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Qatar, Italy to bolster ties



Amir holds talks with Italian president, PM

QNA
Rome

Amir, PM witness exchange of MoUs

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held an official session of talks with President of the friendly Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, at the Quirinal Presidential Palace in the capital Rome yesterday.

At the beginning of the session, the president welcomed His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation, praising the friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries, and looking forward to working together with the Amir to push them to broader levels across various fields.

For his part, His Highness the Amir expressed his appreciation to the president for the warm reception, stressing that it is an opportunity to discuss with him issues of common interest, and ways to support and strengthen the strong relations between the two countries in various fields.

During the session, relations between the two friendly countries were discussed, as well as ways to support and develop them in various fields.

The two sides also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest, and the latest develop-

ments in the region, especially in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon.

The session was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE the Head of the State Security, Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani, and a number of senior officials and members of the delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

Made in Italy and between Qatar Tourism and Italy's Ministry of Tourism. They also attended a declaration of intent on cultural co-operation between Qatar Museums and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation. The Amir and the prime minister attended the exchange of MoU between Barzan Holdings and Fincantieri and MoU between Estithmar Holding and Sace. **Page 12**

On the Italian side, it was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Edmondo Cirielli, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic, Dr Ugo Zampetti and a number of senior officials.

His Highness the Amir and the Italian president held a bilateral meeting during which they discussed the overall co-operation relations between the two countries, in addition to discussing a number of issues of mutual interest.

His Highness the Amir was accorded an official reception ceremony earlier upon his arrival at the Quirinal Presidential Palace. **Page 12**



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Prime Minister of the friendly Italian Republic, Giorgia Meloni, held an official session of talks at Villa Doria Pamphili, in Rome, yesterday.

At the outset of the session, the Prime Minister of the Italy, welcomed His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation, hoping that the visit of the Amir would strengthen the relations between the two countries and promote them in wide-ranging fields.

For his part, His Highness the Amir thanked the prime minister for the warm reception, un-

derlining that he looks forward to enhancing the solid relationship between the two countries in a variety of fields for the good of the two friendly countries.

During the session, they discussed prospects of bilateral co-operation and avenues for bolstering them, especially in the areas of economy, investment, energy and defence, the foremost regional and global developments, particularly the situation in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon, in addition to stepping up efforts of de-escalation in the Middle East and reaching a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. **To Page 12**

Gaza hospitals under fire; 26 killed

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli forces besieged hospitals and shelters for displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday as they stepped up their operations, residents and medics said.

Troops rounded up men and ordered women to leave the Jabalia historic refugee camp, they said. An Israeli air strike on a house in Jabalia killed five people and wounded several others, medics said.

Palestinian health officials said at least 18 people had been killed in Jabalia and eight elsewhere in Gaza in Israeli strikes.

Israel's bombing and ground offensives in Gaza have killed 42,603 people, a majority civilians, according to data from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, figures



People who were injured during an Israeli operation in the Jabalia refugee camp arrive in an ambulance at Al-Ahli Arab hospital, yesterday.

the UN considers reliable.

The UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said Israeli authorities were preventing humanitarian missions from reaching areas in the north of the Palestin-

ian enclave with critical supplies, including medicine and food.

Medics at the Indonesian Hospital said that Israeli troops stormed a school and detained the men before setting it ablaze.

Israel army hits 300 Hezbollah targets

AFP
Jerusalem

The Israeli military yesterday said it struck about 300 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon over the past 24 hours, in a widening air campaign now also targeting the group's financial operations.

"Approximately 300 targets were hit in the last 24 hours alone," the military said in a statement, after military chief Herzl Halevi said around 30 targets related to Al-Qard al-Hassan, a financial firm linked to Iran-backed Hezbollah.

The United States said yesterday it wants the Israel-Hezbollah war to end "as soon as possible", and pressed for the enforcement of a UN resolution that required Iran-backed Hezbollah to with-



Smoke billows amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Tyre, southern Lebanon, yesterday.

draw from south Lebanon.

The call from Israel's top ally came as Israeli forces escalated their nearly month-long war in Lebanon, including targeting a finance group linked to Hezbollah, and continued pounding Gaza more than one year into the war there.

With the fighting raging, US envoy Amos Hochstein, visiting Lebanon's capital, said Washington wants to see the conflict in Lebanon end "as soon as possible".

"Tying Lebanon's future to other conflicts in the region was not and is not in the interest of the Lebanese people," Hochstein said.

Hochstein also said that while UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, should be the basis for a new ceasefire, the parties had not done enough to implement it since then.

Deputy Amir meets GCC heads of Supreme, Cassation Courts



His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at his Amiri Diwan office with the presidents of the Supreme and Cassation Courts in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, on the occasion of their visit to the country. The meeting discussed prospects for enhancing joint Gulf action in the legal and judicial fields, in addition to exchanging views on a number of related topics. (QNA)

Official

Qatar special envoy meets US delegation

HE Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab met yesterday with a delegation of senior officials from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives, currently visiting the country. The meeting dealt with a number of issues of joint interest, particularly enhancing peace and stability in Afghanistan. (QNA)

Meeting of GCC heads of Supreme, Cassation Courts convenes in Doha



preparing a Gulf ethical charter to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) in the Gulf judicial systems.

At the conclusion of the meeting, GCC heads of the supreme, and cassation courts endorsed the work programme in its final version, with administrative excellence awards being distributed to winners nominated by the six Gulf states. The heads of the participating delegations expressed their appreciation to the State of Qatar for successfully hosting this meeting, along with the unwavering efforts of the legislative and legal affairs sector at the GCC General Secretariat which were the significant contributor to the success of this meeting. (QNA)

Labour minister meets Palestinian diplomat



HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met yesterday with Palestinian ambassador to Qatar Fayeza Majed Abu al-Rab. The meeting discussed strengthening bilateral relations in labour fields, and ways to advance them. (QNA)

Qatar takes part in ICAO event

Qatar, represented by the Civil Aviation Authority, participated in the opening of the 16th ICAO Air Services Negotiation (ICAN2024), organised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The conference is being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from Oct 21-25, with the participation of numerous countries, international organisations, and aviation experts and specialists. The Qatari delegation at the conference is headed by acting president of the General Civil Aviation Authority Mohamed Faleh al-Hajr. The ICAN event is the largest international event of its kind for negotiations and discussions on air transport matters. It provides participants with an important opportunity to learn about current trends and issues in the aviation industry and to exchange expertise in the field. Additionally, the event offers opportunities to negotiate air services agreements on a bilateral or multilateral basis between participating country delegations, aimed at keeping pace with the rapid developments in the global air transport industry. (QNA)

Qatar hosted yesterday the 10th Periodic Meeting of GCC Heads of the Supreme and Cassation Courts.

In his inaugural speech, HE the President of the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) and President of the Court of Cassation Dr Hassan bin Lahdan al-Hassan al-Mohannadi welcomed those in attendance and lauded the numerous merits offered by the 10 sessions to boost judicial and legal co-operation

among GCC judicial bodies as a vast field to add the new dimension to the joint Gulf action.

HE Dr al-Mohannadi emphasised that such meetings are vital to enhance the exchange of expertise and advance judicial systems in alignment with legal developments and progressive challenges arising from technological advancements, as well as human behaviour and life patterns which are in a state of flux.

The meeting discussed a wide diversity of topics that aimed to boost judicial co-operation among GCC states, including the establishment of the online Gulf legal magazine, the project of creating an online Gulf book that lays out Gulf judicial regulation and principles and preparing an annual Gulf report that highlights judicial authorities positions, along with their projects in Arab and international meetings, in addition to

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MoPH, GA to launch Qatar Healthy Cities programme

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Generation Amazing Foundation (GA) to launch the joint programme, 'Qatar Healthy Cities: Sports for Health and Development'.

The MoU, signed by Dr Salih Ali al-Marri, assistant minister for health affairs, MoPH, and Nasser al-Khori, executive director, GA, highlights MoPH's commitment to addressing public health challenges such as non-communicable diseases, mental health, and social inclusion through sport.

The programme is also aligned with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to increase physical activity by 15% serving as a global benchmark for WHO Healthy Cities, with plans for expansion following the pilot phase.

MoPH and GA initiated training

at 11 schools in September 2024, targeting students aged 6-12. The programme aims to improve the overall well-being of students in Qatar and equip teachers with the necessary training and resources to deliver the Sports for Health and Development Programme, which focuses on three key learning outcomes: the acquisition of health knowledge, social and emotional skills development, and physical literacy.

HE the Minister of Public Health, said: "The 'Qatar Healthy Cities: Sports for Health and Development' programme represents a vital pillar in the Ministry's efforts to improve the health and well-being of our population. We are not only promoting health and well-being by harnessing the power of sports, but also establishing the foundation for its expansion across the nation.

"Our vision is to create dynamic, health-supporting urban environments that place the well-being of all citizens at the



forefront. Central to this initiative is the principle of community participation and cross-sector

collaboration, which are essential components in addressing the wider determinants of health and improving the quality of life in our cities."

HE Hassan al-Thawadi, secretary-general of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy and chairman of GA, said: "This programme is yet another example of the lasting legacy created by the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. It reflects our belief in the transformative power of sport to drive positive social and humanitarian change. We are proud to offer this initiative to the people of Qatar, with the Ministry of Public Health as a trusted partner.

The 'Qatar Healthy Cities' programme will help create healthier lifestyles for our communities, empower our youth, and allow us to play our part in supporting the advancement of our country's National Health Strategy."

The implementation of the 'Qatar Healthy Cities: Sports for Health' programme began with a one-day training session, led by master trainers from Generation Amazing, for 24 teachers.

These teachers are now applying their newly acquired skills to collaborate on delivering sports and health programmes to school students, gaining hands-on experience beyond the classroom setting. The programme is initially expected to benefit approximately 1,000 children.

Additionally, a total of six sessions per semester will be conducted in international schools and Asslam Schools. The Asslam Schools are a network of schools run by the Education Above All's Together Project.

The Together Project provides education for students who are unable to access mainstream public or private education.

Joint military drills cement Qatar-South Korea partnership

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The ongoing joint military exercises between Qatar and South Korea represent a significant leap forward in defence co-operation and a powerful symbol of strengthening regional stability, according to South Korean ambassador Hyunsoo Yun.

Speaking at a reception on-board the Korean Navy landing ship tank, 'Nojeok-bong,' docked at Old Doha Port, the envoy lauded the staging of the two-week exercise, which began on October 14, describing it as a milestone in the growing comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations.

He said this military drills mark the first time South Korea deployed troops and military equipment - including 100 soldiers, Black Panther tanks, and K9 Thunder Howitzers - for joint exercises abroad.

According to Hyunsoo, the drills, involving the Korean army and Navy alongside the Qatari Land and Naval Forces, include



South Korean ambassador Hyunsoo Yun with other dignitaries and guests at the reception on board 'Nojeok-bong'. PICTURES: Joey Aguilar

live-fire manoeuvres and collaborative equipment maintenance training tailored to the harsh desert environment.

"Soldiers from both countries are conducting intensive training, sharing best practices in the challenging desert conditions," he said, highlighting the dedication and team spirit of both our militaries. "The friendships forged during these exercises will serve as a strong foundation for lasting ties

between our nations".

Hyunsoo stressed the symbolic significance of the joint exercise, occurring in the year marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and just one year after President Yoon Suk-yeol's state visit to Qatar, which elevated the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

The envoy underlined the exercises as a prime example of this



'Nojeok-bong' docked at the Old Doha Port.

enhanced co-operation, anticipating even greater defence and security co-operation in the future. "This joint exercise is not only a demonstration of our strong partnership but also a showcase for the cutting-edge capabilities of Korean defence equipment," Hyunsoo said, noting that the performance of these systems proves their reliability and effectiveness in the global market, offering reliable solutions to modern defence needs.

The envoy also underscored the shared commitment of both nations to regional and global peace and stability. He cited South Korea's Global Pivotal State (GPS) vision and Qatar's active role as a mediator in resolving regional conflicts as complementary initiatives.

"Qatar's diplomatic acumen and its ability to bridge divides in the Middle East are truly remarkable. I believe the synergy between Ko-

The South Korean envoy stressed the symbolic significance of the joint exercise, occurring in the year marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries

rea's GPS vision and Qatar's diplomatic initiatives will significantly contribute to global peace and stability," Hyunsoo said.

Nojeok-bong Commanding Officer Sang Hyun Kim reiterated the commitment to the partnership, noting the ship's three-week, 12,000km journey to Doha: "We are conducting various exercises, including combined exercise and combat fire. We hope to strengthen the Korean-Qatari military co-operation through this combined exercise," he said.




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Qatar participates in opening of Saudi Agricultural Exhibition 2024



Qatar participated in the opening of the Saudi Agricultural Exhibition 2024, which runs from Oct 21-24. HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, who headed a delegation of ministry specialists, represented Qatar at the opening. The participation of Qatar delegation in the exhibition comes within the context of strengthening co-operation and co-ordination relations in agriculture and food security between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Held under the theme innovations, modern agricultural systems and smart agriculture, the 41st edition of the exhibition includes pioneering solutions and advanced agricultural engineering. It highlights developments in the agricultural sector in Saudi Arabia, as well as future prospects and aspirations, and reviews the latest global technologies and expertise in the field of agriculture and food security. (QNA)

Al-Attiyah meets Saudi minister of environment, water and agriculture



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met with Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture engineer Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen al-Fadley on the sidelines of the opening of the Saudi Agricultural Exhibition 2024, which kicked off in Riyadh yesterday. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two sides in areas of common interest, especially in agriculture and food security, and ways to enhance and develop them. (QNA)

Shura Council holds discussion on constitutional amendments

QNA
Doha

The Shura Council held its second session yesterday for the fourth ordinary session of the first legislative term, corresponding to the 53rd annual session, under the chairmanship of its Speaker HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim.

At the beginning of the session, HE Secretary-General of the Shura Council Naif bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud read out the agenda, and the minutes of the previous session were approved. HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi attended the session to inform the Council about the proposed constitutional amendments and to answer the Council's inquiries regarding the aforementioned project.

The session also witnessed the formation of the six neces-

sary committees for the Council's work, in accordance with Article 29 of the Shura Council's internal regulations, as follows: Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee chaired by Dr Sultan bin Hassan al-Dabit al-Dosari, with the membership of: Khalid bin Ghanem al-Ali, Abdullah bin Ali al-Sulaiti, Khalid bin Ahmed al-Obaidan, Sheikhah bint Yousuf al-Jefairi, Ahmed bin Ibrahim al-Maliki, Issa bin Arar al-Rumaihi, Ahmed bin Sultan al-Asiri, and Salem bin Rashid al-Muraikhi.

The Internal and External Affairs Committee was chaired by Yousuf bin Ali al-Khater, with the membership of: Ali bin Saeed al-Khayarain, Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri, Nasser bin Salmeen al-Suwaidi, Mohammed bin Fahd al-Musallam, Mohammed bin Mehdi al-Ahbabi, Abdullah bin Ali al-Sulaiti, Ali bin Shibib al-Attiyah, Saud bin Jassim al-Buainain, Mohammed bin Mansour al-Shahwani, Abdullah bin



Jaber al-Labda, and Nasser bin Hassan al-Kubaisi. The Economic and Financial Affairs Committee was chaired by Mohammed bin Yousuf al-Mannai, with the membership of: Mohammed bin Mehdi al-Ahbabi, HE Saad bin Ahmed al-Misnad, HE Ahmed bin Hitmi al-Hitmi, HE Nasser bin

Mohammed al-Nuaimi, Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaie, Issa bin Ahmed al-Nasr, Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla, and Omair bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi.

The Health, General Services, and the Environment Committee was chaired by Mubarak bin Mohammed al-Kuwari, with

the membership of: Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, Dr Ahmed bin Hamad al-Mahmoud, Badi bin Ali al-Badi, Nasser bin Mohsen Bukshisha, Dr Mohammed bin Batti al-Abdullah, Nasser bin Mutref al-Humaidi, Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi, and Mohammed bin Omar al-Mannai.

The Education, Culture, Sports, and Media Committee was chaired by Khalid bin Ahmed al-Obaidan, with the membership of: Khalid bin Ghanem al-Ali, Saad bin Ahmed al-Muhannadi, Mubarak bin Saif al-Mansoori, Saad bin Ahmed al-Misnad, Mohammed bin Muftah al-Muftah, Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Sada, Mubarak bin Mohammed al-Kuwari, Issa bin Ahmed al-Nasr, and Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla.

The Social Affairs, Labor, and Housing Committee was chaired by Abdulrahman bin Yousuf al-Khulafi, with the membership of: Dr Sultan bin Hassan al-Dabit al-Dosari, Nasser bin Mohsen

Bukshisha, Ahmed bin Ibrahim al-Maliki, Khalid bin Abbas Kamel al-Emadi, Issa bin Arar al-Rumaihi, Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Sada, Nasser bin Mutref al-Humaidi, Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaie, Nasser bin Hassan al-Kubaisi, Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi, and Omeir bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi.

During the session, the Council discussed decree-law No 1 of 2024, amending certain provisions of decree-law No 10 of 1974 concerning the establishment of QatarEnergy.

After discussion, the Council decided to refer the mentioned decree-law to the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee to examine it and present a report on it to the Council. Additionally, the Council approved the distribution of topics previously submitted to the committees, which are still under study, to the current committees according to their respective competencies.



Shura participates in launching of Arab women's parliamentary charter in Jordan

QNA
Amman

The Shura Council participated in the parliamentary conference that the Arab Parliament held in Jordan to launch the Arab Women's Parliamentary Document.

Member of the Shura Council and Member of the

Arab Parliament's Social, Educational, Cultural, Women and Youth Affairs Committee Sheikhah bint Youssef al-Jufairi represented the Shura Council in the conference. Several parliamentarians, government and United Nations officials also participated in the conference.

In her remarks, al-Jufairi reviewed the State of Qatar's efforts, in accordance with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, to protect the rights of Qatari women, as well as efforts to empower them. In the same context, she addressed the efforts of Her Highness Sheikhah Moza bint Nasser, the Chairperson of the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and Sustainable Development Goals Advocate and her initiatives to provide education to tens of millions of girls in conflicts.

Al-Jufairi said that this conference is being held as women in some Arab countries experience difficult circumstances, pointing out the tragic conditions that the Palestinian women are going through on the occupied Palestinian territories and their struggle with death every day.

The member of the Shura Council affirmed that the Arab Women's Parliamentary Document includes an item on exceptional circumstances, including asylum, displacement, armed conflicts, disasters and crises, in light of the systematic practices that the Israeli occupation performs against women, raising the waves of asylum and displacement.

Approved by the Arab Parliament, the Arab Women's Parliamentary Document consists of 16 articles distributed over five main chapters, revolving around empowering Arab women parliamentarians, building their capacities, promoting their popular communication and enhancing women's opportunities to contribute to parliamentary work. The document also addressed the role of Arab parliaments in supporting and empowering women politically, economically, socially and technologically, in addition to many other fields.

Kahramaa forum highlights role, contributions of engineers

The Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa) yesterday organised the Engineers Forum 2024, featuring experts from various departments, a statement said. The forum aimed to motivate and highlight the role of engineers in the corporation and enhance communication and exchange of experiences between engineers in various departments, in addition to revealing the capabilities and abilities of Qatari engineers.

The forum began with a tour of the inventions exhibition, with nine pavilions. Qatari engineers presented their latest diverse inventions to promote renewable energy and sustainability. These included smart applications to rationalise electricity and water consumption, a platform to monitor electric vehicle charging stations in Qatar and an innovative device to cool tank water using advanced technologies.

Also, there were solutions to store hydrogen gas in sustainable energy tanks and a project to use drones to inspect overhead lines to improve the efficiency of the electrical grid along with an automatic device to replace batteries for mobile devices.

This was followed by a video presentation about the journey and achievements of Kahramaa engineers highlighting the corporation's effective role in supporting and developing functional capabilities. Kahramaa president engineer Essa bin Hilal al-Kuwari said the engineers have an important role in achiev-



ing the corporation's goals and developing its services. "They are the main pillar for achieving the corporation's future vision. What is being presented in terms of working papers and discussions is a step in a long journey towards enhancing the corporation's efficiency and continuing its development. Supporting engineering creativity is a key axis in achieving the corporation's goals, stressing Kahramaa's commitment to investing in national engineering competencies."

The event included a panel discussion in which several experts participated to discuss the modern challenges in the engineering sector. The inspiring success

stories of a number of guests of honour were also reviewed in addition to the presentation of working papers by engineers, reviewing the latest projects and technologies used in the field of engineering. A special section titled 'Engineer's Idea' provided young engineers with the opportunity to present their creative ideas to stimulate the spirit of innovation and creative thinking.

The forum witnessed the participation of university students through two initiatives. The first was on manufacturing the first electric racing car and the second was the best smart solutions in the field of sustainable renewable energy.



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Qatari aid aircraft arrives in Beirut



A Qatari Amiri Air Force aircraft arrived at Beirut's Rafic Hariri Airport carrying food, medical and relief aid provided by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), as part of the air bridge operated by Qatar to provide relief to the fraternal Lebanese people as a result of the humanitarian crisis they are currently experiencing due to recent developments. The aid was received by the diplomatic staff of Qatar's embassy and representatives of the Lebanese government. (QNA)

Qatar Media Corp makes first-ever participation at MIPCOM Cannes event

Qatar Media Corp is participating in the 40th edition of MIPCOM Cannes 2024, which is held annually from October 21-24.

HE the CEO of Qatar Media Corp Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani al-Thani said in an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the corporation's first participation in the 40th edition of the international television and digital entertainment festival is an opportunity for Arabs to tell their story themselves to the world through television, drama and documentary production, which combines the originality of content and global artistic production standards.

He added that MIPCOM is the most efficient and attractive market for television content and production in the world, where the most important global pro-

duction institutions and decision-makers in the field of media from executives, major investors and buyers meet. This year, the festival organisers announced the participation of more than 11,000 delegates from 100 countries. He pointed out that the participation of the Qatar Media Corp for the first time in an event of this size and importance comes within the strategy of development and productive expansion of the corporation, as preparations and readiness were made in a way that ensures that the participation is qualitative and competitive.

He added that the concept of traditional geographical borders and cultural barriers between people and nations has declined, because the world has developed new and effective methods of communication, the most im-

portant of which is the television industry represented by series, documentaries, reality TV programmes and others.

He pointed out that translated series have become a means of global communication, citing in this context the role of Turkish, Korean and Hollywood series, which are watched all over the world, in conveying the values and culture of the people who produced them.

Sheikh Abdulaziz explained that the participation of the Qatar Media Corp in the festival aims to promote and market the corporation's documentary and drama productions, in addition to documenting and diversifying the relationship with the television industry community in the world, and introducing the true Arab-Islamic identity and unique historical character. (QNA)



The Fish Stock Enrichment Programme aimed to support fish stock with baby farmed fish, especially species with stocks threatened by overfishing.

100% surge in Hamour fish stock in Qatar waters

The Ministry of Municipality has achieved a 100% increase in the stock of Hamour fish in the Qatari waters, thanks to the Fish Stock Enrichment Initiative, according to the Internal Achievements Report for 2023-2024.

The Fish Stock Enrichment Initiative involved releasing farmed baby Hamour and Seabream into the sea. The increase in Hamour stock amounted to 100% by the end of 2022, at a rate of 2,000 tonnes.

The Fish Stock Enrichment Programme aimed to support fish stock with baby farmed fish, especially species with stocks threatened by overfishing, such as Hamour and other species, to

maintain balance between fishing quantities and stock size, ensuring the sustainability of fisheries for current and future generations.

The Fish Stock Enrichment Initiative involved releasing farmed baby Hamour and Seabream into the sea

The programme enriches the stock of high economic value fish, such as seabream and silver seabream, which is available in limited quantities in fisheries, contributing to higher fish production.

A specialised team prepares in advance for the release of baby fish to ensure its success, equipping fish transport tanks, preparing air

pumps, oxygen cylinders and boats. Baby fish are then loaded and transported from the hatchery to the designated trucks and boats, based on predetermined release sites, and subsequently released into the targeted marine areas.

The transport and release operations are overseen by a team from the Aquatic Research Centre, in collaboration with experts and technicians in the field. The selection of release sites is subject to a set of specifications and standards, including scientific criteria for suitable marine areas for the release of baby fish. The areas selected include fish nursery zones, natural nursery areas for marine fish, mangroves and protected areas where fishing is prohibited.

OMEGA's Emirates Team New Zealand creates sailing history

Sailing history was written on Saturday, as Emirates Team New Zealand won the Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup.

OMEGA has been a long-term partner of the New Zealand crew since 1995 and proudly watched as they claimed the "Auld Mug" for the 5th time in history.

This year's racing took place in Barcelona, where the challenger, INEOS Britannia Team, faced a head-to-head battle with the defender, Emirates Team New Zealand. Competed over nine races, the New Zealand team eventually claimed a 7-2 winning margin in the first-to-seven series, showing the very best of its tactical precision and innovative boat design.

President and CEO of OMEGA, Raynald Aeschlimann, said, "The 37th America's Cup has been a thrilling event, and we are delighted that Emirates Team New Zealand has shown its sailing mastery once again. This crew continues to inspire us at OMEGA, and I'd like to congratulate Grant Dalton and his entire team for the excellence they have shown out on the water."

Dating back to 1851, the America's Cup is the oldest trophy in in-



ternational sport and has become the source of fierce international rivalries and spectacular duels across the years. OMEGA's association with the world-famous regatta began in 1995, when the brand supported Emirates Team New Zealand, who were led by the legendary sailor Sir Peter Blake.

Each time Emirates Team New Zealand has won the America's Cup, OMEGA has been tasked with

the Official Timekeeper duties at the following edition. This has now included 2000, 2003, 2021 and 2024. This year, OMEGA's time-keeping task-list was expanded to include two new top-level competitions. The Puig Women's America's Cup, which made its debut in 2024, and the Unicredit Youth America's Cup, an opportunity for emerging crews to prove their worth on the waves.

QOC holds educational workshop to mark World Walking Day

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) organised yesterday an educational workshop titled "World Walking Day: A Simple Step Towards Better Health" to mark World Walking Day.

The event was held at QOC's Lusail Conference Hall. The workshop gathered officials and employees from various QOC departments, sections and units, alongside representatives from sports federations.

Keynote speaker Khalid al-Amri, a former track and field athlete and fitness coach, discussed the

benefits of walking as a sport, highlighting its positive impact on cardiovascular health.

Al-Amri also stressed the importance of appropriate sportswear and footwear for walking, their effect on athletic performance, and techniques for maintaining balance and stability to prevent injuries.

World Walking Day is a major global event and part of QOC's community initiatives aimed at promoting sports for all and raising awareness on the importance of sports in fostering healthy societies. (QNA)

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Qatar emerges as global medical tourism hub for specialised care



Aspetar

Qatar is rapidly becoming a leading destination for specialised medical care, attracting patients from around the globe with its state-of-the-art facilities and world-renowned experts, among other offerings, according to Visit Qatar.

The tourism promotion arm of Qatar Tourism, underlines Qatar's strategically advantageous position at the crossroads of East and West, making it easily accessible to a vast global population.

With most major cities a six-to-eight-hour flight away, and visa-on-arrival options for citizens of 102 countries, Visit Qatar noted that the country boasts unparalleled accessibility.

This ease of travel is further enhanced by Qatar Airways, consistently ranked among the world's best airlines, providing a comfortable and seamless journey for patients and their families.

Visit Qatar said the country's healthcare system is consistently ranked among the top five globally for quality of care, showcasing a commitment to medical excellence. This is reflected in its specialised hospitals catering to diverse needs.

Sidra Medicine, specialising in paediatric and women's health,

recently made headlines with its discovery and diagnosis of a new gastroenterological disease, demonstrating Qatar's commitment to medical research and innovation.

The groundbreaking precision medicine treatment programme saved the lives of two young brothers and is poised to revolutionise the diagnosis and treatment of this disease worldwide.

Aspetar, the Gulf's first specialised orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital, has become a sought-after destination for elite athletes, including high-profile figures like Neymar Jr, highlighting its expertise and world-class facilities.

The View Hospital, in affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, has successfully performed its first robotic surgery, showcasing its adoption of cutting-edge surgical techniques.

The Korean Medical Centre brings Korean medical expertise to the region, providing advanced healthcare options without the need for extensive international travel.

Alfardan Medical with Northwestern Medicine further demonstrated innovation with a pioneering fertility-preserving

operation, which underscores Qatar's commitment to tackling complex medical challenges.

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), the primary provider of secondary and tertiary healthcare in Qatar, is a major contributor to the country's medical reputation.

Managing 15 specialist hospitals, including a Heart Hospital, a Women's Wellness and Research Centre, and a National Centre for Cancer Care and Research, HMC's four hospitals ranked among the world's top 250 academic medical centres in 2023, with two in the top 100. This integration of patient care, medical research and education underpins Qatar's holistic approach to healthcare.

Beyond the medical expertise, Visit Qatar added that the country also offers a supportive environment for patients and their families. The award-winning Hamad International Airport ensures a smooth arrival experience, while a diverse range of accommodation options caters to various budgets.

Doha's vibrant culinary scene, extensive shopping malls, and entertainment venues contribute to a pleasant and enriching experience, facilitating recovery and promoting overall well-being.

The efficient Doha Metro system ensures easy navigation throughout the city, simplifying access to hospitals and other key locations.

Visit Qatar stressed that the country's commitment extends beyond just medical treatment. It offers a holistic approach to patient care, focusing on comfort, convenience, and a supportive environment throughout the entire journey.

From the initial flight to the final stages of recovery, Visit Qatar noted that the aim is to provide a healing and rejuvenating experience in a welcoming and safe environment.



HMC officials at the forum.

HMC wins awards at Global Person-Centred Care Forum

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) received awards at the 2024 Global Person-Centred Care Forum organised by Planetree International recently, in New Orleans, US.

Planetree is a non-profit at the forefront of the movement to transform healthcare from the perspective of patients for more than 45 years. Hundreds of professionals from across the US and more than 20 countries attended the forum.

Qatar's delegation was led by Nasser al-Naimi, HMC's chief of Patient Experience and director of Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute along with Dr Nidal Asaad, CEO and medical director of Heart Hospital, and Dr Huda Hussain Saleh, executive director of Women's Wellness and Research Center (WWRC).

During the Forum, HMC's Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) was awarded Gold Certification with Distinction for Leadership and Innovation in Person-Centred Care (PCC) by Planetree. ACC is first out of five HMC facilities under-

going recertification for excellence in PCC. With this achievement, ACC has become the first site in the region and fifth in the world to achieve this feat.

"Transforming into a person-centred healthcare organisation requires a cultural shift, a process that has been ongoing since we established our partnership with Planetree in 2017. Over the years, we have continued to evolve and collectively change the culture of our work environment as part of our commitment to improving the entire healthcare experience by engaging patients, families, and all levels of staff," said al-Naimi.

One of the highlights in the Forum included ten HMC staff recognised for achieving Fellowship in Person-Centred Care, as evidenced by their professional work of putting person-centred care into action.

The WWRC won the PCC Innovation Award for the implementation of triage-coloured cards at WWRC Emergency Department and PCC Best Poster

Awards for 'Enhancing Patient Experience through Comprehensive Healthcare Access and Support Service Personalised Care' and 'Reducing Pre-Operative Waiting Time in Daycare Surgery in ACC'.

Al-Naimi was recognised for his advancement of Person-Centred Care in Qatar, including the Spirit of Planetree Award recipients while Dr Saleh, of WWRC, and Nadya al-Raulli, executive director of Private Nursing Services and Home Healthcare Services, for their individual contributions to cultural transformation and dedication to humanising the care experience.

Dr Abdulla al-Ansari, chief medical officer of HMC said: "By putting patients and their families at the centre of all the decisions we make and by making all services co-designed with the community, our commitment to person-centred care as an organisation is in alignment to Qatar's Third National Development Strategy and the National Health Strategy 2024-2030".

Awqaf to preserve 80 heritage mosques

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has chalked out a plan to refurbish 80 heritage mosques across the country, local Arabic daily *Arrayah* reported.

The plan is implemented in co-operation with Qatar Museums (QM) in order to restore the original structure and heritage value. The work is carried out in five years in different phases and groups.

The first group of mosques are at Al Ghuwairiyah, Arfiq, Umm Al-Qahhab, Al-Kaaban, Al-Zaghin and Al-Suwailhiyya. The renovation works of Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Mosque are underway to preserve it as one of the country's distinctive landmarks.

Awqaf, according to the report, built 31 mosques in 2023 while maintenance works were carried out at several mosques across the country. Also, carpets were replaced in several mosques and Imam houses were built. QM is renovating mosques in residential areas as a destination for worshippers. This is with the aim of preserving its historical identity and being a witness to the past while providing present and future generations with an ideal edifice that tells about the country's history.



QM, according to an earlier report by *Arrayah*, listed 67 mosques as ancient and planned immediate restoration and maintenance of any historical mosque by a specialised team.

Experts have been appointed under the supervision of Qatari specialists to give training courses for workers who carry out restoration work in archaeological buildings. Traditional materials are used in the restoration of mosques and archaeological buildings to maintain the importance and authenticity of the archaeological site.

QU organises activities to mark breast cancer awareness month



QU organised activities aimed at highlighting the importance of breast cancer prevention, early detection and treatment.

In support of Global Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October), Qatar University (QU) organised a series of community-targeted awareness activities aimed at highlighting the importance of breast cancer prevention, early detection and treatment.

These events, held under the joint efforts of the College of Medicine and the College of Health Sciences at QU, emphasise the

university's commitment to promoting health and well-being within Qatar and the wider region.

In Qatar, breast cancer continues to be the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women.

According to the estimation of the Global Cancer Observatory, breast cancer ranks highest, accounting for 14.7% of new cancer cases and 37.5% of new cancer cases in females in Qatar in 2020. QU's College of Medicine and

College of Health Sciences set up informational booths, which provided visitors with detailed information on breast cancer prevention methods, early detection and treatment. The booths also offered guidance on steps women can take to reduce the risk of developing breast cancer, including adopting healthy lifestyle habits, undergoing regular screenings and understanding the available treatment options.

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A New Era in Healthcare: How Genomics is Redefining Health



Niji Mathew

Client Relation Specialist
Dept. of Genetics & Genomics
Micro Health Laboratories, Qatar

remarkable improvements with the help of genomic testing. By identifying specific genetic mutations in tumors, doctors can prescribe therapies that target those mutations, making treatments more effective and less toxic. This personalized approach is not limited to cancer; it's being used in a wide range of diseases, including cardiovascular conditions, neurological disorders, and even diabetes.

Pharmacogenomics: The Right Drug, The Right Dose

Another game-changing application of genomics is in the field of pharmacogenomics—the study of how your genes affect your response to medications. This is particularly important in chronic diseases where finding the right medication can take weeks, if not months, of trial and error.

Pharmacogenomics eliminates this guesswork by allowing doctors to choose the right medication and dosage based on your genetic profile. For example, some people metabolize certain painkillers more slowly than others, which can lead to overdosing and side effects. With pharmacogenomic testing, doctors can tailor prescriptions to your genetic makeup, ensuring you receive the safest and most effective treatment.

This precision approach is also making strides in mental health, where finding the right antidepressant or antipsychotic can often be a long process. Genomic insights streamline this process, helping individuals get the relief they need faster.

Wellness Genomics: Optimizing Everyday Health

Genomics isn't just about disease prevention; it's also about enhancing your everyday wellness. Imagine having a blueprint of how your body responds to different foods, exercises, and stressors. Wellness genomics provides this invaluable insight, enabling you to optimize your health based on your unique biology.

For instance, genetic insights may reveal which nutrients your body absorbs best or what types of exercise are most effective for you. This personalized knowledge helps you make lifestyle choices that promote your well-being, leading to improved overall health and vitality.

Ethics and Data Privacy: Protecting Your Genetic Information

As we harness the power of genomic data, ethical considerations must remain a priority. The sensitivity of genetic information necessitates robust safeguards to ensure privacy and data security. At Micro Health Laboratories, we recognize that trust is the foundation of effective healthcare. We are committed to transparency, ensuring individuals understand how their genetic data will be used and that informed consent is obtained.

By prioritizing ethical practices, we aim to create an environment where patients feel secure and confident in their health journeys, knowing their information is protected.

Expanding Access: A Future for All

The potential of genomics should not be limited to a privileged few. At Micro Health Laboratories, we are dedicated to making personalized healthcare accessible to everyone. By offering affordable genomic testing options, we strive to break-down barriers and ensure that diverse populations can benefit from advancements in genomic medicine.

Conclusion: Your Journey Begins Now

We are entering an exciting new era of healthcare—one where your genetic blueprint is at the center of your health journey. Whether it's personalized treatments for chronic conditions, preventative measures to avoid diseases, or wellness insights to optimize your daily life, genomics is transforming how we approach healthcare.

In this new age, healthcare is no longer reactive; it's proactive. It's not just about treating diseases after they've occurred—it's about preventing them before they happen. And it's not about average treatments—it's about care designed just for you.

As we unlock the secrets of our DNA, we are stepping into a future where healthcare is tailored to each individual.

Welcome to the genomic revolution—
your health, your DNA, your future.

As we navigate the complexities of modern healthcare, a groundbreaking shift is underway—Genomics is transforming medicine, paving the way for personalized health strategies that cater to our unique genetic makeups. No longer confined to science fiction, genomics is bridging the gap between futuristic possibilities and everyday healthcare. By revealing intricate DNA patterns, it offers doctors and patients the ability to predict diseases, customize treatments, and take control of health in new ways. This isn't just an advancement—it's a paradigm shift redefining healthcare.

The Power of Your DNA

Your DNA is more than a mere biological blueprint; it tells the story of your history, health, and potential. Each strand carries secrets about your predisposition to diseases, your response to medications, and even your capacity for resilience. Thanks to advancements in genomic testing, we can now read these secrets, providing a pathway to healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Personalized Medicine: Tailored Treatments for You

In this new era, personalized medicine is revolutionizing how we approach healthcare. Gone are the days of a one-size-fits-all model. By analyzing your unique genetic makeup, healthcare providers can customize treatments specifically designed for you.

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Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has launched an exclusive auto financing offer on Tesla cars, available directly through the Tesla website. This makes QIB the first and only Islamic bank in the country to provide a seamless digital financing option for Tesla buyers, further advancing its commitment to promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly financial solutions. Tesla buyers in Qatar can access QIB's auto financing as

part of Tesla's online ordering process, ensuring a smooth and user-friendly experience. Customers can simply select 'Islamic Financing' when finalising their purchase, after which they will be redirected to QIB's financing options. This exclusive offer, running until December 31, provides a profit rate starting at 2.77% flat (equivalent to 5.25% reducing rate), a grace period of up to six months for Qatari customers and three months for expatriates, and a

comprehensive auto takaful rate of 1.7%. As the leading provider of auto financing in Qatar, QIB, through this offer, promotes green financing by empowering customers to transition to electric cars and contribute to a more sustainable future. D Anand, General Manager (Personal Banking Group) at QIB, commented: "This unique offering marks a major step forward in accessible sustainable financing. We are committed to simplifying the

financing process through our digital platform." QIB is at the forefront of sustainable banking practices in Qatar, having implemented a range of eco-friendly initiatives. In addition to offering preferential financing rates for electric cars, QIB produces most of its bank cards from 100% recycled plastic and has introduced a 'Carbon Emission Tracker' in its Mobile App to help customers monitor and reduce their environmental impact.

3-2-1 QOSM announces 'The Race Is On' exhibition

3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum (QOSM) announced The Race is On, an exhibition celebrating Qatar's motorsport history and marking a new era for Formula 1 in the country.

The exhibition opens to the public on November 6, and will be on view until April 1, 2025, at the museum's E8 Exhibition Gallery. It will showcase Formula One and rally history and examine Qatar's journey as an international host and leading competitor, from the first Qatar Motor Rally in 1975 to last year's Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix at Lusail International Circuit.

The exhibition is timed to coincide with the 2024 Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix from November 29 until December 1 and the 2025 Qatar International Rally on February 1-2, 2025.

In a press statement, 3-2-1 QOSM president HE Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah al-Thani said: "Over the last decade, Qatar has gained significant regional and international recognition as a hub for cultural and sporting events, and is now becoming home to F1 races. The Race is On is a testament to Qatar Museums and 3-2-1 QOSM's commitment to diversifying the cultural offerings to visitors from Qatar and around the world, providing them with unforgettable experiences. We invite everyone to join us as we mark a thrilling era in Qatar's motorsport history."

The exhibition presents a unique range of historic items from the 3-2-1 QOSM and Silverstone



Among the highlights include exact replica helmets, among others.



Museum in the UK and local and international lenders. Among the highlights are racing suits worn by Formula 1 and rally champions, trophies, tyres from past races, an intricate model of the Lusail Circuit, and original and exact replica helmets, and more. Visitors will be able to admire these pieces while learning about the drivers and the stories behind them.

3-2-1 QOSM director Abdullah Yousuf al-Mulla said: "The Race is On marks a significant milestone in Qatar's motorsport legacy, and 3-2-1 QOSM is honoured to present an exhibition that reflects the passion, innovation, and speed of this exhilarating sport. This exhibition spotlights legends from F1 history and Qatar's trailblazing rally heroes, and celebrates Qatar's ever-expanding role in international motorsports."

Visitors will journey through a timeline of motorsport in Qatar, connecting moments from the earliest rally races in the 1970s to today's high-octane Formula 1 events.

Interactive experiences, in-

cluding e-sports racing simulators, will allow visitors to experience the thrill of being behind the wheel of a racing car.

The exhibition is presented in collaboration with key partners, including the UK's Silverstone Museum. It is also supported by Qatar Auto Museum, Store 974, Al Hazm, and Seashore Group. The exhibition is curated by Susan Hayward, deputy director of Curatorial Affairs at 3-2-1 QOSM, and led by al-Mulla, and the 3-2-1 team.

Silverstone Museum CEO Phil Lawrie said: "Located at the home of British motor racing and the birthplace of the Formula 1 World Championship, Silverstone Museum is proud to partner with 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum for this exciting motorsport exhibition."

"The Race is On perfectly aligns with our mission to preserve and celebrate the legacy of motorsport, and we are thrilled to contribute our expertise and unique artefacts to showcase the remarkable journey of Qatar's motorsport evolution."

Vodafone Qatar strategic partner of QSRW 2024

Vodafone Qatar has participated in the Qatar Social Responsibility Week (QSRW) 2024 as a strategic partner.

The annual event, coinciding with World Social Responsibility Day, aimed to highlight and promote the efforts of both the private and public sectors in contributing to Qatar's sustainability goals.

The partnership aligns with Vodafone Qatar's ongoing efforts to foster collaboration between public and private entities, including the Ministry of Social Development and Family, to achieve sustainability objectives that support Qatar's national strategy for social responsibility.

Representing Vodafone Qatar, chief human resources officer Khamess Mohammed al-Naimi and legal director Dany Chrabieh, delivered keynote speeches highlighting the company's contributions to sustainability, digital inclusion, and cultural enrichment in Qatar, as well as the importance of embedding these values into the company's operations.

In his opening remarks, al-Naimi emphasised the strategic importance of the partnership to the success of Qatar Social Responsibility Week, and how this



Vodafone Qatar legal director Dany Chrabieh.



Vodafone Qatar chief human resources officer Khamess Mohammed al-Naimi.

collaboration promotes a culture of social responsibility in Qatar by reinforcing the principles of sustainability and social responsibility, aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Al-Naimi further elaborated on the pivotal role the private sector plays in supporting government efforts to achieve comprehensive development.

He pointed out that social responsibility is not just an ethical obligation but an essential component of any company's sustainable growth and development strategy in the country. He emphasised Vodafone's commitment to this approach through its initiatives in environmental conservation, sports promotion, and the advancement of sustainable technology.

During a panel discussion, Chrabieh highlighted the critical role that telecommunications service providers play in shaping modern society in the digital age. He emphasised that corporate social responsibility is deeply embedded in Vodafone Qatar's corporate strategy, which is evident in the company's ongoing efforts to develop youth talent, promote sports, and support cultural initiatives in partnership with local organisations.

Chrabieh also touched on the legal framework established by Qatar to promote social responsibility, noting that these laws aim to support community activities, which contribute to fostering sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of Qatari society.

Mercedes-Benz, Ford, Aston Martin models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes-Benz S-Class, 2022-2023 models, as the left rear wheel arch may not correspond to the current series production configuration, possibly creating an opening in the body-in-white in the area of the wheel (arch/C) pillar, which may lead to moisture and rust.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, has announced the recall of Ford Edge, 2016-2017 models, as in affected vehicles, a defect in the emission control system may not take into account certain

conditions during use and may not control exhaust emissions effectively over time.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Alfaridan Luxury Motors, also announced the recall of Aston Martin DBX, Vantage, and DB 12, 2022-2024 models, over a possible defect in the quality of the engine oil cooling hoses, resulting in loss of oil and oil pressure. A sudden and rapid loss of oil and oil pressure may cause the engine to stop suddenly, which may increase the risk of a crash or fire.

The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure

that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The MoCI has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: Call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, social media channels @mociqatar, and mobile application MOCIQatar available on iPhone and Android devices.

ICC to host Bharat Utsav 2024 on Friday



Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) under the guidance of the embassy of India, is organising a cultural event, 'Bharat Utsav 2024' on October 25 at the Al Mayassa Theatre at the Qatar National Convention Centre. The event, to be inaugurated by Indian ambassador Vipul, will showcase several artists from various associated organisations and Indian schools. Around 500 performers will take part in the event, which is supported by an equal number of volunteers working behind the scenes. Entry is only by invitation, available at ICC Office from today 5pm, a statement added.

CRA participates in ITU's WTSA-24

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) is participating in the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA-24), which will run until October 24 in New Delhi, India.

The CRA delegation is led by its president, engineer Ahmad Abdulla al-Muslemani, a statement said yesterday.

WTSA is held every four years and serves as the governing conference for the International Telecommunication Union Standardisation Sector (ITU-T).

WTSA-24 is set to shape the next period of study for ITU-T and the advancement of global Information and Communication Technology (ICT) standards. This year's assembly focuses on fostering digital inclusion and promoting standards for emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), quantum information technologies, and the metaverse.

The event, organised by the ITU, brings together global policymakers and industry leaders to define priorities for international standards that promote innovation, trust, and industry growth in the ICT sector.

Al-Muslemani, who is also chair-designate for ITU's Plenary Conference (PP-26), stated: "Our participation at this prestigious event is aligned with



The Qatari delegation, led by CRA president engineer Ahmad Abdulla al-Muslemani (right), during the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly in New Delhi, India.

Qatar's vision of leading the future of ICTs through innovation and collaboration. As we prepare to host the PP-26, our contributions at WTSA-24 demonstrate our commitment to contributing to the international digital landscape and building a connected, sustainable future that aligns with the objectives of CRA's strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030."

The CRA delegation plays a crucial role in various study groups and committees, contributing to discussions on various topics, ranging from emerging

technologies to future networks.

The delegates participated in the Network of Women event aimed at promoting women's leadership in ICT standardisation and inspiring more female participation in the sector. Engineer Dalal al-Ishaq, Infrastructure and Access Section head at CRA, delivered a presentation at the WTSA-24 Digital Wave Stage.

She highlighted Qatar's implementation of ITU-T standards and offered insights into the future of ICTs, with a focus

on emerging technologies and standards.

During the event, CRA has a booth that offers interactive content, giving other delegates and participants the chance to learn about Qatar's advancements in ICT and its readiness to host PP-26.

WTSA-24 features various other events, including the Robotics for Good Youth Challenge, and ITU's Kaleidoscope academic conference, offering participants a diverse range of discussions and networking opportunities.

Moldova's Sandu scrapes knife-edge EU vote win

AFP
Chisinau

Moldova's pro-Brussels President Maia Sandu said yesterday that her camp "won justly in an unjust struggle" in an EU referendum and first-round presidential elections marked by claims of Russian interference.

The referendum on joining the EU passed with a razor-thin majority in the key electoral test for the former Soviet republic bordering war-torn Ukraine.

Sandu said late on Sunday that Moldova had witnessed "an unprecedented assault" on its democracy, blaming "criminal groups, working together with foreign forces hostile to our national interests".

The Kremlin, in turn, called on Sandu to "prove" election interference in the country of 2.6m people and alleged "anomalies" in Moldova's vote count.

Sandu, 52, a former World Bank economist and Moldova's first woman president, managed to top the first round of presidential elections held at the same time as the referendum on Sunday.

However, she will face a tough second round on November 3 against Alexandr Stoiianoglo, a former prosecutor backed by the pro-Russian Socialists.

"We have won the first battle in a difficult fight that will determine the future of our country," Sandu told reporters, calling on Moldovans to vote in the second round.

"We heard you: we know we must do more to fight corruption," she added.

Sandu, who beat a Moscow-backed incumbent in 2020, applied for her country of 2.6m

to join the EU following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

With more than 99% of the votes counted, the "yes" vote was slightly ahead at 50.46%.

The European Union said yesterday that voting was marred by Russia's "unprecedented interference and intimidation".

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk hailed Moldova as a "brave nation", while European Parliament president Roberta Metsola congratulated the country for its "bravery".

In the presidential election, Sandu gained more than 42% of the vote, while Stoiianoglo picked up a higher-than-expected 26%.

"We have a huge chance to win on November 3 and we will win," he told journalists at his party's headquarters, calling the vote result a "resounding and shameful failure" for the government.

Fears of Russian interference have loomed large.

Police made hundreds of arrests in recent weeks after discovering an "unprecedented" vote-buying scheme that they say could taint up to a quarter of the ballots cast.

Police said millions of dollars from Russia aiming to corrupt voters were funnelled into the country.

In addition to the suspected vote buying, hundreds of young people were found to have been trained in Russia and the Balkans to create "mass disorder" in Moldova, including by using tactics to provoke law enforcement, according to police.

Voter Eugeniu Panfi, a labourer, told AFP in Chisinau yesterday that Moldova "passed this (electoral) test ... with difficulty but with gusto", adding the "the hybrid war" with Russia continued.

Pact reached with China on border conflict, says India

AFP/Reuters
New Delhi

India said yesterday that it had struck an agreement with neighbour China for military patrols in highly contested border zones, aiming to resolve issues that flared when their rival armies clashed in 2020.

The announcement comes a day before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend a Brics summit in Russia, which Chinese President Xi Jinping is also due to attend.

China and India, the world's two most populous nations, are intense rivals and have regularly accused each other of trying to seize territory along their unofficial divide,

known as the Line of Actual Control.

After the 2020 border skirmish, which killed at least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers, both sides pulled back tens of thousands of troops and agreed not to send patrols into the Line of Actual Control.

"Over the last several weeks Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other," India's top foreign ministry bureaucrat Vikram Misri told reporters. "And, as a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived at on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and eventually a resolution of the is-

known as the Line of Actual Control.

To avoid clashes, the two militaries will patrol contested points along the border according to an agreed schedule, a senior Indian military officer aware of the details told Reuters.

Both sides will monitor the area to ensure that there are no violations, the officer added.

The officer said that both sides would pull back their troops a little from current positions to avoid face-offs, but would be allowed to patrol these areas according to a schedule that is being worked out.

Authorities in Beijing offered no immediate response to India's remarks.

India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said

disengagement with China was "complete" and that details would come out in "due course".

"The important thing is if we have reached an understanding, I think what it does is it creates a basis for peace and tranquillity along the border, which were there before 2020," he said at a conference hosted by Indian broadcaster NDTV. "If there is no peace and tranquillity, how can other areas of bilateral ties improve?"

India is wary of its northern neighbour, and disputes over their 3,500km (2,200-mile) frontier are a perennial source of tension.

China claims all of India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, considering it part of Tibet, and the two fought a border war in 1962.

UK officer cleared of killing black man

Reuters/AFP
London

A British police officer was acquitted yesterday of the murder of a black man he shot dead in London two years ago, an incident that led to large protests and anger among the capital's black community.

Martyn Blake, 40, had pleaded "not guilty" to the murder of Chris Kaba, who was unarmed and died from a single gunshot to the head in south London on September 5, 2022.

Blake had shot Kaba through the windscreen after he tried to drive his car, which had been

linked to a reported shooting the previous day, away from police vehicles that had boxed him in.

The head of London's Metropolitan police force, Mark Rowley, said Blake had made a split-second decision.

"Any fatal use of force understandably prompts huge concern among communities, particularly in black communities where trust in policing is low," he said. "There remains much for us to do to strengthen confidence in our service."

He said no cop was above the law, but the system for holding police to account was "broken".

"I worry about the lack of support officers face for doing their

best, but most of all, I worry for the public," he said. "The more we crush the spirit of good officers, the less they can fight crime that risks London becoming less safe."

Blake was acquitted by a jury after a three-week trial at London's Old Bailey court.

Kaba's family said in a statement issued by the charity Inquest that they were left with "the deep pain of injustice adding to the unbearable sorrow we have felt since Chris was killed".

An independent 2023 review into the force found it was institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic and unable to police itself.

Erdogan rival Gulen dies in exile at 83

Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who was accused by Turkiye of organising a failed 2016 coup, has died in exile in the United States aged 83, his movement said yesterday.

Gulen, who had lived in the United States since 1999, was once a close ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before the two became bitter enemies.

"The leader of this dark organisation has died," Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said.

"Our nation's determination in the fight against terrorism will continue, and this news of his death will never lead us to complacency," he told a press conference.

The charismatic preacher, who was stripped of his Turkish nationality in 2017, died in hospital on Sunday night, his nephew and a website close to him said.

Gulen moved to Pennsylvania in 1999, ostensibly for health reasons, and from there ran his Hizmet movement, which once operated 4,000 schools in Turkiye and 500 others around the world.

Some 250 people died on July 15, 2016 when a rogue military faction tried to overthrow Turkiye's government. - AFP/Reuters

King Charles caps Australia trip with Opera House bash

AFP
Sydney

King Charles and Queen Camilla will cap a six-day visit to Australia with a community barbecue and a military jamboree aside Sydney's iconic Opera House today.

On the last full day of engagements Down Under, the 75-year-old regent will criss-cross the city at a series of events hoping to shore up shaky Australian support for the monarchy.

Rather than bread and circuses, the king will offer antipodean subjects sausage "sangas" and a navy fleet review in the glistering harbour city.

For lunch, he will attend a community barbecue overseen by MasterChef Australia winner Adam Liaw designed to showcase the "cultural diversity of modern Australia".

Guests will be treated to a game of backyard cricket, henna tattooing and a sheep dog display.

Paramatta, the suburb that will host the event, has large Chinese and Indian communities that traditionally have less affinity for the Britain-based head of state.

Almost 60% of Paramatta's population was born outside Australia, according to the latest census figures.

In the afternoon, the king will meet celebrated oncologists Georgina Long and Richard Scolyer as well as cancer patients at the Melanoma Institute Australia.

Thousands of citizens of this sun-baked country get skin cancer every year, prompt-



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and King Charles III meet schoolchildren at the Australian Parliament House in Canberra. - Reuters



Queen Camilla meets children as she attends the Ceremonial Welcome and Parliamentary Reception at the Australian Parliament House in Canberra. - Reuters

ing Australia's scientists to pioneer a suite of new treatments.

Charles himself was diagnosed with cancer eight months ago and remains in treatment.

His type of cancer has not been publicly disclosed.

In the early evening, Charles and Queen Camilla will embark on what may be the centrepiece of their Australian visit.

The royals will meet members of the public on the Sydney Opera House forecourt before surveying warships gathered in the harbour and witnessing an airforce flyover.

It was at the Opera House in 1983 that the then-prince Charles and a 21-year-old

princess Diana greeted thousands of admirers.

It was seemingly a public triumph. However, Diana, who stole the show, was later photographed bursting into tears at the event.

Commentators said it was one of the first public signs of tumult in their fairytale marriage. The pair would later separate and divorce.

This time round, a flotilla of guided missile destroyers, helicopter frigates and coastal minehunters have been assembled for the occasion.

And an array of Black Hawk helicopters, Super Hornet and F-35A fighter jets will scream by overhead.

Indonesia's Prabowo swears in cabinet of more than 100 ministers, deputies

Reuters/AFP
Jakarta

Indonesia's new leader, President Prabowo Subianto, officially swore in his cabinet yesterday, a team that analysts said reflected continuity of his predecessor's main policies.

Prabowo took office on Sunday as the eighth Indonesian president, taking the mantle from Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. In a fiery speech to lawmakers, he promised to eradicate corruption and aim to reach self-sufficiency in food and energy.

Prabowo's so-called "red and white" cabinet has 48 ministries with more than 100 ministers and deputies, including re-appointments of Sri Mulyani Indrawati as finance minister and Bahliil Lahadalia as energy minister.

Sri Mulyani will preside over Prabowo's main programmes, including giving free meals to about 20mn children which could cost the state budget 71tn rupiah (\$4.6bn) in the first year,

a number intended to keep the annual fiscal deficit under a legislated ceiling of 3% of gross domestic product.

A former World Bank managing director, Sri Mulyani has earned plaudits for reforming the taxation system while working under two presidents before Prabowo.

Other key re-appointments include Chief Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto and Erick Thohir as the state-owned enterprises minister.

Meutya Hafid, a former reporter who will head up the newly renamed communications and digital ministry, said she would focus on data protection, online safety for children and make sure the Internet is accessible to all.

Investment Minister Rosan Roeslani said his focus is on expanding Jokowi's policy of increasing domestic resource processing to include fisheries and seaweed.

Prabowo's re-appointments show his intention to continue the policies of Jokowi, especially

on the economy, said analyst Burhanuddin Muhtadi.

"Prabowo does not want to take further risks and that's why he chose key figures that served under Jokowi," he said, adding these appointments give Prabowo some political security.

Indonesia's new foreign minister is Sugiono, deputy of the parliamentary commission overseeing foreign policy.

Zulkifli Hasan, the minister overseeing food supply, said he would expand farming in Indonesia's easternmost Papua region to reach Prabowo's target of food self-sufficiency.

Prabowo's cabinet differs in some aspects from Jokowi's as some ministries have been broken up or renamed.

Education and culture ministries are separate, as well as environment and forestry.

Later in the week, the new president will take his ministers to a three-day retreat at a military academy in the mountains of Central Java where they will stay in tents.

Pakistan empowers parliament to pick country's top judge

Pakistan's government has passed constitutional amendments yesterday giving lawmakers more power to appoint top judges, who have issued decisions favouring opposition chief Imran Khan. Since February elections marred by rigging allegations, relations have soured between Islamabad and the top courts as rulings litigating results have backed the party of jailed ex-prime minister Khan. Under the judicial reforms, Pakistan's chief justice will now be selected by a parliamentary committee and have a fixed term of three years. New benches will also be formed of senior judges from across the country to weigh exclusively on constitutional issues. - AFP

Central Park Five sue Trump for defamation

The five black and Hispanic teenagers who were wrongfully convicted for the 1989 rape of a white jogger in New York's Central Park are suing Donald Trump for defamation over statements he made at last month's US presidential debate.

Known widely as the Central Park Five, the defendants spent between five and 13 years in prison before they were cleared in 2002 based on new DNA evidence and the confession of another person.

Trump, the Republican nominee for the White House, falsely said at the September 10 debate with Democrat Vice-President Kamala Harris that the Central Park Five had killed a person and pleaded guilty.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Philadelphia yesterday by Yusef Salaam, Raymond Santana, Kevin Richardson, Antron Brown and Korey Wise, called Trump's statements "demonstrably false".

Salaam is now a member of the New York City Council.

A spokesperson for Trump's campaign called the

case "just another frivolous, election interference lawsuit, filed by desperate left-wing activists".

A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Shanin Specter, said in a statement that Trump's remarks "cast them in a harmful false light and intentionally inflicted emotional distress on them".

Specter denied any political motive in the lawsuit. "I'm not commenting on politics. We are seeking redress in a court of law," he said.

The plaintiffs are seeking unspecified monetary damages for reputational and emotional harms as well as punitive damages.

Trump has drawn criticism before over his statements about the Central Park Five.

After the jogger's assault, he spoke out about the case and took out a full-page ad in several New York newspapers calling for the reinstatement of the death penalty.

Trump in 2019 stood by his prior comments about the Central Park Five, and declined to apologise. - Reuters

President Biya back in Cameroon after health rumours

Cameroonian President Paul Biya landed yesterday at the capital Yaounde's international airport, after several weeks out of the country amid rumours about his health, state broadcaster CRTV showed.

The West African nation's 91-year-old leader appeared on television after the presidential plane landed, shaking hands with officials next to his wife Chantal, as a jubilant crowd waited to greet him. - AFP

UN proposal on Western Sahara 'unacceptable'

Morocco's Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita said yesterday that a recent proposal by a United Nations envoy to partition the disputed territory of Western Sahara was "unacceptable", citing past rejections of similar plans. In a closed session of the UN Security Council last week, Western Sahara envoy Staffan de Mistura proposed dividing the territory between Morocco and the pro-independence Polisario Front to resolve a decades-old conflict. Bourita said de Mistura had already made the proposal in a visit to Morocco in April, which the kingdom had rejected. - AFP



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Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

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K T Chacko

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
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GULF TIMES

World lags on 2030 nature goals

The world in 2022 reached its most ambitious deal ever to halt the destruction of nature by decade's end. Two years later, countries are already behind on meeting their goals.

As nearly 200 nations meet for a two-week UN biodiversity summit, COP16, in Cali, Colombia, they will be under pressure to prove their support for the goals laid out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreement.

A top concern for countries and companies is how to pay for conservation, with the COP16 talks aiming to develop new initiatives that could generate revenues for nature.

"We have a problem here," said Gavin Edwards, director of the nonprofit Nature Positive.

"COP16 is an opportunity to re-energise and remind everybody of their commitments two years ago and start to course correct if we're going to get anywhere close to 2030 targets being achieved," Edwards said.

The rate of nature destruction through activities like logging or overfishing has not let up, while governments miss deadlines on their biodiversity action plans and funding for conservation is billions of dollars away from meeting a 2025 goal.

The summit in Colombia, marking the 16th meeting of nations that signed the original 1992 Convention on Biodiversity, is set to be the largest biodiversity summit to date, with some 23,000 delegates registered to participate as well as a large exhibition area open to the public.

Whether the participation and pressure can push countries for bolder conservation actions remains to be seen.

"COP16 is an opportunity to re-energise and remind everybody of their commitments two years ago"

The clearest sign of lagging efforts is the fact that most countries have yet to submit national conservation plans, known officially as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), though they had agreed to do so by the start of COP16.

As of Friday, 31 out of 195 countries had filed a plan to the UN biodiversity secretariat.

Richer nations have been quicker to file with many European nations,

Australia, Japan, China, South Korea and Canada having filed their plans.

The US attends the talks but never ratified the Convention on Biodiversity, so is not obligated to submit a plan.

Another 73 countries as of Friday had opted to only file a less ambitious submission that sets out their national targets, without details of how they would be achieved.

With so few plans filed, experts will likely struggle to gauge progress in meeting the agreement's hallmark "30 by 30" goal of preserving 30% of the land and sea by 2030.

Colombia's Environment Minister Susana Muhamad, who also serves as COP16's president, said that while the summit needs to assess the plans submitted so far, it must also look to address why so many others are late.

"It could be that the funds are not enough, for example, to be able to produce the plans," Muhamad told Reuters. Countries with newly elected governments also may still be getting up to speed, she said.

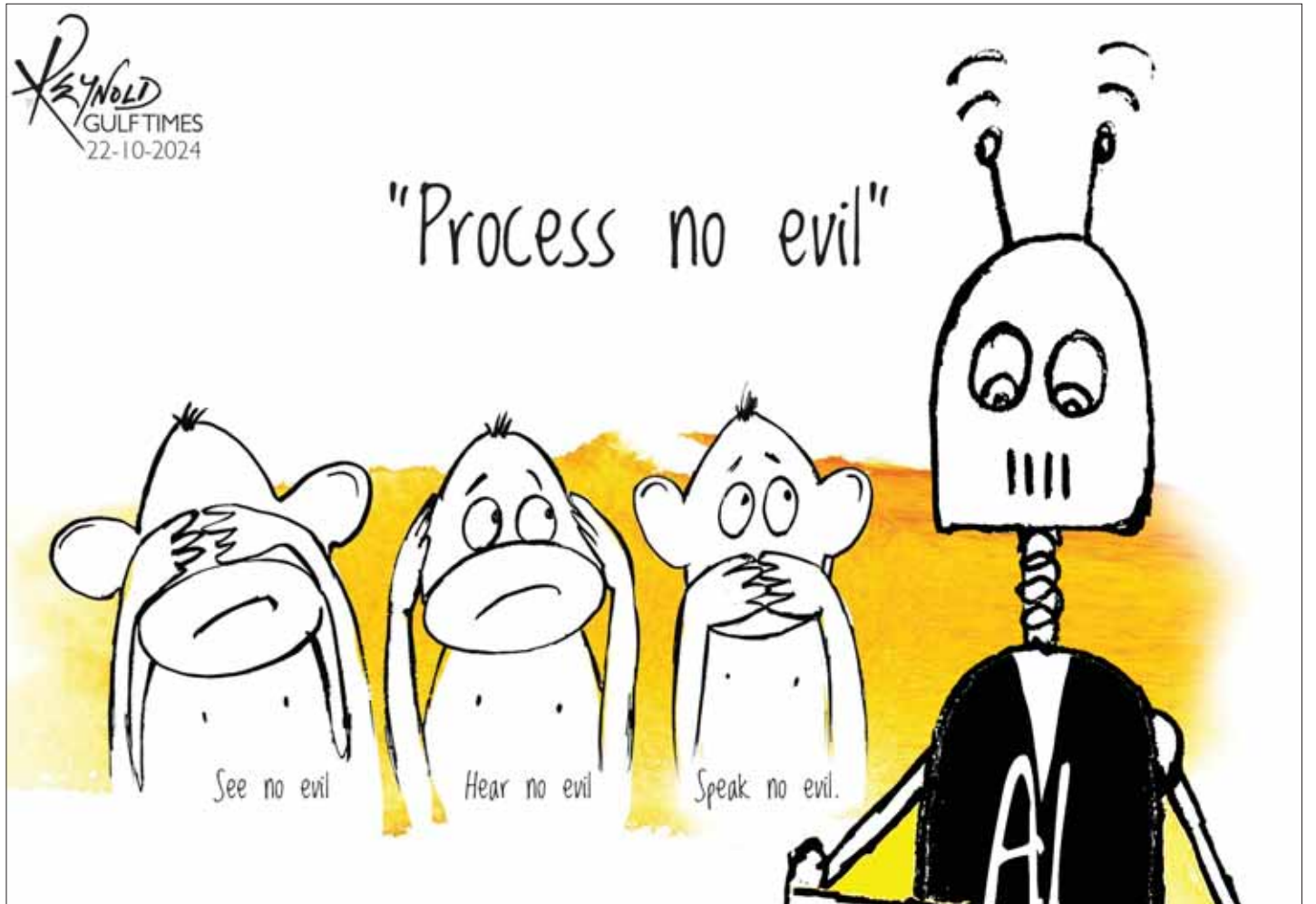
Beyond getting countries to commit to conservation policies and plans, a top priority for the COP16 summit is finding new funding sources for poorer nations to meet nature goals.

During the COP15 talks in 2022, negotiators set a goal for \$20bn annually by 2025 to help developing countries on biodiversity.

That is not much more than the \$15.4bn per year that was already flowing for nature by 2022, according to OECD data published in September. While that makes the 2025 target more achievable, it also means the target could have been more ambitious.

"If you're just looking at new money that's been announced since (COP15) to implement this framework, it's pretty thin," said Brian O'Donnell of the Campaign for Nature advocacy group.

Because there is a two-year lag in the data, countries will not learn how much is being spent on nature this year until after the goal kicks in. - Reuters



Teachers - Future makers and drivers of change in education

Aligned with Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education vision extending to 2040, Abeer al-Khalifa, President of Pre-University Education, QF, emphasises the need for system-wide transformation and highlights the crucial role of teachers in driving this change



Abeer al-Khalifa, President of Pre-University Education, QF.

By Abeer al-Khalifa

In light of the ongoing challenges facing the education sector, it is evident that transformation is inevitable. In a rapidly evolving world, where educational systems are constantly being reshaped, creating a flexible and forward-looking framework has become essential. As always, Qatar continues to lead the way, embracing and keeping pace with these changes.

At the core of this transformation are the teachers—cornerstones who play a vital role in making these changes a reality by motivating students and guiding them toward acquiring the skills needed for the future. For us, change is not optional but essential, as we navigate both present challenges and future aspirations.

Amid these dynamic changes, I believe education serves as a guiding light toward a better future. Accordingly, Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Pre-University Education is updating an ambitious vision that extends to 2040. Our vision goes beyond theoretical planning; it is a commitment to future generations—providing a comprehensive educational environment that fosters academic excellence, develops cultivates essential life skills, and instills a deep sense of belonging and responsibility.

The process of educational development is challenging, but fundamental to building



a better future. Each student is unique, with individual talents and abilities that require an enriching educational environment tailored to their specific needs. This is where teachers come in, fostering creativity and implementing innovative teaching methods that recognise individual differences and help students reach their full potential.

In Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education, we believe that learning is more than a tool for transferring knowledge. It is a transformative force that fuels the creativity of the gifted, supports those facing learning challenges, and cultivates a society that is knowledgeable, forward-thinking, and innovative. We envision education as a beacon for future generations, providing them with the tools to contribute to a more informed and sustainable global community.

Moreover, the role of education extends beyond our nation; it reaches globally. In this era of globalisation and interconnectedness, we must instill in students the principles of global citizenship, helping them understand their place in a wider international community. We must also teach them to recognize the needs of children in marginalised communities around the world. These children need more than just education—they need hope, and hope begins with knowledge and learning.

At the same time, while we encourage our students to think globally, we must ensure that our students must remain firmly rooted in

their Islamic values, as these principles guide their actions with compassion, responsibility, and service to others. By upholding these values, our students will become not just knowledgeable but also empathetic leaders committed to making a positive impact on both local and global communities.

When I look into the eyes of our students, I see the future, and I am certain that education is the path to a brighter tomorrow. While our primary mission is to impart knowledge to the younger generation, we also bear the responsibility of nurturing compassionate and innovative global citizens. We are all partners in this journey—leaders, teachers, students, and parents—united in transforming education into a platform for changing the world. Through education, we are building a bridge to prosperity and progress, determined to create a thriving nation that celebrates its children's successes.

To conclude, I reaffirm the indispensable role of teachers as the backbone of the educational process. It is through their dedication that generations are shaped and equipped to face future challenges and devise innovative solutions. Teachers bridge the gap between academic curricula and practical reality, instilling in students a love for learning and a spirit of innovation. Without teachers, our most ambitious ideas would remain unfulfilled. They are the catalysts of progress and the driving force for achieving a comprehensive and progressive educational vision.



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Breast cancer therapy in the new era

By Noor Al-rawi

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the second most common cancer overall, impacting 2.1mn women each year. Recent developments in technologies have focused on a more precise approach for precision therapy.

Precision medicine is an approach to medical treatment that considers the individual differences in people's genes, environments, and lifestyles. This approach allows for more personalised and effective medical treatments, as it considers the unique characteristics of each patient's cancer rather than treating all patients with the same therapy.

In an interview with Gulf Times, Dr Fatima M Qafoud, Acting Director at Qatar Biobank, pointed out the importance of early testing and precision health in the treatment of breast cancer.

Q. What are some common misconceptions about breast cancer that you encounter in your work?

A. One of the most common misconceptions is that breast cancer only affects older women or those with a family history of the disease. In reality, most women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history, and breast cancer can affect younger women and men as well. Another misconception is the belief that if there are no symptoms, screening isn't necessary. Many early-stage breast cancers don't present symptoms, which is why regular screening is critical for early detection.

Q. What are the recommended guidelines for breast cancer screening, and why is early testing crucial?

A. In Qatar, the national Get Screened for Breast Cancer programme targets women aged 45 to 69, recommending mammograms every three years for those at average risk. Early testing is crucial because it allows us to detect breast cancer at a much earlier stage, often before physical symptoms develop. This early detection dramatically increases the likelihood of successful treatment, as breast cancer is more treatable when localised.

The aim of the programme is to reduce breast cancer mortality in Qatar by identifying cases sooner and offering timely interventions.

Q. Can you explain what precision health means and how it applies to breast cancer screening and treatment?

A. Precision health is an individualised approach to healthcare that integrates a person's genetic profile, lifestyle, and environmental factors



“One of the key initiatives we're proud of is the collaboration between QF researchers at QCRI and Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, using the extensive QPHI-Qatar Biobank population cohort data to better understand the landscape of cancer in Qatar”

to guide prevention, screening, and treatment strategies. In breast cancer, this approach is particularly powerful, as it allows us to identify genetic markers such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations, which significantly increase breast cancer risk. Beyond genetics, precision health enables the identification of population-specific biomarkers or treatment targets that are prevalent in certain ethnic groups, such as those found in Qatar's population.

At Qatar Precision Health Institute, we support research to discover unique biomarkers and risk factors specific to women in Qatar and the broader Middle Eastern region related to breast cancer. This includes providing high-quality data and biological samples to our researchers to enhance our understanding on how genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors contribute to breast cancer risk. By identifying these factors, we can develop evidence-based prevention programmes, enhance early detection, and develop personalised treatment strategies that are more effective for the local population. For example exploring the influence of vitamin D deficiency, which is prevalent in Qatar, and how it may interact with breast cancer risk and outcomes in our population.

This targeted approach helps us not only identify high-risk individuals for earlier screening but also customise treatment plans based on their spe-

cific biological makeup and overall health, leading to better outcomes and fewer side effects.

Q. How does precision health improve early detection rates for breast cancer?

A. Precision health improves early detection rates for breast cancer by leveraging advanced genetic screening and biomarker analysis to identify individuals at higher risk. Women with a genetic predisposition to breast cancer can be screened more frequently or begin screening at an earlier age, ensuring cancers are detected before they progress. Technologies such as AI-enhanced imaging also play a crucial role, identifying subtle abnormalities in mammograms earlier than traditional methods.

This precision health process, where genetic susceptibility is identified at an early preclinical stage, to the implementation of precision prevention and precision medicine. Through precision prevention, we can tailor screening protocols to those at higher risk, while precision medicine enables more personalised treatments once cancers are detected. Together, these advances enhance early detection, leading to better survival rates and improved patient outcomes.

Q. What specific initiatives or research projects are currently underway at Qatar Foundation related to breast cancer?

A. Qatar Foundation (QF) is deeply committed to translating groundbreaking research into real-world clinical outcomes, especially in breast cancer. One of the key initiatives we're proud of is the collaboration between QF researchers at Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, using the extensive QPHI-Qatar Biobank population cohort data to better understand the landscape of cancer in Qatar. This collaborative research has resulted in significant findings published in *The Lancet*, one of the world's leading medical journals.

The Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI) has played a pivotal role in disseminating these findings, particularly in identifying critical breast cancer genes within the local population. This work has created a pipeline that connects research directly to clinical practice, with QPHI working alongside Hamad Medical Corporation's

“In Qatar, the national Get Screened for Breast Cancer programme targets women aged 45 to 69, recommending mammograms every three years for those at average risk”

Cancer Hospital. A prime example of this impact is the establishment of the Breast Cancer Family High-Risk Clinic, where individuals with a higher genetic predisposition to breast cancer can receive personalised care and screening.

And this is just the beginning. Numerous other initiatives are already in the pipeline, aimed at further advancing precision health and breast cancer care in Qatar. By leveraging QF's research ecosystem, we are continuing to build on our successes, with a clear focus on improving patient outcomes and transforming healthcare in the region.

Q. How is Qatar Foundation collaborating with local or international organisations to enhance breast cancer awareness and research?

A. Qatar Foundation (QF) has created a robust ecosystem across the country, designed to spearhead precision health initiatives with a stable infrastructure that supports both research and clinical applications. This nationwide system allows QF to effectively implement large-scale health programmes with the support local stakeholders like Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Sidra, Hamad Medical Corp (HMC), the Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC) and others.

On a global level, QF is committed to enhancing the representation of Qatar's population in international precision health efforts by actively participating in global consortia. These collaborations allow Qatar to contribute to and benefit from the latest advancements in precision health, ensuring that the unique genetic and environmental factors of its population are well represented in global research.

In addition to these efforts, Qatar Foundation recently hosted a breast cancer awareness event specifically for female contractors, reflecting its commitment to raising awareness across all sectors of society. The event featured educational talks, information booths, and medical consultations, giving attendees the opportunity to learn more about breast cancer and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This initiative is part of QF's broader mission to not only foster cutting-edge research but also to ensure that critical health information reaches all members of the community.

“Most women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history, and breast cancer can affect younger women and men as well”

Q. What key messages should the public understand about breast cancer and the importance of early intervention?

A. The key message is simple: early detection saves lives. Regular mammograms, particularly for women in the target age group of 45 to 69, can detect breast cancer long before symptoms appear. The national Get Screened for Breast Cancer programme ensures that asymptomatic women have access to routine screenings every three years. Early intervention not only increases the chances of successful treatment but also signifi-



Dr Fatima M Qafoud, Acting Director at Qatar Biobank.

cantly reduces the need for aggressive treatments. It's crucial for everyone, regardless of family history, to remain vigilant and proactive about their health.

Q. What advancements in precision health do you foresee impacting breast cancer outcomes in the coming years?

A. In the coming years, advancements in genomic testing and personalised treatment approaches will continue to transform breast cancer care. AI-powered tools will improve the accuracy of mammograms and other imaging technologies, allowing us to detect cancer even earlier. In addition, immunotherapies and targeted therapies based on an individual's genetic profile will become more widespread, leading to better treatment outcomes and fewer side effects. These innovations will enable us to detect, prevent, and treat breast cancer more effectively than ever before.

Q. Can you share a success story or a significant impact you've witnessed through your work?

A. One particularly impactful success story comes from our Qatar Biobank cohort. A woman participating in the cohort had a genetic marker associated with breast cancer identified through our precision health initiatives. As a result, she and her family were invited to the Breast Cancer Family High-Risk Clinic, where they received specialised screening and care. During this process, her teenage sister – who otherwise would not have been identified as high risk – was screened, and an early-stage breast cancer was detected.

Thanks to early intervention, her sister received timely treatment, and the family now benefits from ongoing monitoring and support. This story is a powerful example of how precision health and early detection can make a life-saving difference, not just for the individual but for entire families. Had this family not participated in the Qatar Biobank cohort, the teenage sister's cancer might not have been caught until much later, potentially with more severe outcomes.

It truly demonstrates the ripple effect of these initiatives, extending the benefits of early detection beyond just the individual to the larger community.

QF launched several initiatives to emphasise the need for regional perspectives on global health and the importance of translating research into solutions with real-world impact.

The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), an initiative of Qatar Foundation, will host its seventh edition of WISH Summit in Doha on 13 and 14 November 2024.

Over two days, more than 3,000 health policymakers, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and practitioners will convene at Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) to look for innovative solutions to some of the world's most significant health challenges.

WISH will issue a cancer report highlighting cost-effective interventions for women's cancers in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.





Amir attends official dinner banquet

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the official dinner banquet hosted by Italian President Sergio Mattarella in his honour at the Quirinal Presidential Palace in Rome yesterday.

The president delivered a speech in which he warmly welcomed His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation, and expressed happiness with the discussions and consultations that took place during the meetings between the two sides.

In a speech, His Highness the Amir expressed deep thanks and appreciation to the president for the warm reception, praising the discussions in various fields that were held during the visit.

The banquet was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir, businessmen and senior officials.

On the Italian side, it was attended by a number of ministers, businessmen and senior officials. - QNA



Amir, Italian president exchange decorations

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Italian President Sergio Mattarella exchanged the high-level decorations of both countries at the Quirinal Presidential Palace yesterday.

His Highness the Amir was awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, the highest order in Italy, in recognition of his efforts in strengthening friendly relations between the two countries. On his side, His Highness the Amir presented the Sword of the Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani to the president for his role in supporting and consolidating relations between the two countries.

The Sword of the Founder and the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic are the highest decorations in both countries and are awarded to kings, princes, and heads of state. - QNA

Amir discusses ways to develop partnerships with Italy

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani affirmed that he discussed with Italian President Sergio Mattarella, and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, ways to develop partnerships between the two countries in various fields in order to promote bilateral co-operation to the desired level.

In a post on his official account on X platform, the Amir said that he held extensive talks yesterday in Rome with President Mattarella and Prime Minister Meloni, on strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries as well as ways to promote bilateral co-operation to the desired level by developing partnerships in various fields on the basis of common desire and in a way that meets the aspirations and ambitions of the two friendly countries and peoples. (QNA)



Amir, Italian PM witness exchange of agreements

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni attended yesterday the exchange ceremony of several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and co-operation between the governments of the two countries.

They attended the exchange of two MoUs between Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Italian Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, and between Qatar Tourism and Italy's Ministry of Tourism.

His Highness The Amir and Meloni also attended a declaration of intent on cultural co-operation between Qatar Museums and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.

They attended the exchange of MoU between Barzan Holdings and Fincantieri, and MoU between Esthmar Holding and Sace. - QNA



Amir and Italian PM in official talks

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The session was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, HE Head of the State Security Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, and HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani, along with several high-ranking officials members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

On the Italian side, the session was attended by Minister of the Environment and Energy Security Gilberto Fratin, chief of staff at the prime minister's office Gaetano Caputi, Diplomatic Adviser to Prime Minister, Fabrizio Saggio, and Military Adviser to the Prime Minister Franco Federici, alongside senior officials.

His Highness the Amir and Meloni held a bilateral meeting prior to these talks.

Meloni held a luncheon banquet in honour of His Highness the Amir and members of the official delegation accompanying him.



Amir holds meeting with Italian Chamber of Deputies president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met the president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Lorenzo Fontana, at Montecitorio Palace in Rome yesterday.

Discussions during the meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways to develop them, in addition to host of topics of mutual interest.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani attended the meeting along with a number of members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir, as well as a number of senior officials in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. - QNA



Amir's visit to Italy 'comes at a critical time'

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Italy gains significant momentum in light of the growing bilateral relations, and comes at a critical time in view of the current developments in the Middle East, said Shura Council member Mohammed bin Fahad al-Mesallam, who is also the chairman of the Qatar-Europe Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Italian lawmaker Salvatore Caiata, head of the Parliamentary Friendship Inter-group for the Gulf Countries at the Italian parliament.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Mesallam said that His High-

ness the Amir's visit is a milestone in the course of the constantly developing relations between Qatar and Italy.

The visit, he said, breaks new ground for developing the economic co-operation and building a wider partnership in areas of priority for both countries to achieve their aspirations for sustainable development.

Al-Mesallam noted that Italy is one of the important partners of Qatar in the fields of energy, trade, investment, health, culture, and others.

He stressed the significance of the visit in strengthening the relations and addressing regional and international files

amidst the growing global and regional challenges.

He also highlighted the strong ties between the Shura Council and the Italian parliament, noting that parliamentary co-operation between the two sides enhances mutual understanding and the exchange of expertise in legislative fields.

Caiata said that His Highness the Amir's visit is very important for the relations between the two countries.

The mutual visits between the two countries indicate continuous growth, he said, pointing to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's visit to Qatar in September last year, in addition to the efforts of

the ambassadors of the two countries to consolidate and strengthen the bilateral relations at various levels.

"There is fruitful co-operation in other areas," Caiata said. "In September, we hosted the Qatar Leadership Centre, and met about 25 young people from the centre who visit many countries to gain new experiences for the future of Qatar."

He hailed the parliamentary relations between Qatar and Italy as excellent and constantly evolving, noting that communication between the two sides has a positive impact on the progress of bilateral relations.

He also touched on the cultural rela-

tions between Qatar and Italy, and ways to enhance and develop them, in light of the cultural potential of the two countries.

Caiata said His Highness the Amir's visit comes at a critical time in light of the developments in the Middle East.

He expressed his country's appreciation for Qatar's role and endeavours to restore calm in the region through mediation.

"Italy appreciates all the efforts made by the State of Qatar to achieve calm in the region, which is a very important role," the lawmaker said. "It is also important that we talk as two friendly countries about ways to stop this war and give peace a chance." - QNA