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Qatar, Germany to widen co-operation

Amir holds talks with German president, chancellor

QNA
Berlin

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Olaf Scholz held an official session of talks at the Meseberg Palace in Brandenburg yesterday.

During the session, they discussed the existing friendship and co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them across various fields, especially investment, economy, and trade.

The session also addressed developments in regional and international issues of common interest, mainly the developments in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Lebanon, and the need to intensify efforts to reduce escalation in the Middle East and reach a ceasefire.

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 Qas-



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Chancellor Olaf Scholz held talks at the Meseberg Palace in Brandenburg yesterday.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with German President Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the Bellevue Presidential Palace in Berlin

sim al-Thani, along with several high-ranking officials members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

On Germany's side, the session was attended by Federal Government Spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit, State Secretary at the Federal Chancellery Jorg Kukies, and a number of senior officials.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir and the Chancellor held a bilateral meeting, where they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to enhance and develop them.

The German chancellor held a luncheon banquet in honour of

Amir: Talks with German leaders to consolidate bilateral co-operation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani affirmed that he discussed with President of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Olaf Scholz, the shared aspirations to consolidate and expand bilateral co-operation across political, economic and commercial areas. His Highness the Amir posted on his official X account that Tuesday's deliberations in Berlin with German

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor Olaf Scholz tackled common aspirations to boost and expand bilateral co-operation across political, economic and commercial fields, which both sides are keen to continuously develop through joint efforts, strategic partnerships and mutual investments at the bilateral and multilateral levels, in a way that achieves the interests of the two countries and prosperity for the two friendly peoples. (QNA)

His Highness the Amir and members of the official accompanying delegation.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with President of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the Bellevue Presidential Palace in Berlin.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to enhance and develop them across various fields. In addition, they discussed regional and international developments.

To Page 12

Shura committee completes discussion of amendments



The committee concerned with studying the amendment of articles in the Constitution at the Shura Council completed its discussions of the constitutional amendments draft during a meeting held yesterday, chaired by Head of the Committee Dr Sultan bin Hassan al-Dhabet al-Dosari. The committee decided to submit its report on the aforementioned draft to the Shura Council. (QNA)

Israeli strikes pound Lebanon; toll 2,546

Israel kept up its bombing of Lebanon yesterday after a late night strike that killed 18 people near a Beirut hospital, state media reported, as its war on Hezbollah approached the one-month mark. The Israeli aggression on Lebanon, which has been ongoing since

October of last year, has killed 2,546 people, injured 11,862 others, and forced thousands to flee their villages and farms. The official National News Agency said four strikes hit Beirut's embattled southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold.

Blinken urges Israel to reach Gaza truce, allow more humanitarian aid

AFP
Jerusalem

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday to work towards a ceasefire in Gaza, also calling for more aid to reach the war-battered territory.

Blinken is on his 11th trip to the Middle East since October 7, 2023, and his first since Israel's conflict with Iran-backed Hezbollah escalated late last month.

During his meeting with Netanyahu in Jerusalem, Blinken "underscored the need to capitalise" on the Israeli military's killing of Palestinian resistance movement (Hamas) leader Yahya Sinwar last week, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

Blinken also pressed for more aid to be allowed into the besieged Palestinian territory as concerns rise for tens of thousands of civilians trapped by fighting in the hard-to-reach north.

Israel promised to address US concerns over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, ac-



Displaced Palestinians fleeing Israeli military operations making their way to Gaza City yesterday.

ording to a US State Department official.

The UN Palestinian refugee agency called yesterday for a temporary truce to allow people to leave areas of northern Gaza as health officials said they were running out of supplies to treat patients injured in a three-week-old Israeli assault.

Qatar Airways launches world's first Boeing 777 Starlink-equipped flight

Qatar Airways has operated the world's first Starlink-equipped Boeing 777 aircraft from Doha to London, taking 'the future of in-flight connectivity to greater heights'.

According to the national airline its "passengers can now stay entertained and connected throughout their journey, streaming their favourite shows and live sports, enjoying online gaming, or working seamlessly at 35,000 feet - all completely free of charge."

This milestone establishes Qatar Airways as an industry leader in bringing advanced technology on board, a statement

said yesterday. The airline is the largest and first carrier in the Mena region to offer passengers Starlink ultra-high-speed, low-latency Internet. Starlink is free to all passengers and operates from gate to gate.

Qatar's national carrier is also set to exceed its initial target of three Starlink-equipped aircraft by introducing 12 Boeing 777-300s upgraded with this innovative service by the end of 2024.

Qatar Airways has further committed to rolling out the technology on its entire Boeing 777 fleet in 2025 - one year ahead of schedule - with the Airbus A350 fleet following in the summer of 2025.



This significant move highlights Qatar Airways' commitment to bridging the gap between the skies and the ground by offering ultra-high-speed, low-latency Internet.

Engineered by SpaceX, Starlink is the world's first and largest satellite constellation using a low Earth orbit that will provide passengers reliable, high-speed Internet so they can stay connected with friends and family, stream their favourite entertainment, watch live sports, play online games, or work efficiently at 35,000 feet - all for free and with a simple 'one-click-access'.

Qatar Airways' Group CEO Badr Mo-

ammed al-Meer, said: "We are thrilled to launch our first Starlink-equipped flight, proving once again why Qatar Airways is at the forefront of the aviation industry."

"This milestone, paired with our commitment to rapidly roll-out Starlink across our entire modern fleet, demonstrates our relentless pursuit of offering passengers an in-flight experience that transcends the constraints of traditional air travel."

"By providing Starlink reliable, seamless Internet on board, we are connecting people to the things they love the most even at 35,000 feet, making every journey with us a memorable one." To Page 3

Qatar Hosts the Global Event Relay for Life 2024: A Call for Solidarity Against Cancer

- **Dr. Khalid bin Jaber: We Take Pride in Launching This Initiative and Call for Unity in the Fight Against Cancer**
- **A Diverse Program Featuring Inspiring Stories and Recreational Activities**



together to celebrate life, remember those we have lost, and take effective steps to combat cancer and alleviate its impacts.

The event will take place at the indoor athletic track at Aspire from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Attendees will participate in a continuous four-hour walk, symbolizing the ongoing battle against cancer. This initiative serves as a chance to unify efforts and build a supportive community that fosters a positive spirit and solidarity in facing health challenges.

Inspiring Experiences

The Relay for Life activities will include various recreational events suitable for all ages, making it a perfect gathering for families and friends. Inspiring stories from survivors will be showcased, highlighting their journeys and courage in facing the disease. Additionally, loved ones we have lost will be honored, adding an emotional dimension to the event and enhancing the feelings of unity and compassion.

Recreational Activities

In addition to the recreational activities, the event will feature awareness initiatives aimed at increasing knowledge about cancer, its prevention, and the importance of early detection. Sessions will focus on how to support patients and their families, as well as enhancing understanding of treatment and care options.

A Call for Unity

In a statement, His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Khalid bin Jaber Al Thani, Chairman of the Qatar Cancer Society, said: "We are proud to host Relay for Life 2024 in Qatar. This initiative reflects our commitment to support the community in its fight against cancer. We invite everyone to participate in this important event, which represents an opportunity to raise awareness, honor those we have lost, and support survivors. This event is not just a celebration; it is a call for unity and collective action to eradicate this disease."

HE. added: "The Relay for Life 2024 is a pivotal event that embodies the values of solidarity and positivity, bringing together community members of all ages and backgrounds. We encourage everyone—families, friends, and those interested in public health issues—to join this remarkable event. Together, we can make a real difference and help change the course of the battle against cancer."

The Relay for Life 2024, an inspiring global event organized by the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), will kick off this Friday. This event marks its first occurrence in Qatar and provides a unique opportunity for cancer survivors, healthcare providers, and all community members to come



Join us for the inspiring global event Relay for Life 2024

Let's gather cancer survivors, healthcare providers, and community members to celebrate hope and strength!

 Friday, October 25, 2024  15:00 - 20:00  Aspire Indoor Athletic Track

Registration Fees: 50 QAR for adults | 25 QAR for children (under 12)

Strategic Partner



Registration



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Location



Qatar participates in Cairo meeting to stop genocide against Palestinians

Qatar participated in the extraordinary session of the Council of the Arab League at the level of permanent delegates, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Cairo.

The session discussed Arab and international action to stop the crimes of genocide, brutality and forced displacement committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Deputy Permanent Representative of Qatar to the Arab League Maryam Ahmed al-Shibi represented Qatar at the meeting, which was held based on an urgent request submitted by the State of Palestine to the Arab League's General Secretariat.

The session aimed to tackle



the ongoing crimes of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the military

siege of the northern part of the Strip to separate it from the rest of its parts. (QNA)

Qatari students compete for Arab Reading Challenge Award in Dubai

Two Qatari students are among the Arab Reading Challenge finalists, in a ceremony to be held yesterday at Dubai Opera. Abdulrahman Jamal Mohammed al-Jaber, who claimed the eighth Arab Reading Challenge in Qatar, and Saif Nabil Zain, who came first in the People with Disabilities category will compete for the Arab literacy initiative launched by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives to encourage students to read. Nashwa Saad Ahmed is among the Distinguished Supervisor Award finalists, while the Al Khwarizmi Primary School for Girls is racing for the Excellent School Award. (QNA)

Qatar Airways launches world's first Boeing 777 Starlink-equipped flight

From Page 1

Leveraging advanced satellites with its deep experience with both spacecraft and on-orbit operations, Starlink delivers internet access around the world, including over oceans and other remote locations previously unreachable by traditional cell or Wi-Fi signals. "Over-time you'll find it just gets better and better. This is the minimum and it only gets better from here," said SpaceX CEO Elon Musk.

As the first-ever service of its kind in the Mena region, the collaboration with Starlink, the world's largest satellite internet constellation engineered and operated by SpaceX, marks a new

milestone for Qatar's national carrier. This strategic initiative will further elevate the airline's unparalleled on-board experience.

Qatar Airways said: "This press release, along with accompanying multimedia files, was dispatched directly from the first Starlink-equipped flight at 35,000 feet. The Starlink-equipped aircraft will operate on select routes as the airline pushes forward its roll-out plans. This will ensure more passengers have seamless access to enhanced connectivity during their travels, elevating the Qatar Airways' award-winning on-board experience to new heights and setting a new benchmark for in-flight excellence."



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Qalam: Great Writers in Conversation with Kamila Shamsie Hisham Matar, Pulitzer Prize Winning Author

Wednesday, October 23 | 5:30-7:00 PM | Auditorium, Georgetown University in Qatar



Photo Credit: Diana Matar

Hisham Matar was born in New York City to Libyan parents. He is the author of the novels *In the Country of Men*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and *Anatomy of a Disappearance*. His two memoirs are: *The Return*, winner of a Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Jean Stein Award, and *A Month in Siena*, a meditation on grief, art and human intimacy. His most recent book, published in January 2024, is the novel *My Friends*. Longlisted for the Booker Prize and the National Book Award, it has won the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction.



Photo Credit: Alex von Tunzelmann

Kamila Shamsie
Women's Prize for Fiction winner, *Home Fire*
Inaugural Writer-in-Residence
Georgetown University in Qatar



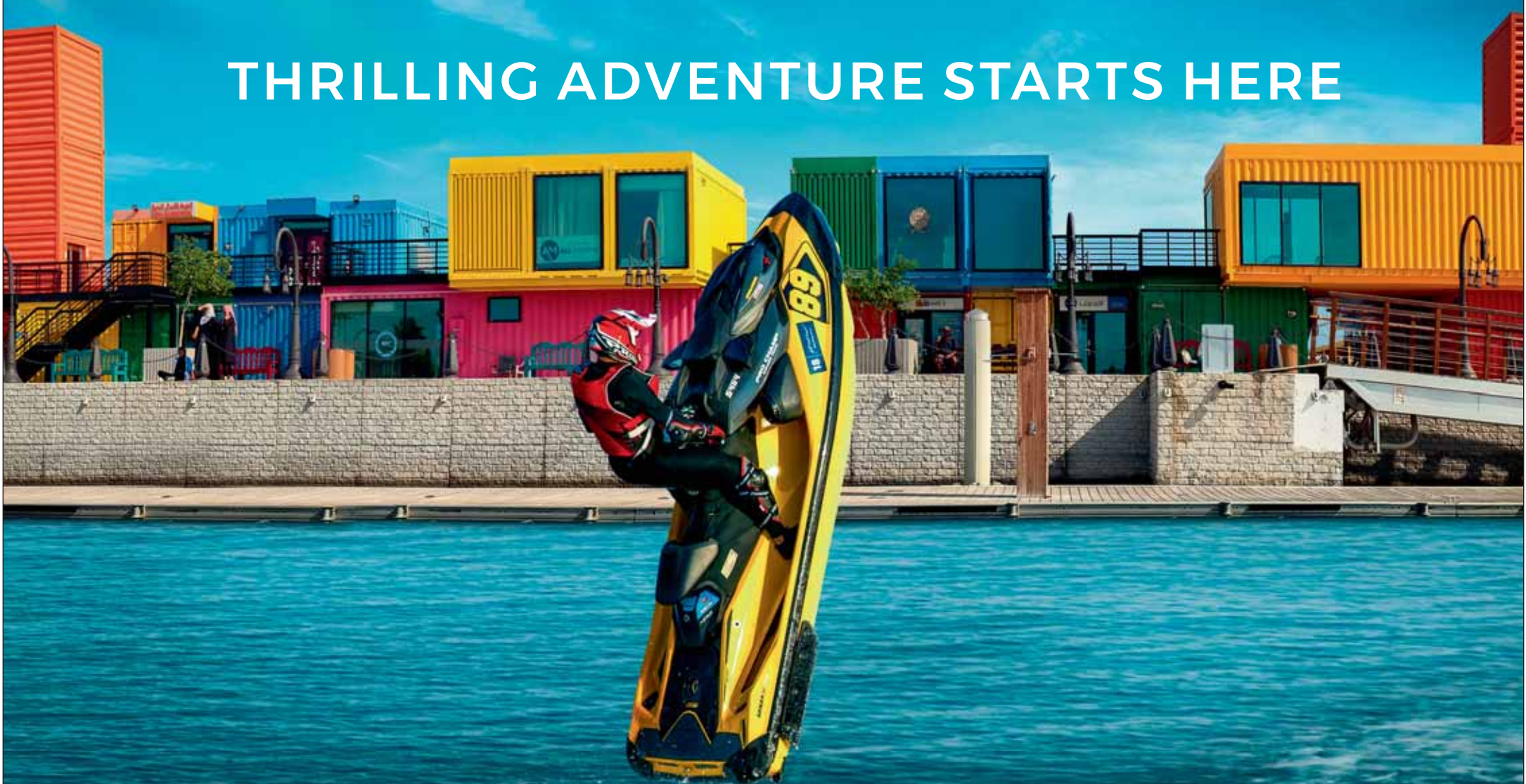
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Qatar's ambassador presents credentials



Burundi's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Co-operation, Albert Shingiro, has received a copy of credentials of Fahad Rashid al-Muraikhi as Qatar's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary (non-resident) to Burundi. (QNA)

Official

PM sends written message to Panama FM

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has sent a written message to Panama's Foreign Minister Javier Martinez-Acha, pertaining to bilateral relations. The message was handed over by Qatar's ambassador to Panama Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Dehaimi, during his meeting with the foreign minister. (QNA)

AlKhater meets Egypt's FM



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met with Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, Dr Badr Abdelaaty, on the sidelines of the 25th session of the Arab Charter Committee on Human Rights to discuss Qatar's 3rd periodic report, held in Cairo. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and enhance them in the development and humanitarian fields. They also discussed regional developments, especially in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, Sudan, and Lebanon. They stressed the importance of reaching an agreement to cease fire in the Strip and the unhindered flow of humanitarian aid. Qatar's ambassador to Egypt Tariq Ali Faraj al-Ansari attended the meeting. (QNA)

MoI undersecretary meets with Saudi director of Public Security



HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab al-Kaabi met yesterday with Director of Public Security in Saudi Arabia Lt Gen Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Bassami. The meeting discussed a broad range of topics of shared interest, in addition to co-operative relationships between the two countries in security fields and ways to advance them. (QNA)

Environment minister opens Algerian products exhibition

QNA
Doha

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie (pictured) inaugurated the Algerian Products Exhibition in Doha yesterday. Running through October 26 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, the event brings together over 150 companies offering various products and goods.

The inauguration was attended by Algerian Minister of Trade and Exports Promotion Tayeb Zitouni, and HE Qatar Businessmen Association Chairman Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani. The Algerian minister praised the powerful Qatar-Algeria relations in all fields, pointing out that Algeria has attracted many Qatari investors in the recent pe-



riod, whether in the public or private sectors.

He added that the current trade exchange volume does not reflect the ambitions of officials in both countries, expressing his hope that this exhibition will open up more co-operation and intensify trade exchange between the two countries.

For his part, HE Sheikh Faisal stressed

the great opportunities provided by the economies of the two countries, calling on businessmen to seize them to enhance Qatari-Algerian economic relations in the commercial and investment aspects. He expressed his hope that this exhibition will play a major role in increasing Algerian exports to Doha and establishing new partnerships between Qatari businessmen and their Algerian counterparts, whether through bilateral projects in Doha, or others established in Algeria, which constitutes a fertile ground for investments in a wide range of fields.

In turn, Chairman of the Algerian Economic Renewal Council Kamel Moula said that holding the exhibition in Qatar confirms the development of relations between the two countries and the efforts of both sides to achieve more partnerships and expand the scope of bilateral projects in the coming period to include all sectors.

Arab Charter Committee on rights discusses Qatar's periodic report

QNA
Cairo

The 25th session of the Arab Charter Committee on Human Rights, began on Monday at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League of Arab States in Cairo, to discuss the third periodic report of the State of Qatar, which was commended by representatives of the participating concerned parties.

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater headed the State of Qatar's delegation to the session. The delegation comprises Qatar's ambassador to Egypt and its Permanent Representative to Arab League, Tariq Ali Faraj al-Ansari, and representatives of various government agencies in the country.

In her speech during the opening of the session, HE AlKhater said that Qatar appreciates the important role played by the Arab Charter Committee on Human Rights to help States Parties improve and strengthen their obligations and implement the provisions of the Charter. She noted that the adoption of the Arab Charter on Human Rights came as a result of the reform efforts undertaken by the Arab League, which stressed the importance of establishing a regional system to promote, protect and monitor human rights in the Arab region.

In this regard, HE AlKhater affirmed Qatar's full support and co-operation to carry out its mandate and competencies related to promoting and protecting human rights, noting that Qatar has continued its increasing interest in implementing the provisions of the Arab Charter on Human Rights and has taken legislative, legal, administrative and other appropriate measures in this regard to promote the rights laid by the Charter and support the means to establish and develop them within the framework of comprehensive social development.

This interest was based on national references, most notably Qatar National Vision 2030 and the three national development strategies, which culminated



ed by the launch of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, HE AlKhater said explaining that such references constitute a supportive and solid environment for the development of human rights in accordance with the provisions of relevant regional and international treaties and agreements.

She cited His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's affirmation before the 79th UNGA that Qatar will spare no effort in working with its international partners and the United Nations to consolidate the pillars of peace, security, sustainable development, human rights and the rule of law at all levels and address global challenges in order to achieve a better future for all.

She also referred to the re-election of Qatar to the membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council for 2025-2027, which reflects the efforts made by Qatar to promote the values of justice, equality and human rights, appreciating in this regard the international appreciation of Qatar's firm commitment at the national, regional and international levels, which motivates it to achieve more goals aimed at enhancing human dignity nationally, regionally and internationally.

At the end of her speech, HE AlKhater reiterated the presence of political resolve and supportive climate for implementing the provisions and provisions of the Arab Charter on Human Rights in Qatar, stressing that Qatar has spared no effort through its membership in re-

gional and international organisations in contributing effectively to supporting efforts related to promoting and protecting human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

For her part, Dr Reem Ali Ibrahim al-Derham, Acting Director of Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered Qatar's introductory statement before the Committee, in which she noted Qatar's keenness to ensure that the report submitted by Qatar and the response memorandum include all Arab Charter-related developments in Qatar since 2021.

Dr al-Derham pointed out that the topic of promoting and protecting human rights is at the forefront of Qatar's priorities and a cornerstone of the comprehensive reform policy it is pursuing, referring to the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, which priorities are embodied in seven main goals, namely: (sustainable economic growth, financial sustainability, a workforce ready for the future, a cohesive society, high-quality life, environmental sustainability, and distinguished government institutions).

Dr al-Derham explained that during the period extending from the discussion of its second periodic report in 2021 until the issuance of this report in 2024, Qatar witnessed wide-ranging developments; legislative, institutional and at the level of policies and strategies aimed at strengthening and enhancing the human rights infrastructure.

Meeting of Qatari-Saudi joint security committee convened



The first meeting of the Joint Security Committee for Co-operation in Crime Prevention between the interior ministries of Qatar and Saudi Arabia was held yesterday in Doha. The Qatari side was led by Director General of Public Security Major General Mohammed Jassim al-Sulaiti, while the Saudi side was headed by Director General of Public Security Lieutenant General Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Bassami. The meeting discussed several topics and explored avenues for co-operation to enhance efforts in combating and preventing crime. It was attended by several leaders and officials from both the interior ministries of and the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya). (QNA)



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/HRS/6850/24 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION SERVICES ON CALL-OFF BASIS	24/10/2024 to 03/11/2024	0	0	11/11/2024

Scope of Work:

The COMPANY would like to establish an AGREEMENT for providing Hotel Accommodation Services on call off basis with Hotels & Resorts in and around Doha. This will be used by COMPANY for accommodating their Staff & Guests mainly during transit times from the time of their arrival from their home country and deputation to work locations.

Bid Validity: Bid should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that has been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/en-US/>

Labour ministry holds field training sessions

The Ministry of Labour, represented by the Department of Qualifying Skills Development, has organised the first field training sessions for female trainees of the Customer Service programme at Al Noor Center for the Blind, in co-operation with the Excellence Center for Training and Consultancy at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. This initiative enables trainees to apply the theoretical aspects of the programme in a practical, field-based manner.

The training course is part of the Min-

istry of Labour's initiative to qualify the national workforce and prepare them for the private sector labour market, aligning with the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030.

This strategy aims to develop a highly skilled and competitive workforce capable of driving significant changes towards a more productive labour market.

During the course, the trainees were introduced to the systems and principles of customer service and the mechanisms and techniques employed at Al Noor Center for the Blind.

They also attended an applied session on strategies for communicating with customers in a sophisticated and distinctive manner.

The course featured practical and field-based applications of the latest customer service methods and communication skills for various societal groups.

Furthermore, participants engaged in discussions with customer service experts, gaining valuable insights that enhanced their skills and better prepared them for the job market. (QNA)

QT and MoI join forces to create 'Ambassadors of Qatar' initiative

Qatar Tourism's (QT) Service Excellence Academy and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Training Institute have collaborated to create 'The Ambassadors of Qatar: The Road to Excellence Programme'.

The aim is to elevate the visitor experience for tourists entering and exiting Qatar, across all entry points of the country, by enhancing the skills and knowledge of the immigration officers.

This first-of-its-kind training programme spanned three days and concluded with 20 graduates receiving their completion certificates yesterday at the Civil Defence Officers Club.

Through the programme, officers are reminded of the importance

of their role as an Ambassador of Qatar, often providing the first or last impression to visitors. The trainees are equipped with the expertise to deliver exceptional service, fostering a seamless and enriching experience for all travellers.

By emphasising effective communication, emotional intelligence, and cultural sensitivity, the aim is to empower officers to navigate diverse situations with professionalism, empathy and care. The training programme is divided into five modules: Role of Immigration in Travel Experience, Mastering Effective Communication, Pursuit of Excellence, Emotional Intelligence and the final module is the Ambassadors of Qatar.



This first-of-its-kind training programme saw 20 graduates receiving their completion certificates.

In a press statement, QT's Tourism Development acting director Omar al-Jaber said: "The Ambassadors of Qatar Programme: Road to Excellence is an inspired joint effort between the QT Service Ex-

cellence Academy and MoI Training Institute aimed at providing the relevant training to our tourism frontliners, the first people visitors encounter when arriving to Qatar.

The role that they play in representing Qatar is essential in maintaining the country's image to the world.

"At QT, we are steadfast in providing service excellence at every touch point in the tourism sector, whether it's through our events, our venues and now at our entry ports. We look forward to making this programme bigger with every batch and include more segments from the industry.

"I would like to thank the MoI for their partnership, the trainers who helped make this programme

come to fruition and lastly, I would like to congratulate all who have been certified."

Colonel Nayef Mohammed al-Mannai, Director of the Police Officers Institute, said: "This training, conducted in co-operation with QT, lasted three days and included the participation of 20 officers from various departments of MoI.

The programme focused on the skills and knowledge necessary to enhance visitor satisfaction and create a positive impression of the State of Qatar by effectively addressing the needs and challenges that may arise during their duties. The course aimed to equip officers with advanced skills for engaging with visitors."



All set for the Qatar Boat Show 2024

The inaugural edition of the Qatar Boat Show (QBS) is all set to take place from November 6-9 at the Old Doha Port, featuring more than 350 marine brands, luxury yachts and a variety of watersports and entertainment.

The event, sponsored by the Ministry of Transport and other major partners, promises a showcase of Qatar's maritime culture and the latest in marine technology, among other offerings. At the Shoreline Display, visitors will have the chance to witness a lineup of on-ground boats from the latest leisure boats and sleek speedboats from

hundreds of marine brands, Al Dar Marine, Doha Craft Marine, and Jassim Ahmed Al Lingawi Trading. The Oceanic Display showcases craftsmanship and innovative yachts on the water from Aldhaen Marine, Al Fajer Marine, Gulf Craft, Princess Yachts, Sanlorenzo Yachts, Sunseeker, Cranchi and Sirena Yachts.

The event will also host prominent yachting lifestyle brands, including Benetti, Feadship, Oceanco, and Turquoise Yachts.

The QBS will also display more than 100 brands of watersports and fishing equipment, and live demonstrations at the Water-

sports Area, featuring stand-up paddling to kayaking and canoeing to jet skiing to paddle boarding. The four-day event will also host competitions, dancing fountains, and live music performances, as well as car parade, equestrian display, dragon boat show, and night fireworks. Exhibitor booths will showcase the latest innovative marine technology and equipment.

Other sponsors of the Qatar Boat Show include Qatar Airways, Visit Qatar, Alkass Sports Channel, Mwani Qatar, Qterminals, Alfardan Premier Motors, and The World of Yachts magazine.



QNL hosts third annual forum for open research in Mena

Qatar National Library, in partnership with the Knowledge E Foundation, hosted the third Annual Forum for Open Research (FORM) in Mena. The three-day conference brought together leading researchers, policymakers and innovators from across the Middle East and North Africa to explore and advance open research practices in the region.

Using the theme, 'Transforming Knowledge into Action,' this year's edition delved into the latest trends and opportunities in open research in a bid to help streamline the global transition towards more accessible, sustainable and inclusive research models. HE the Minister of State and QNL president Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, said: "This year's forum emphasises a cause central to our mission at Qatar National Library - advancing open research and fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange that

yields tangible, impactful results. The library has spared no effort in supporting the growth and prosperity of open science ecosystems, both in Qatar and across the region."

"Open access is one of our core values," he added. "We believe in offering unrestricted access to our collections and services, ensuring knowledge is within everyone's reach. This not only allows us to safeguard our nation's heritage, but also empowers the people of Qatar to positively impact society by creating an environment conducive to learning, discovery, and innovation."

Tan Huism, QNL's executive director, said the library's commitment to supporting and facilitating research continues to grow as it builds on its initiatives to promote and advocate for open research practices in collaboration with various organisations across the region.

"Through initiatives such as

the Manara - Qatar Research Repository, our Open Access Fund, and events like today's, we pursue our objective of promoting open access that increases the impact and visibility of published works, which ultimately advances our mission of serving as a hub for learning, cultural development, and personal growth," Tan said.

QNL is a leader in open access in the Mena region, providing services through transformative read and publish agreements. These include an article processing charge fund to cover processing charges for open access journals, and a digital research repository to support a permanent archive of Qatar-based research. Since 2018, QNL consortium has funded the publication of more than 5,000 articles.

Last year, QNL also launched Manara - Qatar Research Repository, which captures, preserves and provides access to scholarly research created in the country.

Ooredoo launches 'Souq' in partnership with Urban Point

Ooredoo has announced the launch of Souq, an innovative one-stop digital marketplace, in partnership with Urban Point, a leading lifestyle and savings platform in Qatar.

Available via the Ooredoo app, Souq offers a premium shopping experience with personalised offers, discounts, and vouchers across a wide range of products and services, including travel, dining, beauty, leisure, and more. The platform also provides an all-inclusive savings experience as an added benefit to our customers' loyalty to Ooredoo.

Souq incorporates advanced features to deliver tailored customer experiences, smart recommendations, and dedicated support, catering to the unique preferences of each user. The future integration of Nojoom points into the platform will enhance the variety of value-added offers and programmes, providing customers with even greater flexibility and rewards.

Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, director, Public Relations, CSR & Sponsorship at Ooredoo Qatar, said: "The launch of Souq marks a significant milestone in our digital transformation journey. By expanding beyond traditional telecom products, we are upgrading both the lifestyle and shopping experience of our customers,



while also supporting businesses in their digitalisation efforts. This platform represents the future of e-commerce in Qatar." Saif Qazi, CEO of Urban Point, added: "Our vision is to establish Souq as the go-to destination in Qatar - where every shopping journey naturally begins. We are gearing up for a bold expansion into new verticals, positioning Souq as a leading force in driving customers to local businesses to fuel growth.

"Historically, souqs have fulfilled various roles beyond economic functions, serving as hubs for social, cultural, and informational exchange. Souq builds on this tradition by offering customers a convenient, all-in-one marketplace in the digital world."

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Ministry of Commerce and Industry
دولة قطر - State of Qatar



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Manufacturing Year 2024

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وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
دولة قطر - State of Qatar

Qatar Charity delivers cooking gas cylinders to Rohingya refugees

Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed a new batch of cooking gas cylinders to approximately 23,000 refugees on Bhasan Char Island in Bangladesh.

The aid, which comes with the support of philanthropists in Qatar, is part of QC's ongoing efforts for the benefit of Rohingya refugees.

This project, implemented in co-ordination with local government authorities and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), aims to improve their living conditions and to ensure access to a safe and reliable cooking fuel source. Many refugees previously relied on firewood, which posed safety risks.

Samiya, a refugee mother of three, expressed her gratitude. "Before receiving this assistance, cooking was a struggle.



We had to collect firewood, which was not only dangerous but also time-consuming. Now, I can prepare meals quickly and safely for my children."

Government officials have acknowledged the importance of QC's support in improving the living conditions of the refugees. Md Maksudur Rah-

man, assistant camp in charge of Bhasan Char Island, said QC's provision of cooking gas cylinders is a crucial initiative that addresses urgent needs.

Over the past five years, QC's projects have benefitted more than 1.5mn refugees living in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island.

Experts gather for QNL-hosted annual open research forum

Qatar National Library (QNL), in partnership with the Knowledge E Foundation, hosted the third Annual Forum for Open Research (FORM) in Mena.

The three-day conference brought together leading researchers, policymakers and innovators from across the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) to explore and advance open research practices in the region.

HE the Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari emphasised that since its establishment, the library has been keen to communicate with local and international audiences, which resulted in the number of its visitors doubling in 2023 to 1.2mn visitors, after it was nearly 600,000 visitors in 2022, reflecting the keenness to make books and knowledge accessible to all, which in turn provides an envi-

ronment for exploration and innovation.

He said: "This year's forum emphasises a cause central to our mission at Qatar National Library – advancing open research and fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange that yields tangible, impactful results. The Library has spared no effort in supporting the growth and prosperity of open science ecosystems, both in Qatar and across the region. We remain steadfast in our commitment to engage with our local and global communities, preserve Qatar's rich history and culture, and collaborate with international institutions to expand the reach of knowledge."

"Open access is one of our core values," he added. "We believe in offering unrestricted access to our collections and services, ensuring knowledge is within everyone's reach. This not only al-

lows us to safeguard our nation's heritage, but also empowers the people of Qatar to positively impact society by creating an environment conducive to learning, discovery, and innovation."

In the same context, he said the library's hosting of the forum reflects its international standing in the field of research and studies and making knowledge available to all, as one of its goals since its establishment, and as part of its vision to host such major events.

He said that the Library is a pioneer in this field, as it has initiated specialised projects and is open to various international parties. He referred to the Qatari research platform "Manara", which is concerned with academic research and was established in Qatar with the aim of collecting, preserving, and facilitating access to it. (QNA)

Qatar International Art Festival's sixth edition to begin from Nov 25

The 6th edition of the Qatar International Art Festival (QIAF) 2024 is set to be held from Nov 25-30.

Organised by the Cultural Village Foundation - Katara in collaboration with MAPS International WLL, the festival brings together over 350 artists representing 72 countries who will showcase their artworks that feature a variety of fine and visual arts techniques.

In addition, the event will launch a multitude of packages that comprise 14 activities, foremost of which are sculpture exhibition, which showcases a

thousand artworks, in addition to discussion panels, art workshops and a live painting event in front of the audience, alongside cultural tours, musical evenings and fashion shows inspired by the participating artwork.

The Qatar International Art Festival will culminate with an awards ceremony honouring the outstanding artworks on Nov 30. The event is an international art demonstration that signifies myriad groundbreaking innovative works, coupled with stellar engagement of a wide diversity of Qatari and international artists. (QNA)

Awqaf provides QR18.4mn aid for families in September

The Zakat Affairs Department at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs provided QR18,409,902 in aid for families eligible for assistance in Qatar in September.

According to a statement from Awqaf, 650 families received the aid. Mohamed Ahmed al-Sayed, head of the Zakat Collection and Accounts Department at Awqaf, said the department is keen to financially assist registered families in Qatar.

This assistance is divided into two types: one provided to families monthly to help them with their needs for food, drink and housing, and the lump sum aid provided to families once, ac-



Mohamed Ahmed al-Sayed, head of the Zakat Collection and Accounts Department at Awqaf.

ording to need. The assistance is paid by the department to the eligible registered families based on regulations, Shariah banks

and approved mechanisms.

In September, the periodic assistance provided to eligible families on a monthly basis reached QR8,155,098 while the lump sum aid spent one-time, as per need, amounted to QR10,254,804.

Al-Sayed said families wishing to apply for aid can do so through the department website (www.zakat.gov.qa).

Individuals and companies can perform the prescribed Zakat, through the website of the Zakat Affairs Department, offices and collection points spread nationwide, the collection service numbers (55199990/ 55199996), or the department's accounts numbers in banks.

ECC training held for rain preparedness



The Drainage Networks team at the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has conducted training sessions and virtual simulations to prepare the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) for the rainy season. Engineer Abdullah Shamsan al-Sada stated that Ashghal has implemented adaptation strategies through training and visualisation for the rainy season aiming to enhance system efficiency and customer service excellence. These trainings, according to an X post by Ashghal, aim to enhance ECC users' skills, keeping them updated on systems and procedures, improving response efficiency during the rainy season, and preparing teams for emergencies, rapid response and effective communication with stakeholders.



Students receive calligraphy notebooks

Al Raqim Qatar International Arabic Calligraphy Competition under the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has gifted Arabic calligraphy notebooks in Ruq'ah script to the participating middle and secondary school students.

A statement from Awqaf said 490 male and female students from eight government schools received the notebooks. This is to train them to write various models in Ruq'ah script while enhancing their artistic ability and honing their talent in the art of Arabic calligraphy before participating in the competition tests.

The competition is organised by Awqaf for school students in cooperation with the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) at Qatar Museums. It is held under the supervision of the Qatar Al Raqim International Arabic Calligraphy Competition Committee.

Awqaf earlier launched Al Raqim at Fanar in the presence and sponsorship of HE the Minis-



ter of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem. The competition epitomises the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 in entrenching its cultural role in the Middle East and the entire world, in addition to promoting cultural exchange among Arab nations.

Al Raqim is one of the Arabic competitions with the highest prize money. The total prize money is QR1mn. There are five categories featured in the competition with each recognising eight winners. The jury of Al Raqim consists of five of the world's leading calligraphers.



Armiss to Participate in the ASJAD Event at Al Hazm Mall from October 24th to 29th

Al Hazm Mall, – Armiss, an Italian jewelry company specializing in enameled gold jewelry, is proud to announce its participation in the prestigious ASJAD Event, taking place at Al Hazm Mall from October 24th to 29th.

This event is an important opportunity to showcase Armiss' unique creations to an international audience, featuring the finest craftsmanship from Valenza, the world-renowned capital of fine jewelry.

A Journey Through Art and Color: Armiss Jewelry

Each Armiss jewel tells a story, conveyed through vibrant hues and exquisite artisanal craftsmanship. Handmade by Italian master goldsmiths, our pieces seamlessly blend tradition with innovation, combining precious gold with colourful enamel to create unique, emotionally resonant jewelry.

"We are thrilled to be part of the ASJAD Event and to have the opportunity to showcase our creations to the world.

Our participation in this international event allows us to highlight the exceptional quality of Italian craftsmanship and the vibrant spirit that infuses every Armiss jewel," says the Armiss team.

Visit Us at the ASJAD Event!

We invite all visitors and jewelry enthusiasts to discover our collections in person at our booth at Al Hazm Mall, where the beauty and craftsmanship of each Armiss piece will be on full display.

Learn More About Armiss

For more information about our jewelry, we invite you to follow us on Instagram [[@armissjewels](https://www.instagram.com/armissjewels)](Instagram link) and visit our official website at [www.armiss.it] (website link).





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VIANA IS A BRAND LAUNCHED WITH THE VISION TO BRING A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT WHAT JEWELRY CAN BE.

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NEW INNOVATIONS IN MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES COMBINED WITH THE FINESSE OF THEIR MASTER CRAFTSMEN HAVE MADE PIECES WHICH WERE ONCE THOUGHT OF AS ONLY POSSIBLE IN DREAMS. MEET IT'S CREATOR AND SEE SOME WONDERS FOR THE FIRST TIME AT ASJAD ONLY AT AL FARDAN PAVILION.

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING ASJAD EVENT

SCHEDULED FOR
 24TH-29TH OCTOBER AT AL HAZM MALL



The ministry offers a comprehensive package of incentives and initiatives targeting Qatari citizens interested in establishing private Houbara breeding projects.

MoECC promotes private Houbara breeding projects

Ministry aims to enhance conservation of endangered species

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has continued its efforts to support private project owners in the field of breeding Houbara bustard birds in captivity, aiming to enhance the conservation of the endangered species.

The External Reserves Office of the State affirmed that Rawdat Al-Faras Houbara Breeding Centre, dedicated to the endangered birds, seeks to increase the number of private projects for the production and breeding of Houbara bustards in Qatar.

This is achieved through providing unlimited support services, including technical, consultative services, besides organising training and educational courses aimed at enhancing knowledge on breeding and production methods.

The office explained that the ministry offers a comprehensive package of incentives and initiatives targeting Qatari citizens interested in establishing private Houbara breeding projects.

These include providing suggestions, models and standardised designs for the construction and establishment of breeding projects, alongside offering consultative services, fodder, medicinal and preventive supplies and specialised production birds, all under the supervision of experts in the field.

The project owner's commitments include allowing the Rawdat Al-Faras Centre team to visit



Houbara bustard chicks at the Rawdat Al-Faras breeding centre.



The External Reserves Office of the State.

the project any time on demand, to ensure the quality of the breeding processes and the general cleanliness of the site.

In addition, the project owner must ensure the cleanliness of the place and provide necessary pro-

tection, veterinary care and food for the Houbara bustard birds. Further, the office stressed that the project owner must record hatching data and submit it to the External Reserves Office of the State on demand.

QNB holds workshop for employees on emergency response



QNB Group, in co-operation with the General Directorate of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior, organised a fire warden training workshop to build the preparedness and response capabilities of its employees to emergencies.

QNB Group, in co-operation with the General Directorate of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior, organised a fire warden training workshop to build the preparedness and response capabilities of its employees to emergencies, potential risks and hazards.

The training programme was organised by the Safety and Security Department in collaboration with the Learning and Development Department at QNB, within its commitment to develop health and safety awareness in the workplace among its employees from various departments.

More than 200 employees from various departments of the bank participated in the workshop and received a certificate of completion in Emergency Response accredited by Qatar Civil Defence after gaining essential knowledge and

understanding of fire safety management. Commenting on the workshop, Yousef Ali al-Darwish, senior executive vice-president, QNB Group Projects & General Services Division, said: "This workshop is a step forward in the bank's proactive risk mitigation strategy by training our employees on emergency preparedness and disaster management, and ensuring a safe and efficient response. This initiative, in co-operation with the General Directorate of Civil Defence, helps increase employees' awareness in maintaining workplace safety and preventing potential risks within our efforts to promote a positive health and safety culture."

Participants learned about fundamental fire prevention principles, how to execute safe evacuations, and effectively use firefighting equipment in the workplace. They were also

introduced to precautions and equipment to prevent fires and to minimise the risk of fire-related accidents.

QNB Group stands as the leading financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, recognised as one of the most valuable banking brands in the region. With a robust presence in some 28 countries across three continents, Asia, Europe and Africa – QNB offers comprehensive financial services and solutions.

The bank's global network, backed by a commitment to innovation and excellence, serves a diverse clientele, spanning corporate, institutional and retail sectors.

QNB's team of over 31,000 professionals is dedicated to driving growth and providing advanced, tailored products and services that meet the evolving needs of customers worldwide.

Registration opens for Ras Laffan Falconry Championship from Sunday

Al Gannas Qatari Society has announced registration for the Ras Laffan Falconry Championship 2024, from October 27 to 30.

The event, sponsored by the Ras Laffan Community Outreach Programme, is being held for the sixth consecutive year. The organising committee explained that registration and inspection for cer-

tain categories of competitions will take place over three days from 9am to 11am at the society's headquarters at Katara – Cultural Village, Building 33.

The Ras Laffan Falcons Championship is expected to witness a large turnout of participants, especially since it will start the competitive season among falconers.

Qatar improves air quality with modern tech: ministry

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has stressed that Qatar has taken pioneering steps to improve air quality by adopting modern technologies and expanding green areas, besides implementing strict systems to monitor harmful emissions. The country is keen to use the types of fuel such as the natural gas, as it has much less emissions than fossil and biofuels. Qatar is also expanding in using renewable sources of energy through Al Kharsaah Plant, which is the first solar powered plant in Qatar and produces 800MW of electricity. Further, the state encourages the rationalisation of energy in houses through using more energy efficient apparatuses such as LED lamps.



Alaraby TV Network programme nominated for Shorty Awards

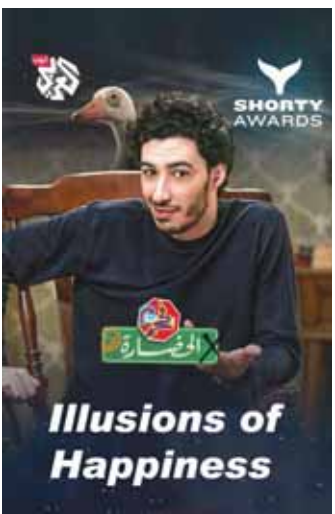
By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Alaraby TV Network has announced that its flagship programme *Fi Alhadhara* (about civilisation) has been nominated for the Shorty Awards.

The episode *Illusions of Happiness* which tackles the dangers of addiction, has been selected to compete against international renowned media organisations in the long-form content category.

The episode *Illusions of Happiness* takes viewers on a deep journey to explore the dark side of addiction and its impact on individuals and communities, using a unique visual narrative style that blends serious content with humour.

This distinctive combination has helped the show to reach a wide audience since its first season, allowing it to address many sensitive topics and issues with the aim of sparking discussions that would lead to



positive change. Regarding this achievement, Amira Hamza, Digital content leader at Alaraby TV Network, said: "We are extremely proud of this nomination, especially since the nominated episode discusses a highly important issue in both Arab and

global societies. We consider the nomination of the show a testament to our commitment to delivering impactful cultural and social content that can bring about real change in public awareness."

The show's host, Mohamed Saadany, expressed his great happiness about the nomination, stating in a post on his social media pages: "I thank the team and Alaraby TV Network for their continuous encouragement and full support in addressing bold topics with complete editorial freedom. This has been a decisive factor in the nomination of the programme for an episode covering such a sensitive topic as the dangers of addiction."

Saadany also invited the programme's followers to support the nominated episode by voting for it on the official Shorty Awards website, and also reaffirming the show's commitment to delivering creative content that combines both educational value and entertainment.

Hamad hospital renovation to be completed in three years

The modernisation programme at Hamad General Hospital (HGH) is expected to last for three years and will significantly enhance the patient experience, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has said in a press statement.

According to Nayef al-Shammari, executive director, Media Relations at HMC, the project has been designed to ensure that the quality, volume and standards of services at Hamad General Hospital remain unaffected throughout the project period, which will begin in 2025 and continue for three years.

"The first phase of the renovation work will include upgrading the two main inpatient towers and the ground floor beneath them. This will require vacating the inpatient buildings in the coming months, and several outpatient clinics will also be re-



Nayef al-Shammari

located to other hospitals," said al-Shammari.

He noted that Aisha Bint Hamad Al Attiyah Hospital and the Medical Care and Research Centre will be the main facilities receiving the relocated services from HGH.

"Hamad General Hospital Modernisation Programme will deliver single rooms and advanced technical systems, and create modern environments that will improve the patient care experience during and after their treatment," explained al-Sham-

mari. Though some inpatient and outpatient clinics will be relocated to other hospitals within HMC during the modernisation programme at HGH, several services will remain operational at HGH during the modernisation programme.

Most outpatient clinics will continue to operate at HGH and the Surgical Specialty Centre will remain open, offering both surgical and medical services for inpatients. A total of 370 inpatient beds will be available to provide medical and surgical care, including critical care services at HGH. The Trauma and Emergency Centre will continue to provide full services and the Bone and Joint Centre will remain operational. The Paediatric Emergency Centre will continue its services and Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Centre will also remain fully functional.

Closure at Rawdat Egdaim Street

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a temporary partial closure on one way of Rawdat Egdaim Street from the roundabout on Hazm Al Thmaid Western Street until the roundabout on Street 1351 from October 24 to November 2. The closure is in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic is to complete works of infrastructure and the asphalt course.

During the closure, users of Rawdat Egdaim Street will be required to continue on Hazm Al Thmaid Western Street then turn left to Street 1457 parallel to it and use the internal streets to reach their destinations. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and has requested all to follow and abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.



QLA receives awards for promoting family values

Qatar Leadership Academy (QLA) - one of the schools under Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education - has been recognised with three awards from the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

The winning initiative, 'My Family Shapes My Identity', is central to this strategy, emphasising the family as the core of the social system while also attempting to impart Islamic values and honour rich family heritage.

"Such moments fill us with immense pride, highlighting the collective effort needed for excellence in our boarding school. At QLA, we believe education extends beyond textbooks and exams; it nurtures well-rounded individuals who are connected to their families, communities, and the world," said Jameel al-Shamari, QLA's director.

QLA sparks community discussions



QLA recognised with three awards from Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

about family's role in the development of society through engaging activities like the Family Heritage Festival and awareness campaigns that not only educate but

also foster a deep sense of belonging and unity among families.

Fahd al-Hajri, a student at QLA, embodies the spirit of these initiatives

through his winning innovative project that uses motion graphics to explore Qatari values and the importance of direct communication within families.

"I chose motion graphics as a means to convey my message on families because this art form simplifies complex ideas in an engaging and understandable way," explained al-Hajri.

His work, "A Cohesive Qatari Family", serves as a powerful reminder that today's youth are not only the future but also essential bridge-builders between generations, preserving cultural heritage.

Mohammed al-Dosari, an inspiring Islamic studies teacher at QLA, leads an initiative called "My Family, My Strength", designed to create a supportive environment that enriches students' leadership qualities and strengthens familial ties.

Al-Dosari, one of the award winners,

said: "This achievement, which I value greatly, is not just the result of our hard work but also a recognition of the real value of the goals I pursued with QLA. I started this initiative because I truly believe in the importance of family."

With the approaching Doha International Family Institute (Difi) conference, which celebrates the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the significance of QLA's achievements becomes even clearer. The conference, centred on "Family and Contemporary Megatrends," aligns with QLA's mission to emphasise the importance of family in contemporary society.

"Family is at the heart of every society, nurturing unity and resilience and paving the path to stability and well-being, especially in life's toughest moments," said Dr Khalid al-Naama, director of Family Research and Policy at Difi.

Podar Pearl School named No 1 Indian School in Qatar in global rankings

Podar Pearl School has achieved a significant milestone by being named the No 1 Indian School in Qatar under the Education Unites World Initiative, as recognised by Education World (EW)'s Global School Rankings 2024-2025, the school said in a press statement.

These awards honour top schools in the EW India School Rankings, the world's largest and most comprehensive school ranking survey, evaluating over 4,000 Indian schools.

The accomplishment underscores the school's dedication to excellence in education and its commitment to fostering a nurturing and innovative learning environment.

In addition to its academic achievements, Podar Pearl School boasts world-class infrastructure and cutting-edge teaching technologies, including advanced 3D printing labs. The school is also expanding its focus on sports and physical education by building a large sports complex, which will complement its already impressive range of sports facilities.

The Indian Global School Ranking Awards celebrate exceptional educational institutions across the country. Podar Pearl School's top ranking reflects its strong emphasis on academic success, holistic development, and student well-being.

"We are deeply honoured to receive this recognition," said Dr Maneesh Mangal, principal of Podar Pearl School. "This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff, teachers, parents,



and everyone who contributes to the growth of our school. I am grateful for their relentless commitment to excellence and for helping us create an environment where students thrive." C Muhamed Nizar, president of Podar Pearl School, added: "This award is a testament to

the visionary leadership of our management, the dedication of our expert educators, the support of our parents, and, most importantly, the brilliance of our students. We remain committed to providing a world-class education that empowers our students to excel."

Mercedes-Benz, BMW, GMC, Chevrolet 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 G-Class, 2024 model, as the outer frame of both windshield pillars may not be installed correctly, causing its detachment.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Alfordan Automobiles, announced the recall of BMW M5 Saloon, M760Li Saloon, and i5 eDrive, 2024 models, as a possible defect in the vehicle's double joint steering may lead to unusual noise and increased steering force while driving.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Jaidah Motors & Trading Co, announced the recall Chevrolet Tahoe, Suburban, and Silverado, 2023-2024 models, over a possible malfunction in the electronic brake control module software, which may fail to illuminate the warning light

that indicates the loss of brake fluid. Therefore, drivers may be unaware that their brake fluid is low, which may impact braking performance.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Mannai Trading Company, also announced the recall of GMC Yukon and Sierra, and Cadillac Escalade, 2023-2024 models, as the brake fluid level indicator may not be working properly, which may cause the indicator to be ineffective if there is a brake fluid leak.

The MoCI 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.

Techno Q to take part in Milipol Qatar

Techno Q, a regional System Integrator, announced its participation in Milipol Qatar, the premier international event for homeland security and safety, taking place from October 29-31 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Techno Q will be exhibiting alongside some of its prominent partners, including industry giants FLIR Systems, Huawei,

VEER - Video Analytics, Dahua Technology Mena, Gallagher Security, Milestone Systems, and Prism Software, a statement said.

"Milipol Qatar provides a pivotal platform for us to showcase our unwavering dedication to continuous research and development in the realm of security systems. Our booth will offer visitors a glimpse into how our

innovative solutions are reshaping the future landscape of the security industry in Qatar," said Abdulla Alansari, CEO & Co-founder of Techno Q.

The event serves as an important platform for networking with industry leaders and gaining insights into the evolving landscape of security.

Techno Q is at the forefront of system integrations, addressing

the complex challenges emerging in this sector.

Techno Q will be showcasing at Booth D 002 their latest security systems. Attendees, including industry professionals, media, and investors, can engage in live demonstrations, discuss customised solutions with Techno Q's experts, and explore potential partnerships and investment opportunities, the statement added.

Years of Culture, QM embark on second joint volunteer trip

Years of Culture is hosting the second joint volunteer trip to Rabat, Morocco as part of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, a statement said.

A group of 20 participants are in Rabat until October 26 to meet with counterparts from the Aamal Association and IBDA Social Development and Revitalisation of Moroccan Intangible Heritage Association to exchange cultural experiences and traditions.

The group includes Qatar Museums (QM) staff, artists, and volunteers from different cultures and nationalities who are facilitating workshops in photography, cultural exchange, and social media. They are also participating in the renovation of a school football field as well as reforestation in collaboration with local communities.

The flagship opportunity builds upon the first-ever volunteer trip, which saw 23 participants travel to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, as part of the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture.

In a press statement, QM's Community Services section head Hazem Idriss highlighted the importance of strengthening people-to-people links as a fundamental aspect of the Years of Culture programme's objectives.

"Because we truly aspire to build a lasting partnership, we are proud to organise this trip to give more young people, both in Qatar and Morocco, the opportunity to build strong and lasting relationships that will extend beyond this year and live on after the programme concludes."



The group includes QM staff, artists, and volunteers from different cultures and nationalities.

The volunteer group has entered into partnerships with local organisations, including the Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, the National Photography Museum, the Museum of History and Civilizations, and two local organisations in Rabat - Aamal Association and IBDA Social Development and Revitalisation of Moroccan Intangible Heritage Association.

Fire Station: Artists in Residence director Khalifa al-Obaidly said: "In an enthusiastic atmosphere with engaged Moroccan youth, we conducted various photography workshops and provided an introduction to the history of photography since its very beginnings by Arab scholar Ibn Al-Haytham. We then practised sun-ray printing using certain chemicals on paper"

The Qatari volunteers also introduced the Moroccan side to Qatari traditional dress such as the Qatari thobe, bisht and how to



Participants in QM volunteer trip to Rabat.

wear it, the nashel dress, and some popular Qatari dishes like machrooba and harees.

For their part, the Moroccan volunteers presented some traditional popular dishes such as "rafissa", "tajine", "razzat al-qadi", "couscous", and "pastilla", and various Moroccan clothing such as the Saharan malha for women, jellaba, selham, and Amazigh and Northern (referring to northern Morocco) dress.

Safari Mall celebrates 14th anniversary



Safari, a leading hypermarket chain in Doha, celebrated the 14th anniversary of its Safari Mall in Abu Hamour. A cake-cutting ceremony on Monday saw Safari Group of Companies chairman Aboobacker Madappat along with other management representatives in attendance.



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Nuclear power staging a comeback amid climate change concerns

Nuclear energy is coming back into focus as countries seek clean reliable power while enhancing grid stability and energy security. For sure, nuclear power has long been on the decline with its share of the world's electricity generation halving from 18% in the mid-1990s to 9% today.

While China, India and Russia never stopped expanding their nuclear industries, many Western countries moved the other way due to the technology's heavy construction costs and an abundance of cheaper alternatives.

More recently, concern about global warming and the security of energy supplies amid Russia's war in Ukraine has sparked renewed interest in the energy released by splitting atoms.

Many of the reactors in wealthy countries are approaching the end of their original design life span, which is usually 40 years.

But a number of countries are now investing in so-called small modular reactors (SMRs). The idea is that standardised parts would be built in factories and shipped for assembly on site, thereby reducing the cost of the reactors.

But the commercialisation of SMRs has been delayed, with deployment still years away.

Among Western nations, the UK and France lead the pack. The UK, where reactors currently generate about 15% of electricity, wants to boost that figure to 25% by 2050.

France, which already generates 70% of its electricity with nuclear power, plans to build six new units while also extending the life span of existing reactors.

Japan, once among the world's biggest nuclear-power generators, is struggling to reboot its industry following the 2011 disaster at its Fukushima plant, where meltdowns at three units following an earthquake and tsunami forced more than 100,000 people to relocate. It nevertheless wants to lift atomic power's contribution in

Concern about global warming and the security of energy supplies amid Russia's war in Ukraine has sparked renewed interest in nuclear energy

Egypt, India, Iran, Russia and Türkiye.

There are strong arguments for and against nuclear power generation.

Opponents say Fukushima was only the most recent calamity to demonstrate that nuclear power is too dangerous. Accidents also released radiation at Three Mile Island in the US in 1979 and Chernobyl in Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union, seven years later.

There's also the expense and environmental risks of disposing of reactor waste, which can remain dangerously radioactive for thousands of years.

They also argue that cleaner and safer forms of energy, such as solar and wind power backed up by batteries, can be deployed more quickly.

Proponents point out that accidents are rare. Nuclear advocates also insist that the smaller, advanced reactors of the future will be even safer.

The choice, they argue, isn't between nuclear energy and renewables but rather between the two working in tandem and a failure to avert the worst out

The case for nuclear as a climate change solution got a boost in 2022, when European Union lawmakers voted to allow nuclear energy projects to be labelled as green investments.

This year, giant US tech companies have been turning to nuclear as a climate-friendly power source for the massive data centres they are building to run artificial intelligence systems.

Major tech companies have poured money into fission recently: Microsoft is helping resurrect the shuttered Three Mile Island nuclear facility to power data centres, and competitors Alphabet and Amazon.com have invested in SMRs.



Kamala Harris is the freedom candidate

Joseph E Stiglitz
New York

Kamala Harris has made freedom a central theme of her campaign. Under the heading 'Safeguard our fundamental freedoms', her website explains that: "Vice-President Harris' fight for our future is also a fight for freedom. In this election, many fundamental freedoms are at stake."

This messaging is welcome. It is high time that American progressives reclaim the freedom agenda from libertarians and the right, especially now that the right represents the exact opposite. While many on the right drape themselves in the flag, progressives are actually advancing an all-American freedom agenda.

Bringing an economist's lens to bear clarifies the issue. First, an essential part of freedom is the freedom to do and to act – to live up to one's potential. People living hand to mouth or on the edge of starvation have no real freedom; they do what they must in order to survive.

Second, in any society of interdependent individuals, freedom for some may entail a loss of freedom for others. As the Oxford philosopher Isaiah Berlin put it, "freedom for the wolves has often meant death for the sheep."

The financial liberalisation of the 1990s and 2000s – freedom for bankers – would have meant death for the economy had government not intervened; but since that intervention required billions of dollars of taxpayers' money, the crisis still reduced the freedom of taxpayers and many

workers and homeowners.

Third, a little coercion can meaningfully expand freedom for all. When we work together, we can do things that we cannot do alone; but to avoid the free-rider problem, there may need to be some compulsion.

Fourth, while neoliberal economics expanded the freedom of corporations to exploit others, it did not lead to overall prosperity, let alone shared prosperity. Good economic theory had predicted this even before neoliberalism became fashionable in the Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher era.

Moreover, neoliberalism is not even sustainable, because it encourages individual traits and market behaviour that undermine the functioning of the economy.

Economies run on trust. The winners of this year's Nobel Prize in economics – Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A Robinson – have stressed the importance of institutions; but even seemingly good institutions don't work when selfish individuals, like Donald Trump, start brazenly violating norms and demonstrating extreme dishonesty.

Fifth, contrary to claims made by conservatives and libertarians like Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek, unfettered markets are neither necessary for, nor even conducive to, political freedom. The rise of authoritarian populism has been most pronounced in countries where governments have done too little (to address poverty, inequality, insecurity, and so forth), not where they have done too much.

The contrast between Harris and Trump on core liberties – such as a woman's right to control her own body – is

glaring. On every big issue in this election, Harris would expand Americans' freedoms, and Trump would curtail them. At the centre of Harris's agenda is a commitment to help ordinary Americans, rather than return to the discredited trickle-down economics that Trump adopted during his presidency. His proposed tax cuts for billionaires and large corporations would add an estimated \$7.5tn to the nation's debt over the next few years, and that burden will make Americans' children and grandchildren less free.

While the post-pandemic worldwide spike in inflation appears to have been tamed, Americans remain rightly concerned about drug and housing prices. Harris has proposed measures to prevent price gouging, but these have been widely (and deliberately) misinterpreted. She is not advocating that the federal government sets prices, and many states already have anti-price-gouging laws to prevent firms from exploiting exceptional situations like hurricanes and floods. If anything, the pandemic showed that such policies need to be strengthened and enforced.

Similarly, the Inflation Reduction Act had provisions to bring down the prices of pharmaceuticals such as insulin – an indispensable (century-old) drug for those with diabetes – from what were obviously exorbitant levels. Nonetheless, the US could do far more to bring drug prices down closer to the levels found in Europe, where there are stronger laws against abuses of market power. Harris would seek to do precisely that, whereas Trump has promised to dismantle the

IRA, and thus to increase prices for Americans.

Trump also promises to raise tariffs – to a rate of 100% on goods from China – which would simply increase the prices of apparel, appliances, and many other goods that ordinary Americans buy. In fact, his entire economic agenda amounts to a massive regressive tax on lower- and middle-income Americans. Their freedom as consumers will be reduced, because they will have less to spend as they please.

Moreover, while Harris has released a comprehensive plan to expand the supply of housing and reduce its cost – and to increase affordability for first-time homebuyers – Trump has remained silent on this critical issue.

Finally, to support Americans' freedom to live up to their potential, Harris's agenda includes both a vision and some initial concrete steps toward expanding opportunity, especially entrepreneurship. Such measures would be as good for those hoping to start a business as they would be for the overall economy.

Trump is a living testament to the right's repudiation of freedom. Fortunately, Harris is showing what it looks like when progressives embrace and advance this core American value. – Project Syndicate

● Joseph E Stiglitz, a former chief economist of the World Bank and former chair of the US President's Council of Economic Advisers, is university professor at Columbia University, a Nobel laureate in economics, and the author, most recently, of *The Road to Freedom: Economics and the Good Society* (W W Norton & Company, Allen Lane, 2024).



Democratic presidential nominee, US Vice-President Kamala Harris speaks at a campaign event in Jonesboro, Georgia. Vice-President Harris and Republican presidential nominee, former president Donald Trump, have been campaigning this week in the key battleground state of Georgia.

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Shura Council committee chairman meets German parliamentarians

Shura Council Member and Chairman of the Internal and External Affairs Committee Yusuf bin Ali al-Khater met yesterday with members of a delegation, led by Stefan Keuter, from the German federal parliament Bundestag, who are visiting the country. During the meeting, the existing parliamentary co-operation relations between the Shura Council and the Bundestag were reviewed, as well as ways to enhance them. Shura Council Member Abdullah bin Nasser bin Turki al-Subaia and German ambassador to Qatar Lothar Freischlader attended the meeting. - QNA

Minister's special envoy meets German lawmakers

Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab held a meeting with members of the German parliament Bundestag Stefan Keuter, Matthias Moosdorf, and Joachim Wundrak. The meeting dealt with topics of common concern, including on peace and stability in Afghanistan. - QNA



Amir's visit will enhance ties in all fields

Qatar's ambassador in Germany Abdullah Ibrahim Abdulrahman Sultan al-Hamar has said that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Germany represents the two countries' aspiration to boost their historical relations in all fields.

In a statement, the envoy told the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that previous talks with German officials focused on the current situation in the Middle East, the need to join efforts to stop the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip, and finding a peaceful solution to the Palestinian cause.

Topics related to Qatari-German relations were also discussed.

The German government appreciates the pioneering role played by Qatar in mediation and resolving disputes through peaceful means, al-Hamar said, adding that Qatari mediation has directly contributed to preventing the occurrence of several conflicts in the region.

He noted the ongoing efforts the state is making to stop the genocide in the Gaza Strip, which contributed to the release of a number of German citizens who were held hostage.

The envoy revealed the signing of a letter of intent between the interior ministries of Qatar and Germany, in addition to a co-operation agreement between the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and the German Federal Police, explaining that these agreements aim to enhance co-operation in the fields of training, counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity.

Al-Hamar said that Qatar's investment in Germany is focused on the sectors of start-ups, information technology, artificial intelligence (AI), and semiconductor production.

On cultural and educational co-operation, he noted that the embassy is working alongside Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education and its German counterpart to encourage academic and student exchange between the two countries. - QNA

Historical Qatari-Germany ties promise strategic partnership

Qatar has succeeded in building a strong partnership with Germany at all levels, becoming an active strategic partner for Germany in the Gulf and the Middle East through efforts and activities within a relationship that has lasted for over 50 years.

Relations between Doha and Berlin date back more than 65 years of commercial ties and 50 years of diplomatic relations, which were established in 1973.

Over the years, both countries have demonstrated a mutual commitment to developing and enhancing the growing friendship and co-operation.

The visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Germany comes as a renewed expression of this commitment.

It represents a new opportunity to enhance bilateral relations, pushing them toward broader horizons that serve common goals, interests, and the aspirations of both peoples.

The visit is expected to open avenues for further co-operation, at levels and scales that serve the interests and aspirations of both countries and their peoples across all dimensions.

In recent years, relations between the two countries have seen significant development, reflected in the increasing high-level visits between them.

This was highlighted by His Highness the Amir's visit to Berlin in October last year, his working visit to Germany in May 2022, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to Doha in September 2022, and the visit of German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to Doha last November.

During one of these visits, an agreement was signed to establish a partnership in the energy sector, aimed at supplying Germany with liquefied natural gas (LNG) starting in 2026, which further solidified and elevated the level of relations between the two countries.

This partnership is expected to enhance the diversity of Germany's energy supplies

through imports of LNG from Qatar, while also facilitating bilateral co-operation in hydrogen energy and renewable energy sources.

In May last year, Qatar and Germany signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Doha to establish a strategic dialogue.

This MoU serves as a new strategic platform to enhance the existing relations between the two countries. It also reflects both sides' desire to create new opportunities for long-term co-operation.

The two countries are closely linked by a number of economic agreements and MoUs, the most significant of which are agreements in the energy sector, as well as others in industrial, commercial, health, cultural, and sports fields, in addition to solar energy, aviation, and air transport.

There was also an agreement to protect and encourage mutual investments, along with an agreement to establish a joint committee for commercial and economic co-operation, which has organised numerous conferences and seminars over the past years.

The regional manager of the German Federal Association of small and medium-sized businesses (BVMW) in Qatar, Nizar Maarouf, has said that His Highness the Amir's visit represents a unique opportunity to enhance market diversification for Qatar's private sector.

In an interview with the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Maarouf said that this visit will contribute to opening new horizons for businesspersons in Qatar and expanding co-operation with their German counterparts.

He said that it will also contribute to enhancing economic growth and trade exchange between the two countries, adding that these official visits create a positive climate for concluding new deals and exploring new markets in various sectors.

Maarouf highlighted that the BVMW signed an MoU with the Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI)



Council to boost economic relations, especially in research and development.

He also said that the visit will open doors for small and medium-sized German enterprises to explore opportunities in the Qatar market.

Maarouf said that there are currently over 300 German small and medium-sized companies in the Qatar market, operating in diverse sectors including technology, engineering, and infrastructure.

These companies, he said, contribute to strengthening Qatar's economy through significant investments and strategic partnerships, and added that the number of such companies is expected to increase after the opening of the association's office in Qatar last year, strengthening the German presence in the region.

He said that there are many promising areas for trade co-operation between Qatar and Germany, especially in the sectors of technology, renewable energy, and industrial innovation.

There is also great potential, Maarouf said, for developing joint projects in the areas of infrastructure and transportation, which are part of Qatar's ambitious plans, while the private sectors in both countries can take advantage of these opportunities to enhance co-operation and increase the volume of trade exchange.

Qatari-German economic relations experienced steady growth over the past six decades.

Qatar is the third-largest trading partner for Germany in the Gulf region.

The volume of trade between the two countries reached QR7.1bn last year, compared to QR6.8bn in 2022, an increase of 4.4%.

Germany ranks third among European countries attracting investments from Qatar, after the United Kingdom and France.

Qatar is one of the largest investors there, with investments amounting to about €25bn, covering sectors such as automotive, telecommunications, hospitality, and banking services.

In September last year, Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed a partnership agreement with the BVMW to open a representative office for the association in Qatar, the first of its kind in the Gulf region.

Qatar holds stakes in major German commercial and banking groups, including being the largest shareholder in the automotive giant Volkswagen, with an investment valued at \$9bn.

Qatar also invests in Hapag-Lloyd, one of the largest shipping companies in the world, and holds a stake in Hochtief, the largest construction company in Germany.

Additionally, Qatar invests €2.4bn in RWE AG, one of the largest producers of renewable energy globally, along with a 21% stake in Siemens, a leading company specialising in energy and electronics, including healthcare and infrastructure.

Qatar also owns a 6.1% stake in Deutsche Bank, one of the world's leading banks known for its role in major global investments and deals, and a 49% stake in SolarWorld, a company recognised as one of the largest global firms in solar technology.

The Qatari-German co-operation also encompasses the gas sector, with Qatar Energy signing an agreement with ConocoPhillips to export LNG to Germany for 15 years starting in 2026.

This agreement will supply Germany with 2mn tonnes of LNG annually, with the gas being sourced from the North Field East expansion projects. - QNA

Bilateral ties will deepen further with Amir's visit, says German ambassador

German ambassador in Doha Lothar Freischlader has said that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Germany contributes to a further strengthening of the bilateral ties, that are already strong and trustful.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said His Highness the Amir's visit is a continuation of mutual visits on the highest level; the most recent ones occurred in October 2023, when the Amir visited Berlin and when German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited Doha in November last year.

These visits, Freischlader said, reflect the intensity of the high-



level relationship with over five decades of fruitful and trustful collaboration.

On the key agreements or partnerships, he believes that ties between Qatar and Germany will further deepen.

"We already have a good number of agreements, for instance, the partnership on energy or our strategic dialogue," the envoy said. "But I can assure that both countries maintain already excellent economic ties."

"Trade and investments play an ever-stronger role," Freischlader continued. "Qatar is the third-largest trading partner for Germany in the Gulf region. The bilateral trade volume reached a total of €1.8bn in 2023 (thereof €1.3bn German exports)."

"Qatar holds 17% in Volkswa-

gen, 9% in RWE, 6% in Siemens, over 6% in Deutsche Bank, 9% in CureVac, to name the most important," he added. "Altogether Qatar has invested in Germany with €25-30bn."

"It would be great if Qatar would consider investments also in the climate sector, e.g. green hydrogen," Freischlader stated. "Qatar is a major global energy supplier, and if a player like this would undertake such an important step, that would be of great significance."

With regard to new cultural or academic initiatives to enhance bilateral co-operation, the ambassador praised the attention the Qatar government and citizens pay to first-class education.

He said that the Qatar government is investing significantly in education, research and innovation, for example by establishing first-class universities in Doha.

Institutions such as Qatar University and Qatar Foundation lead various scientific initiatives.

Germany also has an excellent educational and academic environment to offer.

"Therefore, it is a matter of great importance for us to deepen our co-operation with Qatar in the area of higher education, science and research," the envoy said. "We are currently working on agreement about scholarships with Qatar. And we will also contribute to the European Jazz Festival in December in partnership with Katar."

On Qatar and Germany's plans to align their efforts on regional stability and global challenges, such as climate change, Freischlader said: "The three pillars of our engagement are: intensive diplomacy, extensive humanitarian assistance via international organisations like the UN, and bilateral support in the region."

"We fully support the mediation efforts by Qatar, Egypt and the US in order to reach the urgently needed ceasefire in Gaza and now also in Lebanon," he continued. "We sincerely thank Qatar for their hard work around the clock and their commitment!" - QNA

Qatar plays a decisive role in regional situation: German official

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Germany provides a good opportunity for deepening bilateral relations and exchanging views on the regional and international situation, said the director for the Middle East and North Africa at the German Foreign Office, Dr Tobias Tunkel.

In exclusive remarks to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said: "We appreciate the visit of His Highness the Amir. It's a very timely visit; it is not His Highness's first visit, (having visited) Germany on regular basis, and there (has been) a constant exchange of visits between the two countries."

Dr Tunkel further said that Qatar plays

a decisive role in regional situation, as it is deeply involved in mediation between various parties, "and I hope that His Highness the Amir's visit will give the chance for more in-depth discussions on proposed solutions to ease tensions in the region".

He said that there is a lot of potential for co-operation between the two countries, especially in the field of energy.

"Qatar is one of the biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) producers in the world, and Germany is in the midst of its energy transition," he said. "That is a very good starting point for close co-operation in energy, not only in gas and LNG but also in relation to hydrogen."

Noting that the two countries share the

will and determination to work towards peace and stability in the region, he said: "We have a huge crisis in the region and we need to unite forces. The Arab countries, European countries, Germany, and Qatar can play a leading role here."

Dr Tunkel added that the various crises in the world have brought us closer to each other.

During the Russian war against Ukraine, he said, "we took the decision to phase out energy supplies from Russia and we were looking around to alternative sources of supply."

"Qatar is clearly an esteemed source of supply here for gas and energy deliveries and supplies," Dr Tunkel added.

"The crisis in the Middle East have emphasised important issues for all of us, and we need to work together towards stability," he continued. "We appreciate that Qatar is determined to increase and enhance stability in the region and use its influence to achieve stability."

"Supporting regional stability in the Near and Middle East is also a goal of Germany," he added.

While Qatar plays a major role in the negotiations around ceasefire in Gaza and a hostage release, he pointed out that Qatar also played a key role that "extends to other places, such as Afghanistan, where Germany has relied on Qatar's good offices for a long time".



He said that Qatar's efforts of trying to mediate peaceful solutions for several of regional conflicts is very helpful and provides good opportunities for co-operation.



Germany eager to broaden ties with Qatar, says Chancellor's adviser

The foreign policy adviser to the German Chancellor, Jens Plotner, has said that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Germany is an excellent opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, noting that the relationship has never been better than today.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Plotner said that "the German government is eager to broaden its bilateral and economic relations with Qatar even further".

The visit of His Highness the Amir, he

said, is an excellent opportunity to cultivate and further enhance the good relations between Germany and Qatar.

He added that this visit comes at a crucial time that reflects the depth of diplomatic ties between the two nations and emphasise both sides' commitment to developing these relations in multiple areas.

Plotner praised Qatar's role and mediation efforts to resolve international and regional conflicts, adding that Qatar is an important partner for Germany in the Middle East and beyond.

"Germany is keen to continue working

with Qatar to mitigate regional conflicts," he said.

He said that the diplomatic relations between Germany and Qatar are strong and stable, with significant opportunities available to enhance partnerships between the two countries in the coming years.

Plotner emphasised Germany's commitment to working with Qatar to address the complex humanitarian crises in the region, noting that co-operation in this area is vital due to the interwoven nature and complexities of these humanitarian crises, which require joint efforts to mitigate their impacts.

"Given the complexity and wide array of humanitarian crises, Germany relies heavily on the professional and well-connected humanitarian aid system of the United Nations," he said. "We're keen on working on this with Qatar."

German-Qatari relations will continue to grow, Plotner said, adding that the climate and biodiversity crises and their effects "show us that we need urgently need global co-operation to address these challenges".

"We will also continue to strengthen the international rules-based order together," he said. - QNA



Amir meets Steinmeier

From Page 1

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-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 a number of members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

On the German side, the meeting was attended by spokeswoman for the federal president Cerstin Gammelin and a number of senior officials. - QNA

Amir leaves Germany

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani left Berlin yesterday, following an official visit to Germany. His Highness the Amir

was accompanied by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and an official delegation. - QNA



Amir's state visit to Italy ends

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani left Rome yesterday morning after a state visit to Italy, heading to Berlin for an official visit to Germany. His Highness the Amir is accompanied by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and an official delegation. Earlier yesterday, Italian President Sergio Mattarella accorded His Highness the Amir a formal farewell ceremony at the Quirinal Palace. - QNA

