Al-Hudaydah, Taiz, Dhale, and Ibb, under the annual programme of humanitarian response plans funded by YHF.

Engineer Ahmed Hassan al-Sharaji, head of QRCS office in Yemen, said: "Working together with OCHA since 2017, we executed 11 health projects at a total cost of more than \$16mn. These projects involved financial and medical support, rehabilitation, and operation of more than 75 medical facilities that had been almost out of service".

## Qatar's diplomatic efforts key to regional stability: French scholar

By Ayman Adly  
Staff Reporter

Qatar has established itself as a trustworthy mediator and peacemaker in the region keen to help reduce tension and enhance stability in the Middle East, a senior French geopolitical scholar and researcher told *Gulf Times*.

Fabrice Balanche, associate professor and research director at the University of Lyon 2 and adjunct fellow at the Washington Institute, explained in an interview yesterday that he has been monitoring and studying the geopolitical situation in the Middle and Near East for more than two decades.

"Qatar has emerged as a reliable soft power capable of offering conflicting parties a safe, neutral and comfortable meeting point to discuss their problems and sort out the related issues," he observed.

Qatar has been playing a major role beside other partners including the US and Egypt in helping reach a deal between the Israelis and Hamas to end the war on Gaza and the efforts are going on to reach a peaceful settlement.

The visiting scholar sees Qatar as a neutral power that can easily provide a meeting place for the representatives of conflicting parties to meet each other securely and safely, as it is not party to any of such conflicts, besides having the material means to supply the necessary logistics for such meetings. Qatar has enjoyed consider-



Fabrice Balanche

able success in resolving a number of crises and was able to further promote sports diplomacy, where global sports events could be a good opportunity for decision makers to meet in a friendly environment, he said.

Balanche recently gave a lecture at Joaan Bin Jassim Academy for Defence Studies on the geopolitical conflicts across the Levant and the Near East and the involved issues. The expert on the Syrian issue has lived in Syria and talked to Syrians in their own language without any interpreters to get firsthand knowledge on the ongoing troubles there.

He stressed that geopolitical researchers have to go to targeted places themselves and live among the people to get the accurate view of the situation.

Accordingly, decision makers can build their moves on real and true information rather than assumptions taken from experts who have never seen the situation first-hand for many considerations including security risks.

Balanche, a frequent visitor to Qatar since 2008, has witnessed the massive development and sophistication that has happened across all fields in the country.

"By European standards this relatively short period is considered a miracle," he said, while describing Qatar as an excellent place for many European families.

"It is safe and secure all the time. Women enjoy exceptional respect, freedom and Qatari people respect others and are very nice to foreigners," he stressed.

## Qatar Charity signs new agreement with Nology Store

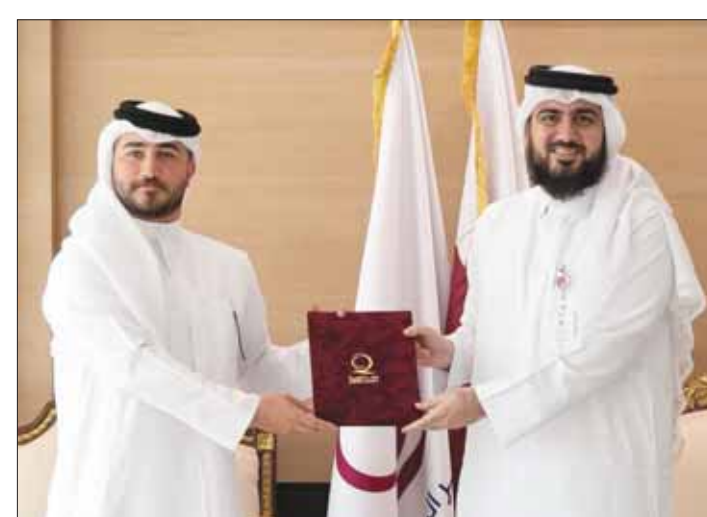
Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a co-operation and partnership agreement with Nology Store Electronic Trading.

Under this agreement, and as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR), the company will add QC as a virtual entity to the list of stores on its website and app.

The partnership will allow philanthropists in Qatar to support QC's projects and seasonal, relief campaigns aimed at assisting those in need worldwide.

The agreement was signed by Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, CEO's assistant for the Resources Development and Communication sector at QC, and Zaid Mustafa al-Qatami, CEO of Nology Store Electronic Trading.

Fakhroo described the partnership as a significant step towards strengthening collaboration between the private sector and charitable organisations, further strengthening support

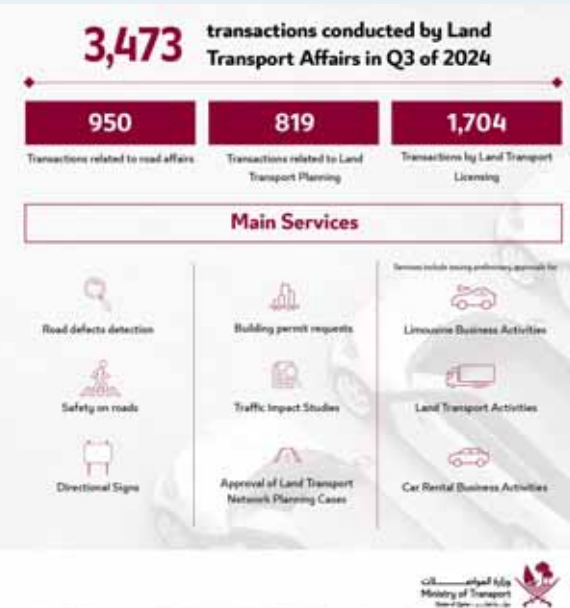


for QC's humanitarian initiatives. Al-Qatami explained that this agreement strengthens the co-operation that began more than three years ago, reflecting the company's commitment to promoting solidarity and sup-

porting charitable and humanitarian work. He explained that this collaboration will make it easier for all to donate directly to QC through Nology's website and its app, available on the App Store and Google Play.

### Ministry reveals 3,473 land transport transactions in Q3

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) conducted 3,473 transactions through its Land Transport Affairs in the third quarter of 2024, an X post said yesterday. These included 950 transactions on road affairs, 819 for Land Transport Planning and 1,704 for Land Transport Licensing. The main services of the land transport sector include road defects detection, safety on roads, directional signs, building permit requests, traffic impact studies, land transport activities, limousine business activities, approval of land transport network planning cases and rural access road requests.



### 'The City' exhibition opens at Qatar Fine Arts Association

General Manager of the Cultural Village Foundation – Katara, Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, inaugurated on Sunday the "The City" exhibition by Qatari artist Lolwah al-Mughiseeb at the headquarters of the Qatar Fine Arts Association. In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Lolwah al-Mughiseeb, a member of the Qatar Fine Arts Association, shared that in her first solo exhibition, she seeks to celebrate the city and its spiritual, emotional significance, not merely its physical walls and forms. The exhibition features 43 artworks blending both abstract and realistic

styles, incorporating geometric shapes and lines alongside human figures. Additionally, Qatari customs and traditions are prominently represented, highlighting their enduring influence despite modern developments. Lolwah al-Mughiseeb's artistic journey was enriched by her residency at the International City of Arts in Paris, France, in 2022, which served as a profound source of artistic and cultural inspiration, reflected in her latest works. "The City" exhibition will be open to visitors until the end of the month at the Qatar Fine Arts Association in Katara (Building No 13). (QNA)



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**GULF TIMES**

# Unlocking the potential of AI powered learning

Artificial intelligence has captured the imagination of corporate leaders eager to implement new tech solutions in their industries. But AI could also be applied to broader and more complex problems, especially in education. This vision is on its way to becoming a reality, with the technology already helping to enhance student learning, create new pathways to rewarding careers, and align today's education with tomorrow's jobs.

A recent report found that around half of the teachers and school administrators surveyed in the US who are currently using AI in their work are optimistic about its potential. But a lack of training is hindering widespread adoption.

Fortunately, surmounting this barrier is relatively straightforward. For starters, business leaders and policymakers should work together to provide teachers with free training on the fundamentals of AI and its practical applications. A train-the-trainer model can be delivered through low-cost or free online learning and customised to specific education levels or local curricula. This approach allows educators to gain confidence with the new technology and begin experimenting with practical applications in their classrooms.

Moreover, teachers trained in AI are better equipped to help students who want to learn more about the sector. An IBM survey shows that many learners want to pursue well-paying tech jobs, but believe that they are unqualified because they lack the academic credentials. Others say they simply do not know where to begin. That is where generative AI comes in: it can recommend coursework that matches learners' levels and interests, and offer real-time feedback as they move through the material. AI-powered solutions can even pair students with mentors who can advise them on higher education and career progression. This results in a more personalised and immediate educational experience than the online learning of yesterday.

One significant obstacle to narrowing the AI skills gap is the blistering pace of innovation, which has led to substantial unmet demand for expertise. According to the World Economic Forum, half of the global workforce needs to upskill or reskill, but the training market is not currently equipped to meet this need. It is encouraging that new offerings are being rolled out across the AI ecosystem, from coursework on ethics and prompt engineering to creative experiential resources for students. As the lifespan of technical skills continues to shrink, both young students and lifelong learners must be encouraged to invest in AI training.

At the same time, AI is driving sweeping change across industries and markets, and the broad scope of this transformation requires an equally comprehensive response – individual efforts will not be enough. The first step in helping learners find their way to tomorrow's jobs is ensuring that these positions exist. Corporate executives and policymakers must work together to create jobs that offer higher-value work to qualified candidates, who, in turn, will be better able to provide for their families.

Equally important are multisector collaborations like the AI Alliance, which aims to encourage openness about these systems and accelerate knowledge sharing, and the AI-Enabled Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Workforce Consortium, which directs workers to relevant training programmes. Such collective action is creating opportunities to harness the excitement around AI to build common frameworks and develop a skills-first approach that can identify and nurture tomorrow's tech leaders.

But the work has only just begun. Industry leaders and policymakers must continue to develop a shared approach to education and job creation in the age of AI and encourage more widespread training in the technology's fundamentals. – Project Syndicate

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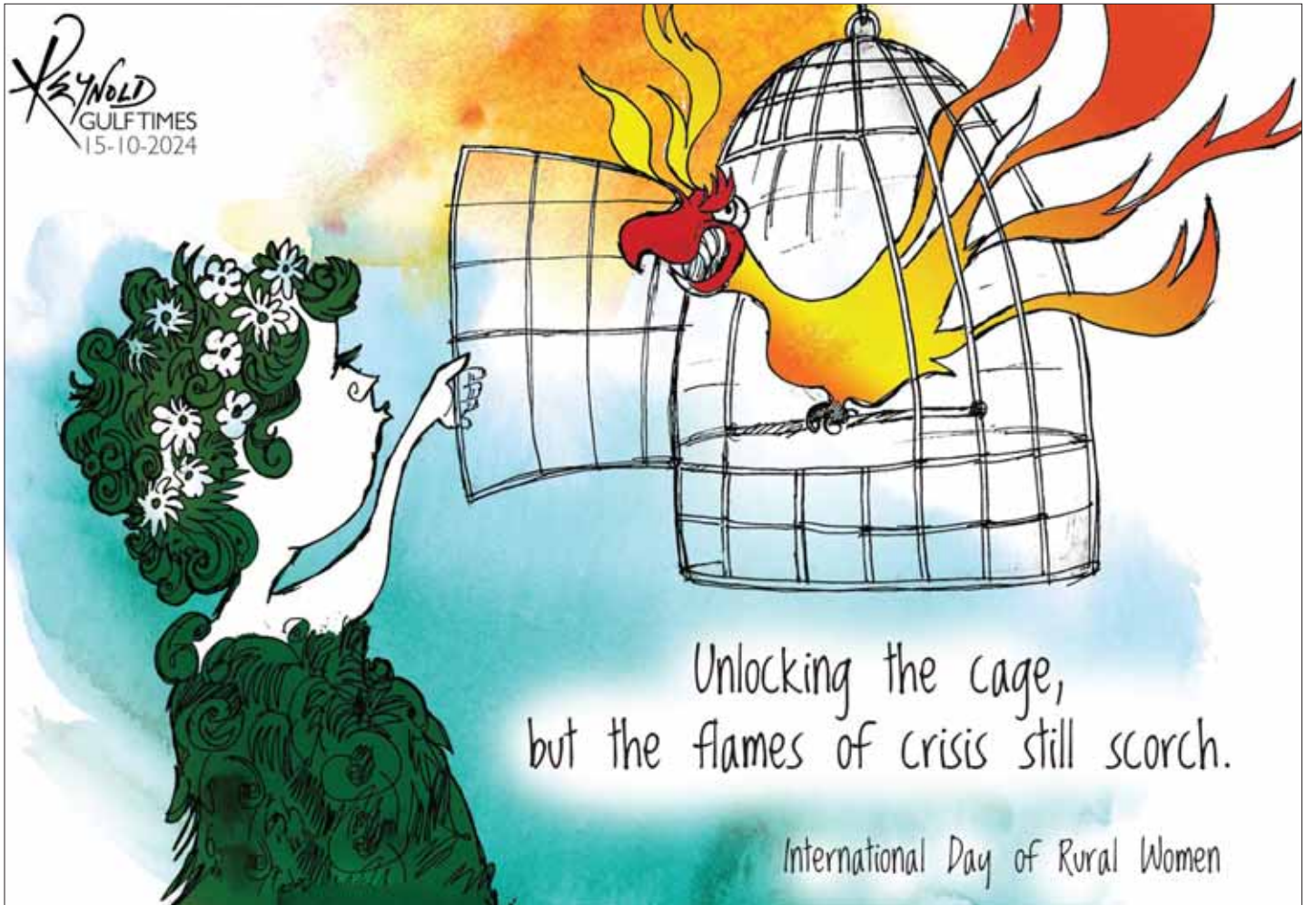
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# Shura Council: Achieving supreme interests of Qatar and its citizen

## ■ Security, stability, progress, development and growth

**QNA**  
Doha

In light of the strenuous efforts and blessed march, accompanied by confident steps to secure a prosperous present and a bright future for its various generations, Qatar will inaugurate today a new station on the path of its journey to enhance participation in decision-making, in accordance with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, aimed at supporting and strengthening the edifice of a modern state with solid foundations that enjoys security, stability, progress, development, and growth.

Marking the beginning of a new legislative term, His Highness the Amir will inaugurate this morning the fourth ordinary session of the first legislative term – corresponding to the Shura Council's 53rd annual session – at the Council's headquarters.

On this occasion, the Amir will deliver a speech in which he will address the state's financial, economic, as well as development policies, priorities, achievements, visions and future plans, which express the aspirations of the Qatari people, move Qatar to new stages and promising horizons of achievement and creativity, and outline the features of a renaissance based on transparency that depends on loyal national competencies, within the framework of Qatar National Vision 2030.

On the external level, the speech of His Highness the Amir will address some aspects of Qatar's policy and its firm stances toward a number of Arab, regional, and international issues and files, mainly the situation in the Middle East, especially in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, and the challenges facing our Arab region.

The new legislative term of the Shura Council comes as Qatar, under the guidance of the wise leadership, continues its blessed development journey and strategic plans to invest in people and consolidate the foundations of the state of institutions and the rule of law to advance the country, thus consolidating its distinguished position regionally and globally, enhancing its readiness to face challenges, and moving to the ranks of advanced countries.

The principle of Shura was the most appropriate choice for Qatar to progress and advance this process, as it stems from the teachings of our true Islamic religion, our true Arabism, our authentic heritage, our ancient traditions, and the characteristics and features of our generous Qatari society.

The Shura experience in Qatar is a rich and distinguished experience, characterised by co-operation, giving, harmony and concord between all state institutions, to consolidate participation in decision-making. The Council is proud of its journey extending to more than 50 years, during which it has been a supporter and backer of the modernisation and development process witnessed by the state, and it fulfils its prescribed role through the proposals it presents that touch upon the concerns of citizens and meet their aspirations, within a framework of co-operation and integration with the esteemed government, in light of the uniqueness and distinguished cultural heritage enjoyed by Qatari society, which respects the principle of Shura and attaches great importance to it as a principle rooted in the system of government since the era of the founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani.

The lofty directives of His Highness the Amir are a beacon that guides the Council in its journey, which motivates it to exert more efforts and work to achieve the goals that meet the aspirations of citizens and contribute to development and prosperity in various parts of the country.



In this context, the Council spared no effort during the previous session in studying and approving draft laws, making proposals, and discussing issues of interest to society, based on its keenness to achieve the aspirations of citizens, in a way that achieves the supreme interest of the country.

During its previous session, the Council held 33 regular sessions and 63 meetings of permanent and temporary committees. It discussed and studied 24 draft laws, in addition to draft laws amending some provisions of existing laws. The Council approved 15 draft laws after discussing them in detail, including the draft general budget for the fiscal year 2024, and important draft laws such as regulating real estate registration, judicial enforcement, and nationalising jobs in the private sector.

The Council also discussed nine draft laws amending some provisions of the laws, and submitted 13 requests for general discussion and a proposal of desire on various topics, such as rainwater collections, developing the tourism economy, supporting national and foreign investment, and procedures for domestic workers to leave the country.

As part of its communication with the community, the Council hosted some members of educational institutions and co-operated with the Ministry of Sports and Youth in implementing the "Simulation of Shura Council Sessions" programme, to enhance the role of youth in decision-making.

Issues of concern to citizens have always been at the forefront of the Council's priorities, guided by the directives of the wise leadership and its aspirations to develop national legislation to respond to all requirements of comprehensive development. The Council plays an important and pivotal role in the legislative process, and through the role assigned to it and stipulated in the constitution, the Council carries out its work, keeping in mind the supreme interests of the country.

In order to develop its work and increase the efficiency of its various bodies, the Shura Council approved in January a draft law to issue its internal regulations, which inaugurates a new phase in the Council's work process, in terms of enhancing oversight and legislative work, and outlines the broad outlines regulating the Council's work, and defines the roles of committees and members in requests for general discussion and proposals of desire, and how to co-ordinate with the government and how to implement decisions in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and relevant laws.

The internal regulations keep pace with the development of legislative work in the country and consist of 244 articles distributed over eight chapters, which include general provisions that define the role of the main bodies of the Council, their working

mechanisms, and the rules for holding regular and extraordinary sessions. The regulations also define the role of the Shura Council General Secretariat in supervising all the administrative units that comprise it, distributing work among them, and other powers assigned to it.

In terms of its external activities, the Shura Council continued to support and strengthen its parliamentary relations with parliaments in various countries of the world, received many visiting parliamentary delegations, hosted several events and activities concerned with parliamentary affairs, and participated in various regional and international parliamentary conferences, highlighting the bright image of Qatar, its clear policies and firm positions towards various issues, and defending the interests of the nation, citizens, and just Arab and international issues.

The Shura Council represents Qatar in parliamentary unions and international organisations, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Arab Parliamentary Union, the Arab Parliament, the Parliamentary Union of Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, the Association of Senates, Shoura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, and others.

The Shura Council was established in 1972 after the approval of the amended provisional basic law of the state on April 19, 1972, to provide its opinion to the Amir and the Council of Ministers in carrying out their duties. Upon its establishment, the Shura Council included 20 appointed members, and its composition witnessed a series of amendments on more than one occasion.

The Shura Council consists of a number of bodies, including the "Council Presidency" and the "Council Office." It has six permanent committees "according to the new internal regulations." These committees include the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee, the Internal and External Affairs Committee, the Economic and the Financial Affairs Committee, the Health, General Services and the Environment Committee, and the Education, Culture, Sport, and Information Committee. The Council may form other permanent and temporary committees according to the needs of the work. Each permanent or temporary committee may also form one or more subcommittees from its members. The committee submits a report to the Speaker of the Council on each subject referred to it within thirty days at most from the date of referral, unless the Council decides otherwise. The General Secretariat of the Council is also one of its bodies.

The Shura Council exercises its powers to adopt, approve, or even reject some laws from the draft laws and other matters presented to it. The Council is competent to discuss and propose many issues, the most important of which is the discussion of draft laws, decrees by laws, and the general policy of the state in the political, economic and administrative aspects, which are referred to it by the Council of Ministers.

The Shura Council also discusses the draft budget for public projects, the Council's draft budget, and its final account. It is also responsible for following up on the state's activities and achievements regarding all matters referred to it by the Council of Ministers, as well as all matters related to the social and cultural fields, whether these matters were referred to it by the Council of Ministers or considered on its own initiative. It also directs questions to the ministers with the intention of clarifying a specific matter related to the affairs that fall within its jurisdiction and to make recommendations and express desires to the government regarding the matters referred to.

## Dad, stepmum and uncle on trial in the UK over death of 10-year-old girl

AFP/Reuters  
London

The body of a 10-year-old British-Pakistani girl whose death sparked an international manhunt was found with burn marks believed to have been made by an iron, a prosecutor told a London court yesterday.

Sara Sharif was found dead in bed at her family home in Woking, southern England, on August 10, 2023.

The discovery triggered a manhunt in which Interpol and Britain's foreign ministry co-ordinated with authorities in Pakistan.

The day before Sara's body was found, her father, 42-year-old taxi driver Urfan Sharif, stepmother Beinah Batool, 30, and uncle Faisal Malik, 29, left the UK for Pakistan with Sharif's five other children.

All three adults are on trial for her murder.

A post-mortem examination found "signs of traumatic head injury", apparent scald burns on the inside of her ankles and bite marks - five to her left lower arm and one to her inner thigh - that were "probably human".

Sara's stepmother Batool has refused to provide a dental impression for comparison with the bite marks, the prosecutor said.

Other injuries included to Sara's ribs, shoulder blades, fingers and 11 separate fractures to the spine, he added.

Members of the jury were played a recording of a "calm" phone call on the evening of August 8, 2023 in which Batool asks

about booking flights to Islamabad.

Sara's body was found in the family's empty house after an emergency call, apparently from Pakistan, alerting officers was made by a man identifying himself as the father.

Prosecutor Bill Emlyn Jones told jurors that Urfan Sharif called British police, having fled to Pakistan after Sara Sharif's death.

"He used what you may think is an odd expression," Emlyn Jones said. "He said: 'I legally punished her and she died!'"

Emlyn Jones said that Urfan Sharif also told police: "I beat her up. It wasn't my intention to kill her, but I beat her up too much."

A note from her father found next to Sara's body appeared to contain a confession, the prosecutor told jurors.

"Love you Sara," said the note, which was shown to the jury.

A second page added: "Whoever see this note its (sic) me Urfan Sharif who killed my daughter by beating."

"I am running away because I am scared but I promise that I will hand over myself and take punishment."

Another page read: "I swear to God that my intention was not to kill her but I lost it."

A handwriting expert who analysed the note concluded it was written by Urfan Sharif.

The three defendants - arrested in September last year after disembarking from a flight from Dubai - all deny murder and causing or allowing the death of a child.

The trial is expected to run until December.

## Nile River pact enters into force despite Egypt objections

A landmark multinational agreement on managing the waters of the Nile River has entered into force - over the vehement objections of Egypt.

The Nile River Basin Co-operative Framework Agreement (CFA) took effect on Sunday after more than a decade of negotiations among countries that share the mighty river.

The Nile Basin Initiative - a partnership of 10 Nile riparian countries based in the Ugandan town of Entebbe - described the CFA as a "defining moment" in the history of the Nile Basin.

"(The agreement) is a testament to our collective determination to harness the Nile River for the benefit of all, ensuring its equitable and sustainable use for generations to come," it said in a statement.

However, the treaty was signed and ratified by only five Nile nations - notably Ethiopia - but not Egypt or Sudan.

The latter two have been locked in a long-running dispute with Ethiopia over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a mega hydro-power project on the Blue Nile.

Ethiopia considers the \$4bn dam vital to its development and the supply of electricity to its 120mn population.

However, Egypt has long viewed it as an existential threat, as the north African country relies on the Nile for 97% of its water needs.

"Egypt will not compromise even a metre of Nile water, and rejects totally the Entebbe agreement," its Irrigation Minister Hani Sewilam said on Sunday, according to state-linked media.

A summit of Nile nations was due to be held in Uganda on Thursday but has been postponed until early next year, Vincent Bagiere, permanent secretary at Uganda's foreign ministry told AFP.

He declined to give a reason amid speculations it was due to disagreements among member countries.

The Nile Basin Initiative says the CFA aims to "rectify historical imbalances in access to the Nile's waters and ensure that all Nile Basin countries - whether upstream or downstream - can benefit from this shared resource".

It said the Nile, which stretches over 11 countries, sustains more than half a billion people.

The Nile Basin Initiative groups Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, while Eritrea has the role of observer. - AFP

# India, Canada expel envoys

AFP  
New Delhi

India and Canada each expelled the other's ambassador and five other top diplomats, after New Delhi said its envoy had been named among "persons of interest" following the killing of a Sikh separatist leader.

New Delhi said it was withdrawing its six diplomats from Canada, but an Ottawa government source told AFP that they had been expelled, not withdrawn.

The 2023 murder of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar crashed the country's diplomatic relations with India after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that there were "credible allegations" linking Indian intelligence services to the crime.

The expulsion of the diplomats - the most senior envoys on both sides - is a major escalation in the row.

India "decided to expel" Ottawa's acting High Commissioner Stewart Wheeler, his deputy and four first secretaries, ordering them to leave before midnight on Sunday.

Ottawa announced similar measures in return, with Canadian police saying that they had "evidence pertaining to agents of the government of India's involvement in serious criminal activity" in Canada.

Nijjar - who immigrated to Canada in 1997 and became a citizen in 2015 - had advocated for a separate Sikh state, known as Khalistan, carved out of India.

He had been wanted by Indian authorities for alleged terrorism and conspiracy to commit murder.

Four Indian nationals have been arrested in connection with Nijjar's murder, which took place in the parking lot of a Sikh temple in Vancouver in June 2023.

New Delhi had earlier said it had "received a diplomatic communication from Canada suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats are persons of interest" in the ongoing investigation.

It said that their envoy, Sanjay Kumar Verma, a former ambassador to Japan and Sudan, was a respected career diplomat and that the accusations were "ludicrous".

New Delhi's foreign ministry said it had told Verma to return home.

"We have no faith in the current Canadian government's commitment to ensure their security," it said in a statement.

Yesterday India called allegations that it was connected to the killing "preposterous" and a "strategy of smearing India for political gains".

Last year, the Indian government briefly curbed visas for Canadians and forced Ottawa to withdraw its diplomats, and yesterday it

threatened further action.

"India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India," the foreign ministry said.

The foreign ministry also summoned Canadian envoy Wheeler, who said that Ottawa had given India the evidence it had demanded.

"Canada has provided credible, irrefutable evidence of ties between agents of the government of India and the murder of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil," Wheeler told reporters after leaving the ministry.

"Now, it is time for India to live up to what it said it would do and look into all those allegations," he added. "It is in the interest of both our countries and the peoples of our countries to get to the bottom of this. Canada stands ready to co-operate with India."

India then announced his expulsion.

Canada is home to around 770,000 Sikhs, who make up about 2% of the country's population, with a vocal minority calling for an independent state of Khalistan.

In November 2023, the US Justice Department also charged an Indian citizen living in the Czech Republic with allegedly plotting a similar assassination attempt on US soil.

Prosecutors said in unsealed court documents that an Indian government official was also involved in the planning of that attempt.



Nima Rinji Sherpa waves upon his arrival at the airport in Kathmandu yesterday. - AFP

## Nepali teenager hailed as hero after climbing world's 8,000m peaks

AFP  
Kathmandu

Cheering crowds hailed an 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer as a hero as he returned home yesterday after breaking the record for the youngest person to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks.

Nima Rinji Sherpa reached the summit of Tibet's 8,027m (26,355') Shisha Pangma on October 9, completing his mission to stand on the world's highest peaks.

Yesterday he returned from China to Nepal's capital Kathmandu, where scores waited to see him.

"I am feeling very happy," he told AFP, draped in traditional Buddhist scarves and garlands of marigold flowers, as he emerged to loud cheers at the airport.

"Thank you so much everyone," he said to his supporters, beaming a wide grin.

Sherpa hugged his family while others rushed to offer him scarves and flowers. He later waved to the crowd out of a car sunroof, while proudly holding the national flag.

Nepal's climbing community also welcomed several others who returned after completing the summit of 14 peaks.

Summitting all 14 "eight-thousanders" is considered the peak of mountaineering aspirations, with all the peaks located in the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges, straddling Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet and India.

Climbers cross "death zones" where there is not enough oxygen

in the air to sustain human life for long periods.

Italian climber Reinhold Messner first completed the feat in 1986, and only around 50 others have successfully followed in his footsteps.

Many elite climbers have died in the pursuit.

Sherpa is no stranger to the mountains, hailing from a family of record-holding climbers, who also now run Nepal's largest mountaineering expedition company.

Nepali climbers - usually ethnic Sherpas from the valleys around Everest - are considered the backbone of the climbing industry in the Himalayas.

They carry the majority of equipment and food, fixing ropes and repairing ladders.

Long in the shadows as supporters of foreign climbers, they are slowly being recognised in their own right.

"I want to show the younger generation of Sherpas that they can rise above the stereotype of being only support climbers and embrace their potential as top-tier athletes, adventurers, and creators," he said in a statement soon after his final summit. "We are not just guides. We are trailblazers."

In recent years, climbers like Sherpa have set record after record, and are hopeful their feats will inspire the next generation of Nepali mountaineers.

The record was previously held by another Nepali climber, Mingma Gyabu "David" Sherpa. He achieved it in 2019, at the age of 30.

## S Korea military says it's 'fully ready' as drone tensions soar

South Korea's military said yesterday that it was "fully ready" to respond after North Korea ordered troops on the border to prepare to fire in an escalating dispute over drone flights to Pyongyang.

The nuclear-armed North has accused Seoul of flying drones over its capital to drop propaganda leaflets filled with "inflammatory rumours and rubbish", and warned on Sunday that if another drone was detected it would consider it "a declaration of war".

Seoul's military has previously denied it was behind the flights, with local speculation centring on activist groups in the South, which have long sent propaganda and US currency northwards, typically by balloon.

However, the North insists Seoul is officially to blame, announcing late on Sunday that it had told eight artillery brigades already on war footing "to get fully ready to open fire", and reinforced air observation posts in Pyongyang.

"Our military is closely monitoring the situation and standing fully ready for the North's provocations," Lee Seong-joon, a spokesman for the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), told a press briefing.

Pyongyang claims propaganda drones have in-

filtrated the capital's airspace three times in recent days, with leader Kim Jong-un's powerful sister threatening a "horrible disaster" unless they stop.

In a statement early yesterday, Kim Yo-jong said the drone flights were "an unpardonable, malicious challenge to our state".

She has issued three similar back-to-back statements, calling on South Korea's military to come up with measures to prevent a recurrence of alleged violations of North Korean airspace.

Yesterday the JCS neither confirmed nor denied that Seoul's military was responsible for sending drones across the border, instead calling the North's claim "shameless".

"The North can't even confirm the origin of a drone in the Pyongyang sky but is placing blame on the South - all the while keeping a shut mouth on its sending of a drone southward on ten occasions," spokesman Lee said. "It is nothing but a shameless claim."

Seoul's unification ministry said the drone claims may be an effort by the North to bolster internal solidarity.

Koo Byoung-sam, spokesperson at the ministry, told the press that the north could also be looking for an excuse "to stage provocations or create anxiety and confusion in our society". - AFP

## Trio wins economics Nobel for work on wealth inequality

Reuters/AFP  
Stockholm

US-based academics Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson won the 2024 Nobel economics prize "for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity", the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said yesterday.

The prestigious award, formally known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, is the final prize to be given out this year and is worth 11mn Swedish crowns (\$1.1mn).

"Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges. The laureates have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for achieving this," said Jakob Svensson, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences.

"Societies with a poor rule of



Officials announce the Swedish Riksbank's prize in economic science in memory of Alfred Nobel 2024, which goes to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A Robinson, during a press meeting at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. - Reuters

law and institutions that exploit the population do not generate growth or change for the better," the award organisers added on their website.

Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson work at the Massachu-

setts Institute of Technology, while James Robinson is at the University of Chicago.

Acemoglu and Johnson recently collaborated on a book surveying technology through the ages which demonstrated how some

technological advances were better at creating jobs and spreading wealth than others.

The economics award is not one of the original prizes for science, literature and peace created in the will of dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel and first awarded in 1901, but a later addition established and funded by Sweden's central bank in 1968.

However, like for the other Nobel science prizes, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decides the winner and follows the same selection process.

Past winners include a host of influential thinkers such as Milton Friedman, John Nash - played by actor Russell Crowe in the 2001 film *A Beautiful Mind* - and, more recently, former US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke.

Last year, Harvard economic historian Claudia Goldin won the prize for her work highlighting the causes of wage and labour market inequality between men and women.

The economics prize has been dominated by US academics since its inception, while US-based researchers also tend to account for a large portion of winners in the scientific fields for which 2024 laureates were announced last week.

That crop of prizes began with US scientists Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun winning the prize for medicine on October 7 and concluded with Japan's Nihon Hidankyo, an organisation of survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki who campaigned for the abolition of nuclear weapons landing the award for peace on Friday.

South Korea's Han Kan won the literature prize - the only woman laureate so far this year.

The Nobel Prizes consist of a diploma, a gold medal and the cash sum.

They will be presented at ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist and prize creator Alfred Nobel.

## Nearly a million Australian households struggle to secure food: report

Nearly a million Australian households are struggling to secure enough food, a report from Foodbank Australia said.

More than 870,000 households which earn less than A\$30,000 (\$20,200) a year are experiencing severe food insecurity, up 5% on 2022, said the report from the group, which says it is Australia's largest hunger relief charity.

Single-parent families are the hardest hit

with over two-thirds of them facing food shortages, it said.

"We warned at the beginning of the cost-of-living crisis that low-income households were always going to suffer first, worst and for the longest and these findings confirm this," Foodbank Australia chief executive Brianna Casey said in a statement.

People are being forced to cut back on basic food essentials due to the combined impact of higher costs of housing, power

and groceries, though the situation in some households has recently shown signs of improvement, the report said.

Australian families continue to struggle with stubborn inflation and higher costs of housing after a surge in migration since coronavirus (Covid-19) border rules ended in 2022 put excess pressure on an already tight rental market.

Though headline inflation has continued to moderate and slowed to 2.7% in August

partly helped by government rebates on electricity, the Reserve Bank of Australia has said the measure is volatile.

The report said more families were seeking help from charities after family and friends were no longer able to offer help.

More than half of low-income households are seeking support more often than a year ago while those receiving help from friends and family fell to 25% in 2024 from 32% in 2023. - AFP



Sami Hermez with his new book.

## Academic at NU-Q launches book about a family living in Palestine

**M**y Brother, My Land: A Story from Palestine, a new book by Sami Hermez, associate professor in residence at the Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q), has been released.

The creative non-fiction work captures the story of one family's care for their land and is a reflection on love and heartache while living in Palestine, a statement said.

Published by Stanford University Press, the book offers a personal account of Palestinian resistance, focusing on the story of Sireen Sawalha's brother Iyad, who joined the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Second Intifada, and her larger family based in the Palestinian village of Kufra Ra'i.

In the book, Hermez highlights the reality of ordinary Palestinian lives and the politics and ethical complexities of armed resistance.

"I was motivated by Sireen's retelling of her life history, and I wanted the world to hear about her family's experience because it felt like a quintessential Palestinian one while also being unique," said Hermez. "Through the years, I wanted people to understand Palestinian resistance in all its rawness, to feel what it's like to live every day under occupation, and through this, come to better understand the question of Palestine."

In explaining the creative choices behind the book, Hermez said: "I wrote this book as a piece of creative nonfiction for a general audience, to be able to tell a story from Palestine and make people feel the heartache of settler colonialism past and present."

"If I wanted the story to get out into the world, I knew I had to write to appeal to people in a way that academic monographs normally do not," he added.

The book is the latest addition to the numerous books and creative scholarship produced by NU-Q faculty this year.

"Hermez's book is a multi-dimensional exploration that intersects anthropology, oral history, creative writing, memoir, Palestine studies, and Middle East studies," said NU-Q dean and chief executive Marwan M Kraidi. "Through creative and transdisciplinary approaches, this book invites readers to engage deeply with the Palestinian experience, expanding and deepening our understanding of the Global South."



## ABP hosts leadership training session

Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Academic Bridge Programme (ABP), part of Pre-University Education, recently organised an intensive one-day leadership training session in collaboration with Management Centre Europe and the American Management Association. The session equipped participants with strategies to enhance their leadership skills, emphasising the importance of fostering innovation for organisational success. The session brought together 50 executives and senior managers from the government and private sector.

# AI Digital Centre unveils Gazan students' robotics, tech project

**T**he AI Digital Centre, a space dedicated to technological innovation at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) to launch the Gazan Students Robotics and Technology Project.

The initiative brings together Gazan students aged 13-17 to explore the wonders of technology within the context of the Arab world, a statement said.

Held at the NMoQ, this project introduces the students to the latest trends in technology and robotics.

It seeks to equip the next generation with essential science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills and fuel creativity.

In a press statement, NMoQ director Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Thani said: "Our goal is to inspire a generation of thinkers and doers, who will use technology to make meaningful contributions to society while staying connected to their cultural roots."

While this project was initially designed for Gazan students, it has attracted the attention of the wider community.

Volunteers from universities and indus-



try professionals have joined the effort, working alongside the Gazan teenagers to create a collaborative and supportive environment for technological exploration.

Ibrahim Qidwai, a volunteer from the University of Doha for Science and Technology leading the robotics sessions, said: "Understanding that we live in a community with on-going technological development, which allows us to encompass and

acknowledge the importance of recognising robotics as a key element to the future of development and global harmony."

The AI Digital Centre also invites the public to get involved in an array of diverse activities, where they can participate in community outreach, volunteering efforts, and innovative technology development projects.

This initiative aligns with the goals of



Qatar's Third National Development Strategy, which focuses on fostering a knowledge-based economy, developing human capital, and promoting innovation.

## Sidra Medicine introduces genomics to high school students

**S**idra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), has taught more than 400 high school students in its Introduction to Genomics (InGen) student programme.

Launched last year by Sidra Medicine's Genomic Core team, InGen focuses on providing students access to real-life research environments and helping them in their future career choices in science and research.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), the programme has welcomed 11th and 12th grade students from 35 public and private schools across the country.

"Our InGen programme has been a fantastic opportunity for

the students to work alongside researchers and scientists," said Senior Sidra Medicine research specialist Iman al-Azwani. "The most important aspect is that the exposure gives them the necessary information and background to make an informed decision in their studies and eventual career paths in science and research."

Sidra Medicine has a dedicated Biosafety Level 1 Laboratory for the InGen programme, where students have a chance to learn both theoretical and practical components in genetics including DNA extraction, DNA quality checking and DNA amplification.

It provides a safe and controlled environment where students can conduct real-world experiments

and enhance their understanding of complex genetic processes.

Majida Tamimi, the director of STEAM and Practical Applications Programmes at the International School for Medical Science and Engineering, said: "The InGen programme has been a transformative experience for our students. It not only introduced them to the exciting field of genomics but also provided practical, hands-on experiences that sparked their interest in pursuing careers in science and research."

Sara al-Shreim, the director of the MoEHE's Curriculum and Learning Resources Department, said: "Through this initiative, we are bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-



world scientific research, offering students an unparalleled opportunity to engage with cutting-edge technologies in genomics."

Sidra Medicine has expanded

InGen by hosting information sessions for other science, research and educational institutions who are seeking to offer similar student programmes.



## Qatari Cultural Week in Uzbekistan concludes

The Ministry of Culture concluded yesterday the Qatari Cultural Week in Uzbekistan, which took place from October 11-14.

The event was held as part of the bilateral cultural co-operation between Qatar and Uzbekistan, aimed at showcasing the diversity of Qatari folk arts and introducing the customs, traditions, and culture of Qatar. The activities highlighted various aspects of Qatari heritage, including the *bayt al Sha'ar*, the Qatari majlis, as well as performances of the traditional *ardha* dance and sea songs. Among the most popular events were

the "Trio of Oud", the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, and Qatari musical performances, which attracted a large audience.

The traditional Qatari-inspired market also drew many visitors, who explored exhibits of handicrafts, *sadu* weaving, *bisht*, traditional ships, marine tools, falconry, henna, and traditional Qatari cuisine.

The cultural week featured film screenings produced by the Doha Film Institute, with contributions from Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways, all aimed at presenting the cultural image of Qatar to the Uzbek audience. - QNA



## HMC unveils anti-gravity treadmill

**M**arking a new chapter in patient-centred care, the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC)'s Qatar Rehabilitation Institute (QRI) has introduced an anti-gravity treadmill, specifically for its male musculoskeletal outpatient department.

The state-of-the-art equipment, which leverages advanced air pressure technology to reduce the impact of body weight during movement, dramatically improves the recovery process for patients dealing with musculoskeletal conditions and other mobility-related challenges.

Dr Hanadi al-Hamad, the deputy chief of Rehabilitation, Geriatrics and Long-Term Care as well as the lead of Corporate Rehabilitation Therapy Services at the HMC, said: "The introduction of the anti-gravity treadmill is a significant enhancement to our rehabilitation offering."

"It provides patients with a controlled, low-impact environment where they can

safely regain mobility and strength without the full weight-bearing stress on their joints and muscles," he said. "This is crucial for individuals recovering from serious injuries, degenerative changes or surgeries, allowing patients to begin the rehabilitation process earlier and with greater confidence."

"The treadmill will enable faster recovery, more effective rehabilitation outcomes and a more comfortable patient experience," Dr al-Hamad added.

The anti-gravity treadmill is designed to adjust the amount of body weight a patient supports during walking or running, using advanced differential air pressure technology.

This allows patients to perform movements that might otherwise be too painful or difficult in a full-weight-bearing environment.

With this innovative treadmill, patients can gradually build their strength, balance

and endurance in a safe and controlled manner, reducing the risk of setbacks during recovery.

QRI healthcare service manager Al-Madzar Ahmadul highlighted the operational advantages of the treadmill.

"This equipment is a game changer not only for patient rehabilitation but also for our clinical staff," he said. "The user-friendly interface and automatic height adjustments make it easy for both therapists and patients to use."

"It streamlines the rehabilitation process, enabling our team to deliver more focused, efficient and outcome-driven care," Ahmadul added. "Its quiet operation and advanced safety features ensure that every session is comfortable and productive for our patients."

The anti-gravity treadmill is especially beneficial for patients who have limited mobility or are experiencing pain during traditional weight-bearing activities.



The anti-gravity treadmill improves the recovery process.