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GCC-EU Summit vows to enhance partnership

QNA
Brussels

The GCC and the European Union affirmed their commitment to a strategic partnership, aiming to elevate it to the highest levels based on mutual respect and trust, to benefit their peoples and the world.

They expressed their determination to enhance regional security and prosperity by preventing and resolving conflicts through dialogue and joint co-ordination. This was outlined in the joint final statement issued at the first GCC-EU Summit, held in Brussels on Wednesday.

Regarding the situation in the occupied territories, the summit's



GCC and EU leaders pose for a group picture at the summit in Brussels on Wednesday.

statement called for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2735, including an immediate and comprehensive

ceasefire, the release of hostages, a prisoner exchange, and unimpeded access to civilians. It emphasised the need for safe and effective

distribution of humanitarian aid across Gaza for all Palestinian civilians in need, expressing support for the mediation efforts led

by Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the US.

The statement urged all parties to adhere to international law, including international humanitarian law, and comply with International Court of Justice orders, particularly regarding the protection of civilians and children.

"We stress the need for the prompt and unconditional provision of humanitarian aid through opening all crossings in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (2735), supporting the works of UNRWA and other UN agencies. We underscore the essential services provided by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza and across the region." **To Page 4**

Tajikistan president meets minister of culture



President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon met yesterday with HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani. During the meeting that was held on the sidelines of the Qatari Cultural Week in Tajikistan, they discussed aspects of joint co-operation between the two countries in cultural fields and ways to support and develop them. **(QNA)**

\$36mn pledged for WHO in Doha event

Pledges amounting to approximately \$36mn were gathered to fund the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, at the investment round held in Doha yesterday. Qatar's Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, participated in the meeting at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, a statement from the Ministry of Public Health said. The event was attended by several ministers and senior officials from countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, as well as representatives from international, regional, and national organisations. **Page 6**

Harris campaign shifts strategy

US Vice-President Kamala Harris is shifting her campaign strategy to win over more men and Republicans, and sharpening her attacks on Donald Trump as Democratic anxieties rise over polls showing her rival making strong gains. Harris is in a statistical dead heat in crucial states with Trump, according to public and internal campaign polls, sparking a round of finger-pointing and second-guessing from some corners. It is a frustrating moment for a whirlwind campaign that opened with a huge jump in enthusiasm and cash when she replaced President Joe Biden in July,

Consensus on two-state solution to ME crisis at GCC-EU Summit: PM

● Gaza, Lebanon dominated discussions

QNA
Brussels

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani affirmed that the developments in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon dominated the majority of the discussions at the first summit of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the European Union (EU) held at the EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on Wednesday.

During a joint press conference with High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi at the conclusion of the summit, HE Sheikh Mohammed said, "we had a very candid discussion on different issues than different crises. Of course, what's happening in the Middle East and especially the war on Gaza or the war on Lebanon has taken a significant time of these discussions."

PM, Blinken discuss Gaza mediation

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from Secretary of State of the friendly United States of America Antony Blinken. They discussed the close strategic relations between the two countries, ways to support and enhance

them, and discussed the latest developments in the region, especially in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the latest developments in the joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Strip, ways to reduce escalation in Lebanon, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. **(QNA)**

He added that "what we have noticed throughout these discussions is that there is a common agreement basically that the only way forward for the conflict in the Middle East is implementing the two-state solution. Everyone sees the dire need of the humanitarian situation in Palestine and in Lebanon as well. And of course, reaching a ceasefire as soon as possible."

In response to a question on Qatar's role in the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the obstacles to mediation efforts, HE the Prime

Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs said, that as a mediator, it was not productive to discuss what or who are the obstacles.

The prime minister said that "on the prospects of the negotiation, which I believe unfortunately we've seen that the efforts being hindered in the past few weeks. And basically in the last three to four weeks, there is no conversation or engagement at all. And we are just moving in the same circle with, with the silence from all parties. And this is unfortunate?"

'Constitutional changes will make Qatar stronger'

It has been 20 years since the initiation and inauguration of the Constitution of Qatar. During this time, Qatar has faced many experiences and challenges, as well as achieved significant accomplishments, both internally and externally. Twenty years is not a short period, and Qatar has learned a great deal from these experiences.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, as the leader of our country, considers the short, medium, and long-term interests of Qatar and its citizens. He recognised the need for equality and equity among citizens, as well as the importance of our unity. These two aspects are pivotal, and to achieve these important objectives, it became necessary to amend certain articles in the Constitution.

The principles of democracy

and separation of powers between the legislative, executive, and judiciary systems remain secure. The Shura Council will continue to fulfil its role. We Qataris view the Shura as a means to achieve ultimate objectives without negative side effects. The constitutional changes are seen as extremely positive, aimed at maximising benefits without compromising the effectiveness and role of the Shura. These changes will enhance equity among citizens and strengthen national unity.

We Qataris focus on the ultimate objective because the Shura itself is a mechanism to serve the interests and unity of Qatar in the short, medium, and long term. Qataris wholeheartedly support the vision of His Highness the Amir. When His Highness addressed the Shura Council a few days ago, his message was very



Former Minister of Energy and Industry HE Dr Mohamed bin Saleh al-Sada

clear and highly welcomed by all Qataris.

It's worth noting that when the election took place, it was only to fulfil a constitutional requirement, rather than to fulfil a public need.

Qataris wholeheartedly support amendments directed by Amir, says former minister of energy and industry

Now, after three years, we see the value of His Highness' vision that we can achieve all the interests served by the Shura while avoiding any possible negative side effects. Qataris welcomed His Highness' vision for the Shura, recognising that we are like one family. An appointed Shura is not new to us; in fact, we have lived it for more than half a century. This experience is highly cherished by all Qataris. The Shura, over the last half-century, has helped develop Qatar, strengthen Qatari unity, and align with our culture and social structure. It has been highly appreciated and respected by all Qataris.

Over the last three years, we must acknowledge that the Shura

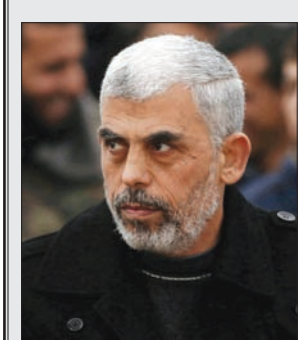
and its members have been dedicated and honest. We highly appreciate their input during this time. They themselves, including the elected members, wholeheartedly support the new direction. Some of them are close friends of mine, and I've heard directly from them how comfortable and supportive they are of this change. They are an integral part of Qatari society, our stable society, and the big family of Qatar. They understand well that the new direction will provide all the positives and gains that Qataris want without any potential side effects. **To Page 6**

Amir's speech historic and inspiring - Page 3

28 killed in strike on Gaza shelter school

At least 28 Palestinians including children were killed yesterday in an Israeli strike on a shelter in the northern Gaza Strip, a Gaza health ministry official said. Dozens were also injured in the strike. Civilians and children were among the victims at Abu Hussein School in Jabalia that had been serving as a shelter for displaced people. Earlier yesterday, Palestinian health officials said at least 11 Palestinians were killed in two separate Israeli strikes in Gaza City, while several others were killed in central and southern Gaza areas.

Hamas leader Sinwar killed



Palestinian resistance movement Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar has been killed by Israeli forces in the Palestinian enclave, Israel said yesterday. There are a number of possible scenarios for what happens next but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the war would go on. The Israeli military said it had killed Sinwar in an operation in the southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday. There was no immediate comment from Hamas, but sources in the group said that indications from Gaza suggested Sinwar had been killed in an Israeli operation. In Israel, families of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza said they hoped that a ceasefire could now be reached that would bring home the captives. In Gaza, pounded relentlessly by Israeli forces for a year, residents said they believed the war would continue but they still clung to their hope of self-determination. **(Reuters)**

Transport minister meets Turkish counterpart

HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti met yesterday with Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Turkiye Abdulkadir Uraloglu. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral co-operation in the fields of transport, ports and civil aviation sectors and ways to enhance and develop them. They discussed the use of smart and environmentally friendly technologies in the transport sector, particularly, in a way that achieves the aspirations and mutual interests of the two countries. (QNA)

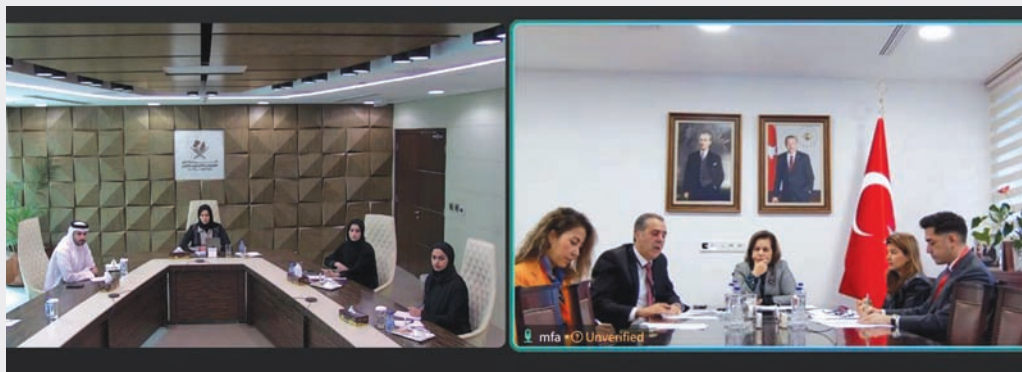


Education minister meets UAE counterpart

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi met yesterday with Minister of Education of the United Arab Emirates Sarah bint Yousif al-Amiri. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance bilateral co-operation in the fields of education, with emphasis on the importance of exchanging educational expertise. (QNA)



AlKhatier meets Turkiye's deputy minister



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatier met yesterday via video conference with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the sisterly Republic of Turkiye Berris Ekinci. During the meeting they reviewed co-operation relations and ways to support and enhance them, especially in the developmental and humanitarian fields, and joint co-ordination to contribute to addressing the Rohingya Muslim crisis, and discussed the latest regional developments, especially in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. During the meeting, the two sides expressed their aspiration to hold the strategic dialogue between the two brotherly countries at the end of this year. (QNA)

Shura Council hosts Justice Minister to discuss Constitution amendments



In its second meeting held yesterday, under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, the committee concerned with studying the amendment of articles in the constitution hosted HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi. During the meeting, HE Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi provided key clarifications and addressed the committee's questions and inquiries regarding the proposed amendments. The committee concluded the session by deciding to continue its review of the draft amendments in its next meeting. (QNA)

National Archives of Qatar marks Arab Document Day

QNA
Doha

The National Archives of Qatar held an event yesterday to mark the Arab Document Day with the attendance and hosting of a group of educational staff from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE).

This comes within the framework of the ongoing co-operation activities between the National Archives of Qatar and the MoEHE. The National Archives of Qatar organised an introductory workshop on the importance of preserving the documentary heritage and the importance of documents. The workshop was presented by Al Ghalia al-Mansouri, a researcher at the National Archives of Qatar.

In this context, Acting Director of the Public Relations and Communication Department at the National Archives of Qatar Noura al-Qubaisi told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the National Archives of Qatar celebrates Arab Document Day, believing that the document is the basis of the memory of peoples and nations. On this day, the National Archives of Qatar focuses on the vital role of documents in recording history and strengthening national identity. She stressed that understanding history represents the first step to shaping the future.

She pointed out that educational cadres from the MoEHE were received, due to their pioneering role in the educational field, which

Qatar attends Arab League's event

Qatar participated in the Arab Document Day 2024 celebrations, organised by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, yesterday at its headquarters in Cairo, under the title green archives: towards a sustainable Arab archive, in co-ordination with the Arab Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (Arabica). Qatar's delegation to the celebration was headed by Secretary-General of the Qatar National Archive, Dr Ahmed Abdullah al-Buainain, in the presence of Second Secretary at the State of Qatar's Mission, Ali Hussain al-Jarhab, representing the State's Permanent Delegation to the League of Arab States. The celebration was also attended by representatives of the permanent delegations of the member states of the Arab League, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), heads of Arab national archives and documentation centres, and a group of Arab official and public figures and Arab documentarians.

helps in enhancing the concept of documentation and instilling it in the students. She added that the visit of the educational cadres to the National Archives of Qatar



included holding an awareness workshop on the importance of preserving the documentary heritage, in addition to organising a tour of the National Archives of Qatar's exhibition (Journey of Knowledge) to learn about and view what the exhibition includes, which deals with various documents that shaped our history and our ancient heritage, in addition to learning about the mission and goals of the National Archives of Qatar.

Al-Qubaisi indicated that organising the workshop comes within several projects and initiatives with the MoEHE. She pointed out the importance of preserving the documentary heritage, as history is a legacy that must be preserved, and that the legacy of the ancestors is the responsibility of the grandchildren to preserve the

legacy of the State of Qatar. The National Archives of Qatar is keen to strengthen its partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education with the aim of educating the younger generations about the importance of preserving documentary heritage and actively participating in protecting historical documents and ensuring their continuity for future generations. On Arab Document Day, the National Archives of Qatar highlighted the importance of documents and their role in documenting history and legacy for future generations to inherit and use in achieving their accomplishments, as history is the first step in shaping the future. The joint co-operation between the National Archives of Qatar and



the MoEHE contributes to consolidating the values of citizenship and belonging among the younger generations by introducing the role and importance of the Qatar Na-

tional Archives in educational curricula and school activities, which contributes to the transmission of this heritage across generations and ensures its continuity.

Lord Mayor of the City of London meets Qatar's ambassador



Lord Mayor of the City of London Michael Mainelli has met with ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United Kingdom Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohammed Saud al-Thani. The meeting dealt with discussing bilateral co-operation relations between the two countries. (QNA)

Civic ministry holds event

The Ministry of Municipality's Food Security Department has held an awareness event to mark the World Food Day 2024. The event showcased the State of Qatar's food security efforts and featured the participation of several relevant entities. It aimed to achieve a flexible, sustainable and fair food system by 2030. Assistant Director of the Food Security Department, Hamad Hadi al-Hajri, said in a speech that the State of Qatar is keen to share the world in the World Food Day celebrations. World Food Day is marked annually on October 16, coinciding the anniversary of the founding of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 1945. This year's celebration comes under the slogan 'The right to food for a better life and a better future, to reflect the global commitment to eliminating hunger and achieving food security.' He explained that the State of Qatar seeks to achieve international solidarity by providing support to local food producers, and providing necessary production inputs, such as organic and chemical fertilisers, and pesticides to farmers, and supporting them in marketing their products to ensure achieving the best prices and reducing food loss. (QNA)

MoEHE celebrates World Food Day

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) celebrated World Food Day, launching, on this occasion, an extensive awareness campaign. This campaign included disseminating special messages about food safety through school accounts on social media and online platforms, as well as distributing brochures and booklets related to food safety. Awareness workshops have also been held to discuss and address the critical projects of the Food Safety Department within the ministry with strategic partners to engage all stakeholders in making decisions related to food safety. A workshop titled 'Understand Your Body' was presented by school activity specialists to enhance healthy food awareness by training participants to calculate calories in food recipes and determine each body's calorie needs using a simple test. The workshop also included

preparing healthy recipes that match those needs and a competition for creating a balanced and nutritious meal. The Health Promotion Department of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) participated in this event by setting up an awareness booth that featured educational pamphlets, a body mass index measuring device, health consultations, and models of healthy foods. Schools nationwide are celebrating this occasion by organizing a variety of events, including health awareness lectures, educational workshops, and recreational educational trips. Interactive activities, such as preparing healthy meals and participating in competitions, are also held for students and their parents. Director of the Schools and Students Affairs Department at MoEHE Mariam al-Nasif al-Bouainin stated that the celebration of World Food Day contributes to enhancing ongoing efforts, as it is an important occasion to raise awareness about the significance of the role of all parties involved in food safety. She emphasised the impor-

tance of fostering effective communication with the international network of food safety authorities and activating a multidisciplinary team to manage food incidents. She also highlighted the necessity of strengthening monitoring, response, and emergency measures in food safety, in addition to preparing a specific guide for the procedures for recalling food products. This year's celebration aims to raise awareness and support initiatives and plans to achieve safer and healthier food, she said, adding that the celebration focuses on the importance of individuals committing to food safety planning, as your active involvement is crucial in this process. The celebration also highlights the significance of collaboration between food companies and consumers in preparing for unexpected situations. Additionally, it fosters communication and coordination among government entities, the private sector, and the public to effectively respond to food incidents.



Nassir bin Abdulaziz al-Nasser, President of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly

President of 66th UNGA session: Amir's speech empowers people to make crucial decisions

President of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Nassir bin Abdulaziz al-Nasser said that one of the most distinguishing features of the speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the 53rd annual session of the Shura Council, is his commitment and insistence on empowering the people to participate in making crucial decisions by means of voting, a real-life reflection of the principles of Shura and democracy that Qatar

has upheld throughout its history. Al-Nasser told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the Amir's speech is historic and embodies transparency and frankness, in addition to demonstrating his future vision for Qatar, prioritising the interests of the nation and its people. He said that the plans for change that His Highness has set out are a result of careful consideration and reflection, which means that this step comes at a critically important time for the country.

He added the nation's relationship with the leadership of His Highness the Amir is not limited to governance, rather it is a covenant based on mutual trust, continuous co-operation, and a sense of kinship, which create a sense of strength, unity, and resilience. Al-Nasser said that hardship and crises have proven that the Amir and his political courage have always been sources for pride and honour, enriching the nation and strengthening collective will.

He said that it is clear today that His Highness's decisions always stem from his concern for the advancement of the nation and the welfare of its citizens, amid the country's security and stability thanks to the wise leadership and its sound vision. Al-Nasser affirmed unwavering support for every step taken by His Highness the Amir for the benefit of the country, given that justice and equality are fundamental to and are entrenched in the fabric

of the Qatari state. The President of the 66th session of UNGA said that the deep trust the Qatari people place in the leadership of His Highness the Amir stems from experiencing his wisdom and decisiveness in facing challenges, along with the country's long record of achievements, which enhanced Qatar's status regionally and internationally. This is yet another milestone in His Highness's auspicious reign, al-Nasser added. (QNA)

Qatari mediation efforts to end conflicts a subject of pride for all Arabs: envoy

GCC diplomats welcomes the message in Amir's Shura Council speech



Kuwaiti ambassador to Qatar Khaled Badr al-Mutairi



Ambassador of Oman to Qatar Ammar bin Abdullah bin Sultan al-Busaidi



Acting Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Lebanon to Qatar Farah Berri



Ambassador of Jordan to Qatar Zaid Mufleh al-Lawzi



Yemeni ambassador to Qatar Rajeh Hussain Farhan Badi

The speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the inauguration of the fourth ordinary session of the first legislative term, corresponding to the 53rd annual session of the Shura Council, and its key messages were highly welcomed by a number of Arab and foreign diplomats. Kuwaiti ambassador to Qatar Khaled Badr al-Mutairi said: "We highly appreciate the very important messages and content of this speech as it communicated high values and noble ethics that should be embraced to

overcome the challenges of the future challenges on the internal and external fronts." He said that this speech has drawn a map of work for the next stage. Besides, His Highness the Amir affirmed the steadfast stands of Qatar regarding the regional and international issues, and the need to stop aggressions against the brothers in Lebanon and Palestine. Ambassador of Oman to Qatar Ammar bin Abdullah bin Sultan al-Busaidi pointed out that His Highness the Amir was keen in his speech to inform the Qatari citi-

zens in full transparency and clear language on the latest updates of the current growth rates in the country and the indicators for the next stage. "We are all proud of His Highness the Amir's keenness on addressing the Palestinian cause and his care to resolve the issue peacefully, in addition to the other current Arab and regional causes," said the ambassador, expressing his appreciation for the special relation between the Qatari people and the other GCC peoples. Acting charge d'affaires at the Embassy of Lebanon to Qatar Fa-

rah Berri said that this speech has presented a comprehensive review of the development progress in Qatar, while stressing the basic foundations of the Qatari foreign policy. In particular, she highly appreciated the special care His Highness the Amir expressed for supporting Lebanon and the need to stop the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and Gaza. Ambassador of Jordan to Qatar Zaid Mufleh al-Lawzi appreciated the keenness of Qatar on maintaining world peace and stability through the Qatari mediation efforts stressed at the speech of His

Highness the Amir. He also noted that Qatar has been enjoying great progress led by the wisdom of His Highness, who has always showed support to the Palestinian people and Arab solidarity. Yemeni ambassador to Qatar Rajeh Hussain Farhan Badi said that the stands of Qatar regarding Lebanon and Palestine are praiseworthy and deserve respect from all the Arab people. He said that Qatari mediation efforts to end conflicts in various areas around the world are a subject of pride for all the Arabs and have amazed the whole world.

Amir's speech comes at a pivotal moment in Qatar's history and region: former diplomat



Former Qatar ambassador to the UK Fahad bin Mohamed al-Attiyah.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's speech comes at a pivotal moment in Qatar's history and that of the region. Unity is key both at a national and regional level to mitigate risks and ensure solidarity against geopolitical threats. The fact that Qatar is playing a significant role in defusing conflicts through mediation is grounds for international co-operation between peace-loving countries. Trade and global prosperity ultimately depend on peace and security and given how interconnected the world is today, the need for close co-operation between countries to achieve such a goal is crucial. The UK is a permanent member of the Security Council and a strategic partner of Qatar on a number of fronts and our collective effort is vital for the prosperity of our region and the world at large. The global trend is marred with dangers and geopolitical tensions that affect all facets of life. His Highness the Amir's speech clearly outlines a vision out of this mess and one that saves lives and builds communities and unity among nations. Qatar's foreign policy is based on extending its friendship to all and ensuring that peace and prosperity are maintained for the well-being of our societies. No one will be immune from the negative consequences of imbalanced competition among the global players and thus it is in our national interest to prevent such deterioration. We were created as nations and peoples to know one another so we can live in peace and mutual respect. The main priority on a domestic level is to ensure justice among the citizens of Qatar through fair representation, unity, and social cohesion. This will ensure that we provide all the potential to all citizens without exception and act as the basis for strength and we chart forward in time. Internationally, the priority is to prevent further bloodshed and stop the carnage and plunder levelled against our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Lebanon by Israel. Also to set a clear political horizon for a Palestinian statehood that is sovereign, secure, and free.

Amir's speech historic and inspiring on multiple levels

Dr Roudi Baroudi
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's speech to the Shura Council was both historic and inspiring, and on multiple levels. I know that Qataris are enthused about the domestic reforms he has been shepherding, but all Arabs should take pride in his statements about the crisis gripping the region and how to end it. As a Lebanese in particular, I was both grateful and gratified at his latest articulation of the stand he has taken on the wars in Palestine and Lebanon, just as I have been continually impressed by the mediating role he has played since the very beginning. Israeli intransigence has limited the achievements of that role, but His Highness the Amir and his advisers have neither given up, nor given in. His speech rightly identified Israeli opportunism as the driving force behind the spread of the conflict in the region, and his continuing focus on human rights and international law demonstrates the lofty principles that govern Qatar's foreign policy. The international community has failed utterly to end this ugly war, abandoning the rules and values that are supposed to unite all of humanity, and leading to a very dangerous situation that threatens the security and stability of the entire region. By contrast, His Highness the Amir's insistence on the need to pursue dialogue and preventive diplomacy, even as he stands shoulder to shoulder with the Lebanese and their brothers and sisters in Palestine, shows both wisdom and courage. Following this kind of principled course demands patience and skill, steadfast support for conciliatory political solutions, insistence on the peaceful settlement of disputes, and engagement in mediation when that is possible. Lebanon has thanked Qatar for its invaluable support and its continued calls for an end to Israel's bloody aggression against the Lebanese people, and the implementation of international resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolution 1701 of 2006. All Arabs should do the same, and join their voices to His Highness the Amir's, especially since this can only add to Qatar's influence and hasten the arrival of peace.

• Dr Roudi Baroudi is the CEO of Energy & Environment Holding, an independent consultancy based in Doha, Qatar



Arab, international media highlight Amir's speech

Arab and international media outlets paid significant attention to the sublime speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the opening of the fourth ordinary session of the first legislative term, corresponding to the Shura Council's 53rd annual session, highlighting the most important topics addressed in the speech, including the war on Gaza and Lebanon. In this regard, Arab media outlets, including Saudi Arabia's Asharq News TV, Lebanon's Al Jadeed, Al Mayadeen, and NBN, covered His Highness's speech with great interest, and highlighted his condemnation of the air strikes and military operations unleashed by the Israeli occupation forces against Lebanon, and the displacement of more than a million Lebanese. They added that His Highness considered in his speech that the way for de-escalation against Lebanon is to stop the war on Gaza, as he said: "We have warned against this dangerous escalation of the Israeli aggression, which is snowballing day after day, and of its repercussions on neighbouring countries and the region. The easiest and safest way for de-escalation on the border with Lebanon was to stop the war of extermination in Gaza which is demanded by the majority of humanity." The Arab media also highlighted the Amir's speech regarding way for de-escalation on the border with Lebanon and to stop the war of extermination in Gaza, and his confirmation that the Palestinian cause will remain at the forefront of Qatar's priorities, noting His Highness's confirmation that after all this spree of killing and destruction, Israel will have no choice but to comply with the two-

state solution in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, and for the Palestinian people to obtain all their legitimate rights. International media outlets, including the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC Arabic), France 24 Arabic, and the Russian Sputnik News Agency, highlighted excerpts from His Highness's speech as he said: "Israel has deliberately decided to expand the aggression to carry out the pre-planned plots in other locations, such as the West Bank and Lebanon because it sees that as an opportunity to do so," while referring to His Highness' call for an end to the aggression against Lebanon and for the implementation of international resolutions. They also reviewed Qatar's position towards the tragic situation in Palestine and Lebanon, when His Highness the Amir said in his speech: "The Palestinian cause remains at the forefront of our priorities. A year has passed since the beginning of the brutal aggression against our kindreds in Gaza and the West Bank; a year of destruction and genocide under the continued inactivity and failure of the international community to stop this ugly war that breached all values that unite humanity, as well as international conventions, norms, and religious canons," stressing that "Israel, which is taking advantage of the international community's inaction, the paralysis of its institutions and the frustration of its resolutions in order to implement dangerous settlement plans in the West Bank, has embroiled in expanding its aggression to Lebanon." The media noted that the Amir called on the international community to stop the Israeli aggression on Palestine and Lebanon. (QNA)

GCC-EU summit renews commitment to enhancing bilateral strategic partnership

From Page 1

The GCC and EU leaders reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to realising the Palestinian people's right to self-determination through a two-state solution, where Israel and Palestine coexist peacefully within secure, recognised borders based on the 1967 boundaries, in line with international law, relevant UN resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002. They agreed to work together to revive a political process toward this goal, supporting the Palestinian Authority in its reform plans and stressing the need to cease actions that undermine its authority.

The leaders expressed concern over rising tensions in the region, urging all parties to exercise restraint, avoid further escalation, and engage in international diplomatic efforts to end the current cycle of violence. They expressed deep concern over military operations in the West Bank, which have led to numerous civilian casualties and infrastructure destruction, calling for an immediate halt. The summit's statement strongly condemned ongoing settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Israeli government's decisions to expand settlements and legalise outposts across the occupied West Bank. It called on Israel to reverse these decisions and halt all unilateral measures that undermine peace prospects, including settlement activities, land confiscation, Palestinian displacement, and

violations of international law.

The statement also condemned all forms of violence, incitement, and terrorism, underscoring the importance of maintaining the historical status quo in Jerusalem and its holy sites, and recognising Jordan's special role in this regard. The statement condemned all civilian casualties, especially those involving children, and the catastrophic levels of hunger and imminent risk of famine due to inadequate access to and distribution of aid in Gaza. It strongly denounced attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers, whose safety must be guaranteed.

Additionally, the statement welcomed the formation of the Global Coalition for Implementing the Two-State Solution, announced by Saudi Arabia, the EU, and Norway on Sep. 26, 2024, in New York. It also expressed support for the Saudi, EU, Arab League, Egyptian, and Jordanian initiative to revive the Middle East peace process, launched in September 2023 in New York, and welcomed Bahrain's May 2024 declaration calling for an upcoming international peace conference.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the joint statement from the first GCC-EU Summit expressed deep concern over the dangerous escalation in Lebanon and reiterated support for the Lebanese people. It called for an immediate ceasefire and intensified international and regional efforts to provide urgent humanitarian aid to Lebanon

to alleviate civilian suffering and protect them from any war consequences.

The statement urged restraint, cessation of escalation, and prevention of conflict expansion in the wider region, emphasising the need for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701, other relevant international resolutions, and the Taif Agreement to restore lasting security and stability in Lebanon, ensuring respect for its territorial unity, independence, and sovereignty within internationally recognised borders.

The statement added, "We recognise the essential stabilising role played by the Lebanese Armed Forces and UN interim force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in mitigating risk of escalation. We condemn all attacks against UN missions and express particularly grave concerns regarding the recent attack against UNIFIL." The statement supported the efforts of the Lebanon-focused Quartet, emphasising the importance of accelerating the presidential elections, restoring the Lebanese governments authority nationwide, implementing economic reforms, and reintegrating Lebanon into the region, including initiatives to rebuild trust and co-operation with Lebanon. On the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the statement highlighted the urgent need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with the UN Charter principles. It called on the Russian Federation to immediately, fully, and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from Ukrain-

ian territory within its internationally recognised borders. It reaffirmed the GCC and EUs commitment to Ukraines sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity, including its territorial waters.

Amid the dangerous escalations and ongoing wars in the Middle East and Europe, the summits final statement stressed the strategic commitment between the two sides to enhance security and de-escalation for the benefit of both regions, welcoming the launch of the GCC-EU Regional Security Dialogue in January 2024 and the progress in developing joint approaches to global and regional security challenges. These include counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber issues, disaster preparedness, emergency management, and peace-building efforts like mediation and negotiation.

Both sides also affirmed their co-operation in combating organised crime, including human smuggling and trafficking, to disrupt and prosecute these illegal activities effectively through enhanced international co-operation. The two parties pledged to strengthen collaboration in anti-money laundering and combating terrorism financing, including within the framework of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and related regional bodies, reiterating their shared efforts to counter threats posed by organised crime. They also explored ways to improve judicial and law enforcement co-operation via relevant EU and GCC bodies, complementing bilateral co-operation.

The statement welcomed the outcomes of the High-Level Forum on Security and Regional Co-operation held on April 22, 2024, in Luxembourg. The summit agreed to hold another version of this forum in 2025 and welcomed the GCCs vision for regional security, noting that the GCC plays a critical role in mediating and resolving conflicts to maintain peace and security regionally and globally.

In this context, the statement welcomed the commitments of the joint EU-GCC Council on humanitarian aid and its support for enhancing joint advocacy at international, regional, and local levels to ensure humanitarian aid access and uphold international humanitarian law. It also explored parallel funding responses to crises, addressing common concerns where applicable. The statement highlighted the importance of establishing a structured co-operation and co-ordination mechanism for disaster response between the EUs Emergency Response Co-ordination Center and the GCC Emergency Management Center, leveraging national expertise in this area. It stressed the significance of safeguarding the humanitarian space, protecting civilians and healthcare, and upholding international humanitarian law in all contexts.

The statement said that both sides "will strive to co-operate on global issues and the follow-up of the Summit of the Future and work towards a successful outcome of COP29 and COP30."

Ooredoo Money introduces eKYC

Ooredoo Money has announced the introduction of the Electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC) process for its mobile wallet service.

The eKYC integration will enhance the experience of service users in many ways, such as streamlining the registration process, which offers customers an easier way to create new accounts and upgrade existing ones from basic to full wallets digitally and without the need to visit Ooredoo stores. In addition, eKYC enhances security and allows more flexibility with safe measures to reset their mPIN codes, a statement said.

Mirko Giacco, CEO of Ooredoo Fintech, said: "The integration of eKYC is a testament to our commitment to staying ahead of industry trends while providing customers with seamless, secure, and efficient solutions. This is another milestone in our mission to lead the fintech revolution in the region and support Qatar's digital transformation." As Qatar's first licensed



PSP and a fintech leader, Ooredoo Money continues to set the standard for innovation through ongoing service upgrades, strategic partnerships with key industry players, and a steadfast focus on financial inclusion, the statement added.

Gulf technical regulation for water conservation approved by Qatar

In a significant step to enhance the sustainability of Qatar's water resources, the Council of Ministers has approved a proposal by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) to approve the Gulf Technical Regulation for Water-Consumption Conservation Products as a Qatari Technical Regulation.

This decision follows the recommendation from Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa), represented by the National Programme for Conservation and Energy Efficiency (Tarsheed). The decision, according to an official statement from Kahramaa, aims to improve water use efficiency, reduce waste and preserve water resources in Qatar.

In a collaborative effort between Kahramaa and MoCI, the Council of Ministers has approved the Minister of Commerce and Industry's decision to adopt the Gulf Technical Regulation for Water-Consumption Conservation Products as a Qatari Technical Regulation.

This regulation is part of the ongoing efforts between Tarsheed and the Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology to achieve sustainable development

goals. The Gulf technical standards and specifications for water conservation tools were thoroughly reviewed, and their adoption as Qatari standards was proposed to reduce loss and improve usage efficiency in Qatar. This step is crucial for Qatar's efforts to promote water use efficiency, protect water resources and reduce waste in light of increasing environmental challenges.

This regulation aligns with Qatar's commitment to sustainable development and aims to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation among citizens and residents. These efforts reflect Qatar's future vision centred on environmental sustainability and the necessity of co-operation between different entities to achieve shared goals.

The technical regulation for water-consumption conservation products is an important step towards improving water use efficiency in buildings and facilities. The benefits of this regulation include providing technical and guidance specifications for water-saving products, improving water use efficiency in buildings and facilities in buildings, and reducing leaks.

It also elevates the standard of water tools in the Qatari markets leading to reduced individual water consumption across all sectors in Qatar. Additionally, this regulation enhances competitiveness among suppliers and manufacturers to provide the latest water-saving technologies, ensuring the availability of high-quality and efficient tools.

Economically, this regulation helps reduce production costs, while environmentally, it contributes to lower harmful emissions and conserves natural resources. The widespread regulation across all Gulf markets enhances regional co-operation and ensures the application of unified standards in the region.

Technical specifications have been established for several materials and tools, including water flow rate regulators for sanitary tools, faucets, mixers, showers, single/dual flush toilets, toilet systems, and flush tanks.

By adhering to these standards, we contribute to increasing awareness of energy efficiency in electricity and water, reducing consumption rates, preserving state resources and minimising harmful carbon emissions.

المستثمر الأول
THE FIRST INVESTOR



Optional Liquidation Announcement

In accordance with the founder's decision to liquidate the
THE FIRST INVESTOR SECURITIES FUND
optionally and upon the approval of Qatar Central Bank

The liquidator announces

Muhanad Ahmad Mustafa Shilu

About Liquidation

THE FIRST INVESTOR SECURITIES FUND

Commercial registration number 56569 liquidation (optional) in accordance with the provisions of Law No. (25) for the year 2002 on investment funds

Accordingly Any Third Party who has any rights to this fund shall submit to the liquidator a registered letter at PO Box 4075, Doha

Explaining his rights in the documents within thirty days from the date of publication of this announcement

For inquiries, please call the following numbers

5584 9776 - 4436 2962

muhanad.shilu@tgsfuad-qatar.com



Hour and Hour programme hosts event on breast cancer awareness

The Hour and Hour programme, in collaboration with the Qatar Cancer Society, the Women's Police Institute, and the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), organised an awareness event on breast cancer as part of the Pink October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month).

The event was held under the slogan "A Window of Hope," and the programme announced that this slogan will be adopted for a series of future health events. Tamani al-Yafei, CEO of Hour and Hour programme, said: "The event was held under the patronage of Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jabor al-Tha-

ni, chairman of the Qatar Cancer Society, and in collaboration with the Embassy of the Dominican Republic."

The event featured an awareness panel discussion titled 'A Session of Hope,' attended by Lt Col Kholoud Anbar al-Nuaimi, director of the Women's Police Institute, Dr Mohsen Mesmar and Aisha al-Tamimi from the PHCC. The session moderated by Fatima al-Ahmed addressed several topics aimed at raising women's awareness about the necessity of early breast cancer detection.

The event included an exhibition featuring photographs and

artworks by female artists who have survived breast cancer, serving as role models for women and inspiring hope that treatment is possible and that overcoming the disease is not impossible. The event also included Arabic calligraphy and a photography corner to document the memories.

The exhibition was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, which contributed exclusive items brought specifically. Al-Yafei, noted that the programme will continue its diverse activities as she she extended her thanks to the sponsors who supported the event.

Qatar attends 75th session of UNHCR Executive Committee

Qatar has participated in the 75th session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (High-level segment on statelessness) held at the UN headquarters in Geneva. Brigadier Abdullah Saqr al-Mohannadi, Director of the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Interior, delivered the State of Qatar's statement during the general discussion, in which he spoke about the State's

efforts and achievements in developing national laws and legislation aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. He also highlighted the importance of the strategic partnership between the State of Qatar and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to support refugees around the world in the field of education and other fields, referring to the efforts made to strengthen this partnership. (QNA)



Peppy purple

The Galaxy tropical water lily, seen in a Doha home garden, is distinguished by its large, flat petals that span up to six inches in width, displaying a captivating deep blue or purple galaxy-like pattern. The vivid yellow stamens of this water lily provide a striking contrast, enhancing its overall allure. **PICTURE:** Gulf Times news editor Bonnie James (Instagram: theexplorer7).

QF art exhibition at Multaqa showcases students' talents

Qatar Foundation is hosting an art exhibition titled 'Creative Currents,' showcasing the talents of students aged 5-18 from its Pre-University Education schools.

The exhibition, which opened with a musical performance by Qatar Music Academy, is being held at the Art Gallery in Multaqa (Education City Student Centre) and is open to the public.

The event highlights students' creativity in visual arts, featuring a diverse range of works, including paintings that express emotions and messages, as well as artworks and sculptures focused on themes of sustainability and the environment.

Ali Othman al-Maraghi, an 18-year-old student at Qatar Leadership Academy - part of Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education (PUE) - participated in the exhibition with a drawing titled 'Palestine.' The artwork symbolises the resilience of the Palestinian people one year after the events of October.

"Through art, we can convey our thoughts, emotions, and address important issues. I truly believe that drawing is a universal language, one that transcends barriers and speaks to people from all walks of life," al-Maraghi said. "I'm proud to participate in this exhibition. It provides valuable opportunities for us to showcase our talents. Our school has been very supportive, offering the tools and guidance needed to express ourselves artistically and develop our skills."



“Being part of this exhibition gave me the opportunity to share my work with others, which I've always wanted to do. Art isn't just something I enjoy, it's like therapy. When I was facing a difficult time at school, drawing helped me relax and overcome these challenges
— Fatima Rashid



The exhibition opened with a musical performance by Qatar Music Academy.



Ahmed al-Bouainain, a 10-year-old student at Qatar Academy Al Wakra (QAW), part of QF's PUE, said: "It was my first time creating an art piece and participating in an exhibition. I used recycled materials because I care about protecting the environment. When I finished the project, I felt proud of the final result!"
Another QAW student, 13-year-

old Fatima Rashid, reflected on her experience, saying: "Being part of this exhibition gave me the opportunity to share my work with others, which I've always wanted to do. Art isn't just something I enjoy, it's like therapy. When I was facing a difficult time at school, drawing helped me relax and overcome these challenges."

"My paintings are a way for me to express myself. Through this, I've seen a huge personal change - I feel more confident, and it's helped me grow as a person and an artist."

Aisha al-Sultan, co-ordinator of Performing Arts, QF's PUE, said: "By encouraging students to explore their talents across various art forms, whether visual or performing, they gain new tools and channels to express themselves and their ideas. This enhances their ability to communicate with the outside world in a

more creative and impactful way. "QF schools aim to equip students with a diverse set of skills that promote critical thinking, analysis, creativity, and the development of both their local and global identities. This exhibition is part of our efforts to highlight the significance of art as a subject that is just as valuable as other academic fields, whether scientific or literary."

According to al-Sultan, platforms like the Creative Currents exhibition are also essential for encouraging self-expression and self-confidence, as well as promoting a sense of achievement.

"Exhibitions like these expose students to the wider community in a new role—as artists. This allows them to express their opinions and unique perspectives on the world creatively while gaining opportunities for feedback and personal growth."

MES observes Indian Air Force Day



On the occasion of Indian Air Force Day, the Junior Section of MES Indian School conducted a special assembly under the theme, 'Bhartiya Vayu Sena - Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar' meaning potent, powerful, and self-reliant. Divina Pradeep (Class II-H) spoke on the Air Force's multifarious roles in defence and providing aid during emergencies such as floods and fires. Savan Sandeep (II-G) presented the thought for the day and students of grades II-G & II-H presented a song. The assembly was compered by Jayden and Mehra Nazeer. Safniya and Najiya, teachers in charge, co-ordinated the event.



\$36mn pledged for WHO in Doha event

Pledges amounting to approximately \$36mn were gathered to fund the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region at the investment round held in Doha yesterday.

Qatar's Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari participated in the meeting at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, a statement from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said.

The event was attended by several ministers and senior officials from countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, as well as representatives from international, regional, and national organisations.

In her address during the investment round, HE Dr al-Kuwari said that Qatar firmly believes that investing in global health is an investment in global stability, security, and prosperity.

"Qatar was among the first countries in the world to respond to the WHO's plea for a core voluntary contribution in 2021 to support the response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and other emergencies."

"Recognising the urgent need for on-



HE Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari addressing the event.

going, reliable, and long-term support for the WHO's budget, we reaffirmed our commitment to the WHO in May 2024," she said.

"We stand ready to continue discussions with the WHO to determine our contribution to the financial resources needed to implement its 14th General Programme of Work," HE Dr al-Kuwari added. "We are confident that this will strengthen health systems globally, making them more resilient and capable of addressing challenges such as pandemics and non-communicable diseases."



The minister said that the investment round for the WHO underscores the shared commitment to ensuring the future of global health, stating that "In the face of a rapidly evolving health landscape, securing sustainable and stable funding for the 14th General Programme of Work is not just necessary; it is a moral obligation we owe to future generations."

She reiterated the importance of strengthening co-operation to ensure that the WHO remains prepared to lead global health efforts in the years ahead, adding: "Together, we can create a healthier and

more equitable world for all."

In her opening remarks, Dr Hanan Balkhy, the WHO regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean, said: "As the global investment case demonstrates, every dollar invested in the WHO generates a return of \$35."

"This is an extremely smart investment," she continued. "It can help save the lives of another 40mn people, making the lives of billions healthier and safer from harm, while providing them access to the health services they need."

"Predictable, flexible funding for our

core work over the next four years is essential for us to achieve the best possible health outcomes," Dr Balkhy added.

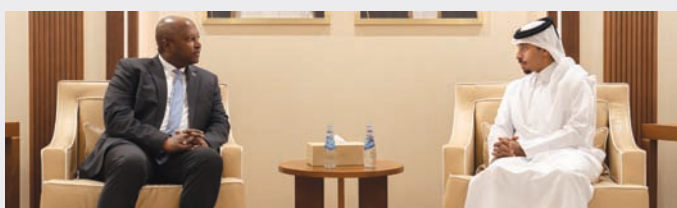
Several ministers and senior officials from the Eastern Mediterranean Region also spoke on the importance of sustainable funding for the WHO to ensure greater preparedness and response to health challenges in the region.

In a pre-recorded speech, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlighted the significance of the investment round and the solidarity required for sustainable funding for the WHO, emphasising its importance for global health in achieving "All for Health, Health for All".

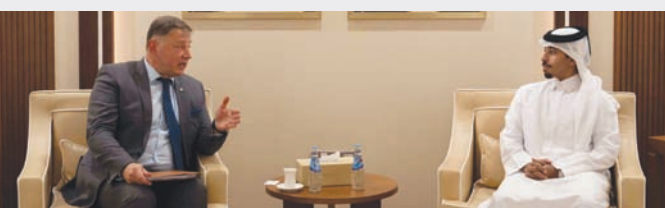
The event also featured a video presentation on sustainable funding for the WHO in the region and its importance in addressing health challenges.

The 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, held under the theme *Health Beyond Borders: Action, Access, Equity in the Eastern Mediterranean Region*, will conclude today in Doha.

Top QFFD official meets Burundi minister, Ukraine envoy



Acting Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) director-general Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri met yesterday with Burundi's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Co-operation Albert Shingiro, who is visiting the country. Al-Aseeri also met yesterday with Ukraine's ambassador to Qatar Kuzmenko Andrii. Bilateral co-operation, relations and ways to develop them were discussed at the meetings. - **QNA**



Italian embassy, MCIT host Kids' Republic Day

The embassy of Italy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), represented by Studio 5, hosted the third edition of "La Festa della Repubblica dei Piccoli", the Kids' Republic Day, at the ACS International School Doha, yesterday.

Held on the occasion of the "Week of the Italian Language in the World", the event was dedicated to Italian and Qatari children in the 3-12 age group, with the objective of fostering in younger generations the value of friendship that connects Italy and Qatar, a statement from the embassy said.

The event focused on "Tech and Culture", with the activities designed and executed by a Studio 5 team.

The activities, inspired by Italian and Qatari culture, gave the young participants the opportunity to explore technology and innovation through four workshops.

In "Formula 1 Race (Lusail vs Monza Circuits)", the children interacted with and controlled a line-following Vex Robot; "Football Match (Qatar vs Italy)" was played through tiny

"Ozobots" controlled by electronic tablets; in "Digital Chef (Pizza Making)", participants made a digital pizza through virtual reality; and in "AI Languages Interaction", the Studio 5 team developed a system to allow children to learn words in Arabic and Italian using artificial intelligence (AI).

Studio 5 also showcased additive manufacturing technologies, including an FDM 3D printer, demonstrating how to print small cookie cutters.

The celebration was carried out in co-operation with ACS International School Doha, which since September started a comprehensive programme of curricular and extracurricular workshops dedicated to Italian and Italy's culture.

The planned activities included interactive language games focusing on Italian vocabulary (specifically related to the book's vocabulary or Italian literature quotes), fun cultural quizzes about Italian books, and role-playing scenarios for practicing conversational Italian.

Additionally, children created posters inspired by Italian culture and participated in

multimedia presentations, with students producing a video showing peers being interviewed about Italian words.

"We are delighted to celebrate, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the third edition of the Republic Day Celebration for Kids," said Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi who attended with his wife, Federica Cellini.

"This event not only strengthens the cultural ties between Italy and Qatar, but also offers young people a unique opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of our traditions while exploring the technologies of the future," he said. "The participation and enthusiasm of the children are the best testimony to our shared aspiration to promote creativity and intercultural dialogue."

Duha Ali al-Buhendi, director of Digital Society and Digital Competencies at the MCIT, said: "As part of our mission to drive digital transformation and innovation, our collaboration with the embassy of Italy for 'La Festa della Repubblica dei Piccoli' highlights how technology can be a bridge between cultures."

Ministry opens nominations for GCC excellence award for persons with disabilities

The Ministry of Social Development and Family has announced the start of receiving nominations for the GCC Creativity and Excellence Award for Persons with Disabilities.

The award falls in two categories: the creative and distinguished persons with disabilities, and the entities supporting the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The ministry said in a statement that the award seeks to stimulate the energies and capabilities of persons with disabilities, their families and society in order to achieve excellence in their lives and provide comprehensive support for creativity and excellence in all areas of life, which enhances their capabilities and supports full integration.

The award's organising committee has set conditions that must be met by the nominees for the award, most notably that the nominee be a person with a disability, without requiring a spe-

cific degree or type of disability or specifying a specific age for the nominee.

It is also required that the nominee be a citizen of the country nominating him or her, and that the nominee has implemented projects, or achieved creative or distinguished achievements that contribute to empowering persons with disabilities, and enhance their opportunities for integration into society.

As for nominating entities that support the empowerment of persons with disabilities, it is required that the entity be from the voluntary civil sector or one of the private commercial sector institutions, and nominations from official or governmental entities are not accepted.

The entity must also have implemented projects or initiatives aimed at empowering persons with disabilities, and that these projects achieve tangible results that contribute to this empowerment. - **QNA**

Qatar chairs meeting of GCC traffic chiefs

Qatar chaired the 45th meeting of the Traffic Directors-General in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states, which was held yesterday via video conferencing.

Chaired by Traffic Director-General Major-General Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani, the meeting discussed a number of topics related to the project to develop traffic systems in the GCC countries. - **QNA**

'Constitutional changes will make Qatar stronger'

From Page 1

It's important to highlight that the election process was very successful and transparent.

We should praise the experience of the last three years and the dedication of the excellent members of the Shura Council.

To demonstrate how harmonised and supportive the current Shura is, over the last three years, there hasn't been a single instance where they needed to vote.

Decisions were always unanimous, reflecting the unity of our society.

The immediate response to His Highness' address was enormous and overwhelming.

The joy and happiness were evident across Qatar among all Qataris.

His Highness the Amir looks at the ultimate welfare of Qatar and its citizens, and Qataris trust His Highness, who works diligently for the advantage of Qatar.

He considers not only today or tomorrow but the long-term future of Qatar. Qataris trust and love His Highness the Amir unconditionally.

His Highness the Amir has elevated us to higher levels of development and social security, positively affecting all aspects of our lives - social, economic, environmental, and political.

His Highness represents all Qataris, and we follow His Highness because we trust that his vision and direction are always in the interests of all of us, but also for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

In the near future, the process of constitutional and legal changes will emphasise the equality of rights and duties among all Qataris.

This is highly welcomed by all Qataris and will definitely boost and augment our already existing national unity, which is a pivotal characteristic of our Qatari society.

We cherish this unity and aim to protect it forever.

Additionally, there will be positive and inclusive amendments to the requirement of Shura Council membership, which will ensure equality for all Qataris.

Importantly, there will be amendments to the requirement for ministerial position and will be more inclusive.

These changes will further augment and support the national unity among us all.

To this effect, as a citizen, I would like to express my high appreciation, thanks, and ultimate support for His Highness' direction in elevating Qatar from a high level to even further heights in all aspects of our lives.

We look forward to a bright future for Qatar, its citizens, and residents, led by His Highness the Amir.

May Allah bless him for all he is doing for Qatar.

Ferrari unveils the F80, a milestone for Prancing Horse badge

Ferrari has unveiled the F80 and wrote a new chapter in the history of legendary supercars bearing the Prancing Horse badge, a statement from Alfaradon Sports Motors Company said.

The F80 will be produced in a limited run of just 799 examples and joins the pantheon of icons such as the GTO, F40 and LaFerrari by showcasing the best that the Maranello-based marque has achieved in terms of technology and performance.

Since 1984 Ferrari has periodically released a new supercar that represented the pinnacle of cutting-edge technology and innovation of its era and that was destined to become enshrined in popular culture.

The latest addition to this family, the F80, is tasked with embodying the ultimate in engineering for an internal-combustion-engine vehicle and employs all the most advanced technological solutions, including latest-generation hybrid technology for the powertrain, to achieve unparalleled levels of power and torque.

With a combined maximum power of 1,200hp, the V6-hybrid powertrain of the F80 makes it the most powerful road car ever to come out of the gates of the Ferrari factory.

Every aspect of the architecture is conceived to maximise performance, from the carbon-fibre chassis and extreme aerodynamic solutions far beyond anything seen before in a roadlegal car, to the new active suspension optimised to let the driver wring every ounce of performance from the car on the track.

Unlike anything else in the current supercar world, the F80 combines all these attributes with uncompromising levels of usability on the road, where it can be driven with ease.

This ability shaped every choice made in terms of technology and architecture to achieve the goal, which at first sight seems impossible, of creating a



track-oriented supercar that's just as driveable as a production range model.

The architecture of the F80 is so extreme that the layout chosen results in a narrower cabin with a driver-centric layout, which nonetheless still offers excellent space and comfort for a passenger.

This choice had crucial benefits in terms of minimising drag and weight.

The cockpit area therefore has a distinct single-seater feel, despite the fact that the car is homologated for two occupants, resulting in a architecture Ferrari calls "1".

The primary reason for this choice was to minimise width, to the benefit of aerodynamics (with less drag) and weight saving.

This concept is completely in keeping with the motorsport world from which this car not only draws inspiration but also inherits technological solutions.

As has always been the case with the Ferrari supercars preceding the F80, the powertrain is based on the finest expression of technology in motorsport.

The GTO and F40 were powered by a turbo V8, because Formula 1 cars used turbocharged engines in the 1980s.



Today in both Formula 1 and the World Endurance Championship (WEC), powertrains consist of turbo V6 ICE engines mated with an 800 V hybrid system.

It was only natural then that this architecture - the same architecture used by the 499P, which has taken two consecutive victories at the 24 Hours of Le Mans - would be transferred into the new F80.

Here though the powertrain is further complemented by the introduction, for the first time ever on a Ferrari, of electric turbo technology (e-turbo), which, with an electric motor installed between the turbine and compressor of each turbo, allows for an extraordinary specific power output and instantaneous response from low down in the rev range.

Aerodynamics play a key role on the F80, with solutions such as the active rear wing, rear diffuser, flat underbody, front triplane wing and S-Duct working in concert to generate 1,000kg of downforce at 250kph.

This result is further enhanced thanks to the active suspension, which contributes directly to generating ground effect.

Performance is boosted by the electric front axle, which brings four-wheel drive capability to make even more effective use of the torque and power on tap, and the new brakes with motorsports-derived CCM-R Plus technology.

As with all the supercars preceding it, the F80 marks the start of a new design era for Ferrari, with a more tense, extreme design language accentuating its race-bred soul.

There are clear references to cues borrowed from aerospace, which underscore the cutting-edge technology and elegant engineering of each and every technical solution.

However, there are also nods to its hallowed progenitors which clearly declare the illustrious lineage of the F80.

The three-litre 120° V6 F163CF of the F80 produces an astonishing peak power of 900hp, making it the Ferrari engine with the highest specific power of all time (300 cv/l), to which the electric front axle (e-4WD) and rear motor (MGU-K) of the hybrid system add another 300 cv.

JUSTICE

China jails 15 over building collapse that killed dozens

China has jailed 15 people for their roles in a building collapse that killed dozens and sparked a public scandal over construction standards. In April 2022, a building in the city of Changsha caved in, leaving more than 50 people dead and nine wounded. Authorities later said the structure had been built illegally, triggering an outcry over corruption and laxity in the construction industry. State broadcaster CCTV said yesterday that two courts in Changsha had issued sentences for 15 people implicated in the scandal. A local structuring testing firm was fined \$140,000 and several employees jailed for providing documents that falsely declared the building to be safe.

LAW AND ORDER

Hong Kong policemen jailed over harassment of homeless

A judge in Hong Kong jailed six policemen yesterday for harassing homeless people, following a rare criminal conviction of law enforcement in the Chinese financial hub. Judge Kathie Cheung sentenced the police officers to prison terms ranging from 25 to 41 months over multiple charges of "perverting the course of justice". The charges are related to a 2020 incident in which the officers raided the tents of two homeless Vietnamese men, Nguyen Van Son and Le Van Muoi, arresting them on suspicion of possessing a knife as well as illegal drugs. Homelessness is a growing problem in the wealthy city.

DISCLOSURE

China tested two missiles during war games: Taiwan

China test-fired two missiles during a day of military drills around Taiwan, a Taiwanese security official said, adding they were directed inland and not at the island. Beijing deployed a record number of military aircraft as well as warships and coast guard vessels to encircle Taiwan on Monday, in the fourth round of large-scale drills in just over two years. During the exercises, which lasted 13 hours, China test-fired two missiles "into the interior", the national security official told a briefing. While the exercises were a "serious" threat, they did not mean that war was "imminent" or "inevitable", the official said.

POLLUTION

Sydney beaches closed due to toxic 'tar balls'

Beaches in Sydney including the iconic Bondi were closed to bathers yesterday after hundreds of black balls suspected to be toxic washed up on the city's shores. Waverley council said it had closed Bondi, Bronte and Tamarama beaches as a precaution, while neighbouring Randwick Council has closed an additional four beaches to the south. Bondi and Maroubra Beach to the south were later reopened. "The wellbeing of our community is paramount. That's why council has taken the precaution to close our beaches," Waverley Mayor Will Nemesh said. Preliminary testing by Randwick Council suggests the mystery items were "tar balls" - lumps of oil and debris.

Vietnam tycoon on death row jailed for life in separate trial

AFP
Ho Chi Minh City

A Vietnamese property tycoon sentenced to death for fraud totalling \$27bn was jailed for life yesterday after being convicted of money laundering.

Property developer Truong My Lan was found guilty in April of swindling cash from the Saigon Commercial Bank (SCB) - which prosecutors said she controlled - and sentenced to death in one of the biggest corruption cases in history.

Tens of thousands of people who had invested their savings in the bank lost money, shocking the communist nation and prompting rare protests from the victims.

A panel of three hand-picked jurors and two judges yesterday determined that Lan was guilty of money laundering worth \$17.7bn and illegal cross-border trafficking of cash worth \$4.5bn. She was also found guilty of bond fraud to the tune of \$1.2bn. The court determined that Truong My Lan was "the mastermind, committed the crime with sophisticated methods, many times, causing especially serious consequences... so she was sentenced to life in prison for three crimes".

Thirty-three other defendants were also sentenced at the court in Ho Chi Minh City, and given terms ranging from two to 23 years in prison. Among them was Lan's husband, who was jailed for two

years for money laundering, and her niece, who was handed a five-year prison term for fraudulent appropriation of property.

Nguyen Thi Huong, who lost \$20,000 of savings to the fraud said she felt "resentment and loss of trust in the party and government."

"Victims across the country are deeply outraged," she said.

In her final words before the court last week, Lan had begged for leniency, admitting she had made mistakes.

Earlier in the trial she had pleaded for the return of two albino crocodile Hermes bags worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, saying she wanted to give them to her children and grandchildren as a keepsake.

The court refused.

Around 36,000 people who bought bonds issued by SCB have been identified as victims of the fraud. Lan was ordered to compensate all the victims, according to state media, but no detail was given on how or when it would happen.

Huong said she wanted to die after losing \$20,000, her entire savings, through investing in a bond in 2022. "When I learned that I had lost all the money I had deposited at SCB Bank, I felt like I was losing my mind," said Huong, 33.

She developed insomnia, her health deteriorated from stress and she no longer had money to send her children to extra classes, making them fall behind their peers, she said.

Desert sculpture



Tourists visit a sculpture in the Gobi desert in Guazhou, during an organised media tour in Gansu province, China, yesterday.

Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant for Hasina

AFP
Dhaka

A Bangladeshi court yesterday issued an arrest warrant for exiled ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August after she was toppled from power by a student-led revolution.

Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam called it a "remarkable day", while a relative of one of the hundreds who died in the uprising against her autocratic rule said they were "looking forward" to the trial.

Hasina's 15-year tenure saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents.

"The court has... ordered the arrest of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and to produce her in court on November 18," Islam, chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), told reporters.

"Sheikh Hasina was at the helm of those who committed massacres, killings and crimes against humanity in July to August," Islam said.

The court also issued an arrest warrant for Obaidul Quader, the fugitive former general secretary of Hasina's Awami League party, as well as 44 others, who were not named.

Dozens of Hasina's allies were taken into custody after her regime collapsed, accused of culpability in a police crackdown that killed more than 700 people during the unrest that deposed her. Former cabinet ministers and other senior members of her Awami League party have been

arrested, and her government's appointees were purged from courts and the central bank.

Hasina, however, has not been seen in public since fleeing Bangladesh by helicopter.

The 77-year-old's last official whereabouts are a military airbase near India's capital New Delhi. India's foreign ministry spokesman Randeep Jaiswal, asked by journalists about the arrest warrant, declined to comment.

"She had come at short notice for safety reasons, and she continues to be in India," he said.

Her presence in India - her government's biggest benefactor - has infuriated the interim administration in Bangladesh that replaced her.

Dhaka has revoked her diplomatic passport, and the countries have a bilateral extradition treaty which would facilitate her return to face criminal trial.

Seoul court acquits ex-police chief over Halloween crush

A South Korean court yesterday acquitted the former Seoul police chief and two officers of professional negligence over a deadly 2022 Halloween crowd crush that killed more than 150 people, an official said.

The court ruled that Kim Kwang-ho - the highest-ranking police official indicted over the crush - could not be legally held accountable for the tragedy, citing a lack of evidence to establish that his neglect of duty led to the accident. "It is hard to establish beyond reasonable doubt, with the evidence put forward by the prosecution, that the defendants committed professional negligence," the Seoul western district court ruled, Yonhap reported. Two other police officers were acquitted alongside him on the same charges. As the verdict was read out, shouts of protest erupted from the families of the victims in the courtroom asking: "How was it not a man-made disaster?" Yonhap reported.

Indonesia volcano erupts



Mount Ibu erupts in Indonesia's North Maluku province.

Japan's ruling LDP 'at risk of losing majority in polls'

Reuters
Tokyo

Japan's ruling party may lose its majority in the lower house, according to media polling ahead of the October 27 election, meaning it would likely have to rely on coalition partner Komeito to stay in power.

The Liberal Democratic Party may not reach the 233 seats it needs for an outright majority in the 465-seat chamber, the *Nikkei* newspaper said yesterday. The LDP has held sole control of the chamber since it returned to power in 2012.

In a separate poll by Jiji Press, support for Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's cabinet came to 28%, marking the lowest for new governments dating back to 2000. The survey was conducted between October 11-14 and pub-

lished yesterday. Ishiba's government already depends on Komeito for a majority in the upper house. Extending that reliance to the more powerful lower house could give the group, backed by Japan's largest Buddhist lay organisation, a greater say in policymaking.

"I think that the LDP will cover, along with its coalition ally Komeito, the majority that it needs," said Michael Cucek, a professor specialising in politics at Temple University in Tokyo.

If the LDP is relying on Komeito to reach a majority, that will give more leverage to a party that has pushed back on some of the LDP's more hawkish security policies in the past, he added. Komeito has been less willing than the LDP to embrace policies including giving Japan's military longer-range missiles and removing restrictions on weapons exports.

N Korea says constitution now defines South as 'hostile' state

AFP
Seoul

North Korea yesterday said its constitution now defines the South as a "hostile" state, the first time Pyongyang has confirmed legal changes called for by leader Kim Jong-un earlier this year.

Relations between the two Koreas have deteriorated since Kim in January defined Seoul as his country's "principal enemy" and said the North was no longer interested in reunification.

After months of laying fresh mines and ramping up security on

the border, the country this week blew up roads and railways linking it to the South, calling it "an inevitable and legitimate measure", the official Korean Central News Agency said.

The move was "taken in keeping with the requirement of the DPRK Constitution, which clearly defines the ROK (South Korea) as a hostile state," KCNA said, the first time the North has mentioned a revision of its basic law.

The country last week held a key meeting of its rubber-stamp parliament, where experts had widely expected the constitution to be revised after Kim's explicit call for it in January.

Under a 1991 inter-Korean accord, relations between the North and South had been defined as a "special relationship" rather than state-to-state relations, part of a process aimed at eventual reunification.

South Korea's military on Tuesday released video footage of North Korean soldiers dynamiting deeply symbolic roads and railways connecting the two Koreas, days after Pyongyang's military had vowed to "permanently" seal the border with the South.

North Korea said that sections of the key inter-Korean roads and railways had "been completely blocked through blasting".

The detonations may have been done for domestic propaganda reasons, experts have said, with some pointing out that Pyongyang appeared to have used South Korean military images in its media coverage of the event.

Pyongyang's major ally China yesterday urged a "political settlement process to the peninsula issue" spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

Beijing is North Korea's main diplomatic ally and economic backer, and also a major trade partner of the South.

"The ongoing commitment to fortifying the southern border seems to reflect an intention to permanently solidify hostilities with

the enemy state," Yang Moo-jin, president of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said.

Near the inter-Korean border in Paju, South Korean small business owner You Dong-woo, 76, said he initially thought North Korea's road explosions were "just a show".

"After thinking about it more and seeing them blowing up roads and railroads, I became concerned," he said.

"At our age, we don't have much to worry about. But if something like a war breaks out, our children will be the first to come to my mind."

Construction worker Moon Byung-soo said he was concerned

about the risk of a major escalation, as the North was "talking bluntly about using nuclear weapons on South Korea".

North Korea also recently accused Seoul of using drones to drop anti-regime propaganda leaflets on the capital Pyongyang, with Kim convening a security meeting to direct a plan of "immediate military action" in response, state media reported on Tuesday.

Seoul's military initially denied sending drones north but has subsequently declined to comment, even as Pyongyang has warned it would consider it "a declaration of war" if another drone was detected.



TRAGEDY

18 die in Bihar after consuming moonshine

At least 18 people have died and several more are in hospital after consuming tainted liquor in India's eastern state of Bihar, a government official said yesterday. The death toll is likely to rise, the official said. Local police have arrested 22 people for their alleged involvement in sale of tainted liquor in the state, which banned the sale and purchase of liquor in 2016. News agency ANI showed a crying mother whose only son died after consuming the tainted liquor. "He started vomiting and lost his eyesight. He has left behind his wife and son, we don't know what to do," she said.

CLARIFICATION

No plan to revive HS2 rail link to northern England: govt

The new Labour government will not revive a plan to build a high speed railway line from Birmingham to northern England, a source said, denying an earlier media report. LBC Radio said earlier yesterday the government was set to announce that the HS2 high speed railway line would run as far as Crewe in northern England, in a reversal of the previous administration's decision to cancel the project's second phase. But that was not on the cards, a government source said. "We have always said we won't be taking plans for HS2 phase 2 back off the shelf," the source said.

DECISION

UK to publish online safety demands for platforms in Dec

Britain's media regulator Ofcom said it would detail what action it expected social media companies to take over illegal content on their platforms in December, saying it expected swift action or they would face consequences. Ofcom, which is responsible for implementing the government's Online Safety Bill, said the platforms would have three months to complete their own illegal harms risk assessments after the publication of its demands. "The time for talk is over," Ofcom's chief executive Melanie Dawes said. "From December, tech firms will be legally required to start taking action, meaning 2025 will be a pivotal year in creating a safer life online."

INVESTIGATION

UK police probe warehouse parcel fire

UK anti-terrorism police yesterday said they were investigating how a parcel burst into flames at a depot earlier this year, after a similar case in Germany blamed on Russia. The incident at a DHL warehouse near Birmingham, central England, happened on July 22. No one was injured in the fire, which was put out by staff and the fire brigade. According to *The Guardian* newspaper, which first reported the investigation, the parcel had been sent by air. It is not known if the package had arrived in the UK on a cargo or passenger aircraft, and its final destination is unknown, the paper added.

Indians in Punjab fear dispute will endanger work and study plans

Reuters
Chandigarh, India

Indians in Punjab, worried that plans to work, study or visit families in Canada will be jeopardised by this week's tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats over the murder of a Sikh separatist, are urging both governments to reduce the tension.

Canada's nearly 800,000 Sikhs formed the world's second largest community in 2021, after roughly 20mn in India. They have links to the northern granary state of Punjab, where their religion was founded more than 500 years ago.

"Many clients have reached out, worried about how this might affect their plans to migrate to Canada," said an immigration lawyer, Karan S Thukral, who is based in the Indian capital, though adding he had seen no big drop yet in legal inquiries.

"Indian students are among those feeling the impact most acutely."

Indians have made up Canada's largest group of international students in recent years, mainly from Punjab, holding more than 41% of student permits in 2022.

International students bring in about C\$22bn (\$16bn) for its universities each year.

"We want to go to Canada to study and settle there, but now

that's not possible because students who want to go there are facing difficulties," said Anita, a student in Punjab's capital of Chandigarh.

Canadian study permits for Indians fell sharply late last year and the diplomatic tension was likely to weigh on future numbers, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said in January.

"It is something that both countries cannot afford because we are heavily dependent on each other," said Kanwalpreet Kaur, a political science professor at Chandigarh's DAV College.

"It is really keeping students on edge because their future is tied up with Canada," she added.

Ties soured last September when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said there were "credible allegations" linking Indian government agents to the killing of the Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, on Canadian soil.

India's high commissioner, or ambassador, was among the six diplomats Canada expelled on Monday, linking them to the murder, while accusing the Indian government of having undertaken a broad campaign targeting the South Asian community in Canada.

India dismissed the accusations and accused Trudeau of pursuing a "political agenda" while kicking out six high-ranking Canadian diplomats in retaliation.



Travellers flying to Canada gather to board a bus bound for the airport in Jalandhar, India.

Canada 'did not act against gang it now links to India'

Reuters
New Delhi

India's foreign ministry yesterday said that despite requests from New Delhi, Canada had not taken any action against members of a gang that Canadian police have accused of being linked to Indian government agents in the 2023 murder of a Sikh separatist leader, that has created a rupture in ties.

"This is a contradiction in terms, which we don't understand," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's foreign ministry said, calling it "strange". He said that there were 26 Indian extradition requests pending with Canada over the last decade or more, which include members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, and others.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police had accused Indian government agents of being linked

to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar near Vancouver.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Wednesday that India had made a "horrific mistake" by thinking it could interfere aggressively in Canada's safety and sovereignty.

India, in response said that Trudeau had only confirmed its stand that Canada had not provided any evidence to support its allegations.

During a weekly press conference yesterday, Jaiswal said, "we have shared security related information with the Canadian government regarding gang members including those of Lawrence Bishnoi gang, and requested them to arrest them or take due action as per law."

He said Canada has not taken any action, calling it "very serious". "We find it really strange," he said, adding that the RCMP was blaming India for the crimes committed by these people "who we asked to be deported, on whom we asked that

action be taken." Bishnoi is a 31-year-old leader of what India's top investigative agency calls a "terror-crime syndicate" which he operates from different prisons in India. The group, according to India's National Investigation Agency, has transnational reach, including a presence in Canada.

While India has denied all Canadian allegations, it is working with the US, which also mentioned last year that an Indian official was involved in an unsuccessful murder plot of another Sikh separatist leader in New York.

Jaiswal confirmed yesterday that an official who was named in the American indictment about the case was no longer employed by the Indian government. After meeting members of the Indian government committee investigating the case, who were on a visit to the US, the state department said on Wednesday that Washington was satisfied with India's co-operation in the probe into the foiled murder plot.

China urges India to handle Taiwan issue carefully

China yesterday urged India to handle Taiwan issues with caution and avoid interference in the improvement of Sino-India relations following the opening of another Taiwan de facto consulate in Mumbai. China opposes moves by any countries it has ties with to engage in official contacts with Taiwan, said Mao Ning, a foreign ministry spokesperson, at a regular news conference. The Taiwanese government opened its third representative office in India on Wednesday, Taiwan's official Central News Agency reported, adding to existing offices in New Delhi and Chennai.

"China has lodged solemn representations with the Indian side," Mao said. "The one-China principle is a serious political commitment made by the Indian side and the political foundation of Sino-Indian relations."

Prince William visits college

Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales poses for a selfie picture with a student as he prepares to leave College Stoke Climsland in Callington, in Cornwall, southwestern England, yesterday following a visit to learn how the college is providing opportunities for young people in rural areas.

Police arrest minor for hoax bomb threats

Reuters
New Delhi

Police in India's financial capital Mumbai have arrested a minor for allegedly posting online bomb threats to three flights earlier this week, India's aviation minister said.

Indian airlines have this month received a spate of threats to domestic and international flights on their social media, all of which have been false alarms.

"Strongly condemn the recent bomb threats to Indian air carriers. We are closely monitoring the situation and ensuring that every necessary measure is taken against such actions," Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, the country's civil aviation minister, said in a post on X.

He said the person arrested was a minor, meaning below the

age of 18, and did not name him.

Local media have reported that bomb threats were made from an account on X and alleged two IndiGo flights - one to Muscat and another to Jeddah, and an Air India one to New York had armed militants with explosives.

At least eight flights of leading carrier IndiGo were subject to threats. Three Spicejet ones, two Vistara and four Air India ones also received similar messages online this week, according to Reuters calculations.

Air India said its flight from New Delhi to Chicago was forced to land in Canada on Wednesday after a "security threat posted online". Passengers were later taken to their destination by a Canadian Air Force plane.

"Air India notes that it, and other local airlines, have been subject to a number of threats in recent days," the carrier said.

Lammy to visit China in bid to reset London-Beijing ties

AFP
Beijing

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy will visit China this week, Beijing and Downing Street said yesterday, marking the first by a senior UK official since the election of Prime Minister Keir Starmer in July.

China and Britain are seeking to reset ties frayed in recent years by Beijing's security crackdown in Hong Kong and human rights concerns including in its troubled Xinjiang region.

Beijing's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said that

Lammy "will pay an official visit to China from October 18 to 19".

Confirming the visit, a Downing Street spokesperson said Lammy will "challenge" China and seek "necessary pragmatic engagement".

The two sides would "have in-depth exchanges on implementing the consensus reached by their leaders" during an August phone call, Mao said at a regular press briefing in Beijing.

"China and the UK are both permanent members of the UN Security Council and major world economies," Mao said.

"The long-term stable development of bilateral relations accords

with the common interests of both countries," she added.

Beijing hoped to "boost strategic mutual trust and strengthen dialogue and co-operation in all fields", Mao told reporters.

"China is willing to work with the UK to uphold our position as partners, maintain openness and cooperation... and push for the sound and steady development of China-UK relations," she said.

"We will challenge China where we need to and we will seek to have a consistent and long-term, strategic approach to managing the UK's position (on) China," said the Downing Street spokesperson.

In 2015, Britain's then-prime

minister David Cameron hailed a "Golden Age" of ties between London and Beijing, but relations have deteriorated significantly in recent years. The UK has criticised Beijing's imposition of sweeping national security legislation in Hong Kong in 2020 following months of pro-democracy protests in the former British colony.

London views the move as eroding the city's rights and freedoms, but Beijing counters that it has restored peace and prosperity to the financial hub after its stability was undermined.

Ahead of the trip, Starmer called for the jailed tycoon Jimmy Lai to be freed from prison in Hong Kong,

where the pro-democracy campaigner faces trial.

Last week, Lai's legal team told reporters in London that they hoped Lammy would put the case "front and centre" during his visit.

A litany of other concerns have also hampered bilateral ties.

The two countries have argued over China's treatment of minorities in Xinjiang - where Beijing is accused of detaining around 1mn Uyghur Muslims - and over human rights in Tibet.

There have also been longstanding claims from London about Chinese espionage, including cyberattacks and political interference. Starmer hit out this week

after China held military drills around Taiwan.

The manoeuvres were "not conducive to peace and stability" in the Taiwan Strait, Starmer said.

He also called on Beijing to lift sanctions imposed on a string of UK lawmakers.

China and the UK have also accused each other of espionage, and Beijing has complained that London is following Washington's hostile line toward Beijing.

Lammy's Conservative party predecessor in the post, James Cleverly, visited China in August 2023 and held meetings with top officials where he said he raised human rights issues.

Kenya deputy president sacked while in hospital

AFP/Reuters
Nairobi

The Kenyan Senate voted yesterday to oust Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in a historic impeachment vote.

The upper house has so far voted to impeach the 59-year-old on five charges out of a total of 11 against him, after two days of hearings.

The Senate only had to find him guilty of one charge to remove him from office.

He is the first deputy president to be ousted in this manner since impeachment was introduced in Kenya's revised 2010 constitution.

A similar motion against President William Ruto's number two was overwhelmingly approved by the lower house National Assembly last week.

The Senate session had plunged into disarray earlier yesterday after Gachagua was admitted to hospital with severe chest pains and failed to testify in his defence.

The 11 charges – which Gachagua had vigorously denied – included corruption, insubordination, money-laundering, undermining the government, practising ethnically divisive politics, bullying public officers and threatening a judge.

After Gachagua failed to appear, his lawyer Paul Muite said that the deputy president had

been hospitalised, urging the Senate to pause proceedings for a couple of days.

"The sad reality is that the deputy president of the republic of Kenya has been taken sick, very sick," Muite said.

Speaker Amason Kingi put forward a motion to adjourn the hearing until Saturday, but senators voted against the move.

"The nays have it," Kingi said, as Gachagua's legal team left the chambers in protest.

Ruto, who has fallen out with Gachagua in recent months, has not commented on proceedings, but could face a public backlash if his deputy is ousted, political analysts said.

Many Kenyans view the impeachment process as politically motivated, and a distraction from the aftermath of the deadly anti-tax protests in June and July that exposed deep discontent with government policies and alleged corruption.

The hearings, which have involved in-depth scrutiny of Gachagua's finances, could boomerang back at Ruto, said Karuti Kanyinga, a professor at the University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies.

"We are going to hear people demanding that the same thing that has been done on Gachagua be done to the president," Kanyinga said.

Gachagua has previously called the impeachment process a political lynching based on falsehoods.

Ukraine leader seeks EU, Nato backing for his 'victory plan'

AFP
Brussels

President Volodymyr Zelensky told allies yesterday that Ukraine must be in a position of strength before any peace talks with Russia, as he presented his "victory plan" to EU leaders and Nato defence chiefs in Brussels.

More than two and a half years into the war, Kyiv is slowly but steadily losing territory in its eastern Donbas region and under mounting pressure to forge an exit strategy – which it says must start with ramped-up Western support.

"Ukraine is ready for real diplomacy, but for it, we must be strong," Zelensky said as he met with the EU's 27 leaders.

"Russia will resort to diplomacy only when it sees that it cannot achieve anything by force," he added. "This is the plan. This is exactly what's needed, and we must create the right conditions to end this war."

The Ukrainian leader has travelled to Washington, Paris, Berlin, Rome and London to promote his initiative, but it has yet to gain backing from Western capitals – and his plea for an

immediate invitation to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) is widely viewed as unrealistic.

Zelensky said after his EU talks that a large number of member states had voiced their "full support" for Kyiv.

The bloc's leaders in their summit conclusions reiterated their "unwavering commitment" to support Ukraine militarily and economically for "as long as it takes" – but without referring specifically to his plan.

The EU recently approved loaning Ukraine up to €35bn (\$38bn) backed by frozen Russian assets – part of a bigger \$50bn initiative agreed by G7 powers in June.

Zelensky later joined defence ministers at the first of two days of talks between Nato's 32 member states, addressing a joint press conference with alliance chief Mark Rutte.

Nato countries have declared Ukraine to be on an "irreversible path" to membership.

However, the United States and Germany have led opposition to immediate entry, believing it would effectively put the alliance at war with nuclear-armed Russia.

The secretary-general stuck to the Nato line, saying: "I look forward to the day that Ukraine

is here as a member of this alliance, and until then, we will continue to do all that we can to assure Ukraine prevails."

He did not refer directly to Zelensky's proposal, which also rejects any territorial concessions, calls for Western allies to lift restrictions on using donated long-range weapons to target Russian military sites and suggests deploying a "non-nuclear strategic deterrence package" on Ukrainian territory.

The US position on membership is unlikely to shift whether Donald Trump or Kamala Harris wins the White House in the US election on November 5 – though there are fears a second Trump term could upend the support Ukraine receives from Nato's biggest power.

Ukraine's allies are well aware however that time is of the essence.

On the eve of the Nato meeting, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called for exploring ways to end the war – potentially including talks with Putin.

However, according to an alliance diplomat, others still fear that anything short of an outright victory for Kyiv would spell disaster, ensuring that an emboldened Russia does not stop there.

France places six departments on red alert for floods

Six French departments were placed on red alert for flooding amid "exceptional rain" that the French weather agency said was as much as 630mm (24.8") in 48 hours in one area.

Departments in France are administrative regions similar to British or American counties.

The areas covered by the red alert include Lyon, the third-largest city in the country, as well as Cannes, famed for its film festival.

Authorities said they had closed roads, evacuated neighbourhoods and asked residents to avoid placing themselves in danger by taking photos and videos.

The flooding in the southern part of France comes about a week after remnants of Hurricane Kirk churned across western Europe and nearly one month after Cannes was struck by flash flooding. – Reuters

One Direction's Liam Payne falls to his death at hotel in Argentina

Former One Direction singer Liam Payne was found dead outside a hotel in Buenos Aires after falling from his third-floor room balcony, Argentine police confirmed on Wednesday.

In a statement, the capital police said they were called to the hotel in the capital's leafy Palermo neighbourhood where they were notified of an "aggressive man who could be under the effects of drugs and alcohol".

The hotel manager said he heard a loud noise at the back of the hotel, and when police arrived they found that a man had fallen over the balcony in his room, the statement said.

Emergency workers confirmed the death of the 31-year-old British singer, who was reportedly found in the hotel's interior patio.

"We're deeply saddened to learn of Liam Payne's tragic passing today. During this difficult time, our hearts remain with his family, loved ones, and fans," MTV said on X.

Neither Payne's record label Republic Records, nor its owner Universal Music Group, could immediately be reached for comment.

Payne rose to global fame as part of the since-disbanded pop band One Direction, alongside Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson.

The boy band got its start after finishing third on the British version of the *X Factor* music competition show in 2010, but the group broke up in 2016 as its members pursued different projects including solo careers.

One Direction was ranked the third greatest boy band of all time by *Entertainment Weekly* this year. According to Celebrity Net Worth, Payne's One Direction and solo career helped garner a net worth of some \$70mn.

Payne had a son named Bear with British TV personality and Girls Aloud singer Cheryl in 2017.

Payne had earlier this month attended the concert of his former bandmate Niall Horan in Buenos Aires.

The musician has been open in the media about struggling with addiction and spending time in a rehabilitation facility. – Reuters

Early voting begins in storm-ravaged North Carolina

Reuters
Washington

Polls opened for early voting yesterday in North Carolina – a critical battleground in the November 5 US presidential election – just weeks after Hurricane Helene left some residents still without power, running water or phone service.

North Carolina could be crucial in determining a winner in the race between US Vice-President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, and former Republican president Donald Trump because its voting preferences could swing either way.

Polls show a very tight race with a handful of swing states likely to determine the winner.

Hurricane Helene, which killed more than 200 people across six states and caused billions of dollars in damage, has sparked ques-

tions on how it might impact voter turnout.

Harvey Neal, a 71-year-old retiree, voted at the lone early voting site in Hendersonville, North Carolina, as a steady stream of voters filed in and out of the centre yesterday morning.

Neal cast his vote for Harris. "She's young, she's a Democrat," he said. "And, you know, what's the alternative?"

Neal considers himself relatively fortunate following the hurricane as nothing hit his house, though he had been without power for four or five days.

Trump and Harris are in a dead heat in North Carolina, with Trump showing 48% support in state polls, versus 47.5% for Harris, according to poll aggregator FiveThirtyEight.

Some of the state's hardest hit counties lean both Republican and Democratic.

For instance, Buncombe Coun-



Local residents line up to enter a polling site on the first day of early in-person voting in a region still severely impacted by the storm, in Asheville, North Carolina. – Reuters

ty – home to the city of Asheville – supported President Joe Biden in the 2020 election versus Trump, while neighbouring Yancey County favoured Trump.

North Carolina's state elections board has spent weeks assessing

storm damage to polling locations.

Yesterday 76 early voting sites were set to open to voters in the 25 western North Carolina counties listed in the federal disaster declaration.

UN envoy proposes Western Sahara partition plan

Reuters
New York

The UN envoy for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, has floated the idea of dividing the territory between Morocco and the Polisario front as a solution to the near five-decades-old dispute, according to remarks seen by Reuters.

The long-frozen conflict, dating back to 1975, pits Morocco, which considers Western Sahara its own territory, against the Algeria-backed Polisario Front independence movement, which seeks a separate state there.

Morocco says that autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty is the most it can offer as a political solution to the conflict, while the armed Polisario Front insists on the holding of a referendum with independence as an option.

In a briefing to the Security Council be-

hind closed doors on Wednesday, de Mistura, a veteran Italian diplomat, said that partition "could allow for the creation on the one hand of an independent state in the southern part, and on the other hand the integration of the rest of the Territory as part of Morocco, with its sovereignty over it internationally recognised".

Neither Morocco nor the Polisario Front accepted the proposal, De Mistura said.

The UN Secretary-General should reconsider the usefulness of his role as an envoy if no progress was made in six months, de Mistura said.

The UN Security Council has been calling in its resolutions on the parties to work together towards a mutually acceptable political solution to the conflict, while describing Morocco's autonomy plan as "serious and credible".

As Morocco's autonomy plan gains traction at the bilateral level, de Mistura on

Wednesday urged Rabat to "explain and expand" its proposal.

In July, France became the second permanent Security Council member after the US to back Morocco's sovereignty over the territory.

Algeria reacted to the French position by recalling its ambassador to Paris.

Western Sahara has been at the heart of disagreements between Morocco and Algeria.

Spain, the former colonial power in Western Sahara, said in 2022 that it backs Morocco's autonomy plan.

Arab monarchies and Israel also back Morocco's sovereignty over the territory, where 29 mostly African and Arab countries have opened consulates in what Rabat sees as tangible support.

The Polisario in 2020 withdrew from a UN-brokered truce. However, the conflict remains of low-intensity.

Panel urges Secret Service shake-up after Trump assassination bid

AFP
Washington

An independent panel has called for a sweeping shake-up of the US Secret Service following its "historic" failure to prevent the July assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump.

"The Secret Service has become bureaucratic, complacent, and static," the four members of the bipartisan review panel said in a letter addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas that

accompanied their 52-page report.

"The Secret Service as an agency requires fundamental reform to carry out its mission," they said, and without reforms another assassination attempt such as the one that took place in Butler, Pennsylvania "can and will happen again".

Trump was grazed on his right ear when a 20-year-old gunman opened fire from a nearby rooftop while the Republican presidential candidate was holding a campaign rally in Butler on July 13.

One person in the audience was killed and the gunman, Thomas Crooks, was shot

dead by a Secret Service sniper.

Much of the report was devoted to identifying the specific security failures that allowed the assassination attempt at the Butler rally, many of which have already been acknowledged by the Secret Service.

"July 13 represents a historic security failure by the Secret Service," the report said, and showed a "troubling lack of critical thinking" by Secret Service personnel involved in security planning and execution.

"Many of the Secret Service personnel involved in the events of July 13 appear to

have done little in the way of self-reflection in terms of identifying areas of missteps, omissions, or opportunities for improvement," it added.

The review panel said a new leadership team with "significant experience outside the Secret Service" was needed in the wake of the assassination attempt.

It recommended that the Secret Service abandon its responsibility for investigating financial crimes and re-focus solely on its core mission of providing protection to high-profile current and former government officials.

Canada court of appeal orders new hearing in youth-led climate suit

The court of appeal in Canada's most populous province has ordered a new hearing in a youth-led lawsuit claiming Ontario's climate plan violates young people's rights.

The ruling – which refuted the lower court's finding that the case is not governed by Canada's Charter – sends the case back to a lower court for another hearing meant to

determine whether Ontario's climate target violates their rights and whether to order the province to devise a new target.

The lawsuit, launched against Ontario by seven people now aged 17-29, is the first Canadian human rights-based climate lawsuit to be heard on its merits.

It argued the province's greenhouse gas emissions target

is inadequate and violates the young people's right to life, liberty and security, along with their right to equality.

The case hinged on government obligations to younger generations as the planet warms, whether Canada's constitution recognises such obligations and whether emissions targets have enough practical impact to affect individuals.

– Reuters



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GULF TIMES

Investments in nature will decide world's future

It is easy to think of humans as existing separately from nature. But the greatest threats to humanity come from crises affecting nature, not least climate change, biodiversity loss, and rampant pollution. The world cannot address any of these issues until nature is stopped being taken for granted and more investments are made to protect it.

"Nature-positive" investments in marine conservation, sustainable land management, water security, and afforestation could deliver around 30% of the emissions abatement needed to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius – the target enshrined in the Paris climate agreement. Moreover, such investments not only improve global resilience to climate change; these would also help to prevent future pandemics.

Ahead of the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia, this month, the world needs to remember that the crises affecting nature also pose structural risks to the global economy, collective well-being and prosperity, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Fully 55% of global GDP is highly or moderately dependent on nature.

In Cali, delegates from nearly 200 countries will discuss how to accelerate action to protect 30% of the planet's land and maritime areas, reduce pollution, and restore degraded ecosystems by 2030.

One of the key obstacles to meeting these ambitious targets is financing. Not only do nations currently invest far too much in activities that harm nature and make the problems worse; only one-third of what is needed is invested to meet the 2030 targets for climate, biodiversity, and land degradation.

The world needs to remember that the crises affecting nature also pose structural risks to the global economy, collective well-being and prosperity, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

To scale up nature-positive investment, the world needs to do four things. First, more effective public-private partnerships between countries and public development banks need to be built, as well as with nature organisations, companies, and private-sector financial institutions.

This would help de-risk investments, prepare projects, and deliver impact at scale for climate, nature, and inclusive economic development.

Second, there is a need to revive and mainstream regenerative practices and stewardship of biodiversity, particularly in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors.

Third, there must be common principles, standards, and disclosure mechanisms to track nature-positive finance and its impact, and to disclose more information on the nature-related footprints, dependencies, and risk exposure of companies and financial institutions.

Finally, to take nature into consideration in all policies and investment decisions, the flow of financing to activities that are harmful to nature must be decreased.

Multilateral development banks will play a key role in scaling up green investments. Institutions like the European Investment Bank are already stepping up support for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of nature with the launch of common principles for tracking nature-positive finance. Such information is essential for measuring and incorporating nature into multilateral lenders' operations, as well as informing other investors about what constitutes a nature-positive investment. Partnerships and joint efforts to put these principles into practice are ongoing.

Nations urgently needs to reduce the flow of finance to activities that harm nature.

Doing so is central to overcoming the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. – Project Syndicate

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claims victory



never ends

China's pension crisis is here

By Yi Fuxian
Madison

On September 13, the Chinese government approved plans to raise the mandatory retirement age from 60 to 63 for men, 55 to 58 for white-collar women, and from 50 to 55 for blue-collar women.

These changes, which will be phased in over the next 15 years, aim to mitigate the effects of China's rapidly ageing population and shrinking pension budget. But after two decades of inaction, this long-overdue reform falls far short of what the country needs, merely kicking a political time bomb down the road for future generations to defuse.

China's retirement ages, among the world's lowest, were set in 1955, when the country's median age was 21 and just 7% of its population was older than 60, and they remained in place even after China introduced its one-child policy in 1980. The government's promise to take care of the elderly lulled people into complacency.

For a quarter-century, alarm about China's looming ageing crisis has been sounded. Yet despite China's profound demographic shifts, the country's leaders have been reluctant to raise the retirement age.

Chinese policymakers continue to be more concerned about overpopulation than about ageing. In 2012, government demographers warned that allowing all couples to have two children could push the fertility rate above 4.4 births per woman.

When China finally implemented a universal two-child policy in 2016, official projections suggested that the fertility rate would peak at 2.09

in 2018, then decline to 1.75 by 2023 and 1.72 by 2050. Despite these trends, China introduced a three-child policy in 2021, driven by fears that abolishing population controls altogether could trigger a baby boom reminiscent of the 1950s.

Moreover, Chinese leaders worried that raising the retirement age would fuel unemployment. More recently, the Communist Party of China wanted to minimise the risk of unrest ahead of its 20th National Congress in 2022, and pension reforms are often politically charged. For example, the United Kingdom's 2011 decision to raise the retirement age for women from 60 to 65 triggered strikes by nearly 2mn public-sector workers.

But even according to the government's exaggerated figures, China's fertility rate was just 1.5 births per woman in 2018, far below official projections. In 2023, it dropped to 1.0, with some provinces reporting rates as low as 0.6, in stark contrast to the official forecast of 1.75.

Meanwhile, China's life expectancy rose from 47 in 1955 to 79 in 2022 (compared to 77 in the US).

The number of Chinese citizens aged 60 or older has grown from 72mn in 1980 to 282mn today, accounting for 21% of the total population. This number is expected to reach 358mn by 2030 and 475mn – or 47% of the total population – by 2050.

Consequently, China's pension spending surged from just 1.5% of household disposable income in 1990 to 12% in 2022. Today, nearly one-third of China's provinces are grappling with pension deficits. In Heilongjiang, which has the country's lowest fertility rate and oldest population, pension expenditures account for 29% of household disposable income,

forcing local authorities to rely on transfers from the central government to cover up to 43% of their pension costs. Given that the national pension fund is expected to run out of money by 2035, the fiscal outlook appears increasingly grim.

China's pension system is also deeply inequitable. In 2022, 21mn of the country's 301mn retirees were government employees, 115mn were enterprise workers, and 165mn were primarily rural elderly people, each of whom received an average monthly pension of \$907 (CNY6,100), \$468, and \$30, respectively. With their only child unable to support them, many rural elderly will depend on government assistance.

China's failure to confront its demographic crisis stands in stark contrast to other countries that have taken meaningful steps to address similar challenges. Despite widespread protests, the UK raised the state-pension age to 66 and plans to increase it to 68 by 2044, with some experts predicting it could eventually rise to 71. In the US, the retirement age is already set at 67 for those born after 1960.

Fortunately, alarming demographic trends have finally prompted Chinese leaders to shift their focus from overpopulation to the aging crisis. But they still seem to downplay its severity, as official population figures – and even UN projections – remain grossly exaggerated.

Estimates suggest that China will struggle to stabilise its fertility rate at 0.8. As the workforce ages and shrinks, economic growth will slow and reduce government revenues, while the growing elderly population will drive up pension costs.

With too few workers to support the system, no amount

of political manoeuvring or creative accounting can avert the impending pension crisis.

In 1980, China had 11 workers aged 20–64 for each person aged 65 or older. That ratio has since dropped to 4.3 and is projected to fall to 2.0 by 2040 and 1.5 by 2050. By comparison, the US ratio declined from 5.2 in 1980 to 3.2 today and is expected to reach 2.6 by 2040 and 2.4 by 2050.

In the UK, the dependency ratio has fallen from 3.7 to 2.9 since 1980 and is projected to decrease to 2.4 in 2040 and 2.2 in 2050. Given its demographic challenges, China will need to keep raising its retirement age, potentially triggering civil unrest and political instability.

Women disproportionately bear the costs of low fertility rates and ageing populations because they outlive men yet face more health problems.

With pensions too small to cover their basic needs, many elderly women are forced to keep working well past retirement age. This is evident in Japan, where the employment rate for women aged 60–64, 65–69, and 70–74 has increased from 38%, 23%, and 14% in 2003 to 64%, 43%, and 26% in 2023, respectively.

And it is especially true in China, where the disastrous one-child policy not only deprived women of the right to have more children but also condemned many to poverty and precarity in old age.

– Project Syndicate

• Yi Fuxian, a senior scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, spear-headed the movement against China's one-child policy and is the author of Big Country with an Empty Nest (China Development Press, 2013), which went from being banned in China to ranking first in China Publishing Today's 100 Best Books of 2013 in China.



An employee works a textile factory that produces silk products in Fuyang, in eastern China's Anhui province. The Chinese government has approved plans to raise the mandatory retirement age from 60 to 63 for men, 55 to 58 for white-collar women, and from 50 to 55 for blue-collar women.

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Slaughtering the Halal way

Halal or Haram?

Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent Prophet Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, with a message detailing specific principles, ways and procedures for his followers to live by with regard to eating and food. Allah wanted His servants to enjoy life and eat all that is lawful (Halal) and good, to nurture their bodies and enjoy good health both physically and spiritually.

The Qur'an says: "Say: Who has forbidden the beautiful (gifts) of Allah, which He has produced for His servants, and the things, pure and clean (*at-Tayyibaat*) (which He has provided) for sustenance? ..." (*Surah Al-Araf* 7:32)

On the other hand, the Qur'an forbids Muslims from eating unlawful (Haram) and bad foods to protect them from physical and spiritual harm. The Qur'an describes the

Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, as one who "... allows them as lawful good things (*at-Tayyibaat*) and prohibits as unlawful bad and evil things (*al-Khabaa'ith*)..." (*Surah Al-Araf* 7:157)

General Rulings on Halal Slaughtering

All scholars are in agreement that a slaughtered animal can be Halal (lawful) with respect to both the use of its meat for food, and the use of its by-products, if it meets the following three conditions:

1. It is not one of the animals or meats that are Haram (unlawful) for the Muslim to consume.
2. No name other than that of Allah is invoked or mentioned over it at the time of slaughtering.
3. The slaughtering has met specific Islamic requirements.

The *Shar'ee* term of Halal slaughtering is *Dhakat*. *Dhakat* in Arabic comes from the root idea of making something become good in smell and taste, and making it complete. *Dhakat* thus means: "to slaughter an animal in such a way as to make to smell and taste good, because slaughtering releases the blood, enabling the meat to dry faster." (Al Qur-tubi V6/P52). As an Islamic technical term, it means releasing the blood of animals by means of a sharp object from a specific place in a specific manner, doing it for the sake of Allah Alone, and mentioning His Name over the animal.

Scholars have agreed that the best and most complete way to slaughter is to cut the windpipe (trachea), the gullet (esophagus) and the two jugular veins in the neck. Slaughtering must be performed on the front of the neck without cutting the spinal cord. Scholars, however, have differed regarding what constitutes the minimum amount of cutting, and the exact point on the neck where it should take place.

Those who understood the Prophet's *Ahadith* to mean "kill" the animal think that cutting the throat and the windpipe is good enough to achieve the killing; and those who understood them to mean "release the blood" insisted that in addition to that, the jugular veins, or at least one of them, must also be cut. The important point is that some scholars recommended that slaughtering performed from the back of the neck be avoided, because

that results in cutting the spinal cord, and thereby killing the animal, before the actual slaughtering.

The actual slaughtering tool

The basic tool to be used in slaughtering is, of course, a knife. Any sharp edge, however, can be used except teeth, nails, or bone. Examples of materials giving a sharp edge are: steel, iron, copper, gold, glass, stone, and wood, if it is sharp enough. Kaab ibn Malik, *radhiallaahu 'anh*, reported that: "They had sheep that were shepherded by a young woman who noticed at one point that a lamb was dying. When she told me, I broke a stone and slaughtered it, but I told them not to eat of it until I asked the Prophet, who told them to eat it." (The full version is narrated by al-Bukhari).

And in the *Hadith* reported by Rafa ibn Khadeej, *radhiallaahu 'anh*, the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, told the Companions to use "anything that releases the blood, and mention the Name of Allah over it, but do not use a tooth or a nail, for a tooth is bone, and nails are the knives of the Ethiopians." (Reported by al-Bukhari, Muslim and others). It is said that Ethiopians at that time used to kill their animals in that fashion to show their courage and strength.

In a lengthy discussion of all possible objects for slaughter, Ibn Rushd said: "It does not make sense to differentiate between teeth and bones for he (the Prophet) explained that a tooth is not a good tool



by the fact that it is made of bone. And it is well agreed upon in our *Madh-hab* that anything other than iron is disliked (that is, when iron objects are available) because the Prophet *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* has said: 'If you slaughter, then slaughter in the best way. One should sharpen his edge and comfort gently his animal.'" (*Bida'iatul Mujtahid* VII/p433)

Who should slaughter?

Scholars agree that the person conducting the slaughtering can be a Muslim or one of the People of the Book. If the person has not reached puberty yet, or is drunk or insane, scholars have differing opinions. The Shaafi'ee School says that their *Dhabeedah* is Halal, while the Hanbali School says it is not. The Hanafi School says that the *Dhabeedah* is Halal if they are aware of what they are doing. The Malikites say the boy's *Dhabeedah* is Halal, but not the drunks or the insane person's because (under the circumstances) they cannot reason. The main issue behind these differences is that of *Niyah* (intention). Those who consider it to be a requirement, do not accept their *Dhabeedah* as Halal, and vice versa. All scholars agree that the *Dhabeedah* of the *Murtaadd* (one who has chosen to give up Islam) is not considered Halal.

Invocation of Allah's name over the animal

Scholars agree regarding the legitimacy (*Mashru'yah*) of invoking the Name of Allah over the *Dhabeedah*, but they dif-

fer on whether it is obligatory (*Waajib*) or recommended (*Mustahabb*). In other words, is it considered a requirement, in order for the *Dhabeedah* to be Halal, or not? Three major opinions of scholars have been mentioned by Ibn Katheer in his *Tafseer* (V2/P169) in explaining *Ayah* 121 of *Surah al-An'aam*. The *Ayah* says: "Eat not of (meats) on which Allah's name has not been pronounced: That would be impiety. But the evil ones ever inspire their friends to contend with you. If you were to obey them, you would indeed be Pagans." The following is a brief summary of these opinions:

First: That the invocation is a condition for lawfulness. This opinion is held by the majority of scholars, including Abu Hanifah, Malik, Ahmad, Thawree, Ibn Abbas and many others. They say that in the above *Ayah*:

1. The order not to eat implies an absolute prohibition because nothing in the *Ayah* or elsewhere negates it or says otherwise.
2. The absence of the invocation is considered to be *Fisq* (impiety) or disobedience. That classification is given only to actions that are considered to be Haram.
3. The prohibition is a general one and should not be construed to only mean dead animals killed by *Mushriks*, as some scholars have claimed. The reasoning behind this is that nothing in the *Ayah* indicates such a restriction or specification, and the fact that prohibition of dead animals and

animals killed by *Mushriks* has been clearly and specifically mentioned elsewhere in the Qur'an more than once.

These scholars also used the following *Hadith* to support their opinion: Aadee ibn Hatem, *radhiallaahu 'anh*, said: "I said: 'O Prophet of Allah, I send my [hunting] dog and mention the Name of Allah.' The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, told me: 'If you send your dog mentioning the Name of Allah and he killed, you eat; but if he eats from it, do not eat. He has caught it for himself.' I said: 'I send my dog, and then I find another dog with him, and I do not know which one caught for me.' The Prophet said: 'Do not eat, because you only invoked the Name on your dog, and not on the other.'" (Reported by al-Bukhari and Muslim, among other similar *Ahadith*).

If the invocation is dropped deliberately, the *Dhabeedah* is considered to be "dead," and it is Haram to eat. But if one forgot to mention it, then his slaughter is lawful and the *Dhabeedah* is Halal.

Second: That invocation is not a requirement, and that if one has not made it (on purpose or just forgot to do so), the slaughter would be lawful, and the *Dhabeedah* Halal. This is basically the Shafi'ee School's opinion, but is also one of the opinions reported on behalf of Malik and Ahmad.

Third: That it is a condition for the lawfulness of the *Dhabeedah*, and that if the Muslim does not invoke the Name of Allah, his *Dhabeedah* is not Halal. This opinion does not differentiate between those who forget to make the invocation from those who deliberately omit it: the *Dhabeedah* in either case is not Halal. This opinion was adopted by Abdullah ibn Umar, Dawood Ad-dhahiri and Ibn Sereen.

Forgetfulness, however, is a valid excuse for not applying or associating consequences of actions to the doer. Rulings and conditions cannot be applied to the person who did or did not do something because of forgetting. The same concept also applies to cases in which the person is under duress or has done something wrong by mistake.

In conclusion, the correct ruling regarding the requirement of invoking the Name of Allah over slaughtered animals is that the invocation is obligatory (*Waajib*) for the slaughter to be Halal, and that if one deliberately omits it, his *Dhabeedah* is Haram to eat. All this relates to cases in which the person performing the slaughtering is a Muslim.

(These articles are taken from *Al Jum'ah Magazine*, Vol 9 Issue 2, Safar 1418H)

Types of Haram meats and animals

The first thing Muslims are supposed to know about food is what types of animals and meats are Haram for consumption. Some Haram items are mentioned in the Qur'an, and some in the authentic *Sunnah* of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*.

The Qur'an says: "Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which has been invoked the name of other than Allah; that which has been killed by strangling, or by a violent blow, or by a headlong fall, or by being gored to death; that which has been (partly) eaten by a wild animal; unless you are able to slaughter it (in due form); and that which is sacrificed on stone (altars); (forbidden) also is the division (of meat) by raffling with arrows: that is impiety. This day those who reject Faith have given up all hope of your religion: so fear them not, but fear Me. This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. But if any is forced by hunger, with no inclination to transgression, Allah is indeed Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful." (*Surah al-Ma'idah* 5:3)

This *Ayah* is a further explanation of a previous *Ayah* in the same *Surah*, which says: "Lawful unto you (for food) are all four-footed animals, with the exceptions named: But game animals are forbidden while you are in the Sacred Precincts or in pilgrim garb: for Allah does command according to His Will and Plan." (*Surah al-Ma'idah* 5:1) It is cited here with reference to a main issue in *Usoolul Fiqh*, namely, "The default nature of things: Halal or Haram," a topic that Muslims should be aware of, since it is the foundation for a good understanding of all the rulings relating to food and eating.

1. Dead meat
Dead animals here denotes those which die without man's involvement by slaughtering. Any part cut from a live animal is also considered dead and is not permissible to eat. One exception to this is seafood. Even though we consider sea creatures dead once they are out of the water, the Qur'an clearly states that seafood is Halal: "Lawful to you is the pursuit of water-game and its use for food - for the benefit of yourselves and those who travel." (*Surah al-Ma'idah* 5:96)

There is evidence for this exemption also in a *Hadith* narrated by Jaber, *radhiallaahu 'anh*, in which he told of a whale they found dead on a beach during one of their expeditions. The *Hadith* indicated that they ate from it and brought some back with them for the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, to taste.

2. Blood
The blood meant here is the *Masfooh*, or that which flows out of the animal when it is slaughtered or wounded. It is considered to be *Najass* (impure and unclean), and is Haram to eat or use in any form. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has strict laws that require the blood of cows and sheep to be thoroughly drained after slaughter, before the meat can be sold to the public.

3. Pig meat
All scholars are in agreement that the meat, fat and every part of the pig are Haram for the Muslim to consume. It should be pointed out, however, that scholars have differed regarding the impurity of the pig, and thus, on the usability of their by-products (eg, skin and fat) in non-edible products such as soap. The discussion of this subject is beyond the scope of this article, and further information can be obtained by consulting scholars or any major *Fiqh* book.

4. Slaughtering in other than Allah's name

Animals over which names other than that of Allah were invoked at the time of slaughter. All scholars agree that if a Muslim invokes the name of other than Allah over a *Dhabeedah* then it is Haram to consume.

5. Suffocated or strangled animals
As a general rule, for the following five types, if the animal is reached before death, and is then slaughtered, then it is Halal to eat.

6. Animals killed by violent blows or severely beaten.
7. Animals that fall from heights and die. Whether to the ground or into water.
8. Animals killed by being gored. As well as being gutted.
9. Animals partly eaten by wild beasts.
10. Animals slaughtered on stone (altars)

In his famous book of *Tafseer*, Al Qurtubi said: "... this type is in the slaughtering to other than Allah category, but because many people would be practising this kind of slaughter, it was important to have it as a separate type." (V6/P57) This is very true, and even today, this type of slaughter is still being widely practised by non-Muslims and by a few ignorant Muslims.

The above are the major kinds of prohibited meat. Other types are also mentioned in the authentic *Sunnah* of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*. Today in the West, where all kinds of animals are being consumed and where many people practise animal slaughtering in different ways and for different purposes, it is highly recommended that Muslims learn the Islamic *Ahkaam* (rulings) regarding foods and meat in as much detail as possible.

Slaughtering by the People of the Book

The basic rule regarding the food and meat of the People of the Book is that it is Halal. A Muslim can eat their food and marry their women, as stated in the following *Ayah*: "This day are (all) *Tayyibat* (good and pure things) made lawful unto you. The food the People of the Book is lawful unto you and yours is lawful unto them. (Lawful unto you in marriage) are (not only) chaste women who are believers but chaste women among the People of the Book when you give them their due dowers and desire chastity not lewdness nor secret intrigues. If any one rejects faith, fruitless is his work, and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost (all spiritual good)." (*Surah Al-Ma'idah* 5:5)

People of the Book specifically means Christians and Jews. Scholars have discussed in great detail exactly what is meant by the expression "People of the Book" and whether or not that meaning would change with time. The majority of scholars say that the meaning of People of the Book has not changed and should not change with time, even if the Christians and Jews deviate more in their path from the True Path and regardless of how much they practise of their religion.

The reasons for this understanding are very simple. First, all or most of these deviations existed even before the revelation of the Qur'an to our Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, yet Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala* called them the People of the Book. Second, Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala* did not mention it in the Qur'an - and He surely knows that they are going to change. We should not, therefore, pay attention to these changes, and should treat them, in every way in which we deal with them, as who they are - the People of the Book.

Rasheed Ridhaa, a respected scholar who lived at the turn of the century, said in his book of *Tafseer*: "Allah prohibited us from marrying *Mushrik* women, yet He *subhanahu wa ta'ala* also permitted us - in a clear and direct manner in the same *Ayah* - to marry the women of the People of the Book. Since marriage is more important than eating, we should not, therefore, put any restriction on the rulings derived from the *Ayah* regarding their food or who they are." (*Tafseer al-Manar*, VI/p353).

It should be pointed out that the *Dhabeedah* of the People of the Book is Halal regardless of whether their country is considered to be part of the Daar-ul-

Harb (at war with Muslims) or Daar-us-Salaam (at peace with Muslims). Imam Nawawee has reported on the consensus of scholars on this matter (al Majmu'u'a, V9/P68).

Haram food is always haram
All scholars have understood food in the above *Ayah* to refer to meat or *Dhabeedah* of the People of the Book. One should now ask the question: Are all the types of food and meat used by them Halal for us? The answer to that can be summarised by stating that what our Deen has shown us to be Haram will always be Haram. Therefore, all the rulings discussed above apply to their *Dhabeedah* with one exception - the invocation of the Name of Allah over the slaughtered animal. The same conditions for the Halal requirement of *Dhabeedah*, are considered again, this time with the People of the Book in mind:

1. According to *Ayah* 5:5 mentioned Muslims can only eat good and pure meats. Therefore, the flesh of swine, blood, dead animals, etc are not permissible for the Muslim to eat - even items (eg pork) currently eaten by the People of the Book.
2. No names other than that of Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala* should be invoked over the animal. If such is done, the *Dhabeedah* becomes Haram according to Abu Hanifah, Shafiee and Ibn Hanbal. That is the ruling if we actually hear these names invoked at the time of slaughtering. If we do not actually hear them, scholars have said that the ruling is not to ask about it. This ruling is supported by the majority of scholars.
3. According to Abu Hanifah and Ibn Hanbal, the *Dhabeedah* of the People of the Book is not Halal unless they invoke the Name of Allah over it. According to Malik and Shafiee, however, invoking the Name of Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala* is not a requirement, and the *Dhabeedah* is Halal. This latter opinion is supported by the following:
 - The fact that the above *Ayah* declares their meat to be Halal without imposing any restrictions such as the invocation of the Name of Allah over the animal. Therefore, their meat is Halal for us as long as it does not belong to one or more of the 10 Haram categories discussed here (see box).
 - In a *Hadith* narrated by Aa'isha, *radhiallaahu 'anha*, she said: "Some people told the Prophet that some people brought

them meat and they did not know whether the Name of Allah had been spoken over it or not. The Prophet said: 'Speak the Name of Allah over it and eat.' (Reported by al-Bukhari and Abu Dawood). This *Hadith* shows that non-Muslims were not used to invoking the Name of Allah during the time of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, and that the invocation was required of Muslims because the Prophet had told them to invoke Allah's Name before eating. That can be interpreted to mean: because their meat is permitted for you, you can eat it, just by mentioning Allah's Name over it, and it does not really matter whether or not they had invoked Allah's Name over it because it is not required of them.

● Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala* has permitted us to marry women of the People of the Book, and it is well established that the husband cannot force his wife to be a Muslim or to practise Islamic worship. Similarly, we cannot ask the People of the Book to invoke Allah's Name over an animal they slaughter, because they are not required to do so.

● If one considers *Ayah* 7:121 of *Surah al-An'aam*: "Eat not of (meats) on which Allah's name has not been pronounced" together with the fact that the People of the Book do not invoke Allah's Name, one may get confused. But the paradox is answered by considering the following: The meat of the People of the Book is exempted from the restriction. The Qur'an prohibits Muslims from marrying *Mushrik* women but at the same time has exempted women of the People of the Book from the prohibition, as mentioned in the same *Ayah*. By analogy, a similar exemption applies to the case of their *Dhabeedah*.

Based on this discussion and other evidences, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. All meats prohibited in Islam are always prohibited, even if the People of the Book eat them.
2. If a Muslim hears a Christian or a Jew invoking the names of other than Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala*, he should not eat from that *Dhabeedah*. But if he does not hear them, he should not ask about it, either.
3. We cannot force the People of the Book to invoke Allah's Name when slaughtering. Hence, their *Dhabeedah* is Halal even without the invocation.
4. The slaughtering procedure used by the People of the Book should not kill the animal before slaughtering it.



'Hermès Heritage In Motion' exhibition opens at NMoQ

The "Hermès Heritage In Motion" exhibition will run until November 9 at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) in Doha, a statement said.

Building on the success of "Once Upon a Bag" in 2022 and "Harnessing the Roots" in 2023, both held at the NMoQ, the new exhibition is the third and final chapter in the "Hermès Heritage" exhibition series.

The "Hermès Heritage" cycle of touring exhibitions explores the history of the house founded in 1837 by Thierry Hermès with its iconic themes, colours and objects, following in the footsteps of the generations of creators and craftsmen, from its origins as a harness-maker and saddler to the present day.

The chapter "In Motion" showcases objects that carry within them the desire to take off, to go elsewhere and roam.

Hermès came into being at a historic time when modern life was gathering pace, where men and women wanted nothing more than to move with ease in a bustling and increasingly mobile world.

Whether at a trot or a gallop, on foot, on horseback, or by car, bicycle, skateboard, or aircraft, and regardless of the pace or means

of transport adopted by their users, Hermès creations advance in the same light, elegant and ingenious style.

The exhibition, the statement said, is testament to this, presenting objects from the Émile Hermès collection, the archives, the Hermès Conservatoire of Creations and contemporary pieces.

Within this vast corpus, of particular interest is the very first Hermès scarf, its design concentric circles of horse-drawn carriages inspired by the playing board of an eponymous game (the Jeu des omnibus et dames blanches), or the pair of Postillon's riding boots whose size and robustness are dreamily reminiscent of the marvellous seven-league boots, while the Flâneur d'Hermès bicycle displays its fluid lines with grace.

The Bolide picnic bag is itself inspired by the Sac pour l'Auto: created by the house in the 1920s, illustrating how Hermès objects also travel through the ages.

The exhibition gives pride of place to ingenious mechanisms: the Pippa writing desk is useful when opened, and once closed, it is put away and forgotten about; the cane picnic basket conceals, well hidden in its upper



part, a battery of cutlery, while the Inversables, two columns of glasses mounted on mobile rings, can be taken on board a yacht or an ocean liner without ever fearing the swell of the waves.

This touring exhibition thus charts its exciting course in five stages under the direction of Bruno Gaudichon, curator of the "La Piscine" Museum of Art and Industry in Roubaix, and exhibition designer Laurence Fontaine.

The chapter 'In Motion', showcases objects that carry within them the desire to take off, to go elsewhere and roam.



World Mental Health Day events held at Ras Laffan

In celebration of World Mental Health Day, the Ras Laffan Community Outreach Programme (COP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (MoI), organised a slew of awareness and educational activities, a statement said.

The activities at Al Khor Sports Club witnessed the participation of more than 870 workers representing 14 local compa-

nies in the north of Qatar.

The goal was to raise awareness about mental health guidelines for workers, the impact of mental health on their well-being and productivity in companies, and mental health awareness for road users, emphasising the role of awareness in ensuring individual and community safety.

The event featured sessions on "mental



health in daily life", "mental health exercises", and "health tips for workers".

There were also sessions on "the impact of drugs on mental health", presented by an official from the General Directorate of Drug Enforcement.

The session on "mental health for road users" was presented by a representative from the General Directorate of Traffic.

Sheikha Al Anoud al-Thani, head of Media Studies at the Public Relations Department at the MoI, emphasised the importance of these events, which she said align with the ministry's objectives to enhance effective communication between workers and the community and raise awareness among workers about mental health.

The official highlighted that mental

health is one of the key pillars of psychological and physical stability for workers.

Ras Laffan COP head Sheikha Dana al-Thani stressed the importance of the programme's continued support for cultural and community initiatives for all segments of society, including workers in local companies who are a fundamental part of the local community.

QF invites artists, creators to Al Ghorrah for Literature and Arts



Qatar Foundation (QF) is offering local talents, artists, and creators the opportunity to showcase their abilities on a regional stage at Al Ghorrah for Literature and Arts, taking place from November 28 to December 2 across Education City.

Al Ghorrah will act as a hub for cultural interactions, celebrating the heritage and arts of Arab Islamic civilisations, a statement said yesterday.

The deadline for submissions is November 5, and participation is free.

Interested applicants can visit <https://educationcity.qa/al-ghorrah/> call-to-artists for more information, and with details about what the event has to offer to the community to be unveiled soon.

"Al Ghorrah is a dynamic platform that celebrates the rich heritage of Arab-Islamic civilisations through diverse art forms and cultural expressions," said Hend M al-Thawadi, the engagement and activation lead at the QF. "Our mission is to not only promote this heritage regionally and globally, but to foster a deep sense of unity and belonging across diverse communities."

"As a space for meaningful cultural



exchange, Al Ghorrah supports grassroots artists by providing opportunities to showcase their talents in an environment that values and appreciates both the arts and literature," she said. "We are especially committed to nurturing this within schools in Qatar and across the region, ensuring the next generation is connected to their culture and literary heritage."

"Al Ghorrah is designed to be educational and entertaining, allowing people to explore history, reconnect with their roots, and enjoy a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere," al-

Thawadi continued. "We invite artists from various disciplines to share the beauty of expression through their chosen medium."

"With immersive experiences that engage the audience, we offer a unique space for artists and visitors to connect and participate," the official added.

Al Ghorrah will feature a diverse range of performances in both Arabic and English, either as solo acts or part of larger groups.

Submissions from artists and creators who would like to be part of Al Ghorrah should range from five min-

utes to an hour and can include theatrical performances - drama, comedy, stand-up, or improvisation - instrumental or vocal musical acts, poetry readings, puppetry, and magic shows, among other creative showcases.

As part of Al Ghorrah, the QF is also hosting a competition for local elementary and middle schools, inviting students to act out 15 to 25-minute-long performances.

Schools will audition in front of a panel of judges, with the top four selected to perform at Al Ghorrah, the statement added.

