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Gaza truce talks to resume in Doha

Qatar condemns siege of northern Gaza; bombing of hospitals and refugee camps

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani yesterday announced that US and Israeli delegations will arrive in Doha in the coming days to participate in Gaza ceasefire negotiations, adding that Qatar has communicated with Hamas leaders after the killing of the Palestinian movement's political bureau chief Yahya Sinwar.

Addressing a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in Doha, HE Sheikh Mohammed said the teams will discuss ways in which a breakthrough can be achieved but did not specify when these negotiations will be held or whether Hamas will participate.

Blinken said that negotiators will meet "in the coming days" to discuss reaching a truce in the Gaza Strip and releasing hostages, renewing his call for Israel and Hamas to reach an agreement.

Blinken told reporters after talks in Qatar, the main mediator in the negotiations, "We talked about options to take advantage of this moment and the next steps to move the process forward, and I expect our negotiators to meet in the coming days."

A senior Hamas official told AFP yesterday that the group had told Egyptian officials it was ready to stop fighting in Gaza if Israel committed to a ceasefire deal.

HE the Prime Minister expressed Qatar's condemnation of the Israeli blockade on northern Gaza, denouncing the systematic bombing of hospitals and refugee camps and the escalation of the situation to the point of "dropping explosive barrels on our brothers in Gaza".

HE Sheikh Mohammed said: "First, I would like to welcome my colleague, Anthony Blinken, US Secretary of State. Of course, we meet after a year has passed since the war on the Gaza Strip and the development of this conflict reaching Lebanon and other regions in the Middle East.

"The meeting was important and fruitful, as we had the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in the war on Gaza and the path to reaching a solution and the ongoing joint efforts between Qatar, the United States of America, the Arab Republic of Egypt and partners in the region to reach a solution to stop the war and release the hostages and prisoners.

"Unfortunately, from the beginning of this war, we have been warning against the development and expansion of the conflict to other regions in the Middle East, and we see that the war has expanded to Lebanon and other regions. Therefore, discussion on ways to stop the war on Lebanon took up a large part of our discussions in order to reach an urgent solution to stop this aggression against our brotherly Lebanon and to adhere to the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 1701.

"Unfortunately, in the past few days, we have seen an increase in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, especially in the northern region. We condemn this siege on northern Gaza and the systematic bombing of hospitals and refugee camps. We have seen the situation develop into the dropping of explosive barrels on our brothers in Gaza. We believe that this painful phase that we are going through in the region must end as soon as possible in order to protect the innocent and civilians in the region." **To Page 6**



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani addressing a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in Doha yesterday.

Amir meets US secretary of state



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at his office in Lusail Palace US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting focused on strengthening the strategic relations between Qatar and the US, as well as discussing the latest regional and international developments of mutual concern, particularly the situation in Gaza, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Lebanon. Efforts related to joint diplomatic mediation aimed at achieving a ceasefire were also addressed. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani attended the meeting. **(QNA)**

17 massacred in Israeli strike on Gaza school

Cairo
AFP/Reuters

Rescuers in central Gaza said an Israeli strike yesterday killed at least 17 people at a school-turned-shelter. Al-Shuhada school in Nuseirat refugee camp, where Hamas authorities said displaced Palestinians had sought refuge, was the latest target in a series of attacks on similar facilities across the Gaza Strip in recent months.

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas media office said that "thousands of displaced people were sheltering in the school, most of them children and women."

In recent months, Israeli forces have struck several schools-turned-shelters across Gaza, with the military maintaining that it has targeted militants.

In a statement, Hamas called the latest strike "criminal" and reported many "women and children" among its victims.

In the northern section of the enclave, where the area around the town of Jabalia has been the target of a weeks-long operation, the military said it had evacuated large numbers of people and detained more than 200 suspected militants.

Medics at the Indonesian Hospital, one of three facilities still operating in the area, said one of their colleagues was killed by Israeli



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a school in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

fire and another detained on his way to work.

Health officials at the three hospitals, which say they have run out of medical, food and fuel supplies, refused Israeli orders to evacuate the facilities or leave patients unattended.

The operation in the north has fuelled fears among Palestinians that Israeli forces are clearing the area in order to create an uninhabited buffer zone for the military after the war or to pave the way for the return of settlers who pulled out of Gaza in 2005. Israel has denied such plans.

As the war moves into its second year, the death toll from the Israeli campaign in Gaza is approaching 43,000, with the densely populated enclave in ruins and almost all of its population displaced.

US against protracted Israeli war in Lebanon

The United States does not want a protracted Israeli campaign in Lebanon, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday, a month into Israel's military onslaught against the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah. Blinken also said he hoped Iran was getting a clear message that any further attacks on Israel risked its own interests, with the region awaiting the retaliation Israel has vowed for an Iranian missile barrage on Oct. 1.

Israeli strikes hit south Beirut

Lebanon state media said an Israeli strike hit Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday, shortly after Israel issued evacuation warnings for the Hezbollah bastion. "Israeli warplanes launched a new strike a short while ago on the Choueifat" area, Lebanon's official National News Agency said. AFP TV footage showed a plume of smoke rising from the targeted site.

'N Korean troops are already in Kursk'

Ukraine's military intelligence service said yesterday that the first North Korean units trained in Russia had been deployed in the Kursk region, a Russian border area where Ukrainian forces staged a major incursion in August. "The first units of the military from the DPRK, which were trained at the eastern Russian training grounds, have already arrived in the combat zone of the Russian-Ukrainian war," Ukraine said. A total of around 12,000 North Korean troops, including 500 officers and three generals, are training at five military bases in Russia."

Canada slashes immigration

Canada said yesterday it was significantly curbing immigration targets in an effort to "pause" population growth, a shift that comes as public support for immigration declines. This marks a big pivot for a country with a long-standing reputation as a destination for immigrants, including economic migrants from the developing world seeking better living conditions. Canada's population jumped 3.2% from 2023 to 2024, the biggest annual rise since 1957, and now stands at 41mn. **Page 9**

'Qatar in first league of global genomic research'

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar is in the first league of genomic research internationally, a top official of Qatar Health Programme Institute (QPHI) told Gulf Times yesterday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event to announce the release of the genomic data of 25,000 Qataris yesterday, Dr Said Ismail, acting president and chief scientific operations officer at QPHI noted that Qatar is at the helm of genomic research in the region and beyond.

"With regards to the position of Qatar regionally and globally, I can comfortably tell that Qatar is the leader in genomic research in the Arab world. And there are papers published by others who basically put Qatar at the helm of genomic research in the region. I can tell



Dr Said Ismail

you even internationally, we are in the first league."

"When Qatar Genome Programme was launched in 2014-2015, it was among others like the Genomics England, the American programme, the Australian Genome Project. So our programme was at those early stages with the biggest players in the field," explained the scientist.

Dr Ismail noted that the findings

of these research efforts will be first published in high-impact scientific journals, which basically give an image for the research community in Qatar and shared with the clinical care providers in the country.

"All the 25,000 sets of data are of Qataris. And very soon, there will be another 6,000 data sets of long-term residents in the country. This data is a goldmine for the research community in Qatar. Hundreds of researchers in Qatar and their collaborators around the world have this very unique chance to look into the genomics of Qatar and the region," he highlighted.

Dr Ismail said that most of the genomic data around the world belongs to people of European ancestry. "Little comes from other parts of the world, especially the Arab world. Now we are covering not only Qatar, but the whole region here. And this is basically

Genomic data of 25,000 Qataris released

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Marking a great milestone in the advancement of precision medicine in the country, the Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI) has released the genomic data of 25,000 Qatari nationals as well as announced new research initiatives. A special event at Qatar Foundation (QF) headquarters yesterday dwelt on the ongoing genomic research and highlighted that the unveiling of the genomic data can lead to several

discoveries which can affirm Qatar's leadership role in genomic research in the region and beyond. The event showcased the efforts of QPHI, a centre for research and implementation under QF in genomic research and its ongoing commitment to transforming healthcare through precision medicine. The institute continues to collaborate with local and global partners, shaping the future of healthcare and driving advancements that will benefit both Qatar and the global precision medicine community. **To Page 6**

very important because no one around the world can claim that he understands the human genome until he studies all geographies. So

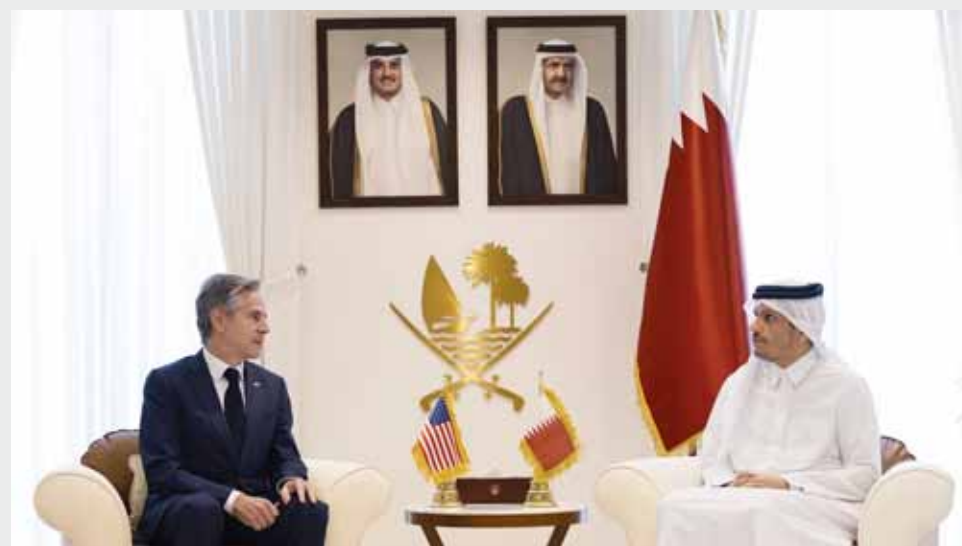
what's happening here will resonate and deliver not only for Qatar, but the whole region," continued Dr Ismail.

Transport minister meets ICAO Council president



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti met yesterday with President of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council Salvatore Sciacchitano. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance Qatar-ICAO relations in civil aviation, key air transportation facilitation issues, as well as contributing to environment protection issues and carbon emissions mitigation research and development. Mohammed Faleh al-Hajri, in charge of managing the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the ICAO Council Essa Abdulla al-Malki, and Director of Air Transport Bureau at the ICAO Mohamed Khalifa Rahma attended the meeting. **(QNA)**

PM meets US Secretary of State



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is visiting Qatar. The meeting focused on the strong strategic relations between Qatar and the United States and explored ways to further support and enhance them. The two sides also discussed the latest regional developments, with particular emphasis on the situation in Gaza, the occupied Palestinian territories, and ongoing joint mediation efforts. Both sides stressed the urgent need to halt attacks, ensure the protection of civilians in northern Gaza, and discussed efforts to de-escalate tensions in Lebanon. **(QNA)**

Official

Amir sends cables of congratulations to president of Zambia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Zambia Hakainde Hichilema on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

Amir congratulates Vietnam's new president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Luong Cuong on the occasion of his election and taking the constitutional oath as President of Vietnam, wishing him success in performing his duties, and the relations between the two friendly countries further progress and development. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to President Luong Cuong. **(QNA)**

MoCI organises workshop on Intellectual Property Rights

In co-operation with Qatar Development Bank (QDB), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) organized a workshop entitled 'intellectual property rights between law and application', in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Commerce Affairs Ayed al-Qahtani and a number of entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises. The workshop aimed to educate entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises about intellectual property rights and raise awareness of their importance. It also came within the MoCI's efforts to enhance the protection of intellectual property and disseminate it widely to ensure the achievement of the desired benefits. The workshop covered several topics, mainly the definition of intellectual property rights, a review of the national and international legislation regulating them, and the general concepts of trademarks and their registration procedures. The Intellectual Property Rights Protection Department at the MoCI was also introduced, as well as its role and mechanism of work in registering trademarks, in addition to the benefits of intellectual property for companies and the foundations of the regulatory framework for industrial property. **(QNA)**

Lusail University hosts 2nd career fair

QNA
Doha

Over the course of two days, Lusail University organised its 2nd career fair to provide a platform for students and graduates to access available job opportunities and discover practical training opportunities.

The exhibition, which was inaugurated by HE the President of Civil Service and Government Development Bureau Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, was attended by more than 50 employers from various private and government sectors and institutions operating in various fields, including education, finance, energy, and law firms, in a clear increase over the number of participants in 2023 edition.

Marking the occasion, Director of Student Life at Lusail University Talela Thani al-Kuwari emphasised the importance of the career fair as a direct link between students and the labour market. She noted that this event coincides with the university's growth and continuous development in various fields, reflecting its commitment to providing its



students with the necessary tools to face the challenges of the modern labour market.

She stressed that the university pays special attention to the professional aspirations of students, and seeks to enhance their educational and professional skills until they graduate, through organising workshops, training courses, and exhibitions that focus on developing personal and academic skills, so that the university can provide students with the changing requirements of the labour market.

She highlighted that the par-

ticipating entities in the fair provided distinctive opportunities that are in line with the aspirations of Lusail University students in various fields, as these opportunities are valuable for students to learn about the best training opportunities and job offers. The career fair also allows participating entities to communicate directly with students and attract promising graduates. Al-Kuwari urged all students to make the most of this unique opportunity, noting that their success depends on interaction and effective participation in such



events. The career fair included multiple awareness activities about the labour market and the required specialisations and necessary skills. On the sidelines of the fair, CV writing workshops were presented to students with the aim of helping students write a professional CV.

The career fair is a unique opportunity for employers, students, and graduates as well, as it provides employers with the opportunity to interact directly with students and graduates and allows them to attract young talents and recruit promising grad-

uates. The fair provides graduates and students with a window into their professional future, as this event allows them to gain insights into the available opportunities and requirements of the labour market. It also enables them to build valuable professional relationships with employers and officials in participating entities, which allows them to make sound decisions regarding their professional future, in addition to the opportunity to hold job interviews with officials from employers and institutions wishing to employ.

Labour ministry participates in Lusail University Career Fair

The Ministry of Labour, represented by its Departments of Qualifying and Skills Development and National Workforce Employment, participated in the second edition of the career fair organised by Lusail University. In a statement, the ministry indicated that its participation in the fair is part of its ongoing efforts to prepare and qualify the national workforce for the private sector labour market, in alignment with the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030. This strategy aims to empower Qatari nationals

and the children of Qatari women to become competitive participants in the labour market, establishing a foundation of national competencies within the private sector capable of driving significant transformations towards a more productive labour market across various economic sectors. It also seeks to attract skilled expatriate labour. Through its participation in the fair, the ministry aims to enhance and build upon the successful experience of last year's edition by linking the academic sector with the needs of

the labour market. This includes informing students and graduates about available job opportunities, encouraging them to leverage the academic support and summer training initiatives offered by the ministry in various fields, and equipping them with the essential skills required by the private sector. The two-day fair provided a dynamic platform that brings together students and graduates seeking employment with representatives from both public sector and private companies. **(QNA)**



Infantry competition held



The Military Parade Center celebrated the conclusion of the 38th Infantry Competition of the Qatari Armed Forces for the year 2024, under the patronage of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah and in the presence of HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad al-Nabit. Several forces, branches, and units participated in the competition, with the General Command Support Force Company securing first place in the overall competition evaluation. The Military Police Command, the Parade Center Company, and the Armed Forces Music Battalion came in second place, while the Ahmed Bin Mohamed Military College Company took third place. The competition's closing ceremony was attended by a number of senior commanders and officers from the armed forces. **(QNA)**

Chief of Staff attends Nasr 2024 closing



The Amiri Land Forces concluded the Nasr 2024 exercise, with the participation of friendly Korean forces, under the patronage of HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah and in the presence of HE the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel al-Nabit. The exercise aimed to raise the level of the Qatari Armed Forces in all specialities, and raise efficiency and combat readiness. A number of Qatari Armed Forces senior officers attended the closing of the exercise. **(QNA)**

Police Academy celebrates graduation of two Interpol senior leadership courses

The Police Academy's Women's Police Institute celebrated the graduation of two Interpol senior leadership programmes. The Interpol Senior Leadership Courses of Women in Law Enforcement and the Trainer Development are organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior's Arab and International Police Communications Department and the Interpol Global Academy Network. In attendance were Legal Adviser to HE the Minister of Interior and General Supervisor of the Police Academy, Major-General Dr Abdullah Youssef al-Mal, and deputy director of the Police Academy and director of the Police College Lt Col Fahd Saeed al-Subaie. The courses



brought together 18 female police officers of various military ranks up to the rank of Brigadier, from the State of Qatar and seven

Arab countries. The programmes aimed to enhance the skills of the participants in important topics in modern leadership

and management and the Interpol system and its rules. Director of Interpol Capacity Building and Training Jorge Fainstein

Gastrell, stressed the importance of holding these courses, which demonstrate the great co-operation and concerted efforts to achieve the desired goals, noting that these courses are an important step towards enhancing the professional competence of the participants, especially in the field of empowering women in law enforcement. The participants expressed their happiness to attend this distinguished programme, which will work to enhance their leadership and professional capabilities in the field of law enforcement, as the period of holding the two courses was a real opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues from various Arab countries. **(QNA)**



QMC achieves major success at MIPCOM 2024

Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) achieved significant success in its participation at MIPCOM 2024, one of the world's premier events in the media and television industry, held in Cannes, France, a statement said.

The QMC pavilion garnered widespread attention from attendees and international participants, showcasing the essence of Qatari culture through traditional 'Al Sadu' weaving and Arab hospital-

ity, which left a lasting impression of admiration and appreciation.

The pavilion saw an impressive turnout, with numerous visitors from representatives of global production companies, media organisations, and producers, all expressing their admiration for the media content on display, which reflected the depth and diversity of Qatari culture. The corporation also held a series of meetings with key decision-makers in the media

sector, aiming to forge new strategic partnerships. During his tour of the exhibition, the Deputy Mayor of Cannes praised the Qatari pavilion, expressing his appreciation for the creativity and excellence demonstrated by QMC in presenting media content that embodies Qatari identity and highlights it on the international stage.

QMC CEO HE Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani al-Thani, said: "This participation is a first step towards

strengthening our presence in global markets, and we are pleased with the interaction and interest shown in our new productions. We presented two historical series, Heroes of the Sands and Swords of the Arabs, which we plan to air before the upcoming Ramadan." He added, "Through this platform, we aim to bring Arab stories to the world and contribute to promoting cultural exchange."

QMC's director of marketing

Fatima Ibrahim al-Ansari, highlighted that participating in MIPCOM 2024 was a crucial opportunity to market the corporation's productions and enhance its global media presence. "We showcased our latest productions, which received widespread acclaim, and we continue to work on our documentary and dramatic productions to strengthen our position and achieve Qatar's media vision."

The pavilion also featured a

prominent contribution from the QMC, adding an innovative dimension. Katara Hospitality's participation also helped enhance the Qatari pavilion at the festival.

This participation aligns with QMC's efforts to expand its international media presence and introduce the world to the cultural and entertainment content it produces, including award-winning programmes featured at its pavilion, the statement added.

Qatari aircraft carrying aid for Lebanese people arrives in Beirut



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

Qatar extends full support to Lebanon at Paris conference

QNA
Paris

Qatar participated in the International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty, which was held in the French capital, Paris, yesterday. HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi represented Qatar at the conference.

In his speech at the conference, HE al-Khulaifi pointed out the serious challenges facing Lebanon at the political, economic and humanitarian levels. He said that Qatar stands today with Lebanon's partners, the United Nations, the European Union and major organisations from around the world to continue supporting the Lebanese people.

He considered that the Israeli campaign on Lebanon a flagrant violation of international law, in

which international borders must be respected, security and stability must be maintained, and human rights and the dignity of all peoples must be protected. The recent operations along the border cannot be viewed as isolated military operations, but rather a disturbing disregard for international law, he stressed.

Such actions defy the basic principles of human dignity and respect for sovereignty, and undermine the obligations stipulated in Security Council Resolution 1701, which was designed to promote peace and stability in Lebanon, he added.

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that these attacks go beyond purely military operations, and threaten Lebanon's territorial integrity and political independence, adding that they "not only threaten to drag the region into a wider war, but also pose serious consequences for global security and stability." He



called on the international community to carry out and fulfil its duties towards violations related to international law, and push for effective de-escalation measures.

He voiced Qatar's concern over the recent events that have affected the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), noting that

any actions that could affect the safety of peacekeeping forces are of grave concern and must be addressed with the utmost seriousness. He indicated that Qatar has launched an air bridge to Lebanon, as part of its ongoing efforts to address this humanitarian crisis, explaining that more than 150 tonnes

of aid have been delivered, including medical equipment and basic materials. He also noted Qatar's co-operation with France to send joint humanitarian aid to Lebanon.

Qatar, through the Qatar Development Fund, has provided and committed to Lebanon, including supporting the operations of the Lebanese Armed Forces, in addition to supporting fuel for the Karantina Hospital, which helps in the continuation of basic services, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, he added.

Qatar firmly believes in the importance of ensuring the continuity of education during crises, he said pointing that through the 'Education Above All Foundation,' Qatar remains committed to supporting education in Lebanon and safeguarding the long-term mental well-being of children and youth affected by war. A significant portion of this assistance comes in the form of in-kind contributions

from Qatar's World Cup legacy, designed to showcase innovative and diverse solutions to sustain education in emergency situations, he explained.

HE al-Khulaifi reaffirmed Qatar's unwavering support for an immediate ceasefire and a diplomatic resolution to the conflict. He emphasised Qatar's ongoing commitment to facilitating the safe return of displaced persons in Lebanon to their homes. Additionally, he reiterated Qatar's dedication to co-ordinating with international partners to achieve a global consensus that fosters peace and stability in Lebanon.

In closing, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised Qatar's support for Lebanese institutions in their efforts to safeguard the country's sovereignty and protect the rights of its people. He urged that these efforts be swiftly utilised to address the political vacuum currently affecting the nation.

MoPH workshop on management of NCDs on Sunday

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is organising a workshop titled 'The Future of Public Health: Integrated Strategies for the Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases,' on October 27, at the Itqan Centre for Medical Innovation and Simulation.

Organised in collaboration with a specialised international company, the workshop aims to tackle critical issues related to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through innovative and integrated public health strategies. It will bring together leading experts and key partners from various health sector entities, including policymakers, healthcare providers, academics, and community leaders, to foster dialogue and develop practical approaches to addressing the growing burden of NCDs in Qatar and the region.

The workshop will feature

presentations on future visions for public health policies in Qatar and the importance of collaborative strategies in combating NCDs. Additionally, it will include discussion panels and presentations focusing on the establishment of a comprehensive public health system, the role of digital health, and community participation in NCD prevention.

A specialised interactive session titled 'Case Study: An Integrated and Community-Based Approach to Combating NCDs,' will provide a practical platform to implement the strategies discussed during the workshop. The event is expected to draw significant interest from specialists as it addresses crucial aspects of public health management and the prevention of these diseases, which are essential to improving quality of life and reducing the economic burden imposed by NCDs.



Light to thundery rain was reported from multiple locations across Qatar yesterday, the Met office said. For today, there is a thundery rain warning, associated with strong wind at places, both inshore and offshore. Yesterday's minimum and maximum temperatures were in the 23-30C and 32-38C range, respectively. Today's forecast for minimum and maximum temperatures are in the 26-28C and 30-33C range, respectively. Pictured is a sunset scene from Doha with rain clouds yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen

QCAA signs MoU with ICAO to host Facilitation Conference 2025

The Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding arrangements for Qatar to host the ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025 (FALC 2025), slated for the second quarter of 2025.

Mohammed Faleh al-Hajri, in charge of managing the QCAA, and Salvatore Sciacchitano, president of the ICAO Council, signed the MoU in the presence of HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti, a statement from the ministry said. HE the Minister said FALC 2025 will offer stakeholders an important opportunity to define priorities and establish co-operation between entities working in civil aviation and the national and international procedures on the correct identification of passengers.

FALC 2025 is the first of its kind, he stated, in terms of combining the ministerial level and high-profile officials representing civil aviation authorities of world

countries and the international bodies to reach a consensus to formulate global recommendations regarding key issues of air transportation facilitation.

“What makes FALC 2025 unique is that an announcement regarding civil aviation facilitation would emanate from the high-level ministerial part of it to provide aviation services for reliable and seamless air transportation, guiding the public policies concerning key issues of facilitation, thereby supporting the delivery of the ICAO strategic goals on security and facilitation, as well as reporting recommendations to next year’s 42nd Session of the ICAO,” the minister said.

“Qatar continues developing its national facilitation procedures and processes, embracing latest passenger identification technologies, developing airports’ facilities and services, and twinning its systems with global standards in terms of surveillance, clearance of goods, passenger data exchange, International Health Regulations, and other areas of facilitation,” he

noted. “Qatar is well-prepared to host this important global event. The concerted efforts with the ICAO will achieve the desired outcomes of the conference and the effective rollout of air trans-



ported. “Qatar is well-prepared to host this important global event. The concerted efforts with the ICAO will achieve the desired outcomes of the conference and the effective rollout of air trans-

portation’s facilitation measures. We look forward to fruitful discussions and workshops during the conference and to introduce the delegates to the latest global technologies and air transporta-

tion facilitation systems which global exhibitors will showcase at the accompanying exhibition,” he explained.

Al-Hajri, said: “We believe that implementing international facil-

itation standards is essential not only for global commitment but also for sustainable development. Qatar’s aviation sector prioritises enhancing policies and procedures to ensure a comfortable and secure travel experience. We are also committed to ongoing training initiatives to build our capabilities and ensure compliance with the ICAO regulations. Hosting this conference allows for us to share our experiences and benefit from international expertise.”

Al-Hajri added that the signing of this MoU marks a significant milestone for 2024, designated by the ICAO as the Year of Facilitation. “We take pride in Qatar’s active role in the ICAO Facilitation Expert Team. Qatar remains committed to advancing border facilitation while supporting ICAO’s “No Country Left Behind” initiative.

“We look forward to achieving meaningful outcomes from this conference and establishing a unified global vision for air transportation facilitation that benefits both states and stakeholders,” al-Hajri added.



beIN, Paramount in new licensing deal for exclusive content in Mena

beIN Media Group (beIN), the leading global media group, has announced a multi-year volume deal with Paramount Global Content Distribution, bringing exclusive premium entertainment content to the Middle East and North Africa (Mena).

The new licensing deal will grant beIN exclusive Pay TV rights in English, subtitled in Arabic, in the Mena region, as well as Subscription Video on Demand (SVOD), and Catch-up SVOD, to a vast selection of Paramount content, further strengthening beIN’s position as a premier destination for premium entertainment.

The deal builds on beIN’s long-term relationship with Paramount Global Content Distribution, and includes access to Pay 1 current films – those released for the first time post-cinema to premium subscription services – as well first-run scripted and unscripted series, and a vast selection of library films and series from the likes of MIRAMAX and Nickelodeon, with select Paramount+ titles now available on beIN’s OTT platform, TOD and on beIN’s Pay TV Channels.

“This agreement underscores beIN’s commitment to delivering the best in entertainment to our audiences in the Mena region,” said Esra Özalar Al-top, chief entertainment content officer, beIN Media Group. Dan Cohen, chief content licensing officer, Paramount and president, Republic Pictures, said: “This deal is a testament to the power of the Paramount brand and its reputation for delivering high-demand, quality entertainment, and we’re very excited for beIN subscribers to access our programming and discover new favourites.”

Some of the most notable titles coming to beIN’s screens include *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves* – an adventure film set in the iconic fantasy universe; the *Mission: Impossible* franchise – an action-packed series following Ethan Hunt’s high-stakes spy missions; the *Transformers* franchise – an epic saga featuring battles between robotic aliens; *Scream* – a classic slasher horror film known for its meta-commentary on the genre; seasons 1-4 of *Yellowstone* – a drama about a powerful family’s conflicts over land and power; all seasons of *Billions* – a high-stakes drama centred around finance and politics; *Tulsa King* – a crime drama series featuring a mobster navigating a new life in Tulsa; and several Nickelodeon titles such as *PAW Patrol*, *Bubble Guppies* and *Abby Cadabby*. Additional titles include *1883*, *1923*, *Colin From Accounts*, *Frasier*, *Knuckles*, *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*, *Mayor of Kingstown*, *Ray Donovan*, upcoming series *NCIS: Tony & Ziva* and feature films *Bob Marley: One Love*, *Rob Peace* and *Self Reliance*.

beIN and Paramount have a well-established relationship as co-owners of Miramax, home to award-winning productions and globally acclaimed hits. Recent successes include the 2024 dramatic comedy and Oscar winner *The Holdovers*, three Primetime Emmy Award 2024 nominee, *The Gentlemen*, 2023 Hollywood blockbuster *Operation Fortune*, Netflix hit *He’s All That*, the 2021 global blockbuster *Halloween Kills* and *Hulu’s Mother/Android*, a statement added.

The new licensing deal will grant beIN exclusive Pay TV rights in English, subtitled in Arabic, in the Mena region, as well as Subscription Video on Demand (SVOD), and Catch-up SVOD, to a vast selection of Paramount content, further strengthening beIN’s position as a choice for premium entertainment



MARCELINE

PARIS

MARCELINE PARIS is a fine jewelry brand offering original and feminine designs for confident and independent women. The Maison is deeply rooted in the Parisian flair while aspiring to a deeper universal story bringing everyone together.



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MARCELINE likes to break the codes and to reinvent French classicism to establish a new aesthetic: contemporary and elegant with a touch of edginess. With exceptional craftsmanship, the brand has reintroduced ancient techniques of gold work bringing together tradition and modernity.



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TROPICA
CHAIN COLLECTION

M
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World powers raise \$1bn for Lebanon crisis

Reuters
Paris

World powers raised \$1bn yesterday to ease the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon and support its army at a conference in Paris, with France's foreign minister urging Israel to heed the message to cease fire and focus on diplomacy.

Some 70 government delegations and 15 international organisations attended the meeting in Paris to help Lebanon, but a low-level US presence and its looming election dimmed prospects for a swift halt to fighting.

"The message (for Israel) is simple: Cease fire!" France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told a news conference, reiterating that a Franco-American pro-

posal for a temporary truce was still on the table.

Barrot said more than \$800mn, including \$300mn from Washington, had been raised primarily to help up to 1mn displaced with food, healthcare and education.

A further \$200mn would go to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), deemed as the guarantor of internal stability, and also vital to implementing 2006 UN Security Council resolution 1701 that calls for southern Lebanon to be free of any troops or weapons other than those of the Lebanese state.

France has historical ties with Lebanon and has been working with Washington in trying to secure a ceasefire, although the two allies differ on approach regarding 1701.

After Israel rebuffed a 21-day cease-

fire plan in September, Paris's influence has been limited since Israel launched its large-scale onslaught on Iran-backed Hezbollah that has killed more than 2,500 people and displaced at least 1.2mn.

"The storm we are currently witnessing is unlike any other, because it carries the seeds of total destruction," Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati told delegates, pleading for more pressure to be put on Israel.

Opening the conference, President Emmanuel Macron said that there must not be a return to past cycles of violence.

"More damage, more victims, more strikes will not enable the end of terrorism or ensure security for everyone," he said.

Despite the repeated calls for a ceasefire, there was no sign yesterday of the conflict abating.

Three Lebanese soldiers were killed in

an Israeli strike near the border, the Lebanese army said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken skipped Paris and appeared to make little progress during a tour of the Middle East, a final push for peace before next month's US election.

The UN Security Council resolution has never been fully implemented and amid a two-year political power vacuum and collapsed economy, the Lebanese army has no real weight to play its role in the south of the country.

"The final objective is to recruit, train and equip 6,000 new LAF units," an Italian diplomatic source said, adding that Rome would soon organise its own conference focused on this.

Italy has some 1,000 troops as part of the 10,000-strong UNIFIL peacekeeping mission in Lebanon.

Diplomats say that once there is a ceasefire the mission will need to be made more robust.

"Let's not reinvent the wheel. We have to make it work," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said, adding that amending its mandate would need a new UN Security Council vote.

Borrell said there was scope to increase UNIFIL's troop numbers to 15,000 under the current mandate.

"The objective this time is to find conditions that ensure the lasting application of 1701 so that peace returns on both sides," something easier said than done, Barrot said.

European and Arab nations are concerned that Washington has not called for an immediate ceasefire and fear the administration will not alter its position before the election on November 5.

MoPH workshop on food safety assessment tool

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) recently organised a workshop on Verification of the Global Strategy for Food Safety Assessment Tool 2022-2030, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

This tool was designed by the WHO in co-operation with the International Finance Corporation.

The workshop was attended by approximately 60 participants from the ministries of Municipality, Commerce and Industry, Education and Higher Education, Environment and Climate Change, and Interior, as well as from the Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology, the General Authority of Customs, Qatar Tourism, and Qatar University, all serving as strategic partners to the MoPH in the field of food safety.

The workshop included an assessment of various pre-designed indicators by the WHO in collaboration with relevant institutions.

The aim was to gauge the level of commitment of states towards achieving the objectives of the Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030, paving the way for developing a roadmap to respond to and accomplish these objectives by 2030.

Wasan Abdulla al-Baker, director of the MoPH's Food Safety Department, stated: "The workshop presents an opportunity to benefit from the support of experts from the WHO in developing a national roadmap that aligns with the five strategic priorities outlined in the Global Strategy for Food Safety."

"Qatar is the third country in the world to join the pilot phase of the Global Strategy for Food Safety Assessment Tool," the official said.

Al-Baker also highlighted that the MoPH's Food Safety Department is responsible for implementing the Global Strategy for Food Safety in Qatar in collaboration with various entities.

The Global Strategy for Food Safety (2022-2030) primarily aims to reduce the burden of foodborne illnesses by decreasing the number of cases of foodborne diarrhoeal diseases.

It also seeks to enhance functional co-ordination mechanisms for managing foodborne incidents and to strengthen laboratory capacities for monitoring foodborne diseases.

One of the key features of the strategy is that it reflects the insights and feedback gathered through a comprehensive consultation process with member states, governmental institutions, UN agencies, and other intergovernmental organisations, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, private sector entities, and individuals working in public health and food safety.



QPHI officials at the event.

Left: Some of the researchers who attended the programme.
PICTURES: Thajudheen

QPHI releases genomic data of 25,000 Qataris

From Page 1

Sheikh Dr Mohammed al-Thani, director of non-communicable diseases prevention programmes department at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH); Dr Khalid Fakhro, chief of research and chair of the Precision Medicine Programme at Sidra Medicine; Dr Hilal Lashuel, Research, Development and Innovation Adviser to the chairperson of Qatar Foundation; Dr Ahmed Elmagarmid, executive director of the Qatar Computing Research Institute; and Dr Omar Albagha, acting executive director of Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, and representatives from Qatar's wider academic and research community attended the programme.

Dr Said Ismail, acting president and chief scientific operations officer at the QPHI, said: "Today we mark a significant milestone with the release of the largest genomic dataset in Qatar and the region."

"This data forms the foundation for groundbreaking research, positioning Qatar at the forefront of precision medicine," he said. "This is not just data - it's the foundation for groundbreaking research that will make Qatar a hub in genomics and translational work."

QPHI lead bioinformatician Dr Chadi Saad presented the 25,000 Genome Re-

lease, explaining how this new dataset will enable advancements in areas including cancer genetics, cardiovascular diseases, and mental health.

He emphasised how advanced analysis tools are being used to reduce the cost and time of research, creating new opportunities for discoveries in precision health and discoveries in precision health.

QPHI scientist Dr Eleni Pthenou introduced the updated data catalogue and explained how the new platform is designed to make genomic data more accessible to researchers, streamlining the process of exploring genetic data and enabling the development of targeted treatments.

QPHI warehouse specialist Sneha P Chandran gave an overview of QPHI's research studies and introduced a new tool that allows researchers to explore and analyse the available data more easily.

QPHI director of Research and Partnerships Dr Hamdi Mbarek announced the launch of the second round of the Qatar Precision Health Research Consortium.

He provided an overview of the consortium's key focus areas, including genomics of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, reproductive health, and mental health, along with genomics artificial intelligence (AI), and other strategic projects.

"The consortium is designed to foster multi-institutional collaboration, bringing together experts to tackle the most pressing challenges in health," Dr Mbarek said. "We want to see multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary teams, which involve PhD students to build local capacity."

JR Jewels specializes in the manufacturing of high-end jewelry, with a focus on exquisite diamond briolette beads and rose cut diamonds.



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their sparkle while maintaining a classic, understated elegance. The facets of the rose-cut diamonds catch the light beautifully, enhancing the overall allure of the necklace.

The combination of the warm tones of the conch pearls with the sparkling, reflective qualities of the diamonds creates a harmonious contrast. This necklace would be perfect for both casual and formal occasions, making it a versatile and timeless addition to any jewelry collection.

Blue Sapphire & Rosecut Collection

A blue sapphire and rose-cut diamond collection is a striking fusion of vibrant color. A blue sapphire and rose-cut diamond collection is perfect for those who appreciate the beauty of traditional gemstones combined with the romantic allure of diamond cuts, making for timeless and elegant jewelry.



Conch Pearl & Rosecut Necklace

The conch pearl necklace is a stunning piece of jewelry that showcases the unique beauty of conch pearls, known for their soft, pastel hues ranging from pink to peach. Each pearl is distinct, often with a subtle sheen and an exquisite luster.

Interspersed among the conch pearls are rose-cut diamonds, which add a vintage charm to the design. These diamonds are cut in a way that maximizes



Rosecut Diamond Collection

A white diamond rose-cut collection exudes sophistication and elegance, making it perfect for special occasions or everyday wear. This collection allows you to enjoy the charm without breaking the bank, making it accessible for a wider audience. Whether for personal enjoyment or as a thoughtful gift.

Rosecut diamonds, with their soft and subtle brilliance, offer a unique allure, especially when set in an invisible setting. This technique allows the stones to appear as if they are floating, creating a seamless and modern aesthetic. The faceted tops of rosecut diamonds catch and reflect light beautifully, while the hidden settings enhance their natural elegance without distraction. The result is a striking and sophisticated look that combines the timeless beauty of rosecut diamonds with contemporary design, making each piece truly enchanting.

Gaza truce talks to resume in Doha

From Page 1

"We had the opportunity to talk about the importance of finding a sustainable solution to the Palestinian issue, and of course, what is called the day after Gaza, which is the path to peace in the region in general," the prime minister continued. "Our discussions on this file were constructive ... and there were many proposals and discussions about these proposals and how we can reach a stable and sustainable situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, leading to a sustainable solution to the Palestinian issue, and of course keeping the two-state solution as the main reference for this process."

"The efforts to end the war have been ongoing since October 8, first to prevent the war from breaking out, and then also to prevent the expansion of the war and contain the conflict," he said.

"The efforts in November resulted in the release of some prisoners and hostages and a temporary ceasefire," HE Sheikh Mohammed said. "Unfortunately, since that time, we have been trying as much as possible to reach an agreement to end this war."

"Unfortunately, the negotiations went through several stages in which there were great challenges, and every time we got closer to a solution, unfortunately, there was a regression in the steps," he added.

In response to a question about whether Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar was obstructing the negotiations, he said: "Through our role as a mediator, our policies are based on not saying who constitutes an obstacle, and not favouring one party over the other."

"You can go back to the negotiation process and see where it stopped at each stage, and it will be clear who stopped it at each stage," the prime minister added.

Asked whether Qatar had contacted Hamas leaders after Sinwar's assassination, he said: "We have resumed contact with representatives of the Hamas political bureau in Doha. We have held some meetings with them in the past few days."

Regarding Israel's claims against Al Jazeera journalists, HE Sheikh Mohammed said: "We are very proud of Al Jazeera Foundation and its coverage of wars in the world, stressing that the Al Jazeera Network works according to the highest international standards and there is no justification for targeting journalists in conflict zones and excuses for that are unacceptable."

The prime minister thanked Blinken for the visit.

"We are certain that by committing to the partnership between Qatar, the countries of the region and the US, we can achieve peace in the region," he said.

"Allow me to express our appreciation for the essential and major role played by Qatar as an important partner in its attempt to bring peace and stability to the region," Blinken said.

"I would like to personally tell the prime minister of Qatar that you personally played a major role in the efforts to return the hostages to their homes," he added.

Blinken said that Qatar has generously provided thousands of tonnes of aid to Gaza over the past months, noting that Qatar has provided important aid to the Lebanese army, such as salaries and fuel.

The US's top diplomat said that the negotiation process is moving forward, and that a negotiation session on a ceasefire and prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas will be held within days.

Blinken added that "the negotiations will be held in the coming days and we will know if Hamas is serious about them," adding: "We reject the (Israeli) generals' plan to starve and kill people."

"It is necessary that we have a plan that allows Israel to leave the Gaza Strip and prevents the return of Hamas," he said.

Mozambique's ruling party wins election to retain power

Mozambique's ruling party Frelimo has retained power in this month's national election, extending its five-decade rule in the Southern African state as the opposition accused it of fraud.

Frelimo's Daniel Chapo, 47, will succeed President Filipe Nyusi to become Mozambique's fifth president since its independence from Portugal in 1975. Nyusi is stepping down after serving the maximum two terms.

Chapo won over 70% of votes, the electoral commission said yesterday.

Venancio Mondlane, backed by the Podemos party, came second with 20% of votes, displacing former rebel movement Renamo, which had been the official opposition party but whose candidate came third this time around.

In the parliament, Frelimo increased its number of seats to 195 out of 250, more than the 184 it had before.

- Reuters



Golden moment



A pair of doves caught in a pensive moment shortly before sunset in Doha, to the backdrop of a spectacular cloud formation. PICTURE: Gulf Times news editor Bonnie James (Instagram: the.explorer7).

Entrepreneurship Jamboree hosted

DPS Modern Indian School hosted the second edition of 'Entrepreneurship Jamboree 2024-25', a student-led event organised by the Commerce and Entrepreneurship Club, on the theme 'Sustainability'.

The programme was inaugurated by the chief guest, school director Harish Kanjani, in the presence of principal Asna Nafees, vice-principals and co-ordinators.

Nafees described the event as a unique initiative aimed at nurturing entrepreneurial thinking in students.

More than 50 teams from grades IX to XII competed across four categories: sustainable food, eco-friendly games, karaoke promoting sustainability, and arts and crafts made from recyclable materials.

The event provided a platform for students to showcase their innovative entrepreneurial ideas while also encouraging them to embrace their role as ecological stewards.



Malayalam writer's first book wins award



Amal Fermis, a Qatar-based Malayalam writer has won the P Kunjiraman Foundation Story Award for her debut book titled *Sankada Dweep*. Amal is a teacher at Doha Academy. The award will be presented to her by eminent short story writer T Padmanabhan on the occasion of P Kunjiraman's birthday celebration in Kannur, Kerala, on October 27. Amal earlier received the Vaikom Muhammad Basheer Memorial Short Story Award for the same work.

MES Indian School holds Jota-Joti workshop



MES Indian School conducted a workshop on Jota-Joti (Jamboree on the Air) programme with a view to foster a common link among scouts and guides across the world.

Jogesh Dewan, a noted communication engineer from Qatar Amateur Radio Society, was the main speaker. He shared insights on amateur radio technology and its vital role in promoting global connectivity among young Scouts.

Dewan's engaging presentation inspired participants to explore the world of radio communications and its impact on scouting activities. Scouts and guides engaged in various activities designed to enhance teamwork, communication skills, and understanding of global cultures.

Ahmed al-Yousef and Muna al-Mansouri from Qatar Boys' Scouts Association and Paramjeet Kaur Bhullar, co-ordinator and trainer of expats schools emphasised the importance of scouting values and the spirit of global camaraderie.

Principal Dr Hameeda Kadar commended the efforts of scouts and guides and their leaders Ashraf, Rizwan, Nizamudheen, Mary Jainsha, Balkees Farsana, and Fency Pathrose.

Scouts and guides overall in-charge Rajesh co-ordinated the event and welcomed the gathering. Guides in-charge Asha V Nair proposed a vote of thanks.



Anaq celebrates Onam with gusto

The Akshara Nagari Association of Qatar (Anaq) marked its debut with a grand celebration of Onam, Kerala's popular festival. Among the highlights were Panchari Melam by Kanal Kala Samithi, a performance by Team Qatar Orchestra, and a Thiruvathira performance by Passion Feets. Robin Varghese was honoured with a special memento for his services to Anaq. President Varghese Vannala presided. The Onam festivities were officially inaugurated by Indian Community Benevolent Forum president Shanavas Bava, who lauded Anaq's efforts in promoting Kerala's rich cultural legacy in Qatar. Anaq general secretary Jessil Markose, vice-president Binoy Abraham and joint secretary Leo Thomas were among those who organised the event.



COMMUNITY

Friends of Kozhikode mark anniversary



Kerala expatriate forum Friends of Kozhikode (FoK) conducted its 5th anniversary cultural extravaganza, 'Nammal Kozhikode,' with the participation of over 2,000.

The event showcased Kozhikode's rich heritage through various cultural, literary, and artistic programmes.

Key highlights included traditional Onam celebrations, literary gathering and discussions, programmes featuring local talents, award distribution for writing competitions, and a Payasam competition.

The venue was done up to resemble Kozhikode's popular S M Street and nearby Mananchira. A striking replica of the iconic SK statue, identical to the one standing tall in the city, captivated the visitors and set the tone for an immersive cultural experience.

The official function during the afternoon was attended by a number of dignitaries including Indian ambassador Vipul, M K Raghavan (member of parliament representing Kozhikode), K K Rema (member of the legislative assembly representing Vadakara),



Bina Philip (mayor of Kozhikode), renowned writers Kalpatta Narayanan Master and P K Parakkadav, Indian community leaders A P Manikantan, Shanavas Bawa, E P Abdur Rahman, Mohammad Thaha, Dr Mohan Thomas, Dr Samad, Haider Chunkattara, Shamseer Arikulam, K P Ashraf and Mansoor Ali.

The anniversary conference was led by FoK president K K Usman, with general secretary Renjit Kumar Chailil delivering the welcome address and vice-president Rajasree Rasheed proposing a vote of thanks.

The stage and overall arena was managed by Anwar Babu, Mustafa M V, Rashmi Sharath, Sajid Bakkar, Siraj Suru, Adv Riyas, Sharath C Nair, Shakkeer, Hal, Fareed Thikodi, Riyas Babu, Samir, Sameera Shaju, Fasina Fareed, Senith Keloth, and others. The Onam lunch was co-ordinated by Biju Kaiveli, Sunu and team.

Usman was honoured with a memento by ambassador Vipul, marking his 50 years in Qatar. This milestone was celebrated alongside other notable individuals from Kozhikode - Shukkur

Kinaluri, Siddique Purail, C K Muhammad Koya and Symphony Majeed for their significant contributions to business and humanitarian efforts in Qatar. They were felicitated by Raghavan, who adorned them with the traditional golden shawl.

The Payasam competition in the morning, which saw 35 participants, was led by Anilkumar C L. The stage programme, commencing at 11 am, showcased local artists presenting diverse art forms.

Guests were escorted to the stage amidst the lively rhythms of Kanal Doha's Panchari Mela, add-

ing to the festive atmosphere.

As part of the Unesco's appreciation bestowed to Kozhikode as city of literature, the literary seminar in the evening had P K Parakkadav and Narayanan Master as chief guests. Majeed Nadapuram gave the introductory speech and Thanseem Kuttyadi was the moderator.

The chief guests distributed mementos and certificates to the winners of the writing competition organised by FoK Literature Forum as part of the anniversary celebrations.

Najeeb Moodadi, Ashraf K P, K K Usman, Renjit Kumar Chailil,

Mansoor Ali and Farid Thikodi gave felicitation speeches. Hus-sain Vanimel, O K Munir, Ashraf, Ansar Arimbara and Shamna Azmi controlled the function while Siraj Suru delivered a vote of thanks.

The cultural programme, which started at 7pm, continued until 11pm, attracting over 2,000 participants.

The event featured performances by Asif Kappad, Anita Sheik, Keerthana and violinist Reneesh from India, Anisha Rajesh and Riyas Kariyad from Qatar, Ismail Nandi's spot dubbing and Kaithola Group's traditional folk songs.

RPS hosts inter-school competition



Rajagiri Little Kingdom organised an inter-school competition, 'Scintilla,' to foster teamwork and nurture diverse talents among kindergarten students from 18 schools across Doha. The competitions included group dance, fashion show, poetry slam, and more. Indian Cultural Centre's former president Milan Arun was the chief guest. The event began with a lamp lighting ceremony and a welcome dance by the kindergarten students. The competition was not only about winning but also building confidence and learning the importance of participation.



SKEA event tomorrow



South Kerala Expats Association (SKEA) is hosting tomorrow an event titled 'Abhayadharam,' featuring a talk on early detection of cancer by Dr Danish Salim (emergency medicine and critical care physician) at Indian Cultural Centre in Doha at 6.30pm. The occasion will also see Mohammed Kunji being feted for receiving the Prof Saheed award from Abhayakendram. The event is open to the public.

BPS student wins music crown



Vaishnavi Suresh Pillai, a grade 9 student from Birla Public School, was crowned the winner of 'The Golden Tunes Inter-School Musical Reality Show', hosted by MES Indian School as part of its golden jubilee celebrations. The competition, which ran from September 19 to October 10, featured 24 participants and included five rounds. Vaishnavi won an eight-gram gold medal. BPS principal, along with the school leadership team, congratulated her.

Cleanup drive at Al Thakhira mangroves



The latest beach cleanup drive of Doha Environmental Actions Project (Deap Qatar), led by 32 volunteers, collected around 100kg of trash at Al Thakhira Mangroves. "In collaboration with our friends from the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Doha, we had the opportunity to visit one of the most beautiful places in Qatar: The Al Thakhira Mangroves," Deap Qatar posted on its Facebook page as it thanked volunteers for taking part and helping raise environmental awareness in Qatar.



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Can Europe really build its own DARPA?

Europe's waning competitiveness is once again in the spotlight. Addressing this long-standing problem will require, among other things, increased investment in the European economy's capacity for innovation. To achieve that, recent reports by former Italian prime ministers Mario Draghi and Enrico Letta, and an April speech by French President Emmanuel Macron, have called for a European version of the United States' Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

The idea is hardly new. In fact, several such institutions already exist in the region, including the European Innovation Council (EIC), Germany's Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation (SPRIN-D), and the United Kingdom's Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA). But all have so far failed to realise the full potential of a European DARPA.

The EU's innovation agenda is even more urgent now: Russia's invasion of Ukraine has underscored the need to strengthen the bloc's defence industrial base, and the global artificial-intelligence race has highlighted the importance of dominating in advanced civilian technology.

Recreating DARPA's success in the EU requires understanding how it really works. Established in response to the Soviet Union's launch of the Sputnik satellite in 1957, DARPA gives its staff the freedom to pursue long-shot ideas. Perhaps most importantly, DARPA has employed a revolutionary research-investment model, which differs from current European practices.

For starters, DARPA takes a targeted approach to addressing specific problems related to US defence and security. In its 2021 congressional overview, for example, the agency emphasised its strategic focus on defending the country, deterring adversaries, and advancing foundational research to solve security challenges. By contrast, ARIA currently works in seven "opportunity spaces," from precision

European leaders have called for the EU to create its own version of the US government's DARPA. But this is not a new idea

neurotechnologies to mathematics for safe AI. And while SPRIN-D focuses on fewer issues – circular biomanufacturing, long-duration energy storage, and carbon-to-value applications – none is related to defence.

DARPA's achievements can also be attributed to its programme managers, who have a high degree

of decision-making autonomy. After identifying a need or challenge within the overall defence mission, managers define a "technological white space" and select projects that could fill it. While the UK's ARIA has been able to replicate this approach, European funding agencies continue to rely on an institutionalised peer-review system and selection processes that are long and cumbersome.

In addition to its narrower defence scope, DARPA has a much larger budget – more than \$4bn per year. By contrast, the EIC awarded a total of €159mn (\$173mn) to 43 new projects across five broad challenges in 2023. SPRIN-D has taken a more targeted approach, allocating between €500,000 and €3mn to a smaller number of initiatives.

Another important ingredient of DARPA project managers' success in making audacious and large-scale bets is that they have fewer preconceived notions about which researchers should receive funding and how they should spend it. In 2020, more than 60% of DARPA support went to industry, while less than 20% went to universities and colleges. But most public innovation programmes in Europe focus on academia, and political priorities often influence how funds are earmarked.

Moreover, after initial allocations, DARPA project managers use milestones to redistribute funding to well-performing projects and end those that have failed to meet expectations – an approach that makes the most efficient use of available resources and has become the agency's hallmark. European funders, on the other hand, allocate money with as little organisational overhead as possible and never pull financing from a project that is not achieving its goals.

The case for a European DARPA remains as strong as ever. But to copy the agency's success in advancing technological innovation, EU policymakers should focus on bolstering collective security – including defence, which is underfunded on the continent.

Although SPRIN-D, ARIA, and the EIC have made some improvements to research funding by giving freedom and control to their partners, they have not gone far enough, both in terms of resource allocation and post-award management. The EU can and should develop its own version of DARPA, but only after it understands the pillars on which the agency stands. – Project Syndicate



Cultural diversification: A tool for economic growth



By Maria Del Rio

Throughout history, cities have undergone significant transformations when they opened themselves to cultural diversity, enriching their social status and driving economic growth. This dynamic can be seen in ancient cities like Babylon in Mesopotamia and Alexandria in ancient Egypt, where the convergence of different cultures fostered unprecedented cultural,

scientific, and economic development.

Babylon, one of the most important cities of antiquity, became a melting pot of cultures. Due to its strategic location on caravan trade routes, it was a central hub for commerce and knowledge. Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and other social groups coexisted, bringing with them their languages, traditions, and knowledge. This diversity was key to Babylon's growth, as the city adopted technological and scientific advancements from various cultures, such as the use of cuneiform writing and developments in astronomy and mathematics.

Similarly, Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BCE, stood out for its cultural openness. It became a centre of learning and trade where Greeks, Egyptians, and other Mediterranean cultures interacted. The famous Library of Alexandria was a reflection of this diversity, housing texts from all over the ancient world and

becoming a beacon of knowledge. The interaction between different cultures in Alexandria enabled significant advances in mathematics, medicine, and philosophy, profoundly impacting the ancient world.

Today, we can observe a similar phenomenon in Qatar, a country that has experienced exponential growth in recent decades due to its openness to different cultures. Historically, Qatar was a nation reliant on fishing and the pearl trade, but its economy exploded after the exploitation of its gas and oil resources. With a market that was highly pivoted by embracing foreign technologies in the liquefaction, processing and transportation of gas, Qatar showed the world an example of how when foreign knowledge and expertise, if well received, can result in flourishing economic growth.

There is a significant portion of Qatar's economic growth driven by its openness to foreign talent, and most importantly, the ability of their people to embrace openly,

effectively and respectfully other ideas and foreign work cultures.

Modern Qatar hosts workers, entrepreneurs, and investors from all over the world, facilitating a continuous exchange of knowledge and technology. And, as weird as it might look in today's world where cultural differences seem to be one of the biggest factors behind of social conflicts, here in Qatar all these different nationalities, religions and backgrounds exist in an ambience of respect and harmony; proof of that numerous analyses of worldwide security, making Qatar, one of the safest countries in the world. Like the ancient cities of Babylon and Alexandria, cultural diversity has been a key driver of Qatar's development. The ability to integrate ideas and talent from diverse backgrounds has enabled the country to position itself as an economic hub in the Gulf, demonstrating that diversity not only enriches societies but also fuels long-term economic growth.

What the G20 can do for green growth

By Mariana Mazzucato and Vera Songwe
London

As finance and climate ministers gather in Washington this week for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, they should focus on the need for new economic development pathways that are compatible with the Paris climate agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius.

The final report of the Group of Experts to the G20 Taskforce for a Global Mobilisation Against Climate Change calls on the G20, whose members account for around 85% of world GDP, to advance green industrial strategies supported by comprehensive financial reforms. Development should be oriented around nationally determined contributions (NDCs) – the Paris agreement's term for countries' emissions-reduction plans – and governed in a way that emphasises equity within and between countries.

Without a change of course, global warming is projected to exceed 3°C, leading to a loss of at least 18% of global GDP by 2050. The dominant models of economic growth are pushing the planet toward collapse, with potentially irreversible consequences for people and economies. Since G20 member states are responsible for 80% of current and past greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, they should be responsible for 80% of the emissions reductions needed to achieve the 1.5°C goal.

The climate crisis is a direct result of economic choices. To change the direction of economic growth so that it respects planetary boundaries, green industrial strategies must go beyond picking favoured sectors or technologies. If oriented around achieving "missions" like the NDCs, they can catalyse innovation and investment across many different sectors, thus driving an economy-wide transformation.

Instead of subsidising specific sectors with few strings attached, governments should seek to open new market opportunities for willing businesses of all sizes, from all sectors.

In doing so, they should hold these businesses to a high standard in terms of GHG emissions,

wages, support for workers through structural economic changes, and reinvestment of profits in productive activities like research and development. Crucially, to accelerate the transformation, governments must repurpose existing fossil-fuel subsidies (which continue to rise), and make public support for fossil-fuel-intensive industries contingent on decarbonisation.

Implementing green industrial strategies should not be a task solely for ministries of industry or climate. Whole-of-government engagement and a redesign of key institutions and tools – not least public procurement and public finance – is needed to support NDC targets.

Green industrial strategy also requires a global lens. New global-governance structures are needed that can focus on equity and ensure that all countries benefit from green growth. Since the climate crisis is a global challenge, tackling it requires global collaboration – including through technology- and knowledge-transfer agreements and support for building green manufacturing capacity in low- and middle-income countries.

To that end, green finance must be made more accessible globally. Wealthier countries – especially those that contributed more to historic GHG emissions – should use their greater financial means to help scale up green finance, and to ensure that it is designed to be affordable, patient (long-term), and risk-tolerant.

Without such support, low- and middle-income countries will remain fiscally constrained, inhibiting their ability to invest in green industrial strategies or climate-change mitigation and adaptation. They will be forced into a vicious cycle of increasing climate vulnerability and deteriorating public finances.

The current disparity in the global allocation of green finance is stark. Since 2021, high-income countries and China have attracted over 90% of new clean-energy investment, while borrowing costs for low- and middle-income countries have continued to rise. Though these countries are the least responsible for GHG emissions, they are burdened with a "climate risk premium" that inflates the cost of finance.

Thus, the G20 should champion expanded long-term concessional loans, grants, and debt and liquidity relief so that all countries can

pursue green growth without increasing their debt burdens. It should also support existing efforts – such as the Bridgetown Initiative – to achieve a more equitable global financial architecture.

Building on the work of Finance in Common, national development banks should be empowered to scale up patient, NDC-aligned capital, including through strengthened collaboration with multilateral development banks. These institutions are well positioned to direct green finance, drawing on their local knowledge, public mandates, and potential to crowd in private capital that would otherwise shy away from riskier projects.

Finally, a stable financial sector that considers systemic climate risks is crucial for accelerating and sustaining the green transition. The G20 can reinforce the importance of prudential regulators adopting more robust interoperable taxonomies to strengthen disclosures, collecting better data, and improving predictive climate models.

Similarly, central banks have a key role to play in accounting for climate-related financial risks and supporting conditions that encourage more private finance to flow toward green investments – and discourage financial flows to carbon-intensive projects. Doing so would not be a departure from central banks' existing mandates. In fact, "market neutrality" can have the perverse effect of creating favourable financing conditions for carbon-intensive activities that ultimately threaten macroeconomic and financial stability.

The G20 under Brazil's presidency should lead the way toward pathways for new economic development, and for the forthcoming South African G20 presidency to take this agenda forward. Green growth is not just possible; it is imperative.

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Young innovators stand out at Katara Astronomy Exhibition

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Katara Astronomy Exhibition opened yesterday at Katara – the Cultural Village’s Al Thuraya Planetarium, showcasing scientific models created by students from various schools and universities in Qatar.

Titled “Innovations and Science – Shaping the Future from Idea to Creativity”, the event forms part of the Katara Space Science Programme and is organised in collaboration with Maps International.

It will run until tomorrow (October 26) from 3pm-9pm.

The exhibition aims to provide a platform for aspiring young scientists to display their work and engage with cutting-edge developments in fields such as space exploration, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, machine learning, planetary systems, and space travel.

The platform offers participants the chance to exchange ideas and deepen their passion for space and astronomy.

A crucial part of Katara’s mission is to create an environment that nurtures innovation, curiosity, and critical thinking for future generations.

One of the unique projects on display is a sustainable and economical summer shelter for cats designed by Anoushka Mahajan, a home-study student.

Her creation utilises readily available clay pots to create a naturally cool environment for feline friends.

“It is made of two clay pots; it’s basically sustainable and economic,” Mahajan told *Gulf Times* yesterday as she prepared for the opening.

“Clay pots are porous, so water inside evaporates easily,” she said. “The sunlight causes the water to evaporate, cooling the air inside and the entire shelter.”

She added that a reflective roof further enhances the cooling effect.

Mahajan’s inspiration stemmed from a personal connection.



“I love cats, and there are many strays around my house,” she explained. “I feed and care for them, and in the summer, it gets very hot. They always want to come inside, and that inspired me.”

Mahajan hopes to collaborate with organisations to bring her design to a larger scale.

“We’re here at the fair so more people will know, and we can take it further,” she said.

The exhibition features several competitions, with awards for the Best Comprehensive Scientific Model, Most Innovative Design, and Best Use of Technology.

A panel of judges will select winners, who will receive prizes including gift cards and science kits.

All participants will receive certificates of appreciation.

Organisers noted that the event serves as a launch pad for promising young talent, providing recognition and encouragement for the next generation of scientists and innovators.



Students from various schools in Doha present scientific models at the exhibition.

Anoushka Mahajan showcasing her project.
PICTURES: Joey Aguilar



‘The Pearl Cirque’ wows thousands

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl and Gewan Islands, is relishing the success of “The Pearl Cirque” that has become a stand-out attraction in Doha’s entertainment scene, a statement said.

Since its debut on October 17, the circus extravaganza has attracted thousands of spectators at Porto Arabia’s waterfront, 30 La Croisette, and will continue its captivating per-

formances until tomorrow (Saturday). The Porto Arabia Amphitheatre has been transformed into a circus arena, under the canopy of a vintage-inspired tent.

Adorned with nostalgic circus posters and illuminated by twinkling fairground lights, the venue evokes the classic charm of the golden age of circuses.

Audiences can enjoy thrilling performances by acrobats, jugglers, clowns, mimes, and fire dancers, all under the direction of a ringmaster who adds a touch of theatrical flair to the show.

Since opening night, families and visitors from across Doha have delighted in not just the circus performances but also culturally significant acts, including the Qatari *ardha* sword dance.

Alongside the live shows, a variety of funfair games have been set up around the venue, ensuring entertainment for all ages.

These booths feature skill and luck-based games.

Tickets sold out rapidly, prompting the addition of extra performances on weekends to accommodate the overwhelming demand from spectators.

With three daily shows at 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm, along with an extra weekend performance at 11pm, each show welcomed close to 240 attendees.



Years of Culture to present exhibition on Mohamed Benchellal at NMoQ

Years of Culture will present “Benchellal: Monumental ‘sculpting past tomorrow’”, the first museum solo exhibition dedicated to the work of Moroccan-Dutch designer Mohamed Benchellal at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) from November 1 to January 18.

The exhibition features a new collection of couture dresses designed and crafted during the designer’s Artist Residency at Liwan Design Studios and Labs and inspired by Qatar.

To be held at NMoQ’s Gallery 13, the exhibition presents Benchellal’s exquisite couture as monumental works of art, thoughtfully juxtaposed against the architectural marvels of Qatar that inspired them.

Best known for exceptional draping and use of sustainable materials, Benchellal’s

garments reflect the harmony between craftsmanship and environmental responsibility, according to a statement.

“Over the past decade, Arab fashion design has thrived in the region with institutions like Fashion Trust Arabia and the Arab Fashion Council uplifting and supporting talent in the region and its diaspora,” curator Al Shaima Ayoub said in a press statement. “Benchellal’s work represents an important milestone and a valuable addition to the history of our exhibitions, adding to the legacy of fashion in the Arab world.”

Benchellal’s journey with Qatar began in 2021 when he won the Fashion Trust Arabia (FTA) Award, subsequently embarking on his transformative Artist Residency at Liwan.

The collection presented at the NMoQ embodies his distinctive fusion of futur-



istic Middle Eastern aesthetics and traditional couture.

Reflecting on the significance of the exhibition, Benchellal said: “This exhibition marks a major milestone in my career. It

was just two years ago that I received the FTA award presented by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser at the museum, and it is an honour to return with my first-ever museum presentation.”

“The exhibition is my tribute to the region – a celebration and ode to its forward-looking vision, its culture, and its place in the world of fashion,” he said.

In addition to Benchellal’s couture collection, the NMoQ partnered with M7 to display the historical and contemporary connections between Qatari and Moroccan cultures through fashion focusing on sustainable methods of garment making.

The pieces on view will illustrate the evolution of sustainable design, in relation to Benchellal’s commitment to zero-waste techniques.

Among the highlights is a traditional wool *daffah* (cloak) adorned with hand-

stitched Zari designs from the NMoQ’s collection.

Meanwhile, M7 will collaborate with Qatari designer Mashaal al-Naimi, owner of the Mhefhef brand, to reinterpret the *bisht* in a modern context – crafting an *abaya* from handwoven Tusar silk, inspired by the architectural beauty of the Kasbah Gate.

Mooza Salem al-Kuwari, assistant curator for Early History and Archaeology at the NMoQ, said: “The *daffah* display demonstrates the evolution of the garment from a utilitarian object to one of adornment.”

“Our goal is to bridge the past and the present, connecting traditional garment-making techniques with modern design sensibilities, and highlighting the cultural exchange and sustainable practices passed down through generations.”