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Qatar to host WSJ Tech Live for 5 yrs

QNA
Doha

Qatar will host the WSJ Tech Live conference annually for five years, beginning in 2025.

Director of the Government Communications Office (GCO) Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani, appearing with Almar Latour, publisher of *The Wall Street Journal* and CEO of Dow Jones, jointly announced that Qatar will host WSJ Tech Live annually for five years, beginning in 2025, a statement by the Government Communications Office said.

This marks the first time WSJ's most exclusive tech event will be held in the Middle East. The invitation-only conference will bring together an audience of over 200 C-suite executives, investors, in-



Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani and Almar Latour jointly announced the agreement.

novative startups and influential venture capitalists from across the world.

Speaking at the WSJ Tech Live in California, Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani praised Qatar's selection to host the event. He emphasised that

the conference aligns with Qatar's vision to become a global hub for advanced technology and innovation, as outlined in the Third National Development Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030.

"Hosting the WSJ Tech Live marks another significant step in

the growth of Qatar's technology ecosystem," said Sheikh Jassim. "When the world's top tech leaders gather in Qatar, it will create an unparalleled opportunity to benefit from their diverse expertise, insights and global networks. This will inspire local talent, attract international investment, and create avenues for strategic global partnerships that propel our development journey forward."

"Dow Jones and *The Wall Street Journal* deliver reliable journalism, data, and analytics to business professionals worldwide, and to do so we must reflect the entire global business community," said Latour.

"With the Mena region's growth and increased role in tech especially at the intersection of AI and the energy sector, we are delighted to be partnering with Qatar." **To Page 4**

Our Say



Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka,
Editor-in-Chief of *Gulf Times*

Progress and peace through partnerships

In the span of about a week, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani embarked on a diplomatic mission to Brussels and paid state visits to Italy and Germany. These visits underscored Qatar's pivotal role on the international stage as a mediator and contributor to regional stability and security, besides widening the scope of bilateral relations with three key European countries. The tour also reflected the nation's commitment to fostering multi-lateral dialogue and addressing urgent global challenges, particularly the ongoing war in Gaza and Lebanon. These visits have re-emphasised Qatar's ability to build bridges between nations and regions — offering a model of diplomacy that prioritises partnership, dialogue, and collective action. **To Page 9**

falmudahka@gulf-times.com

5 killed in attack on Turkish defence firm

Five people were killed and 22 others wounded in an attack on a top Turkish defence firm near Ankara that the government said was "very likely" carried out by Kurdish militants. Shortly after 3.30pm, a huge explosion rocked the headquarters of state-run Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) some 40km north of Ankara. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called it a "heinous" attack.

Israeli strikes kill 42 as tanks tighten siege of N Gaza

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed 42 people yesterday as Israeli forces intensified a siege of northern parts of the Palestinian enclave, surrounding hospitals and refugee shelters, and ordering residents to head south, medics and residents said.

The Gaza health ministry and the World Health Organisation said they would be unable to

start a polio vaccination campaign in northern Gaza as planned because of the intense bombardments, mass displacements and lack of access.

The health ministry said at least 650 people had been killed since the new offensive began. Of at least 42 people reported killed by Israeli military strikes across the enclave yesterday, 37 deaths were in northern Gaza.

The United Nations Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said one of its staff members was killed when an UNRWA vehicle was hit in Deir

Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. Medics said the man's brother was also killed. The municipality of Gaza City said two city workers were killed and three others wounded in a strike there.

Hospitals in the north have either stopped providing medical services or are hardly operating because of the offensive. Hospitals where medics have refused Israeli evacuation orders say they are running out of blood for transfusions, as well as coffins and shrouds for the dead.



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Forbes

Top 50 Healthcare Leader

Newsweek

Top Hospital CEO

The View Hospital Welcomes Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul as New CEO

Doha, Qatar—Apex Health, a Subsidiary of Estithmar Holding proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Fatih Mehmet Gul as Chief Executive Officer of The View Hospital. With over two decades of experience in healthcare leadership and management, Dr. Gul has a proven track record of driving innovation and excellence at some of the region's most prominent hospitals.

Recognized by Forbes as one of the “Top 50 Healthcare Leaders,” Dr. Gul is renowned for his commitment to integrating cutting-edge healthcare technologies, improving clinical outcomes, and advancing operational efficiency. His appointment signals a new era of patient-centered care and operational innovation at The View Hospital, as it continues to solidify its position as a leader in healthcare excellence.

Dr. Gul is strategically planning to enhance patient care services, implement the latest medical technologies, and foster collaborations with Cedars-Sinai. His commitment to delivering world-class healthcare aligns perfectly with The View Hospital's mission of providing comprehensive, cutting-edge services to patients.

“ I am deeply honored to join The View Hospital, a respected institution known for its commitment to clinical excellence and patient care. I look forward to working with the talented team to create innovative healthcare solutions that will benefit our patients and the broader community. ”

said Dr. Fatih Mehmet Gul, CEO of The View Hospital.

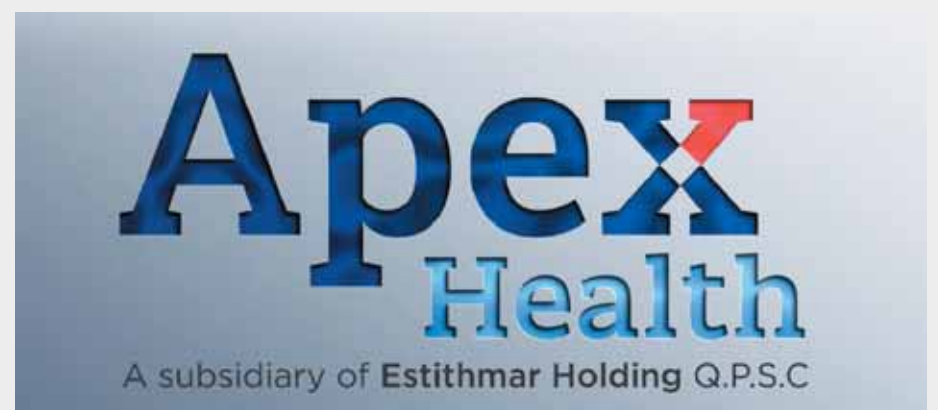
Joseph Hazel, CEO of Apex Health, the parent company of The View Hospital, also expressed his excitement about Dr. Gul's appointment:

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Gul as the new CEO of The View Hospital. His visionary leadership and extensive experience in innovative healthcare management will be instrumental as we continue to support the growth of the healthcare sector in Qatar and the wider region. At Apex Health, we are committed to advancing the region's healthcare system, and Dr. Gul's leadership will be a key factor in achieving this vision ."



About The View Hospital

The View Hospital, which is affiliated with Cedars-Sinai, is a leading healthcare institution known for providing high-quality medical services and cutting-edge treatments. As part of Apex Health, the hospital is committed to delivering world-class patient care and continuously improving healthcare standards.



About Apex Health

Apex Health(formerly Elegancia Healthcare), a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding, is dedicated to elevating the healthcare landscape across Qatar and the Middle East. Through strategic partnerships and a commitment to innovation, Apex Health aims to enhance healthcare services

Stay away from protected, prohibited places: MoI

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has urged the public to stay away from prohibited areas citing any violation would draw legal action. "Article 117 of Law No 11 of 2004 considers any person who resides in or attends any of the places where residence or attendance is prohibited by the competent authorities as a violator," MoI said in an X post.

"Your commitment to avoid approaching gas and oil stations and pipelines reflects your awareness, and maintain safety and security measures," the post said. "Preserving the instruction boards in vital and important areas (gas and oil stations, pipelines) shows your awareness and commitment to laws. The instruction boards are placed to protect these areas and avoid approaching them for your safety and the safety of the vital facilities," it added.

The ministry noted that Article 237 of Law No 11 of 2004 stipulates that the action of purposely destroying, ravaging or damaging machines, pipes or equipment related to the facilities of water, electricity, gas, oil, telegraph, telephone, wireless, radio or television or any other public facilities leads to the disablement or destruction of the facility shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

The post further urged the public to avoid camping near vital areas referring to gas and oil stations and pipelines. MoI noted that such camping violates safety rules and exposes violators to legal accountability. "Approaching, stopping or camping near stations less than 750m away and from the pipelines less than 500m away is prohibited in order to maintain the safety of the vital facilities," the posts added.

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Qatar to host WSJ Tech Live for 5 yrs

From Page 1

Currently in its 11th year, WSJ Tech Live convenes the biggest newsmakers in technology across entertainment, music, robotics and AI, science and more. This year's marquee event in Laguna Beach is the company's most successful Tech Live since its inception, with record-breaking sponsorship revenue. The event showcased groundbreaking insights on a wide range of topics including the global impact of generative AI, the future of brain-computer interfaces, the outlook for startup investments, and fostering the next generation of technology talent.

WSJ Tech Live joins a series of global events hosted in Qatar, including the FIFA World Cup, Web Summit Qatar, Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix, and Doha Forum. This strategic roster of events reflects Qatar's ambitious national agenda to cultivate a knowledge-based economy, reinforcing its status as the region's leading destination for technological discourse and innovation.

Sheikh Jassim added: "By fostering an ecosystem where innovation flourishes and enabling our brightest minds to collaborate with the industry's best, we're propelling our digital economy forward and positioning Qatar as a key player in shaping the future of global technology."



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/>



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

Important Notice: Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via Mushtaryat Portal can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website (Mushtaryat Portal). Effective from 1st July 2023, bids submitted by a Local company (companies incorporated in Qatar) acting as Tenderer in accordance with this Invitation to Tender, will not be accepted by QatarEnergy without any further notification, if such companies are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US/>) by the specified Original Tender Closing Date or Original due date for submission of COMMERCIAL Package in case of two stage Tendering as per ITT. However, any Local company that has been established within last two (2) years is exempt from this mandatory ICV certification requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period Start Date	Tender Sale Period End Date	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	GT24111100	17.10.2024	27.10.2024	17.11.2024	1500,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: EPIC FOR DUKHAN CRASH BARRIER UPGRADE								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required						
2	GT24110800	24.10.2024	30.10.2024	08.12.2024	7000,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: TURNAROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR NGL 1, 3 & 4 PLANTS IN MESAIEED OPERATIONS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required						
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required						

*Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management -> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned above against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.
 * Always refer to QatarEnergy Website (www.qatarenergy.qa) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders
 * Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal only.
 * Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal.
 * Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushtaryat Portal on urgent basis.
 * No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.
 * QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.
 * Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - <https://icv.qa/en-US/>

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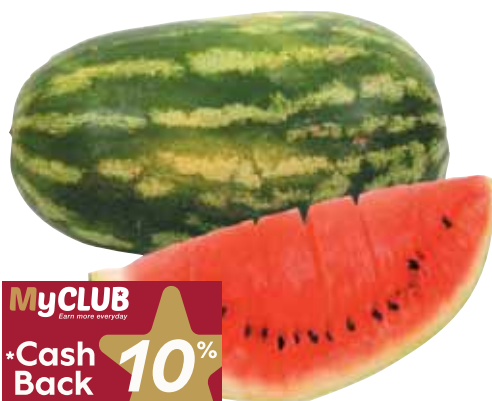
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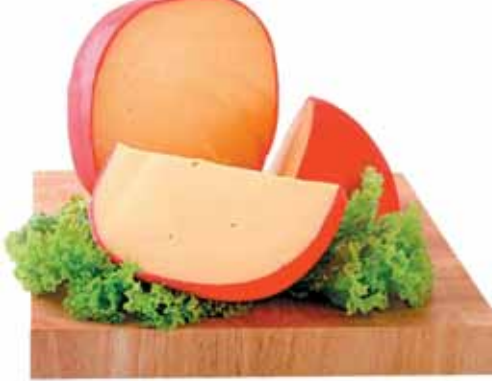


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Beef mince, South Africa



/KG /كغ **27.75 QR** قطع لحم خروف، تنزانيا
Lamb cuts, Tanzania



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Official

Qatar condemns attack on aerospace facility in Ankara

Qatar condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack against the Turkish Aerospace Industries Company (TUSAS) in the capital Ankara, resulting in deaths and injuries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated yesterday in a statement Qatar's firm position that rejects violence and terrorism regardless of the motives and reasons, affirming its full solidarity and support for Türkiye and its full support for all measures it takes to maintain security and stability. The statement conveyed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims and the government and people of Türkiye, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. (QNA)

CRA workshop reviews aspects of ICT competition framework

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) hosted a workshop, engaging key Information and Communication Technology (ICT) stakeholders as part of its ongoing review and update of Qatar's ICT competition framework.

This effort is part of CRA's strategic initiative to align its regulatory policies and regulations with the latest developments in the sector, while supporting the broader goals of Qatar's Digital Agenda 2030.

The workshop brought together representatives from various key market players in the sector and government entities, to gather insights and foster collaboration. During the workshop, attendees were briefed on CRA's approach to the framework review. Additionally, the workshop provided an overview of key global ICT and digital trends, examining their regulatory implications and rel-

evance to Qatar's economy and ICT sector.

During the event, CRA gave an overview of two key projects related to the framework review and their expected impact on the market. The first project focuses on revising the ex-ante Market Definition and Dominance Designation (MDDD) methodology and conducting a new market review cycle, aimed at assessing market dominance in a forward-looking manner – a condition where a company holds significant market power that can influence competition and market dynamics.

The second project centres on updating the ex-post Competition Policy, which reviews and regulates market behaviours as they occur, ensuring fair competition practices are upheld. Attendees were provided with details about expected timelines, planned tasks, and objectives for both projects.

Participants discussed the need to update the competition framework to ensure it remains adaptive to market changes, encourages innovation, and strengthens competitiveness.

This engagement and stakeholder inputs are seen instrumental for CRA in building a comprehensive view and a deeper understanding of the local market competition landscape, as well as identifying emerging trends that will shape the sector's future.

CRA's workshop is part of the extensive collaborative approach aiming to leverage the insights of industry stakeholders to shape regulations and policies for a more competitive and innovative ICT sector in the State of Qatar.

This will support the broader goals of sustainable growth and digital transformation in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)



Cabinet welcomes outcome of Amir's visits to Italy and Germany

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

After the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stated the following: At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet applauded the outcome of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's state visit to Italy from Oct 20-22, which was followed by the official visit to Germany on Tuesday.

The Cabinet emphasised that the Amir's fruitful discussions with leaders of the two friendly countries, and the memorandums of understanding and co-operation that were exchanged during the visits, embodied the strong and solid established relations between Qatar and both Italy and Germany, and the joint keenness on expanding and strengthening the bilateral ties and developing the strategic partnerships and mutual investments across various fields, in a way that serves the interests of peoples of the three countries, and contributes to achieving security, peace and stability in the region and the world.

The Cabinet praised the Amir's speech at the first GCC-EU Summit, held in Brussels on Oct 16. The Cabinet noted that the joint statement of the summit reflected the visions included in the Amir's speech on the necessity and im-

portance of enhancing co-operation, dialogue and co-ordination between the GCC and the EU, in light of the security, political and economic dangers and challenges facing the world; and the positions emphasised by His Highness towards regional and international issues, especially the destructive war that Israel has been waging on the Palestinian territories and Lebanon.

The Cabinet then approved a draft decision restructuring the Climate Change and Clean Development Committee. It replaces Cabinet Decision No 15 of 2011 establishing the Climate Change and Clean Development Committee and defining its terms of reference. It aims to prepare a national plan on climate change that keeps pace with Qatar's efforts to adapt to climate change and reduce its effects.

The Cabinet also approved a draft decision of the Minister of Commerce and Industry setting the framework of working hours in similar commercial, industrial and public establishments. The draft decision was prepared in implementation of the provisions of Law No 5 of 2015 regarding similar commercial, industrial and public establishments and street vendors. It aims to enhance control and supervision over all types establishments, determine and organise working hours to ensure the availability of services and products at specific and known times, organise markets and prevent unfair competition between all types of establishments, protect workers

rights and prevent them from being exposed to unfair or stressful working conditions, improve work efficiency and increase productivity, thus contributing to supporting the national economy.

The Cabinet approved a draft decision of the Minister of Municipality regarding the terms and conditions regulating the establishment of tourism activities in registered farms, with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of agricultural activity and creating opportunities to increase farmers income.

The Cabinet decided to endorse the necessary measures to ratify the protocol amending the agreement between the governments of Qatar and Norway on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, with the protocol, signed in Oslo on 29/6/2009.

The Cabinet also decided to approve a draft air services agreement between the governments of Qatar and Libya, and a draft memorandum of understanding for co-operation and joint news exchange between Qatar News Agency (QNA) and the Agency for Public Information (API) of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Cabinet reviewed the annual work report of the National Traffic Safety Committee for 2023, and the annual report of the Communications Regulatory Authority for 2023, and took the appropriate decision thereon. (QNA)

Dallah Holding Media Leads the Phygital Movement as Official WPC Member in Qatar



The journey begins with football as the first stage of phygital sports in Qatar.

The world of sports is evolving, and a new generation is embracing a blend of physical and digital experiences known as 'phygital' sports. As a proud Official Member of the World Phygital Community (WPC), Dallah Holding Media (DHM) is taking the lead in bringing phygital sports to Qatar. Through organising events and recruiting local talent, DHM is laying the foundation for Qatar's bright future in this innovative sports movement.

'The Games of the Future', an innovative global tournament, blends traditional sports with digital gaming to create dynamic, hybrid competitions. The first edition featured a total prize pool of US\$ 10 million and included 21 disciplines combining physical activity, modern technology and digital environments. With participation from 260 international teams and over 2,000 athletes, the tournament quickly gained recognition as a premier event in the emerging world of phygital sports. Its youth-oriented approach provides a unique platform that resonates with the next generation of athletes and spectators. Through its involvement with the WPC, DHM positions Qatar as a country ready to explore the potential of becoming a key player in this exciting, new sports domain.

"As we are super excited about the phygital movement, we aim to ignite passion among the young generation in Qatar," said Wassim Aldayah, CEO of Dallah Holding Media. "We are committed to fostering a vibrant sports culture that bridges traditional and digital experiences. This is just the beginning of a journey that could see Qatar rise as a leader in phygital sports."

Paving the Way for the Next Generation

Qatar has established itself as a major player on the global sports stage, hosting world-class events like the

FIFA World Cup and the annual Qatar Open. Now, with the rise of phygital sports, there is a fresh opportunity to engage a new generation by blending physical athleticism with digital innovation. While Qatar is not yet a bidding host country for the Games of the Future, DHM's initiatives aim to spark local interest and public support.

The journey begins with football as the first discipline in Qatar's phygital sports landscape. The Regional Tournament is scheduled for 20 to 23 November 2024, followed by the National Tournament, tentatively scheduled for 29 January to 1 February 2025. In these tournaments, top local teams will compete in an exciting single-elimination format, laying the foundation for Qatar's participation in the Games of the Future 2025 event in Dubai.

About Dallah Holding Media

For over 40 years, Dallah Holding Media has shaped Qatar's media and events landscape. From award-winning campaigns to community-driven initiatives, DHM has consistently demonstrated its commitment to excellence and innovation. By leading the charge in promoting phygital sports, DHM aims to inspire the youth of Qatar and establish a foundation for the country's future in this emerging global sport.

Contact Information

For inquiries about the Regional and National Team Tournament or to learn more about phygital sports, contact DHM at phygital@dallahholding.media. Interested teams can join the phygital competition by contacting us, and we will provide enrolment details through a form available online. Starting 23 October 2024, teams can access the form on our microsite: www.dallahholding.media/phygital.

Burundi president receives credentials of Qatar envoy

Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye received in Bujumbura the credentials of Fahad Rashid al-Muraikhi as Qatar's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary (non-resident) to Burundi. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the president, and His Highness's wishes of good health and happiness for Ndayishimiye, and further progress and prosperity for the people and government of Burundi. For his part, the Burundi president entrusted the ambassador with his greetings to the Amir, wishing His Highness good health and happiness, and Qatar continued development and progress. (QNA)



Can International Group Launches Ready-to-Eat Indian Dishes in Qatar



Al Thurayya Food Factory, a subsidiary of Can International Group based in the Shamal Industrial Area, has launched an exciting range of ready-to-eat Indian curries in Qatar under the renowned Indian Coffee House brand.

The new range includes popular vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes such as Sambhar, Butter Chicken, Dal Makhani, Chicken Curry, and Rajma Masala. In addition to these, the company has introduced around 50 frozen and chilled food products, including Parotta, Samosa, Paniyaram, Neer Dosa, Spring Roll, Momos, and Idiyappam.

These ready-to-eat products provide customers with the convenience of enjoying authentic Indian cuisine, whether at home or at work, even amidst busy schedules. The frozen dishes can be quickly heated by immersing them in hot water or using a microwave. Oering the same taste and quality as homemade food, these products are also more economical than preparing them at home.

Manufactured without the use of preservatives and with the latest technology at the Shamal-based facility, these dishes maintain the rich taste and quality of traditional Indian cuisine. Al Thurayya Food Factory is proud to be the rst to introduce ready-to-eat curries in Qatar as part of the 'Made in Qatar' initiative.

The new range is now available at all major supermarkets and hypermarkets in Qatar, including Lulu, Al Rawabi, Carrefour, Safari, Family, and Mega Mart.

Apart from the ready-to-eat range, the

company has also introduced ready-to-cook batters for items such as Dosa and Idli, under the Indian Coee House brand.

Can International Group's food and beverage division includes Hot Bake Catering, which has been serving Qatar for over 15 years, as well as Indian Coee House Restaurants in Qatar and Dubai, and the recently launched Caravan Seafood Restaurant.

Looking beyond Qatar, the company is also preparing to export its products to the UK and Europe. To further increase production capacity, another manufacturing unit, Ottes Food Park, is currently under construction in Kuttady, Kozhikode district in India.

The launch of Al Thurayya Food Factory's ready-to-eat products was announced at a press conference attended by key members of the management team, including Managing Director Ismail O.T., General Manager Ashraf Bombay, Strategic Ocer Alka Meera Sunny, Executive Chef Darwin, and Operations Manager Mohammed O.T.



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Devji Aurum unveils first shop in Alfordan Jewellery Boutique



From left: Alfordan Jewellery president Ali Alfordan, Alfordan Group chairman Hussain Ibrahim Alfordan, and Mahesh Devji, managing director of Devji Aurum, during the grand opening of the brand's first boutique in Qatar. PICTURE: Thajudheen



The Alfordan and Devji families forged a longstanding partnership in the 1960s. PICTURE: Thajudheen



From left: Alfordan Jewellery president Ali Alfordan, Alfordan Group chairman Hussain Ibrahim Alfordan, and Mahesh Devji, managing director of Devji Aurum, during the grand opening of the brand's first boutique in Qatar. PICTURE: Thajudheen

Devji Aurum, a distinguished name in the world of fine jewellery, has announced the opening of its first boutique in Doha, Qatar. This marks a significant milestone in the brand's journey, which began over 70 years ago in Bahrain and later expanded in the Middle East, establishing Devji Aurum as a brand known for its exotic luxury and timeless heritage.

In Qatar, this momentous achievement is the result of a close partnership with the prestigious Alfordan Group, a collaboration that began its course many years ago. The shared values and vision of both the Alfordan and Devji Aurum groups have culminated in the opening of Devji Aurum's first shop-in-shop boutique, located on Level 1 of Doha Festival City's Alfordan Jewellery Boutique. This presence in Doha signifies the deep appreciation the brand has garnered from the local market, transforming that admiration into a permanent residence in the heart of the city. The new boutique offers a captivating display of Devji Aurum's iconic collections. Among these is the Bridal Collection, featuring an array of timeless pieces that embody the beauty of love. This collection also boasts a selection of twin and engagement rings, each one a masterpiece, perfect for celebrating life's most cherished moments.

The boutique also houses the signature Ruhi Collection, a symbol of artistic elegance. From the revered Ruhi Gold to the vibrant Ruhi Pearls and the intricate Ruhi Iconic line, each creation resonates with a global audience. The grand opening also celebrates the much-anticipated launch of the Ruhi Amber Collection, a homage to history and a celebration of the Amber gems. In addition to these, the boutique will offer the Fashion Collection, which showcases a fusion of versatility and modern luxury. From everyday elegance to bold statement pieces, collections like the Oubharia and Fashion Iconic are emblematic of Devji Aurum's creativity. For Qatar, the boutique will introduce new lines, including the exclusive release of Duvara Collection, inspired by architectural heritage and featuring exclusive



The boutique also houses the signature Ruhi Collection, a symbol of artistic elegance.



The Bridal Collection features an array of timeless pieces that embody the beauty of love.



Devji Aurum's first shop-in-shop boutique is located on Level 1 of Doha Festival City's Alfordan Boutique.

gemstones, paying tribute to Qatar's elegance with pieces available only in Doha. Speaking about this important milestone, Mahesh Devji, managing director of Devji

Aurum, said: "We are deeply honoured to be a part of the Alfordan family, a relationship that spans decades of shared vision and mutual respect. Both Devji Aurum and the Alfordan Group are driven by a commitment to excellence, and together, we believe in delivering 'maximum happiness to the maximum number of people.' This partnership is a true testament to our aligned values, and we look forward to an exciting future together." As Devji Aurum continues to grow its presence in Qatar, the brand also looks forward to participating in the prestigious Asjad Show, where it will unveil new creations that blend innovation and elegance, further showcasing its position as among the leaders in fine jewellery. The grand opening of the Doha boutique is a momentous occasion, one that heralds a new chapter in Devji Aurum's illustrious history. As they continue their legacy of craftsmanship, luxury, and service, Devji Aurum is inviting jewellery enthusiasts to join them on this extraordinary journey, where each piece tells a story of passion, artistry, and timeless beauty.

Devji Aurum is the Rolls-Royce of Arabic jewellery, says Ali Alfordan

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

Devji Aurum, which recently opened its first shop-in-shop boutique in the country, is the epitome of elegance and luxury, according to Alfordan Jewellery president Ali Alfordan. "They are the Rolls-Royce of Arabic jewellery; their craftsmanship and attention to detail truly set them apart as the best in this field," Alfordan told *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the brand's grand opening at the Alfordan Boutique inside Doha Festival City. Alfordan, who is also vice-chairman of the Alfordan Group, said Alfordan Jewellery has been working with Devji Aurum for the past 50 years, noting that the brand has developed jewellery that people like to wear during Ramadan, Eid, weddings, and other celebrations.

"We are very proud to have this boutique with Devji Aurum. They have improved the traditional heavy Arabic jewellery, making it smaller and more attractive. Their designs are always up-to-date, catering to the current market trends by using natural materials. They are a unique and special company; they are like a family to us," Alfordan emphasised. Mahesh Devji, managing director of Devji Aurum, emphasised that working with the Alfordan family "has been an honour," citing that both families have been in

partnership since the 1960s. Devji described the grand opening of Devji Aurum at the Alfordan Boutique as a "very important milestone" for the brand. He also expressed gratitude for the mentorship given by Alfordan Group chairman Hussain Ibrahim Alfordan, saying the experience was "truly inspiring."

"We are looking forward to opening many more stores in Qatar with different themes and concepts, and we will try our best to create the best pieces that the region has seen. We have been based in Bahrain, so we are familiar with Arabic taste. And we understand how to manufacture those pieces. But we have also learned a lot from Qatar because the customers' needs here are amazing," Devji added.

Alfordan Group chairman Hussain Ibrahim Alfordan lauded Devji Aurum for creating a speciality brand for the Arabic market and for continuously innovating and improving their collections to match the requirements and tastes of the region.

"They have elevated their designs to the international market by venturing into a more refined aspect of the tradition with a new generation of jewellery. I believe that these designs the collections they are creating will lead to success, capturing the essence of the Gulf," he added.

Qatar affirms commitment to all pacts on N-disarmament, WMDs

QNA
New York

Qatar stressed the importance of adhering to all the agreements and treaties related to the disarmament of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, expressing its hope that all countries around the globe join these agreements, to contribute to achieving international peace and security and preserving future generations and ecosystems from the danger of proliferation of these weapons.

This came in a statement delivered by Second Secretary of Qatar's Permanent Mission to the UN, Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, before the First Committee of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), on the item 'Weapons of Mass Destruction,' in New York. Sheikh Abdulrahman said that Qatar

continues to develop and update national legislation related to weapons of mass destruction to be in line with its obligations under the agreements the country is a part of, adding that Qatar co-operates with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and enhances its role in supporting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

In this regard, he pointed out the financial contribution made by Qatar to OPCW in June 2024, in an attempt to strengthen the role of artificial intelligence in the work of the organisation, and to implement the CWC more efficiently.

He noted that the National Committee for Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW) in Qatar organises workshops for university students to increase and spread awareness of the dangers of weapons of mass destruction, introduce the biological and chemical weapons conventions, and treaties related to nuclear weapons,



Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz al-Thani

and inform students of Qatar's efforts in implementing the agreements related to weapons of mass destruction.

He emphasised Qatar's belief that armed conflicts must be settled peacefully and through dialogue, noting that peaceful resolutions and dialogue is the most effective option for maintaining international peace and security.

In this context, he highlighted the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 of 2004, which calls on all states to promote dialogue and co-operation in the field of non-proliferation to confront the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, stressing that the proliferation of such weapons constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

The proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction and their horrific effects on humanity require the international community to work together to prevent the possession of these deadly weapons, ensure that their use is prohibited under any circumstances, and

strictly adhere to the legal obligations contained in relevant international treaties, he said.

The threat of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons, continues to pose a threat to countries and peoples, and violates the human rights of many societies, he added, indicating that this danger is increased by the possibility of terrorist bodies obtaining weapons of mass destructions in areas affected by armed conflicts, where the principles of legal accountability and redress for crimes and atrocities committed are absent.

Sheikh Abdulrahman also stressed that the great danger posed by the threat of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region obliges everyone to intensify efforts to eliminate them and ensure that they are not developed or threatened with use in order to maintain international peace and security.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Progress and peace through partnerships

From Page 1

The Amir's visit to Brussels, where he chaired Qatar's delegation at the GCC-EU Summit, marked a historic moment. This summit highlighted the deep-rooted ties between the Gulf and Europe, with Qatar leading the call for increased collaboration. The discussions in Brussels touched on several urgent topics, ranging from energy co-operation to sustainable development. However, the dominant theme was security – both in terms of geopolitical stability and energy security, an area in which Qatar has long played a leading role.

As one of the world's largest exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG), Qatar continues to be a critical partner for Europe in the face of shifting global energy dynamics. The EU's reliance on Qatari gas, especially in light of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the broader transition toward sustainable energy sources, cannot be understated. His Highness the Amir's presence in Brussels served to reiterate Qatar's role as a stable and reliable supplier, while also opening the door to further collaboration on renewable energy and climate change initiatives.

The GCC-EU Summit also saw the Amir delivering a strong message on the ongoing war in Gaza and Lebanon. Qatar, which has long positioned itself as a neutral mediator in Middle Eastern conflicts, called for an immediate ceasefire, a halt to Israeli aggression, and a renewed focus on a two-state solution. His Highness the Amir's call for a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue echoed across the summit, reinforcing Qatar's unwavering commitment to justice, peace, and regional stability. By using the platform of the GCC-EU Summit, Qatar highlighted the importance of international accountability and the necessity of aligning regional and global efforts to resolve long-standing conflicts.

The Amir's next stop in Italy brought into focus Qatar's deepening bilateral relations with one of Europe's key economies. During talks with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and President Sergio Mattarella, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to expanding economic, trade, and defence co-operation. Italy and Qatar have long enjoyed close relations, with Italy being one of the primary destinations for Qatari investments in Europe.

On the economic front, the discussions in Rome reflected Qatar's National Vision 2030, a blueprint for diversifying the nation's economy away from a heavy reliance on hydrocarbons. The talks explored further investment opportunities in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and innovation – aligning with both nations' goals of economic diversification and sustainable development.

In addition to economic ties, the Amir's visit also focused on defence co-operation. Italy and Qatar have increasingly collaborated in the defence sector, particularly in the development of naval forces and military vessels.

Once again, the discussions centred on the Middle East, with both countries voicing their support for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The shared commitment to establishing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital underscored the alignment of their foreign policies on this critical issue.

In Germany, His Highness the Amir met with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Germany, a powerhouse of European industry, has increasingly looked to Qatar as a key partner for securing energy supplies in the wake of global geopolitical tensions. The ongoing energy crisis in Europe, driven by the war in Ukraine, has only heightened the importance of Qatar's LNG exports.

However, the visit to Germany was not solely focused on traditional energy sources. The Amir also explored opportunities for deeper co-operation in renewable energy and sustainability. With Qatar's significant investments in the German industrial sector – most notably in the Volkswagen Group – the two countries are well-positioned to collaborate on initiatives aimed at promoting electric vehicles and reducing carbon emissions. These efforts align with both Qatar National Vision 2030 and Germany's ambitious plans for a green energy transition.

The visit to Germany also provided an opportunity to discuss broader geopolitical concerns, with both leaders addressing the need for de-escalation in Gaza and Lebanon. The Amir's consistent message throughout his tour – that of peace, dialogue, and collective responsibility – resonated in Berlin, where discussions focused on how to bring about a ceasefire and prevent further escalation in the region.

The Amir's tour of Brussels, Italy, and Germany has reaffirmed Qatar's unique position as a mediator, partner, and global player. His efforts to foster dialogue, promote economic partnerships, and advocate for peace and justice in the Middle East are a testament to Qatar's forward-thinking foreign policy. At a time when the world is facing multiple crises – from energy shortages to geopolitical conflicts – Qatar continues to offer solutions rooted in co-operation, respect for international law, and a commitment to sustainable development.

falmudahka@gulf-times.com



Ministry rolls out Watad family consultation clinic

HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Mar- yam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad launched yesterday a family consultation clinic intended for boosting societal cohesion.

The Watad Clinic for marriage and family therapy/consultation was launched in collaboration between the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) and Family Consulting Centre (Wifaq),

and it provides free and confidential support for families to overcome their psychological, social, and educational challenges.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Supreme Judicial Council judges, senior MSDF officials and social centres representatives. Wifaq Executive Director engineer Jabr Rashid al-Nuaimi said the move responds to the growing societal needs for reliable and pro-

fessional marital and family counselling through specialised consultants.

The Watad Clinic ensures a safe platform for families to communicate with an elite group of specialists in this field, and this service is not just consultations, but rather a step towards building strong family relationships that enhance social cohesion and preserve the family entity, he said.

MSDF's Social Security Administration Director Abdullah Mohammed al-Hajri said the Watad consultations would not be limited to couples but include all family members to help them overcome crises and enhance understanding. According to statistics released by the service, up to 1,590 consultations have been provided until the third quarter of this year. (QNA)

QFFD, QC launch project to treat Yemeni cancer patients in Egypt

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Charity (QC), in partnership with Yemen for Cancer Care & Charity Foundation, have launched a project in Cairo to support humanitarian cases of Yemeni cancer patients seeking treatment in Egypt.

The ceremony was attended by high-level figures from the Qatari and Yemeni sides.

The project will cover the treatment of cancer patients arriving from Yemen as well as those residing in Egypt by covering travel, accommodation, and necessary medical interventions.

This initiative addresses the challenges faced by the healthcare facilities in Yemen and the deteriorating living conditions due to the difficult circumstances the country has experienced for the past nine years. The project is expected to benefit a total of 166 cases, including 120 patients who will be brought from Yemen and 46 cancer cases from those already in Cairo.

In his speech, Chairman of the Board of Founders of Yemen for Cancer Care & Charity Foundation in Cairo Al Haj Abdul Wasi Hayel emphasised their appreciation for QFFD's contributions to development projects in Yemen. He acknowledged the fund's relentless efforts to support the Yemeni people through various programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing economic growth, building youth capacities, and contributing to food security, water and sanitation projects, and emergency cholera response, among others.

He welcomed the partnership with Qatar Charity in implementing this project and expressed grati-



tude for the presence of representatives from both organisations at the launch, stating: "We are pleased to have representatives from the Qatar Fund for Development and Qatar Charity joining us in launching this project, which aligns with the qualitative leap in the foundation's work and services dedicated to serving Yemeni cancer patients who have been tested by fate. The difficult circumstances and economic conditions in Yemen have prevented this segment of patients from receiving the necessary healthcare services, especially given the weak performance of the health system, which is nearly paralysed across the provinces."

During her speech, Acting Manager of Director General Office, QFFD, Maryam Khalid al-Maslamani, said: "In consideration of the big challenges faced by Yemeni patients

in accessing essential healthcare, there is an urgent need for this intervention. From this standpoint, we seek through this project to extend a helping hand to everyone in need of treatment and care."

She confirmed that this project underscores Qatar's pioneering role in supporting humanitarian efforts at both regional and international levels. She also expressed her complete confidence in this collaboration, which will have a significant positive impact on the lives of these patients and will contribute to enhancing the values of humanity and solidarity between the Qatari and Yemeni peoples.

For her part, Head of International Partnerships and Finance in Qatar Charity, Hajjar al-Hajri, stated that standing by cancer patients is a humanitarian and ethical duty, as they require special care and continuous

support in their journey toward recovery. She noted that this project is not new for Qatar Charity, either in Yemen or elsewhere, mentioning that Qatar Charity previously supported the treatment of over 250 Yemeni cancer patients in Egypt in collaboration with the Yemen Foundation for Cancer Care.

Al-Hajri expressed her gratitude to QFFD for its generous support and to the Yemen Foundation for its ongoing efforts in providing care and support to patients.

She emphasised that their partnership in this project demonstrates the importance of collective action in addressing humanitarian challenges and the need for co-operation to alleviate the suffering of cancer patients, hoping that this project will mark a new beginning of hope and courage in facing this disease and recovering from it. (QNA)



Maison Mirath Marks Three Years of Partnership with Alfardan Jewellery at ASJAD 2024



Maison Mirath, the Lebanese fine jewelry house celebrated for redefining modern legacies, proudly announces its third consecutive participation at the ASJAD exhibition, in collaboration with Alfardan Jewellery. This milestone highlights the enduring partnership that began in 2022, showcasing Maison Mirath's exquisite creations at Alfardan's exclusive showrooms in Qatar.

At ASJAD 2024, Maison Mirath will unveil new designs and releases from their signature

Harmony Collection, featuring fine jewelry that blends layers of gold, diamonds, and precious stones. This collection emphasizes the art of layering and stackability, offering versatile pieces that can be styled for any occasion. It will include a wide selection of earrings, rings, bracelets, and necklaces, all designed with the independent and bold Qatari woman in mind.

Maison Mirath will also showcase its latest high jewelry pieces. Each creation is one-of-a-kind, meticulously crafted using natural

stones and unique designs, allowing every woman to express her individuality.

Maison Mirath's partnership with Alfardan Jewellery, one of the region's most prestigious names in luxury, has allowed the brand's collections to be featured at key locations, including Doha Festival City and Place Vendôme. Together, they offer clients unparalleled access to Maison Mirath's exceptional jewelry pieces.

UNHCR official hails Qatar's role in addressing crises in Afghanistan

Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Afghanistan, Arafat Jamal, has commended Qatar's leading role in addressing humanitarian and political crises in Afghanistan, particularly in facilitating humanitarian aid delivery and supporting education.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Jamal said that Qatar has proven its capacity for effective diplomacy, which was demonstrated by its positive role in critical issues such as girls' education and the facilitation of humanitarian aid delivery. He stated that UNHCR is pleased with this role, looking forward to further co-operation.

Jamal emphasised that the biggest challenge facing Afghanistan is managing the return of refugees from Pakistan and Iran. He noted that after decades of war and climate shocks, Afghanistan has experienced

peace for the last three years, and now it requires the organised return of refugees to ensure their contribution to stability.

In this context, the UNHCR representative explained that despite the challenges and difficulties related to policies restricting education for women, the UNHCR focuses on providing support to the population effectively, especially in difficult environments, and works under tight security conditions in light of the security and logistical challenges despite the current relative peace, and it faces great difficulty in reaching some mountainous areas, but it does its utmost to reach those in need.

Addressing the issue of girls' education, Jamal stressed its urgency, stating that denying girls education beyond the age of 11 poses a great risk to the country's present and future. Education is essential to protect them from early marriage and to ensure their participation in economic

development. Jamal also emphasised the importance of international support in facilitating the return of refugees, appreciating Pakistan and Iran's hosting of refugees, stressing the importance of their organised return to contribute to Afghanistan's stability.

He explained that UNHCR is currently working on a programme in 15 provinces in Afghanistan, titled "Beacons of Hope," aimed at creating environments where returnees have access to education, health-care, and employment, making these areas engines of economic growth.

Jamal expressed his gratitude to Qatar for its continued efforts in facilitating dialogue between different parties. He thanked Qatar for its relentless role in keeping communication channels open, adding that it's crucial to maintain these channels to ensure Afghanistan's stability and provide aid to those in need. (QNA)



HE the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab met with the visiting Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Afghanistan Arafat Jamal. The meeting discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and co-operation in the humanitarian fields, as well as ways to enhance peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Ambulatory Care Center awarded Gold Certification with Distinction

Hamad Medical Corporation's Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) has been awarded Gold Certification with Distinction for Leadership and Innovation in Person-Centered Care by Planetree, a not-for-profit organisation that has been at the forefront of the movement to transform healthcare from the perspective of patients for more than 45 years.

Achievement of Distinction status – the highest level of recognition conferred by Planetree – requires organisations to earn re-Certification for Excellence in Person-Centered Care at the Gold-level, while also building on their success to advance the model of person-centred care beyond the standards outlined in the PCC certification programme.

The prestigious award acknowledges ACC's work to continually advance the practice of person-centred care (PCC) through outreach, research, scholarship, and

innovation. ACC is the only organisation in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, and one of only five organisations worldwide, to be honoured by Planetree with its "Distinction in Leadership and Innovation in Person-Centered Care Award."

Gold Certification with Distinction in PCC offers an opportunity for organisations to complement their ongoing work to meet the needs of their community and staff of professional caregivers with more broad-based efforts to build awareness, strengthen the case, and continue to innovate in person-centred care.

Specifically, staff and leadership from ACC have participated in international conferences and webinars, engaged in research to tie specific outcomes to person-centred care, submitted articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and participated in public policy initiatives to expand the



practice of person-centred care. "ACC's unparalleled dedication to enhancing the experience for patients, families, and staff led to its most recent designation with distinction for Leadership and Innovation in Person-Centered Care certification. They have demonstrated such a commitment to engaging patients and families in co-designing the highest quality, most patient-centred experience of care



possible, I congratulate them on this remarkable achievement," said Nasser al-Naimi, Chief of Patient



Experience at HMC and Director for the Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute.

"We are honoured for the recognition we have received for our efforts to improve the way care is delivered to our patients and the community," ACC's CEO and medical director, Dr Khalid al-Jalham, stated. "The outcomes demonstrate a distinct and enthusiastic collaborative effort from our patients, employees, and

even volunteers, who have embraced a person-centred approach to care."

"For creating an environment that allows patients and family members to genuinely contribute on matters related to patient care and experience, we are grateful," says Abdul Razak al-Kuwari, Chairman of ACC's Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC).

"More than ever, we feel appreciated for our contributions in patient-focused programmes and practices that impact the services and care we receive!"

"The Planetree Certification is the only award that recognises excellence in person-centredness across the continuum of care," said Michael Giuliano, President of Planetree.

"By sharing its successes and challenges, ACC has exponentially increased the impact of its person-centred culture to benefit not only patients, families, and professional caregivers in its local community, but also those all over the country and even globally." (QNA)

Anti-Money Laundering Workshop's participants underscore importance of boosting co-operation

The workshop entitled Improving Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Regime (A holistic approach to mitigate financial crimes), wrapped up in Doha yesterday. It was organised by the Public Prosecution in collaboration with the US Departments of Justice and Treasury.

The participants underscored the importance of supporting global efforts to curb money laundering and combat the financing of terrorism. They stressed that boosting co-operation among all regional and global stakeholders is imperative to achieve this objective, especially given the overlapping patterns of crimes associated with these issues. This necessitates the mobilisation of all essential energies and resources to address them.

In the closing session of the workshop, participants representing 16 countries were honoured and received certificates in recognition of their work.

Among them were deputy attorneys general, assistant deputy attorneys general, public prosecutors, judges, and officials from agencies specialised in anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

The last day of the workshop centred on discussing themes related to detecting evasion of penalties and related trials. It underscored the importance of co-operation between the public and



private sectors to curb encryption crimes, enhance evidence through financial information, and track criminal cases. Additionally, it highlighted the significance of banking supervision in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as the co-operation between banks and investigators in this regard.

The four-day event featured numerous key sessions and panel discussions, along with working papers that addressed capacity building, shared best practices, and state-of-the-art legal frameworks and technologies for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. Additionally, it included best practices related to banking supervision in combating these issues.

In addition, the papers ad-

ressed trade-based money laundering, money laundering through complex financial instruments, and money laundering patterns in the Middle East and North Africa. The workshop focused on vital themes related to Fintech, digital currencies, and the risks associated with designated non-financial businesses and professions.

The event highlighted various types of financial crimes, as well as international co-operation in law enforcement and prosecutions, asset recovery from abroad, and asset confiscation.

The participants discussed topics related to leveraging information as an anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism tool, as well as issues related to money laundering connected to narcotics crime. (QNA)



QDA launches Diabetes Day campaign

Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA) has launched its annual campaign on the occasion of World Diabetes Day (WDD), which falls on November 14, a statement said yesterday.

Led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the participation of all its members from diabetes associations around the world, WDD was established in 1991 in association with the World Health Organisation in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.

The campaign draws attention to issues of paramount importance to the diabetes world and keeps diabetes firmly in the public and political spotlight. Millions of people with diabetes face daily challenges managing their condition at home, work, and school. Diabetes care often focuses only on blood sugar, leaving many overwhelmed.

WDD takes on a new slogan every year, highlighting one of the topics of diabetes, and for 2024, the campaign focuses on 'Diabetes & Well-being.'

This year's WDD campaign is focused on several key aspects. The first is the lives of diabetics, with millions of people with diabetes facing daily challenges in managing their condition at home, work and school, often having a negative impact on their health. The second aspect focused on diabetes care, emphasising that it includes adequate support for a good healthy life, while the third aspect stressed the need to give priority to supporting the quality of healthy life for diabetics.

QDA director Dr Abdulla al-Hamaq, said: "The facts and figures of diabetes show the escalating global burden on people and countries. According to the International Diabetes Federation, approximately 537mn adults (20-79 years) are living with diabetes, and by 2045, projections show that about 783mn, will live with diabetes, an increase of 46%."

"More than 90% of people living with diabetes are type II diabetes, which is driven by social, economic, environmental, and genetic factors. Low levels of physical activity, weight gain, and the prevalence of obesity are among the causes of type II diabetes. However, it is possible to



QDA's campaign includes many events, especially the 'Diabetes Walkathon' on November 15, in its eighteenth edition, at Aspire Park. Over the years, the Walkathon has attracted decision-makers, health leaders, school and university students, as well as the general public

reduce the impact of diabetes by taking preventive measures and providing early diagnosis and appropriate care.

"Therefore, we consider World Diabetes Day as a mobilisation for the entire global diabetes community to provide a strong common voice to raise awareness of diabetes, its seriousness, and how to prevent it. We also want all concerned parties to take the necessary measures to combat it and ensure the safety of our communities" he added.

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Dr al-Hamaq called on all government agencies, civil society institutions, schools, sports clubs, individuals and opinion leaders, journalists, and all individuals to register and participate in the success of the enlightenment process.

QDA is organising its annual

medical conference on 'Diabetes Comorbidities and Complications' which dedicates its efforts to the treatment of diabetes, related complications, technology, and prevention. The conference will be held on November 8-9, at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

One of the activities of the campaign is the Blue Circle Test on a large scale, to assess the level of risk factors for type II diabetes. Studies have shown that it is possible to avoid it through a healthy diet and regular exercise. The blue circle is the logo of WDD and signifies the unity of the global diabetes community in response to the diabetes epidemic.

Throughout the month of November, the campaign also includes lectures and workshops in schools, universities, ministries, and the private sector. This year's campaign will also continue the steps of success of previous years' campaigns. Many prominent buildings across Qatar will be lit up in blue colour, joining thousands of buildings around the world to reiterate focus on diabetes.

Breast cancer awareness at Zula Wellness Resort

Zula Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som is raising awareness during October about the benefits of genomic testing for early detection of breast cancer and partnering with the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) to offer cancer survivors a peaceful retreat experience.

A portion of the proceeds from this month's sales of specially designed cups, available at Casuarina Café, will be donated to QCS, a statement said yesterday. At the resort, genomic testing plays a vital role in helping individuals take control of their health. This advanced testing goes beyond detecting cancer risks like BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations, offering insights into how genes influence everyday wellness.

Genomic testing is designed to provide a deep understanding of genetic predispositions that can influence health decisions. For individuals concerned about cancer risks, particularly breast, ovarian, and prostate cancers, identifying BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations is critical. These mutations significantly increase the likelihood of developing certain cancers, and early identification enables more proactive health management, including increased monitoring and preventive treatments. Genomic testing is a way to access detailed insights into how diet, fitness, and



lifestyle can be personalised to match an individual's genetic profile, helping to create wellness plans that support lasting health.

When it comes to recovery and maintaining overall wellness, nutrition plays an important role. A well-balanced diet supports healing, boosts energy levels, and enhances immunity. Zula Wellness Resort offers personalised nutrition plans crafted by expert nutritionists, ensuring that each guest



receives meals tailored to their specific needs, whether for cancer prevention or recovery.

The resort's gut-healing menus are rich in antioxidants, fibre, and essential nutrients, which are vital for reducing inflammation and supporting immune function. Foods such as berries, leafy greens, and whole grains play a significant role in providing the body with essential vitamins and minerals needed for recovery. Hydration is equally important, and guests

are encouraged to maintain optimal fluid intake through herbal teas, fresh juices, and water to help combat fatigue and enhance overall bodily functions during treatment.

Zula Wellness Resort also offers a variety of holistic retreats designed to support physical and emotional wellness for individuals recovering from cancer. Programmes like Optimal Physio Fit, Stress Reset, and Mind-Body Wellness provide treatments that address common post-

cancer challenges such as fatigue, mobility, and mental health.

Manual lymphatic drainage therapy is one of the key treatments offered at the resort. This gentle therapy aids in reducing swelling, improving circulation, and boosting immune system function, which is particularly helpful for those recovering from surgery or radiation. Zula Wellness Resort's therapists are trained in Cancer Care Touch Therapy, ensuring that treatments are both safe and effective for cancer survivors.

Emotional wellness is equally important. Mindfulness practices, including meditation, breathing exercises, and energy treatments like Reiki and Craniosacral Therapy, are offered to help guests manage stress and rebuild emotional resilience.

Zula Wellness Resort also incorporates Traditional Arabic & Islamic Medicine (TAIM) into its holistic wellness approach. TAIM therapies aim to balance the body's natural elements through diet, lifestyle adjustments, and herbal treatments. For cancer survivors, treatments such as Hijama (cupping) and herbal remedies help detoxify the body and promote healing. Mindfulness techniques, rooted in TAIM, encourage emotional and mental balance, helping individuals recover more fully, the statement added.

Ministry of Justice organises Cancer Awareness Day

In co-operation with the Qatar Cancer Society, the Ministry of Justice yesterday organised a Cancer Awareness Day to raise awareness and educate about cancer, with the aim of shedding light on the disease and the importance of prevention, early detection, and treatment methods.



The day is organised on the occasion of October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is marked by Qatar each year, within the framework of the ministry's social responsibility, and in line with national policies that support society

and promote health culture.

The ministry also aims to support the national cancer early detection programme, which contributes to raising awareness and early detection of the disease in Qatar, in accordance with the national cancer prevention strat-

egy, which represents a shift towards preventive and community healthcare.

During the awareness day at the Ministry of Justice, the medical team from the Qatar Cancer Society supervised the provision of detailed explanations and information to employees about cancer prevention methods and the importance of early detection and treatment.

The medical team also provided guidance on steps that everyone can take to reduce the risk of cancer and adopt healthy habits that promote the health and safety of society. (QNA)



The two day conference united over 250 healthcare professionals.

Al Meera supports breast cancer awareness



In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Al Meera Consumer Goods, Qatar's national retailer, is collaborating with the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) on a variety of initiatives to support the cause.

Throughout October, awareness messages that highlight

the importance of early detection and screening are displayed across Al Meera branches with staff wearing pink ribbons and pink shirts to symbolise their support and show solidarity.

Al Meera has also launched an awareness campaign on social media and organised training

sessions for female employees, in partnership with QCS, to further spread awareness.

This initiative underscores Al Meera's commitment to health and well-being, reflecting their broader CSR efforts and aligns with its mission to serve and support the community beyond retail, a statement added.

HMC concludes annual breast cancer conference

The National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) concluded the Annual Breast Cancer Conference 2024, which united over 250 healthcare professionals, researchers, and experts worldwide to explore the latest detection, treatment, and care advancements.

The two-day conference had the theme, 'Advancing Breast Cancer Care: Innovations in Detection, Treatment, and Management.'

Dr Mohamed Salem al-Hassan, CEO and medical director of the NCCCR, opened the ceremony and highlighted the significance of this conference.

The conference provided a significant platform to discuss advanced innovations such as targeted therapies, immunotherapy, and Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADCs).

Attendees engaged in discussions, interactive panels, and comprehensive presentations to enhance understanding and ap-

plication of these transformative treatments in clinical practice.

Dr Salha Bujassoum al-Bader, chairperson of Medical Oncology and Palliative Care Medicine at NCCCR, director of the Center for Clinical and Precision Medicine and Genomics at HMC, and chair of the Organising Committee, said: "The Annual Breast Cancer Conference 2024 demonstrated our progress in the fight against breast cancer. We witnessed a paradigm shift in treatment approaches that will undoubtedly reshape clinical practices, improve patient experiences, and provide renewed hope and confidence to cancer patients."

The event featured a diverse programme of keynote speeches by international, regional, and local experts, offering comprehensive updates on the latest in breast cancer biology, biomarkers, and management strategies.

By bringing together oncologists, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, primary care phy-

sicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals, the conference created a collaborative environment to bridge the gap between scientific research and real-world clinical practice.

"At HMC, we are committed to fostering global dialogue on the latest advancements in cancer care. This conference allowed us to share the newest innovations in breast cancer management while reinforcing our dedication to improving patient outcomes," added Dr Bujassoum.

"Our mission as medical oncologists is to provide personalised care that addresses patients' physical, psychological, and emotional needs. Advancements in cancer treatment are possible only when we come together as a community of healthcare professionals. The Annual Breast Cancer Conference was an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences that can lead to groundbreaking improvements in patient care," concluded, Dr al-Bader.

AAH offers wide diversity of medical care services

Aisha Bint Hamad Al Attiyah Hospital (AAH), the second-largest medical facility run by Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), offers the latest groundbreaking innovations and technologies in healthcare.

The hospital offers advanced medical treatment to ensure patients receive the best standards of healthcare within a serene recovery atmosphere. It is outfitted with excellent medical personnel and infrastructure.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA) during a field trip organised by HMC to inspect the cutting-edge technologies leveraged by AAH, a team of medical practitioners at AAH emphasised that inpatients and outpatients continued to receive a high level of healthcare without disruption during the renovation project period of the hospital.

Acting executive director at AAH, Hussein Ali al-Ishaq, said the hospital had succeeded in modernising numerous medical sections.

The Hamad General Hospital is currently embarking on a renovation project that will result in the closing of some sections.

Al-Ishaq highlighted the hospital's capability to offer the best healthcare services to the public. The hospital capacity includes over 300 beds, he said highlighting that in the past occupancy rates reached between 60% to 65%.

AAH Medical Director Dr Ibrahim Fawzy stressed that there is a significant number of medical practitioners at all medical specialties at the hospital.

The hospital is always geared up to receive cases from various regions statewide, he said.

Dr Fawzy highlighted that the hospi-



tal has world-class medical equipment, alongside critical sections such as radiology, laboratory tests, and medical personnel.

He added there was a high level of co-ordination with Hamad General Hospital regarding all medical cases admitted to AAH, indicating that all

essential requirements are provided for patients.

Head of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at AAH, Dr Najah al-Junaidi, said the section handles a variety of cases with five to 12 births on daily basis.

She pointed out the delivery rooms are capacious and offer pregnant women a chance to practice required kinetic activities ahead of giving birth, highlighting that all postnatal rooms are single occupancy to provide primary comfort for pregnant women.

Head of the radiology department at AAH, Dr Riham al-Sadiq, said the department offers all diagnostic and therapeutic services to patients.

She emphasised that health services are provided for inpatients, outpatient clinics, and emergencies around-the-clock.

Since the inauguration of the depart-

ment at AAH, it has been offering over 26 medical testing and minimising the workload on other radiology departments, al-Sadiq said, adding all state-of-the-art equipment, including X-ray and ultrasound chambers are available.

Senior emergency consultant for adults at AAH, Dr Rana al-Sayed, said that since the inauguration of the emergency section at the hospital on October 11, the medical facility has been receiving cases at a rate ranging between 15 and 20.

The hospital is located in Tinbak area between Al Khor and Lusail and positions itself as a premium destination for a wide spectrum of the population in Al Shamal and Doha regions. The medical facility is connected with modern roads and offers multiple parking lots, with bus services to transport individuals from Lusail Red Line Metro available - QNA

DHFC hosts new edition of GQ Live

Doha Festival City (DHFC) hosted the return of GQ Live at Harvey Nichols Doha on Tuesday, featuring masterclasses, in-conversations, and bespoke pop-ups designed to celebrate both international and local talent. The event aligns with DHFC's new direction, embracing curated brands, promoting self-expression, and connecting a vibrant community of fashion and beauty enthusiasts, a statement said.

Following its successful launch earlier this year, GQ Live celebrated Harvey Nichols Doha's leading collections, spanning menswear, women's wear, grooming, and beauty.



Renowned personalities at GQ Live held at Doha Festival City.

GQ's pop-up Style Closet showcased leading collections from the likes of Lanvin, Self-

Portrait, Massimo Alba, Tom Ford Beauty, Rosantica, Byredo, Amiri, Zimmermann, Casablanca,

Jacquemus, Stella McCartney, 16 Arlington, Dolce & Gabbana Beauty, and The Attico.

"As Qatar's premier destination for fashion, beauty, and lifestyle, Doha Festival City continued to lead in offering unmatched experiences," said Noreen Nasralla, executive director, marketing, Al-Futtaim Real Estate. "We are proud to collaborate with global leaders like GQ and Harvey Nichols to bring exclusive events that inspire and engage our vibrant community."

GQ Live welcomed Rhuigi Villaseñor, founder and creative director of Rhude, for the first time in Qatar. The talented creative joined GQ Live for a special meet

and greet with guests in-store. The Los Angeles-based brand balanced luxury techniques with streetwear elements, showcased as ready-to-wear collections. In celebration of Rhuigi's arrival, Harvey Nichols curated a bespoke Rhude pop-up.

GQ also welcomed global sports icon, high jumper, and GQ cover star Mutaz Barshim who discussed his illustrious career, his love of fashion, and his support of the next generation of emerging talent. As part of DHFC's wider positioning as a premium lifestyle destination - a dedicated programming strand designed to celebrate and support the next generation of design talent

emerging from Qatar - GQ Live welcomed Aysha al-Romaihi, director of Scale7- QDB, and the Scale7 designers behind The Project and All Seasons to explore the collections of tomorrow. As part of this special project, an edit of the designers' collections was displayed in-store.

Leading beauty guru and entrepreneur Salima Aliani also returned to GQ Live to share her insights on new-season make-up and skincare. Style expert and GQ Contributor Nasser al-Ansari took the stage alongside Born Outside Italy's Creative Director Alfredo Bandini, and iconic footballer Meshaal Barsham to discuss curating a Fall/Winter wardrobe.

Road trip new travel trend for Qatar residents

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Qatar residents are increasingly embarking on road trips to and through Saudi Arabia, on account of further relaxation of the visa process and the simplification of immigration and customs proceedings at the Abu Samra border crossing point.

"The trend is seeing an uptick with many going to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries to spend the weekend," Rayan Travel and Tours general manager Zaheer Yousuf told *Gulf Times*.

"Earlier, there was Umrah traffic and some opted to go on trips during the weekend to visit their relatives. Now, there is a sudden shift in the trend after Saudi relaxed the visa process and introduced the instant visa system. People have started to go in big numbers on leisure trips to Saudi Arabia," he explained.

Many visit Saudi Arabia to explore the heritage sites and spend



Zaheer Yousuf

the holidays with relatives and friends. "The attractions include heritage sites, historical monuments, and stunning mountains," said Ameer Shaji, a member of GCC Trip, a group of travellers in Doha.

The condition of roads has remarkably improved in Saudi in line with the boost in the tourism sector. "The new road to Dammam from Abu Samrah border via Khobar has reduced the travel time by one hour and the immigration and customs proceedings at the border

crossing are simplified bringing down the waiting time remarkably," he said.

For Qatar residents, among the Gulf destinations, according to Saheer, Saudi Arabia is on the top followed by Bahrain and the UAE. "Oman is also becoming a favourite destination with an abundance of natural wonders," he said.

Ameer said many travellers from Qatar cross the Saudi Arabian border to reach Jordan where they can visit popular tourist sites including the ancient city of Petra, the port city of Aqaba, the Dead Sea, the Cave of the Seven Sleepers and the capital city Amman. Some of them proceed further to Egypt to explore the historic sites and landmarks.

Also, business trips, according to travel experts, are increasing with many entrepreneurs opting to drive to Saudi Arabia and the UAE in groups in order to save money. The trend is also boosting the business of travel agencies that offer visa assistance and hotel booking.



Ameer Shaji and his family in front of Global Village in Dubai



Doha residents in front of Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi during the road trip.

Mercedes-Benz, Ford 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 C-Class, and SL Class, 2023 models, as the engine control unit software does not meet the factory specifications causing the engine warning lamp to be activated.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, also announced the recall of Ford F 150, 2023 model, as a possible defect in the diagnostics system may falsely set the catalytic converter Diagnostic Trouble Codes, which leads to illuminating the malfunction indicator light in affected vehicles.

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

and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealers to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The MoCI has urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, social media channels @mociqatar, and mobile application MOCIQatar available on iPhone and Android devices.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds ramps up festive season offers

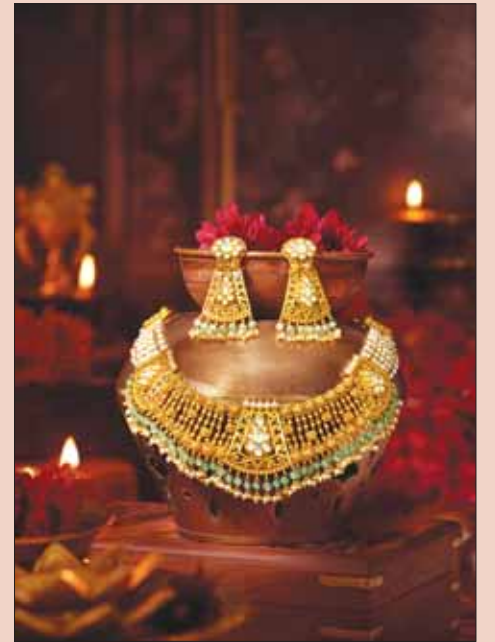
Malabar Gold & Diamonds (MGD), the sixth largest jewellery retailer globally with over 360 showrooms across 13 countries, has ramped up their festive season offers ahead of Dhanteras and Diwali by providing free gold coins on gold jewellery purchase.

The limited period offers, valid across all MGD showrooms across Qatar from October 25-29, will provide customers with the opportunity to get free gold coins on the purchase of gold jewellery worth QR3,000, a statement said. As part of the ongoing offer running across MGD showrooms, customers are eligible for free gold coins on the purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery worth QR3,000 and above. As the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras draws near, the assured gold coin offer that has been extended to cover gold jewellery purchase as well.

"The rise in gold price that the market has witnessed over the past week is further testament to the incredible position that gold has as a safe haven asset," said Shamlal Ahamed, managing director - international operations, MGD.

"As Dhanteras approaches, a time when many of our customers choose to invest in gold as a symbol of prosperity and good fortune, we are excited to provide free gold coins with every gold jewellery purchase. This is our way of enhancing the value of their purchase and adding extra joy to their festive moments", he added.

On Dhanteras Day (October 29), all MGD showrooms in Qatar will be open from 8am, to be able to serve the high customer footfall that is expected.



MGD's Pay 10% advance offer, introduced ahead of the festive season, has been a significant benefit for customers, with thousands taking advantage of the opportunity to secure the best rates on their jewellery purchases. The brand has also announced that this advance payment option will remain available until Dhanteras.

Ashghal launches Society Satisfaction Survey

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has launched its Society Satisfaction Survey.

Ashghal, on its website, said that this complies with the strategy to improve its performance and services.

Ashghal has designed and developed the survey to measure community satisfaction in Qatar with the services provided.

"There are no right or wrong answers, but your answers will reflect your impressions and level of satisfaction. The survey results will be translated into action plans and programmes that meet the community's needs and reflect its expectations," the website said.

The public can fill out the survey through the link published by Ashghal on its social media handles (<https://research.net/r/788JSTH?lang=en>).



The survey has questions related to the societal image and reputation of Ashghal, the effect of the work environment, environmental impact, societal impact and interaction and communication.

Also, the participants can submit their suggestions once the questions are answered.

Chaumet & Nature exhibition announced

A major exhibition, 'Chaumet & Nature: Nature-Inspired Jewellery Since 1780', will be held by Maison Chaumet, in partnership with M7, Qatar Museums (QM), and Qatar Creates, from November 1-December 19 at M7.

The exhibition, the first high jewellery exhibition of its kind in Qatar, will feature nearly 107 pieces of jewellery and 111 visual works from both the Maison's and QM's collections, including eight works that have never been shown before.

Founded in 1780, Maison Chaumet, one of the oldest jewellery houses in France, is closely linked to the development of the nation.

Chaumet's first major client was Napoleon Bonaparte, for whom the Maison's founder, Marie-Étienne Nitot, set the épée used during his coronation as Emperor.

The house has maintained a botanical vision for its fine crafts for more than 240 years. Its pieces have drawn inspiration from qu-



Rising Sun Tiara

tidian wonders of nature ranging from flowers and leaves to more unusual subject matter such as wheat, grapes, laurels, pansies, palm trees, giraffes, and wings.

A special portion of the show will be dedicated to Maison's Chaumet's use of pearls, which have played a key role in Qatar's national heritage.

In a press statement, M7 director Maha Ghanim al-Sulaiti

said: "The remarkable beauty of Maison Chaumet's jewellery presents the relationship between craftspeople and nature over the course of nearly a quarter of a millennium. We are particularly excited to present a group of Maison Chaumet works that employ pearls, which have been essential to the identity of Qatar since the nation's earliest days."

Chaumet CEO Charles Leung



Emerald and Diamond Tiara

said: "The Chaumet & Nature exhibition and collaboration is unique in many ways and pays tribute to the relationship between France and Qatar in the 1970s. This collaborative exhibition highlights exceptional orders from Qatar, inspired by the Qatari cultural heritage and made in the high jewellery workshop of 12 Place Vendôme, Paris."

Chaumet & Nature is organised

in five sections that demonstrate nature as a key element of Maison's designs: Preserving Nature, Drawing Nature, Observing Nature, Living in Nature, and Diving in Nature.

The exhibition will include pieces from Qatar Museums' collection including the Duke of Westminster's transformable wings tiara (1907), the Greek frieze tiara (1910), the Rising sun aigrette

(1910), all by Joseph Chaumet, and the Countess Katharina Henckel von Donnersmarck's emerald tiara (1900) by Chaumet.

The exhibition features a poem called "Treasures of the Earth" by Salman bin Khalid, which was created for Chaumet to celebrate the significant role of poetry in Arabic literature. Chaumet also commissioned the Qatari artist Shouq al-Mana to design an exclusive piece for the exhibition, that pays tribute to the Qatari tradition of pearl diving and commerce and that takes inspiration from the motif of underwater nature, one of the Maison's many sources of inspiration.

In March 2024, M7 collaborated with Maison Chaumet on selecting Zainab AlShibani, a local graphic designer, to create the new Arabic logo, which is now present in all Chaumet's flagship stores across the Middle East.

The M7 gift shop, in collaboration with IN-Q, will feature specially crafted designs for this presentation, along with exclusive offers.

EAA partners with Lapis Group to support education in Palestine

Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and Lapis Group have signed a partnership agreement to launch the Youm Jadeed (New Day) initiative, aimed at providing educational and psychosocial support to Palestinian children with particular focus on war-ridden Gaza.

This partnership comes as the Palestinian education system faces unprecedented challenges due to ongoing war and the resulting severe disruptions of formal schooling across the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, a statement said yesterday.

Over the next seven months, the partners will produce and broadcast 90 original episodes of the

Youm Jadeed radio programme for children aged 7-11 and their caregivers. The programme will rely on entertaining and drama-based storylines which focus on key themes such as literacy, health and emotional resilience.

Youm Jadeed will be broadcast on FM radio in Arabic across all of Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem. This broad reach will be complemented by an innovative, multi-platform digital dissemination strategy including online, mobile and social media tools as well as in-person activities to reach as many children, caregivers and educators as possible, and ensure that they have access.

The project will seek to con-

nect with a wide array of stakeholders to utilise the resources of the projects for their activities with children across Palestine. Throughout the implementation period, there will be continuous emphasis on measuring reach, engagement and impact, and seeking community engagement and feedback to improve outcomes.

Fahed al-Sulaiti, CEO, EAA, commented: "Our partnership with Lapis Group cements our belief in providing uninterrupted access to education to communities in need. With the foundation's reach extending to over 60 countries and impacting more than 19mn beneficiaries, we recognise the importance of innovating for seamless education and learning. Together, we are dedicated to fostering knowledge and skills that uplift individuals and build resilience. Through this partnership, we aim to create lasting impact for those who need it most, paving the way for a brighter future."

Alex Thier, CEO of Lapis Group, added: "We truly believe that all children deserve access to high quality education and social and emotional support. Youm Jadeed was designed from scratch to serve the needs of Palestinian students and their communities to learn and be more resilient in this time of immense hardship and trauma."



The project aims to achieve common goals and maximise impact for Palestinian children.

Fanar honours Arabic course graduates at Sarajevo university

The Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (Fanar) at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has honoured 40 students who graduated from the Arabic Language Teaching Course for Non-Native Speakers from the Faculty of Islamic Studies at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to an Awqaf statement, the course lasted from September 1-October 7 with 80 teaching hours.

The course had 'The Path to Arabic' series curriculum for non-native speakers. It was presented by professors specialising in teaching Arabic to non-native speakers from Fanar.

The graduation ceremony at the headquarters of the Faculty of Islamic Studies at the University of Sarajevo was attended by Fanar director Dr Saleh bin Ali al-Marri, the Islamic Culture Department head Dr Ahmed Abdul Rahim al-Tahan and professors and teachers in charge of the course. Dr Mustafa Hassani, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies and teaching staff members attended the event.

The Fanar delegation, during the visit, met the Grand Mufti and



head of the Islamic Sheikhdom Dr Hussein Kavazovic. Also, they met with the Dean of the Faculty

of Usul al-Din Dr Mustafa Hassani and also visited the Gazi Husrevbeg Library in Sarajevo.

GU experts warn about global fallout of upcoming US election



Participants in the discussion.

At Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), in collaboration with experts from Georgetown's campus in Washington, DC, a distinguished panel of political scientists delivered a sobering analysis on 'The Prospects for US Democracy: Contention, Crisis, and Continuity', warning that the outcome of the 2024 US election could have profound global implications far beyond American borders.

GU-Q associate professor, Paul Musgrave didn't mince words when discussing the potential foreign policy consequences. "Everything's up for grabs" with a Donald Trump presidency, he declared. From Trump's unpredictable handling of global affairs to volatile decisions on Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine, Prof Musgrave stressed that "being unpredictable is not a quality you want in

somebody who manages a global superpower."

By contrast, Musgrave pointed out that a Kamala Harris presidency would likely continue the approach of the current administration. "It's actually very easy to talk about Kamala Harris' foreign policy. If Harris is elected, it will be mostly like Joe Biden's," he explained.

While Musgrave painted a picture of the global uncertainties tied to the election, GU-Q Prof Clyde Wilcox turned the spotlight inward, focusing on threats to US democracy itself. "Donald Trump is no ordinary candidate," he cautioned, noting the former president's repeated attempts to undermine the 2020 election. "He's going to try to do it again," Wilcox warned, describing how Trump's unchecked influence could unravel democratic norms. "He's

a lot angrier... and very much less coherent" than he was eight years ago, he added, illustrating the heightened risks this time around.

While the panel dissected the personal and political forces at play, Georgetown University associate professor, Hans Noel shifted the discussion to broader political science principles. Noel explained: "Journalists tend to focus on the personalities of the candidates," but fundamentals like the economy and partisan breakdowns remain the most critical factors, even though Trump's presence on the ballot complicates the usual predictions.

The conversation also focused on the critical issue of voter access, with GU assistant professor Jamil Scott bringing the discussion back to the grassroots. "It's wonderful that they're joyful," Scott noted, referencing the resilience of voters standing in long lines. "But they're standing in really long lines to vote." She highlighted how restrictive voter ID laws disproportionately affect communities of colour, creating barriers that could influence the election outcome. "Race and gender are weaved into this in ways that seem innocuous, but are endemic to how American politics is at work," she concluded, highlighting the complex dynamics that make it difficult to predict a victor.

By the end of the public talk, one message was clear: the 2024 US election isn't just a routine contest for power – it's a pivotal moment that could reshape the future of democracy and alter the course of global politics.



Abdullah Mohammed Khalifa al-Binali, general manager of QLC, is flanked by officials.

Top experts to attend QLC's leadership innovation forum

The forum titled 'Leadership Innovation in the Digital Age' will be held on Oct 30

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Leadership Center (QLC) held a press conference yesterday to announce the centre's readiness to launch the first edition of the Leadership Innovation Forum titled "Leadership Innovation in the Digital Age" at the St Regis Hotel, Doha on October 30.

Under the patronage of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of QLC, this forum will bring together speakers and experts from around the world to discuss the topic of "Leadership Innovation in the Digital Age".

Abdullah Mohammed Khalifa al-Binali, general manager of QLC, said: "As we approach the launch of the Leadership Innovation Forum titled "Leadership Innovation in the Digital Age", we aspire to be an event that brings together specialists and experts in the field of leadership management and innovation solutions, academically and professionally, and speakers from all over the world. We are proud of QLC's achievements over the past fifteen years. Since its establishment in 2008 by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani (may God protect him and grant him peace), the centre has contributed to the development of over a thousand graduates, who represent a driving force for positive change in public and private sector institutions. This forum represents a golden opportunity to empower promising generations of leaders to benefit from the experiences of local,

international experts, specialists and create valuable communication networks that enable them to build future partnerships, in order to serve the needs of their institutions in all sectors, and enable them to form a comprehensive understanding of the foundations of anticipating the future by enhancing means of innovation in creating administrative and organisational solutions that contribute to achieving the goals of these institutions that are directly in the service of the nation and the citizen."

He added: "We at QLC are committed to implementing the vision of establishing the centre and the strategy approved by the Board of Directors in developing an environment that encourages the exchange of ideas and expertise. This forum comes as the center celebrates its 15th anniversary to be a new platform and an effective tool that contributes to shaping the future of leadership in Qatar and to support lifelong learning for this target group and provide opportunities to build strategic relationships that contribute to supporting development and administrative excellence at the level of leadership in the public and private sectors in the country. With the rapid changes in the world, we hope to be a tributary to presenting and displaying the Qatari experience in leadership, whether in managing institutions or organising international political, economic, cultural, sports and educational forums in line with Qatar National Vision 2030."

QLC also announced that the Media City will be the official media partner for the forum this year.

Abdullah Mohammed Khalifa al-Binali, general manager of QLC, said: "We at QLC are de-

lighted to welcome Media City as the official media partner for the inaugural edition of the Leadership Innovation Forum. Media City is working to drive innovation in the media sector and is therefore a natural partner for the Leadership Innovation Forum 2024. We look forward to a successful collaboration."

Engineer Jassim Mohammed al-Khoori, CEO of Qatar Media City, said: "As a media partner, we are proud to support this strategic initiative with QLC, which is in line with our direction and mission to promote innovation and to achieve the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. Our support for developing leadership skills and empowering young talent is a fundamental pillar for the future of the creative scene in Qatar. This initiative comes to confirm our firm commitment to strengthening Qatar's position as a regional centre of excellence and supporting its pioneering role in shaping the future of global media."

The forum aims to be a leadership platform in Qatar for leadership development. The forum will bring together the Center's alumni association, leadership experts, and regional, international speakers to discuss the leadership aspirations and needs of advanced societies, especially in light of the rapid growth of AI technology. The forum will feature 17 local and international speakers; from Qatar and the Middle East, South Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, and others, academics and experts specialised in various fields. These speakers and experts will provide innovative visions and strategies for leadership in the digital age through keynote speeches and panel discussions.

UDST opens admissions for Winter 2025 semester

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has announced that admissions for the Winter 2025 semester are now open, offering a variety of master's, bachelor's, and diploma programmes.

Prospective students, including Qatari nationals and children of Qatari women who are eligible for tuition fee exemptions for undergraduate programmes, are encouraged to apply via the university's website (www.udst.edu.qa). Applicants must meet the admission requirements to their respective programmes. Additionally, applicants are required to pass the University's English and Math Placement Tests.

UDST President Dr Salem Al-Naemi emphasised the university's mission in shaping the future of Qatar, stating: "University of Doha for Science and Technology is committed to providing a distinguished educational experience that combines theory

with applied application, enabling our students to achieve leadership in various fields, especially in science, technology, and innovation."

UDST believes that true education lies in the practical application of theoretical knowledge. Therefore, students are provided with a variety of advanced facilities and laboratories, enabling them to apply what they have learned in a simulated real-world environment. This approach ensures that the university's graduates are well-prepared for the job market by equipping them with the practical skills and critical thinking necessary for success in their professional careers.

The university offers more than 70 innovative programmes across five main colleges: Engineering and Technology, Business, Computing and Information Technology, Health Sciences, and General Education. (QNA)





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The key to unlocking the benefits of trade

Supply chains form the backbone of international commerce, representing over half the value of global merchandise trade. They also create large numbers of jobs and lower the bar for countries and companies to participate in the world economy. But the finance underpinning supply chains is inadequate, leaving too many small businesses in emerging and developing economies cut off from the benefits of global trade.

Supply-chain networks bring together raw materials, parts, services, and other inputs from multiple countries. The firms within these networks depend on short-term supply-chain finance to avoid being squeezed between upfront payments to their suppliers and late payments by their buyers. Such financing enables a large share of global trade, and for small firms in developing countries, it is essential.

At the global level, supply-chain finance is one of the fastest growing segments of trade finance, with BCR's World Supply Chain Finance Report 2024 estimating its value at around \$2.3tn. But only some are benefiting from this expansion. While large multinational corporations and developed economies have seamlessly integrated supply-chain finance into their procurement networks, most businesses in developing countries remain on the sidelines.

For these firms – most of which are micro, small, and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) – securing supply-chain finance from local banks is a significant challenge, owing to weak legal frameworks, inadequate technological infrastructure, and prohibitively high costs. This limits many firms' ability to grow and thrive, and their countries cannot reap the full benefits of global trade.

Data from joint trade-finance surveys conducted by the International Finance Corporation and the World Trade Organisation illustrate the extent of the problem. Even in countries like Vietnam and

The finance underpinning supply chains is crucial, but too many small businesses in emerging economies cannot access it

resources that are so important for moving up the value chain.

The benefits that would come from increasing supply-chain finance in developing economies are substantial. WTO research shows that a 10% increase in the use of international factoring (the main type of supply-chain finance, used primarily by MSMEs to secure immediate cash against their unpaid outstanding invoices) can boost countries' trade by 1%.

Expanding access to supply-chain-finance tools also could significantly increase participation in trade, especially by MSMEs in developing countries. And that, in turn, would help raise incomes, reduce poverty, and foster greater financial inclusion.

For their part, multilateral development banks can do much more to catalyse supply-chain finance in developing countries. Multilateral lenders must commit to co-ordinating their efforts with governments, industry associations, and local and international financial institutions.

Such collaboration could advance multiple objectives. First, it could strengthen the legal frameworks for supply-chain finance where they are weak or non-existent, as well as building greater capacity among regulators and policymakers.

Second, by training market participants and regulators in global best practices, international organisations can help standardise credit data reporting, solvency rules, and enforcement mechanisms. Third, they can promote digitalisation by supporting the development of essential technological infrastructure. And fourth, they can provide financing and technical assistance to banks and other providers of supply-chain finance in emerging markets, which will increase product availability.

By working together, multilateral organisations, governments, and financial institutions can unlock the full potential of supply-chain finance, thus promoting trade and financial inclusion in the world's most underserved regions. When it comes to driving development, increasing supply-chain finance is low-hanging fruit. Given its significant potential to deliver gains for employment, trade, and growth, plucking it could advance a broad range of global development objectives. – Project Syndicate

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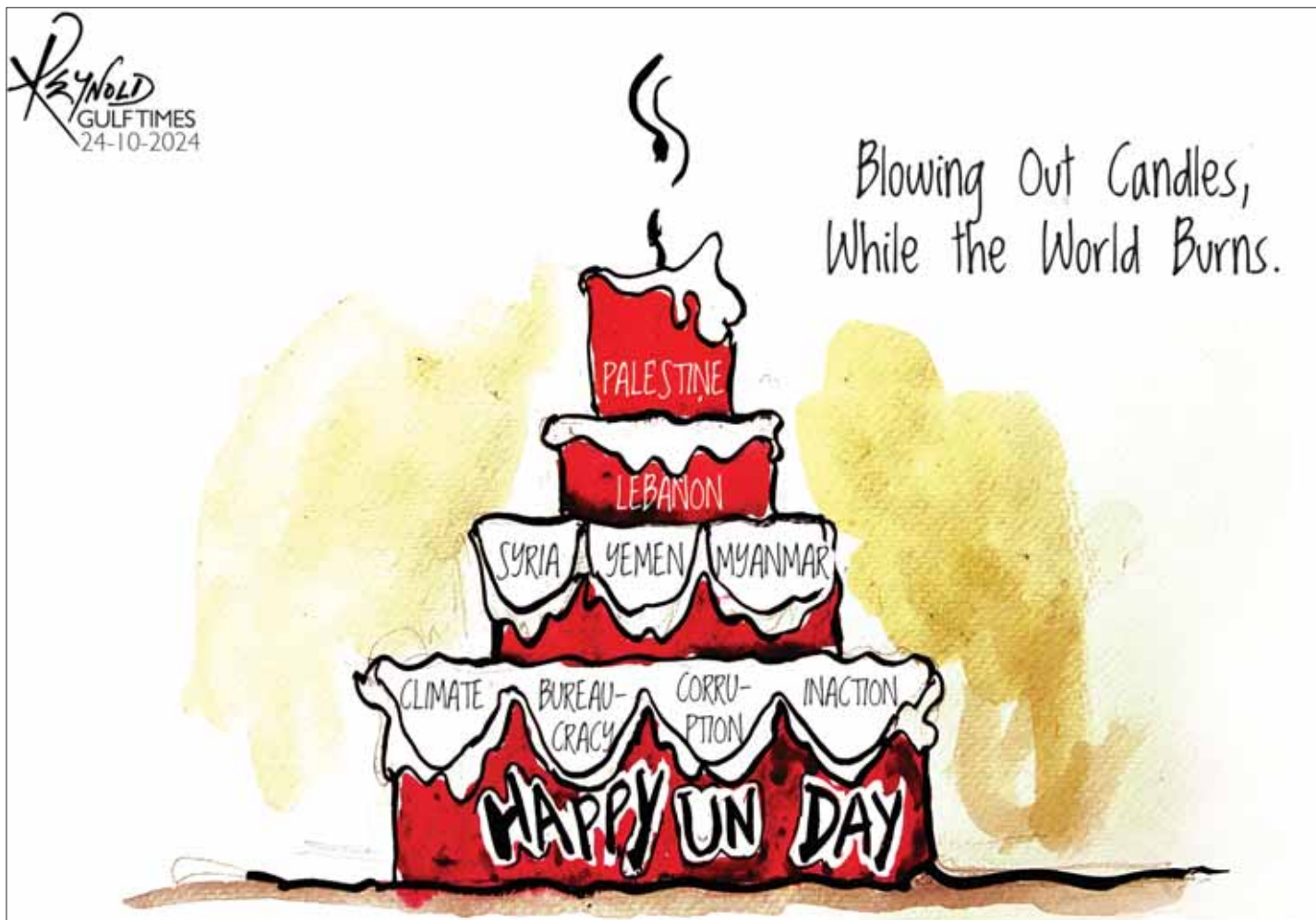
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The global economy's hidden weaknesses

By Eswar Prasad
Ithaca

After a tumultuous couple of years, the global economy finally seems to be in recovery mode. But beneath a placid surface of falling inflation and rising overall growth lie considerable inconsistencies, weaknesses, and tensions, reflected in tanking private-sector confidence.

The latest update of the Brookings-Financial Times Tracking Indexes for the Global Economic Recovery (TIGER) shows that, while global growth is gaining momentum, it remains weak, disjointed, and driven largely by the continued strong performance of just one economy: the US. In fact, though a few economies – especially the US and India – are operating in high gear, most of the advanced economies and many emerging-market economies, including China, are decelerating, hamstrung by rising debt burdens and feckless policymaking.

With the global economy's prospects unclear, political uncertainty gripping many countries, and geopolitical tensions running high, low business and consumer confidence may come as no surprise. But there is a notable disconnect between weak private-sector confidence and both financial conditions (which have improved) and stock-market performance (which has been relatively strong, even in some countries with poor growth prospects).

This disconnect is apparent even in the US, where a soft landing is now in clear view, as inflation falls gradually in a context of falling unemployment and robust domestic demand.

Strong wage growth, together with a rising stock market (which portends healthy corporate earnings), augur sustained growth. The US Federal Reserve is well positioned to continue on the path of gradual interest-rate cuts.

Even so, consumer confidence has deteriorated, reflecting a general dissatisfaction with the state of the US economy – a sentiment that will play a key role in next month's presidential election. There are also acute risks on the horizon, particularly America's rising public debt – which both candidates' policy agendas would make worse – that could threaten macroeconomic stability.

Other advanced economies are having a harder time. While some southern European countries, such as Spain and Greece, have managed to pick up a bit of steam, the core eurozone economies are languishing. Germany is bogged down by high energy costs, creaky industrial infrastructure, stagnant productivity, and rising export competition from China, while France faces severe fiscal problems that portend further economic and political instability. Amid lacklustre growth and falling inflation, the European Central Bank has had little choice but to continue cutting rates, even though services inflation and wage growth remain persistently high.

The United Kingdom, for its part, seems to have gained some economic traction – thanks not least to monetary loosening – but business investment continues to decline, productivity growth remains anaemic, and fiscal risks loom large. As for Japan, its central bank has broken with its peers, raising interest rates to prop up the yen and stem rising inflation, but this will do little to encourage household consumption.

Even China – long the global economy's main growth engine – is floundering. To be sure, a new round of monetary and fiscal stimulus, together with measures to bolster property prices and strengthen commercial banks' balance sheets, promise to give a boost to the real-estate and equity markets. But the policies that have been announced so far will likely prove insufficient to overcome deflationary pressures arising from weak domestic demand. Private-sector confidence has taken a severe beating in recent years – owing largely to a lack of clear policy direction from the government – and this has undermined household consumption and business investment.

To get its economy back on track, China will have to introduce a new set of well-targeted fiscal-policy measures, including income support for households, tax cuts, and a restructuring of fiscal relations between the central government and local authorities. At the same time, the government must pursue deeper structural reforms aimed at reviving productivity growth and restoring business confidence – no easy feat.

India has emerged as a bright spot in the global economy. Thanks to strong infrastructure investment and the rapid expansion of high-value-added manufacturing and services sectors, growth has been robust. Increased consumer spending and healthy bank balance sheets have countered the headwinds arising from still-high inflation and weak agricultural-sector performance, while prudent monetary and fiscal policy have bolstered financial markets.

Moreover, India stands to benefit from two global trends: the decline in global interest

rates could stimulate capital flows into the country, and the drive by many major economies to shift supply chains away from China could lead to higher investment in, and exports from, India. Nearby Indonesia is also proving to be a steady performer, thanks partly to a strong policy framework that appeals to foreign investors.

In Latin America, while Brazil and Mexico appear on track to record healthy growth, many other countries are grappling with large budget deficits, unsustainable debt burdens, exchange-rate volatility, and falling demand from China, one of the region's leading export markets. Meanwhile, though Russia's economy and financial markets have withstood Western sanctions reasonably well, the war against Ukraine will diminish the country's long-term growth potential.

The relative calm that has taken hold in the global economy gives policymakers around the world an opportunity to tackle underlying obstacles to growth. This means bringing public finances under control, fostering household and business confidence, and devising clear policy frameworks to boost productivity growth. Concrete steps to improve the functioning of labour, product, and financial markets are essential. – Project Syndicate

[Caroline Smiltneks, a student at Cornell University, contributed to this commentary.]

● Eswar Prasad, Professor of Economics at the Dyson School at Cornell University, is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and the author of *The Future of Money: How the Digital Revolution Is Transforming Currencies and Finance* (Harvard University Press, 2021).



The United Kingdom, for its part, seems to have gained some economic traction – thanks not least to monetary loosening – but business investment continues to decline, productivity growth remains anaemic, and fiscal risks loom large.

QF signs agreement to expand school network



Officials at the signing ceremony.

Qatar Foundation (QF) has signed an agreement with two local companies, Al Asmakh Real Estate Development and Khaled Bin Nasser Hamad Al Thani Group Holding to construct the Tariq Bin Ziad Preparatory and Secondary Schools in Education City.

The agreement aims to create a school that blends Qatari heritage with academic excellence, complementing the existing Tariq Bin Ziad School and expanding the educational services it provides to include children up to the age of 18.

The two new buildings consist of separate facilities for boys and girls, each featuring classrooms, art studios, sports halls, playgrounds, and science labs. These facilities will help create a comprehensive and functional environment that supports both students and teaching staff.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalid Nasser Hamad al-Thani, the chairman of KBN Group Holding, said: "In collaboration with Qa-

tar Foundation, we are privileged to contribute to the advancement of education in Qatar by playing a key role in the construction of Tariq Bin Ziad School. This partnership reflects our steadfast dedication to building a world-class educational infrastructure that empowers future generations."

Abeer al-Khalifa, president, QF Pre-University Education, said: "The expansion of Tariq Bin Ziad School, which has long nurtured many of the nation's leaders, represents a significant milestone in Qatar Foundation's journey to building a distinguished knowledge-based society. Through this expansion, which includes the addition of a preparatory and secondary schools, we aim to solidify the school's position as a leading educational institution that combines academic excellence with a deep connection to Qatar's national identity."

"This expansion will open new opportunities for a larger number of students to benefit from our innovative educational programmes,

which focus on developing critical thinking and creativity while fostering national pride. This step is part of our vision to prepare a generation of qualified leaders who will contribute to driving progress in Qatar."

Dr Maha al-Romaihi, director of Tariq Bin Ziad School, said: "We are thrilled to embark on this transformational journey with our new partners to create a world-class campus that not only meets the highest international standards but also honours the rich heritage and legacy of Tariq Bin Ziad School."

"This new campus will continue our school's story, blending tradition with modernity to shape the future of our students and community."

Tariq Bin Ziad Preparatory School currently operates in a temporary facility in Al Sadd, supported by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Once construction is complete, the school will relocate to its permanent campus in Education City.



Qatar Charity signs deal to set up Islamic complex in Turkiye

Qatar Charity (QC) signed an agreement with Turkiye's Presidency of Religious Affairs to establish an Islamic complex in the Kahramanmaraş Province in southern Turkiye.

The signing ceremony was attended by President of Religious Affairs Dr Ali Erbas and CEO's assistant for the Resources Development and Communication sector at Qatar Charity Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, in addition to Secretary-General of the International Union for Muslim Scholars Dr Ali al-Qaradaghi.

This agreement comes within the framework of a series of reconstruction projects for earthquake-affected areas in southern Turkiye, aimed at reducing the damages caused by the disaster

and further strengthening the Qatari-Turkish bond.

According to the agreement, the projects to be implemented within the framework of the complex will include a mosque, a Qur'an memorisation centre, a Qur'anic sciences centre, residential units for staff, a youth centre, a library, student housing and a lecture hall.

Marking the occasion, Dr Ali Erbas said: "Today, we are signing an agreement with Qatar Charity in Kahramanmaraş to implement a large charitable project, that will include a mosque and a religious academy."

He added that facilities will serve as a centre for nurturing a generation of Imams and a source of knowledge. He hoped that

construction would begin soon and benefit the Kahramanmaraş city and the entire Turkiye.

For his part, Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo expressed his pleasure in signing the agreement for the establishment of an Islamic complex in Kahramanmaraş, aimed at compensating for the loss caused by the destruction of several religious facilities and mosques due to the earthquake.

The reconstruction projects implemented or underway by Qatar Charity in the Turkish provinces affected by the earthquake include support for infrastructure in the education, health, industry and shelter sectors, in accordance with several agreements signed previously. (QNA)

Arab human rights committee concludes discussion on Qatar's third periodic report



The 25th session of the Arab Charter Committee on Human Rights has concluded at the Arab League General Secretariat headquarters in Cairo, which discussed over two days the third periodic report of Qatar, as a party to the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

In a statement, the committee praised the welcome speech delivered during the session by HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, in which she presented a comprehensive overview of the fundamental reforms undertaken by Qatar in the field of human rights, noting Qatar's firm commitment to human rights principles and constructive co-operation with the committee. She also provided concrete examples of these reforms through specific programmes and projects in several areas, including women's empowerment, child protection, and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

The statement, delivered by Acting Director of Human Rights Department at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs Dr Reem bint Ali Ibrahim al-Derham, indicated that the session addressed various aspects of the human rights record in Qatar.

The discussions focused on main axes, including the goals of the Charter, the right to equality and non-discrimination, the right to life and physical integrity, combating slavery and human trafficking, the judiciary and the right to access it, civil and political freedoms, the right to individual property and freedom of opinion and expression, protection of the family, especially women and children, the right to work, the right to development, the right to health, and the rights of persons with disabilities.

The committee noted that it held a closed meeting with Qatar's National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) to discuss the human rights situation in the country from the NHRC's perspective.

The statement also noted the speeches made at the opening session, in which Chairman of the Arab Charter Committee on Human Rights Counsellor Jaber Saleh

al-Marri congratulated Qatar on its re-election as a member of UN Human Rights Council, and expressed his hope that this election would contribute to strengthening the State's efforts in the field of protecting human rights at the international level.

In the same context, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Media and Communication Sector at the Arab League ambassador Ahmed Rashid Khattabi praised the efforts of the Arab Charter Committee on Human Rights in enhancing the protection of human rights, stressing the League's commitment to supporting these efforts by providing the necessary expertise and logistical support.

Chairman of the Permanent Arab Committee on Human Rights ambassador Talal al-Mutairi said that discussing the third periodic report of Qatar is a translation of the efforts made by the country in the field of human rights, praising the space provided by the Arab Charter Committee during its sessions to look at the future of human rights in the region and discuss ways to enhance and protect them. (QNA)

Labour ministry briefs students on academic paths at career fair



The Ministry of Labour, through its Department of Qualifying and Skills Development, participated in the career fair organised by Hayat Universal School, aimed at introducing students to various educational institutions across multiple academic disciplines, helping them identify and select their future academic paths.

The ministry's participation aligns with its ongoing efforts to

connect students and graduates with academic fields that are in demand in the labour market.

This initiative supports the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, which aims to cultivate a competent, motivated and competitive national workforce, as well as a highly skilled expatriate workforce in the private sector.

During the fair, officials from the Qualifying and Skills Development

Department provided students with comprehensive information and insights about promising university majors, vocational readiness initiatives and programmes, summer training opportunities, and job qualification processes. These initiatives are designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully enter the labour market in the future. (QNA)

QRCS celebrates Gulf Red Crescent Day

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) celebrated Gulf Red Crescent Day under the slogan "Gulf Red Crescent... Giving to All."

In a speech during the celebration, Director of Communication and Fundraising Division at QRCS, Mohamed Ahmed al-Bishri, expressed pride on the annual occasion, which stems from the spirit of brotherhood and shared positions among the Red Crescent societies of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries.

He emphasised that these societies share common goals and visions regarding the present and future of Gulf humanitarian work. He pointed out that this year's slogan carries a significant message: Gulf humanitarian work is driven by the desire to give, do good, and provide help without seeking anything in return. It serves all members of society and extends a helping hand to anyone in need, without bias or discrimination.

He said that this has always



been the approach of everyone who belongs to the Gulf Red Crescent family, which spares no effort in serving humanity wherever needed. He also noted that the Red Crescent societies of the GCC countries set an excellent example of co-ordination and harmony, whether in managing bilateral relations or addressing joint issues through organisational, specialised committees under the umbrella of the GCC General Secretariat. Among these are

the Committee of Heads of GCC Red Crescent Societies, for which QRCS hosted its 20th meeting in May 2024, the 12th meeting of the Media and Awareness Officials Committee in Doha in December 2023, and the Permanent Committee for Volunteering Work in GCC Red Crescent Societies.

Al-Bishri highlighted that, for decades, the world has not witnessed a humanitarian tragedy more horrific and brutal than what Gaza has been enduring

with bombings, displacement, starvation, and siege for over a year. The death toll has reached unprecedented numbers, with the wounded and nearly 2mn displaced residents, essentially the entire population of the Gaza Strip. He stressed that QRCS did not stand idly by in the face of this, but has worked with all its capabilities to provide aid to the Palestinian people. QRCS has a long history of humanitarian and development work in Gaza through

its representative office there, which has implemented dozens of humanitarian and development projects since its establishment in 2008, with a total cost exceeding \$130mn.

He also highlighted QRCS' contribution since Oct 7, 2023, by delivering 116 plane loads as part of Qatar's airlift to transport successive humanitarian aid shipments from Doha to Arish, Egypt. Additionally, QRCS provided part of the cargo on one of the Qatari aid ships, bringing the total to 4,766 tonnes of aid to meet the needs of Gaza's residents for food, shelter, healthcare, water, and sanitation. The number of beneficiaries from this aid is estimated at about 1mn Palestinians so far, with a total cost exceeding \$13mn.

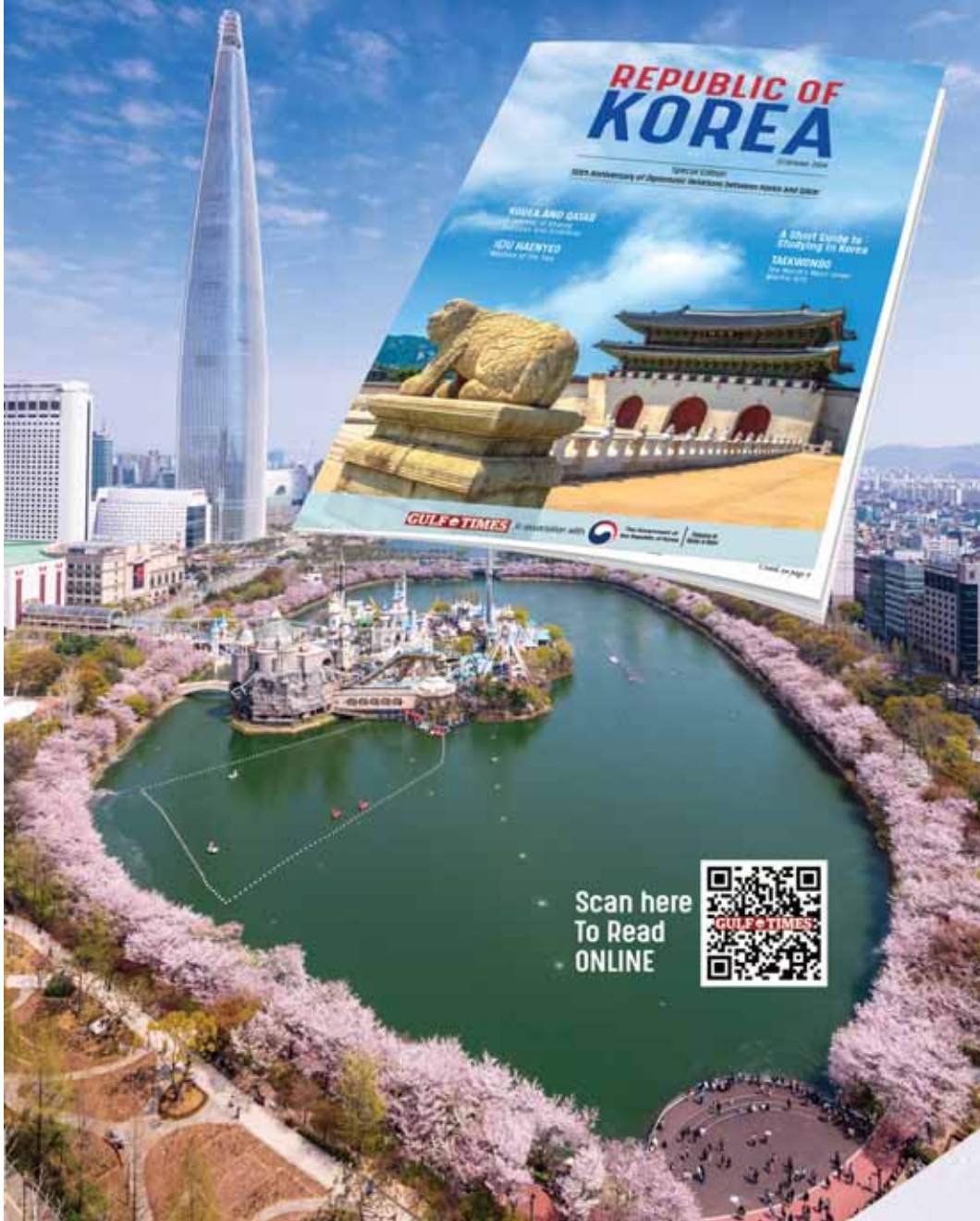
Regarding Lebanon, al-Bishri mentioned that the recent escalation in military clashes has worsened the already dire economic and living conditions that refugees and the host community have been facing for years, amid ongoing

waves of displacement and limited resources available to the responding agencies.

He explained that QRCS, as always, was one of the first humanitarian organisations to provide food, health and relief assistance through co-ordination between its representative office in Lebanon and the Lebanese Red Cross.

QRCS also contributed to the ongoing daily airlift from Qatar to Lebanon and has already begun the first phase of distributing urgent assistance to displaced and affected families, including blankets, mattresses, food, personal hygiene items and drinking water. Al-Bishri also pointed out that these ongoing humanitarian efforts are not limited to emergency responses to conflicts, but also take into account the onset of winter, which poses a real ordeal for thousands of vulnerable, refugee and displaced families. For this reason, QRCS recently launched its annual Warm Winter campaign for 2024-2025 under the slogan "Their Warmth Is Our Duty." (QNA)

Today's **GULF TIMES** includes a 32-page supplement on **REPUBLIC OF KOREA**



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Katara art show focuses on Qatari women's role in history and heritage

The Cultural Village Foundation - Katara yesterday opened the first private exhibition of the Qatari visual artist Noura al-Mazrouei, titled 'Harlem Lawal', marking the Public Diplomacy Day in Katara.

General Manager of Katara Prof Khalid Ibrahim al-Sulaiti emphasised the importance of the exhibition as a platform to document stories and traditions that have shaped the conspicuous Qatari cultural identity. He added that the event helps promote understanding and respect for the epochal history of Qatar as a testament to the tight-knit Qatari community.

Prof al-Sulaiti affirmed that the exhibition shines a spotlight on beauty and identity, as well as the Qatari women's life in the ancient times, reflecting the strength and innovation of the Qatari women during that time.

Regarding her exhibition, al-Mazrouei said this art experience demonstrates her deep-rooted connection with the history of the Qatari women, as portrayed in her paintings that highlight the role of women in the Qatari society and their determination to maintain inveterate traits and values, adding that she hopefully looks forward to seeing visitors interact with art stories the exhibition showcases to essentially feel the



entrenched heritage of Qatari women.

The exhibition showcases 21 paintings and is set to run until Nov 1. It highlights the epochal

and groundbreaking art movement in Qatar that demonstrates the life of Qatari women combining the spirit of the past and the present. (QNA)

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