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Displaced Palestinian children sit amid the rubble of a destroyed building in the Nasser district of Gaza City, in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Israelis detain hundreds at Gaza hospital

Gaza's health ministry said Israeli forces detained hundreds of staff, patients and displaced people during a raid yesterday on the last functioning hospital in the territory's embattled north.

"Israeli forces have stormed and are present inside Kamal Adwan Hospital" in the city of Jabalia, the ministry said in a statement.

"They are detaining hundreds of patients, medical staff and some displaced individuals from neighbouring areas who sought refuge in the hospital from continuous bombardment." World Health Organisation chief Tedros Ghebreyesus said that contact with the hospital had been lost since yesterday morning.

"Since this morning's reports of a raid on Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, we have lost touch with the personnel there," Ghebreyesus said on X.

"This development is deeply disturbing, given the number of patients being served and people sheltering there."

Israeli forces had surrounded the hospital in Jabalia refugee camp before entering the premises, Gaza's civil defence agency said.

"More than 150 patients and staff, including medical and nursing teams, are besieged by the Israeli army inside Kamal Adwan Hospital," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said.

COGAT - the Israeli defence ministry body responsible for civil affairs in the Palestinian territories - said yesterday it had allowed the transfer of 23 patients out of the hospital the previous night in Palestinian ambulances and UN vehicles.

Kamal Adwan is the last functioning hospital in north Gaza. It has been struggling with shortages of medicines and medical equipment since the start of war, which have been aggravated by the launch of a major Israeli operation in north Gaza earlier this month.

WHO representative for the Palestinian territories Rik Peeporkorn was on a mission to the hospital this week where he said he witnessed "mayhem and chaos".

On Thursday night, "we saw numerous patients being brought in - and horrific trauma patients," he said, while there were hundreds of people taking refuge "in every corner of the hospital".

Speaking from the Gaza Strip at a Geneva press briefing, Peeporkorn

Rescuers say Israel strikes kill 12 in aid queue

Gaza's civil defence agency said 12 people were killed yesterday by Israeli drone strikes that hit a group of Palestinians waiting to receive aid in the territory's north. The drones struck near the Shati refugee camp in western Gaza City, said agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal.

"Civil defence teams retrieved 12 martyrs and several injured individuals after Israeli drone strikes targeted a group of citizens and a vehicle waiting for aid," he said. A witness to the strike, Mustafa Abu Aita, said a crowd had been waiting for aid to arrive.

"They struck a small white bus with a missile, and another missile hit the people standing on the road, resulting in martyrs and injuries," Aita told AFP. "People fled the area, and ambulances came to transport the martyrs and the injured." (AFP)

rn said that at a checkpoint close to Kamal Adwan, the WHO team saw "thousands of women and children leaving that area, walking, limping with their few belongings" towards Gaza City.

The Gaza health ministry said restrictions on aid deliveries to the area had hit the hospital hard.

"There has been no supply or provision of food, medicine or essential medical supplies needed to save the lives of the injured and sick in the hospital," the health ministry in Gaza said, calling the situation "catastrophic in every sense of the word".

COGAT said it had allowed the transfer of one fuel truck, "180 blood units and a truckload of medical equipment" donated by UN agencies.

Tedros said the WHO and partner agencies had reached the hospital late Wednesday and managed to transfer 23 patients and 26 caregivers to Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital. "Kamal Adwan Hospital has been overflowing with close to 200 patients - a constant stream of horrific trauma cases. It is also full of hundreds of people seeking shelter," he said.

Hamas called the storming of Kamal Adwan "a war crime and a flagrant violation of international laws". (AFP)

Air strikes kill 72 across Gaza Strip

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 72 people since Thursday night and Israeli forces launched a night-time raid on a hospital in the north of the enclave, Palestinian officials said.

The Gaza health ministry said a strike on houses in the southern city of Khan Younis killed at least 38, many of them women and children.

Some residents of Khan Younis sifted through rubble yesterday in an attempt to retrieve clothes and documents, while children looked for their toys.

Ahmed Sobh recounted how

his cousin had screamed "Help me, help me".

"We ran and found her children, a boy and a girl, martyred. Her son was lying under the concrete column, it took us 1.5 hours to get him out," he told Reuters.

Ahmed al-Farra described digging relatives including his mother from the rubble, adding he had lost 15 members of his extended family during the airstrikes.

"As I was trying to dig (my mother) out I looked at this wall and saw a tank aiming at me. I was thinking 'shall I dig or shall I watch the tank, what shall I do? I dug her out full of fear. Everyone

was doing the same, digging in fear," he said.

At the nearby Nasser Hospital, medics prepared the dead, among them three children wrapped in the same white shroud.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes on three houses in the nearby Gaza town of Beit Lahiya killed 25 people and wounded dozens more, medics said.

Later yesterday, an Israeli airstrike killed nine people in Shati camp in Gaza City, medics said, raising the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli fire across the enclave to at least 72 since Thursday night. (Reuters) Page 3

Israel, Hezbollah trade fire across border

Reuters
Beirut/Jerusalem

An Israeli strike killed three journalists in southern Lebanon yesterday, Lebanese officials said, while Israel said Hezbollah killed two people in a strike in its north as Washington pressed for a ceasefire.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was an urgent need to get a diplomatic resolution to the conflict, a day after he said Washington did not want to see a protracted campaign in Lebanon by its ally Israel.

Israel launched its major offensive in Lebanon a month ago. Beirut authorities say Israel's Lebanon offensive has killed more than 2,500 people and displaced more than 1.2mn, sparking a humanitarian crisis.

Yesterday's strike killed two people in Majd al-Krum in northern Israel, according to Israeli media, and followed a statement from Hezbollah saying that it targeted the northern Israeli town of Karmiel with a large missile salvo.



A man walks next to the rubble of a destroyed building at the site of an overnight Israeli air strike that targeted Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday.

The journalists killed in south Lebanon were Ghassan Najjar and Mohamed Reda of the pro-Iranian news outlet Al-Mayadeen and Wissam Qassem, who worked for Hezbollah's Al-Manar, the outlets said in separate statements. Several others were wounded. Page 3

Strong winds forecast for today, mercury to dip

Qatar is expected to experience a drop in minimum temperatures over the coming days due to the influence of northwesterly winds, the Met office said yesterday, while forecasting strong winds for today, both inshore and offshore, gusting up to 30kt at times, in addition to high sea. Yesterday's minimum and maximum temperatures were in the 25-28C and 28-33C range, respectively. The forecast for today's minimum and maximum temperatures are in the 24-26C and 29-32C range, respectively.

Kremlin denies report of Musk-Putin secret talks

The Kremlin yesterday denied a report by *The Wall Street Journal* that Russian President Vladimir Putin and billionaire SpaceX founder Elon Musk had been in regular secret contact since 2022. "It's all untrue, absolutely false information published in the newspaper," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists. The *WSJ* report claimed Putin had discussed personal and political matters with the world's richest man, who has supported Donald Trump's election campaign with donations and messages on his X platform. The report alleges Putin asked Musk to avoid activating his Starlink satellite internet service over Taiwan as a favour to Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Seoul slams Russian treaty with N Korea

South Korea urged Russia to stop its "illegal co-operation" with Pyongyang and voiced "grave concern" yesterday as Moscow moved to ratify its defence treaty with North Korea. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned shortly after that Russia was planning to send North Korean troops into battle against his country as early as Sunday, and urged world leaders to pile "tangible pressure" on Pyongyang. Russian lawmakers voted unanimously on Thursday to ratify a defence treaty with North Korea that provides for "mutual assistance" if either party faces aggression. It will now be sent to the upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, for approval. (AFP) Page 11

Hundreds join Relay for Life debut in Qatar

Hundreds of people, including cancer survivors, healthcare providers and community members participated in the first ever Relay for Life, organised by Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) in partnership with Aspire Zone at Aspire Indoor Athletic Track yesterday.

Relay for Life is one of the largest global events dedicated to supporting cancer patients and survivors, caregivers and families apart from remembering those who lost their lives to cancer. The aim is to raise awareness, fund awareness programmes, and inspire hope and perseverance in

the fight against cancer.

QCS chairman HE Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jaber al-Thani led the event along with a number of other dignitaries. Attendees participated in groups, in a walk, which went on for four hours, symbolising the ongoing battle against cancer.

The event featured awareness initiatives to increase knowledge about cancer, its prevention, and the importance of early detection. Sessions focused on how to support patients and their families, as well as enhancing the understanding of treatment and care options.

To Page 2



QCS chairman HE Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jaber al-Thani led the event along with a number of other dignitaries. PICTURE: Thajudheen

QU students triumph at Inventions Fair in Turkiye

QNA
Ankara

Qatar University (QU)'s Young Scientists Center (YSC) won three medals in the 9th Istanbul International Inventions Fair (ISIF24) held in Adana, Turkiye, with the participation of more than 20 countries from around the world.

On this occasion, QU's Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies Professor Aiman Erbad congratulated the students noting that these awards reflect the dedicated efforts and significant positive impact of the centre's programs and efforts in refining students' research and practical skills and creating an environment that develops their

passion for creativity. YSC Director Dr Saeed al-Meer congratulated the winning students at the 9th International Innovation Fair (ISIF 24), adding: "Providing opportunities for students to participate in international competitions encourages them to showcase their creativity in the international innovation community, set future goals to develop their inventions, strive to provide the best and enhance their skills and capabilities."

The gold medal was won by student Khaloud Abdullah Ibrahim, a student at QU's College of Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering. The project entitled "IoT based GHG monitoring during composting in Waste Management", aims to provide new technology to facilitate the composting



Students Tameem al-Yafei, Ibrahim al-Zeyar, Ali al-Khayat, and Khalifa al-Nasr from Ahmed Bin

Hanbal School won the bronze medal for their research entitled "Recycling waste tyre rubber and Alumina slug powder in a sustainable manner", for recycling waste to create strong concrete and conserve the environment.

In addition, the centre won the bronze medal for a research entitled "Leveraging technology in STEM education to empower students", which aims to provide an educational framework for using technology to enhance the STEM approach in education. The centre seeks to keep pace with the latest developments in the educational field and provide unique educational opportunities for students that will develop their skills and push them to succeed in the academic and professional fields.

Official

Amir sends cables of congratulations to president of Kazakhstan

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on the anniversary of his country's Republic Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Olzhas Abayevich Bektenov on the occasion. (QNA)

6.85mn gallons of rainwater removed

The Joint Committee for Rain Emergency at the Ministry of Municipality deployed teams which worked continuously for 17 hours without interruption, from Thursday 1pm until Friday 6am, to drain rainwater. As much as 6,856,460 gallons were drained, with an average of 1,122 trips. A total of 273 employees and workers were involved in the teams. The unified call centre at the Ministry of Municipality received 70 related requests to drain rain water accumulations, which were immediately handled.



Dr Omar al-Ansari and Alex Hanna with the award.



Officials at the celebration.

QU College of Law wins global accolade for design, innovation

Qatar University (QU) celebrated the College of Law building receiving the Merit Award from Engineering News-Record (ENR), a prestigious global engineering magazine. QU president Dr Omar al-Ansari, attended the ceremony, along with several faculty members and representatives from the project's consultant and contractor teams.

College of Law dean Dr Talal al-Emadi, said the American ENR Excellence Award reflects the cumulative efforts made by the faculty and staff. "The College of Law building stands as an architectural masterpiece, symbolising both the identity of the law and the local

Qatari architectural heritage while aligning with global standards."

Engineer Alex Hanna, vice-president of Khatib & Alami Consulting Engineers in Qatar, the project consultant, said the aim was to create a distinctive and precise design for the College of Law at QU.

"The combined efforts of QU, Khatib & Alami Consulting Engineers, and contractor Bojambhor Trading & Contracting have resulted in the College of Law receiving the Merit Award in the Education-Research category of the ENR Global Best Projects Awards 2023, which celebrates the best construction projects worldwide,

spanning 21 countries across six continents." The ENR Merit Award honours projects that demonstrate exceptional quality, innovation, safety, and achievement.

The College of Law building is located on a 52,000sq m site in the northwest of the QU campus, consisting of five floors (basement, ground floor, and three upper levels) with a total area of 53,000sq m. Construction commenced in 2018 and the building was operational by 2021.

The building's overall design draws inspiration from court structures, fusing the distinctive features of a courthouse with the university's contemporary ar-

chitectural theme. The structure employs a structural system of beams, columns, and girders, connecting three main blocks through two glass bridges. The building's exterior features travertine stone, mosaic tiles, and glass curtain walls.

Several international standards were followed throughout the design and execution stages. Additionally, the building achieved a four-star rating in the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) for design and construction.

The building is equipped with an Access Control System and a Car Management System. Inter-

nally, the building boasts open spaces across multiple floors, with travertine stone walls and high glass ceilings (Sky Lights) that reflect the character of traditional courtrooms.

The building accommodates approximately 2,500 students, featuring various classrooms equipped with modern technology, a 200-seat lecture hall, a 362-seat conference hall, and a mock courtroom for student training. It also houses faculty and administrative offices, dining facilities for both male and female students, kitchens, and parking for 282 cars in the basement, as well as 477 shaded outdoor parking spaces.



Qatar hosts Ukrainian delegation to address humanitarian dimensions of Russia-Ukraine conflict

Qatar hosted a Ukrainian delegation led by Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets to address urgent humanitarian concerns arising from the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In the discussions with the Ukrainian delegation, HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater (pictured) reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to providing a neutral platform for humanitarian dialogue. She emphasised Qatar's dedication to facilitating meaningful humanitarian engagement aimed at alleviating the hardships faced by civilians affected by the ongoing crisis. The discussions culminated in specific agreements to support those affected, including streamlined processes for the recovery of personal documents for displaced individuals and the exchange of lists of missing soldiers. In addition, letters from prisoners of war were shared, creating a vital communication channel for affected families and providing much-needed support for those impacted by the conflict. HE AlKhater expressed Qatar's appreciation for the constructive involvement of all parties in these discussions, reiterating its unwavering commitment to peaceful resolutions rooted in international law and humanitarian principles. (QNA)

Enjoy meadows, avoid practices that damage the environment: ministry

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has renewed its call for all the members of the public to be actively involved in preserving the different components of wilderness across the various parts of the country, especially the meadows during the rainy season.

In particular, MoECC stressed that vehicles intruding into the wild meadows across the country constitute a serious damage to the soil and the wild plants that would be very hard to reverse in the future. As the country is entering into the rainy season, these meadows start to revive and the plant growth became denser, which lures some



irresponsible persons to enter these places using their vehicles.

The ministry encourages all the inhabitants to enjoy these places responsibly and avoid any conduct that could harm the meadows, which are considered as precious environmental assets of the country.

MoECC considers any of these irresponsible practices as damaging to the local environment and the greenery, which sustains biodiversity and some wild animals and birds.

According to Article 9 of Law No 32 of 1995 Preventing Damage to Plant Ecology and Ecosystems, violators of the law may entail a penalty of a maximum three months in jail and a maximum fine of QR20,000 or any of these penalties.

The penalty could be doubled in case of repeating the same violation. The court can also rule that the equipment and vehicles used to encroach on such protected meadows may be confiscated and the violator obliged to compensate for the damaged done to the environment.

Accordingly, the MoECC has pointed out that vehicles' encroachment into the

meadows and open reserves often breaks the soil apart and damages the various vital components necessary to sustain for the regrowth of plants, which would consequently have immediate and long-term negative impact on the surrounding ecological system. Such degeneration caused to the soil would often take a long time to repair.

The latest data indicates that there are 1,273 wild meadows across the country, which are included into a digital geographical database dedicated for those meadows. Each meadow is listed alongside the types of trees and plants and the risks and dangers threatening the location.

The MoECC has fenced and rehabilitated 38 meadows across Qatar, as part of a long-term project to rehabilitate 100 meadows over the upcoming five years.



Hundreds join Relay for Life debut in Qatar

From Page 1

"We are proud to host Relay for Life 2024 in Qatar," HE Sheikh Dr Khalid said in a statement. "This initiative reflects our commitment to support the community in its fight against cancer. This event is not just a celebration; it is a call for unity and collective action to eradicate this disease."

"The Relay for Life 2024 is a pivotal event that embodies the values of solidarity and positivity, bringing together community members of all ages and backgrounds. Together, we can make a real difference and help change the course of the battle against cancer."

Culture ministry announces 1st edition of Fareej festival for art and design

The Ministry of Culture (MoC) announced the holding of the first edition of the Fareej festival for art and design at Darb Al Saai in Umm Salal from October 31-November 6 with the participation of 19 different entities. The Fareej (meaning neighbourhood) festival is set to include sections with different themes such as art, art and inspiration, theatre, Mal Lawal (of the past), and Al Hosh (backyard). Four art exhibitions as well as theatre performances, art workshops for different ages, cultural seminars, and art studios will be held on the sidelines of the festival. (QNA)

Qatar chairs Arab conference in Tunis



Qatar chaired the 27th Arab Conference of Officials Responsible for Combating Terrorism, held at the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council in the Republic of Tunisia from Oct 23-24. The conference was presided over by Secretary of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee of Qatar Colonel Khalid Ali al-Kaabi, while the state's delegation was led by Captain Jassim Hamid al-Mohammadi. The conference discussed several topics on its agenda and made appropriate decisions regarding them. (QNA)

Qatar partakes in World Coast Guard Conference



Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Interior, participated in the World Coast Guard Conference, which was held on Oct 23 and 24 via videoconferencing. The Ministry of Interior was represented at the conference by Colonel Dr Fahad Ali al-Hajri, Head of the Maritime Training and Rehabilitation Center at the General Directorate of Coasts and Borders Security. (QNA)



Palestinian, Lebanese support gatherings



Demonstrators carry signs and flags during a protest in support of Lebanon and Gaza in Amman, Jordan, yesterday.



Houthi supporters hold signs showing Hashem Safieddine, Hezbollah's executive council head who was confirmed dead by the group days earlier, during an anti-Israel rally in solidarity with Gaza and Lebanon in the Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa in Yemen, yesterday.

'Darkest moment' of war unfolding in northern Gaza: UN rights chief

AFP
Geneva

The UN rights chief said the "darkest moment" of the conflict in Gaza since last year's unfolding in the north of the territory, warning yesterday that Israel's actions could amount to "atrocious crimes".

Volker Turk pointed out that already "more than 150,000 people are reportedly dead, wounded or missing in Gaza" since the war there erupted just over a year ago.

"Unimaginably, the situation is getting worse by the day," he said. "My gravest fear is, given the intensity, breadth, scale and blatant nature of the Israeli operation currently underway in North Gaza, that number will rise dramatically." Israel, which has been fighting Hamas in Gaza since last year's deadly October first week storming by Hamas fighters, launched a major air and ground assault in the north of the territory this month, saying it wanted to stop the fighters from regrouping there.

Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, warned that Israel's policies in northern Gaza "risk emptying the area of all Palestinians". "We are facing what could amount to atrocious crimes, including potentially extending to crimes against humanity." Turk's statement pointed out that Palestinian armed groups also reportedly continue to operate among civilians, including in places of shelter, putting civilians in harm's way "which is totally unacceptable".

Turk called on the world's leaders to act, stressing that all states are responsible under the Geneva Conventions to ensure respect for international humanitarian law.

"For months, I have pleaded



Displaced Palestinians transport clean water in front of a UN school-turned shelter in the Nasser district of Gaza City, in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday, amid the ongoing war between Israel and the Hamas group.

with all parties to the conflict, as well as all states...to act to stop the carnage and destruction, to ensure the prompt and unconditional release of all hostages, and to ensure international humanitarian and international human rights law are respected," he said.

"But still this goes on and on and on." His statement stressed the urgency of the situation, warning that "today the darkest moment of the Gaza conflict is unfolding in the north of the Strip, where the Israeli military is effectively subjecting an entire population to bombing, siege and risk of starvation". "The bombing in North Gaza is non-stop," he said.

At the same time, "the Israeli military has ordered hundreds of thousands to move... But there is no safe way to leave," he warned. The UN rights chief cautioned that there was "extremely limited access to this part of Gaza, (and) next to no aid has reached the area in weeks".

"Many are now facing starvation." At the same time, he said:

"The Israeli military is striking hospitals, and staff and patients have been killed and injured or forced to evacuate simultaneously". The International Court of Justice had made clear Israel's obligation to ensure the entry and delivery of desperately-needed humanitarian aid, Turk pointed out.

In particular, he highlighted the court's binding orders to ensure that Israel conforms with its obligations under the Genocide Convention, obligating other countries to act.

"Under the Genocide Convention, state parties also have the responsibility to act to prevent such a crime, when risk becomes apparent," he said.

Turk warned that "international rule of law is being progressively dismantled", and urged world leaders "not to abandon that minimum of humanity".

"Either the world ashamedly fails those who so desperately need help, or we stand united and put a stop to this."

ICC replaces judge in Netanyahu arrest case

The International Criminal Court (ICC) said yesterday it had replaced one of the judges deciding on a prosecution request for an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for war crimes, a move that could lead to further delays in the case.

Romanian magistrate Iulia

Motoc asked to leave the three-judge panel on health grounds yesterday and was immediately replaced by Slovenian ICC judge Beti Hohler, the president of the ICC said.

The move is expected to further delay a decision in the case focused on the Gaza conflict as the new judge will need time to

catch up on the filings.

The court has no set deadlines, but has generally taken about three months to rule on requests for arrest warrants in previous cases. The decision had already been held up by several rounds of legal filings from Israel challenging the jurisdiction of the court. (Reuters)

Deadly Israeli strike on journalists in Lebanon prompts global condemnation

Reuters
Beirut

Three journalists were killed in Lebanon by an Israeli strike yesterday morning, their colleagues said, drawing condemnation from rights advocates about the number of reporters who have lost their lives in the region over the past year.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said it "strongly condemned" the attack, urging the international community to "stop Israel's long-standing pattern of impunity in journalist killings".

Israel did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It has previously denied deliberately attacking journalists.

The last year has been the deadliest period for journalists in more than 30 years, CPJ has said, with at least 126 reporters and media workers among nearly 45,000 people killed in Gaza, the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Lebanon.

Two Israeli journalists were killed in the October first week Hamas-led storming of Israel last year that sparked the war.

Yesterday was the deadliest day for journalists in Lebanon over the last year. At least five other reporters have been killed in Israeli strikes while on assignment in Lebanon, including Reuters visuals journalist Issam Abdallah.



Relatives and colleagues of three journalists killed in an Israeli strike in the southern Lebanese village of Hasbaya mourn as their bodies arrive at a hospital in Beirut, yesterday.

The strike around 3 am local time hit a collection of guesthouses housing only reporters in the southern Lebanese town of Hasbaya, killing two journalists from the Al-Mayadeen television network and one journalist from Al-Manar.

Muhammad Farhat, a reporter with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed, was one of at least 18 journalists staying at the guesthouses in Hasbaya.

There was no evacuation order by Israel's military.

Farhat told in comments to Reuters he had been woken up by the sound of Israeli jets flying low overhead and heard two missiles strike nearby guesthouses before the roof of his

guesthouse collapsed on him.

"The scenes were terrifying. We saw our colleagues and friends cut up, their limbs strewn all over, others were screaming and begging us to pull them out," Farhat said later on Al-Jadeed, tears in his eyes.

Sharing a post about the strike on X, the UN special rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression Irene Khan wrote: "Deliberate killing of a journalist is a war crime."

Mazen Shaqoura, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Middle East, told Al-Jadeed the strike represented "a targeting of what we hear and what we see."

Blinken sees 'real urgency' for Lebanon resolution in PM meeting

AFP
London

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken vowed yesterday to work with "real urgency" for a diplomatic resolution to end Israel's offensive in Lebanon but said it was first critical to reach understandings on disarmament of Hezbollah.

Shortly after meeting Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati in London, Blinken also pleaded for protection of civilians but stopped short of urging an immediate ceasefire by Israel, which relies on US diplomatic and military support.

"We have a sense of real urgency

in getting to a diplomatic resolution and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, such that there can be real security along the border between Israel and Lebanon," Blinken told reporters, saying he was "intensely engaged".

Resolution 1701, approved in 2006 after an earlier war, calls for the disarmament of non-state groups in Lebanon — an allusion to Hezbollah, which effectively runs its own military — and for a full Israeli withdrawal from the country.

Blinken said it was critical to "get the understandings that are necessary for the full implementation of 1701".

"The sooner we're able to do



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati in London, yesterday.

that, the sooner we're able to get a resolution," he added.

He called for protections in the meantime of both civilians and Lebanese soldiers, at least 11

of whom have died since Israel launched its offensive a month ago.

"We want to make sure that in places like Beirut, there is a real

effort to make sure that people are unharmed and civilians are not caught up in this crossfire," Blinken said.

The US has called for the empowerment of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the fragile central government in Beirut so they can take charge of security and sideline Hezbollah.

Blinken voiced support for UN peacekeepers stationed in Lebanon who have repeatedly reported coming under fire from Israel.

The State Department said that in the meeting Blinken "expressed support for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon and underscored that the safety and security of their personnel is essential".

Mikati and Blinken also dis-

cussed the search to name a president of Lebanon, a position vacant for almost two years in the communally diverse country amid deadlock between Hezbollah allies and adversaries including the Christian Lebanese Forces party.

The Lebanese premier headed from London to Dublin for talks with his Irish counterpart Simon Harris. Ireland had 351 peacekeepers serving with UNIFIL in Lebanon as of October 20, according to the UN.

Harris told reporters that the security, well-being and safety of Irish peacekeepers was of "absolute paramount importance" to Ireland — and Israel needed to recognise they are protected under international law.

CASATO



Harmonious volumes, vivid colors and femininity are the words that build Casato's manifesto, strongly conveyed by its jewels. Miniature works of art able to tell the entire story about the search for perfection of both the hands that forged them, and of the creative mind that conceived them.

Casato leaves the classic territory of high jewellery, to populate an elsewhere to be discovered, a place made up of innovative elegance, refined aesthetic codes and an original artistic attitude. There is no fear of inventing the unexpected in the atelier of Federico Gauttieri, founder and designer of the brand, because where harmony reigns, even opulence becomes grace.

Thus Casato jewels enchant those who look at them and pamper those who wear them.

The DNA of this maison is a mix of elements, well recognizable in the design and quality of its jewels: the made in Italy style, which is nothing other than the innate talent of creating beauty, the 18kt gold which gives the precious shape, the diamonds that illuminate it and the details, the witnesses of uniqueness, a concept as eternal as it is unrepeatable every time.

From 24 to 29 October 2024, at ASJAD it will be possible to set off on an unprecedented journey within the Casato universe. The new Mikoulette collection, followed by Mikou, Boutique Icon and then Maureen Medine will be the landmarks of the journey, each time they will immerse us in their golden world, in their characteristic design and will teach us their style's language of their style. Leading the journey will be Federico Gauttieri, who invented this universe and is therefore an incomparable narrator.

An ultra-exclusive selection of new jewels that retain the original shape, illuminating it with a feast of diamonds and lights of sapphires and emeralds. The volumes of Mikoulette jewellery do not increase, the design is instead collected in its most precious essence, this time Casato has created a true distillate of wearable wonder.



Mikou Collection

Gold, diamonds and enamel meet in the Mikou collection. Their mission is to become protagonists of every woman's beauty. The rhomboidal silhouette of the Mikou design is a clear reference to the small Greek streets of Mykonos, which smell of sun and salt, symbols of freedom in our imagination. Indeed, Mikou is a hymn to free beauty, with its small details, joined together by each woman in an innovative way, to form the unique design of its authenticity.



Boutique Icon Collection

The color makes its entry like a precious gown, made of green emeralds that sparkle like the sea on the underwater rocks, and sapphires as deeply blue as the ocean floor. These two colorful stones combine with the brilliance of diamonds to wrap the jewelry of the Boutique collection in new vitality. A golden occasion, it opens another chapter in the history of the Casato brand - its Icon Boutique and it's already a legend.



Mikoulette Collection

There is no success without a diva! Thus Casato celebrates the success of the Mikou collection by introducing its red carpet version: here is Mikoulette!



Maureen Medine Collection

Arabian notes sound in the air as the wind carries a new collection to the world of Casato jewelry, a collection that conserves the soft curves, decorative charm, and brilliant sunlight of the faraway city that inspired it. On the journey, it met the precious stones that elevate its design with emeralds and sapphires. Please welcome Maureen Medine.



Maureen The Original Collection

"The Original" is internationally recognized as a term used to announce an invention that marks a moment of change in history; in fashion, it's the beginning of a new style. Casato's Maureen The Original is the collection that marks the before and after in the world of jewelry. Its majestic pieces proudly display their innovative design, floating into every woman's desires until they become reality on her fingers.



Yasmeen Collection

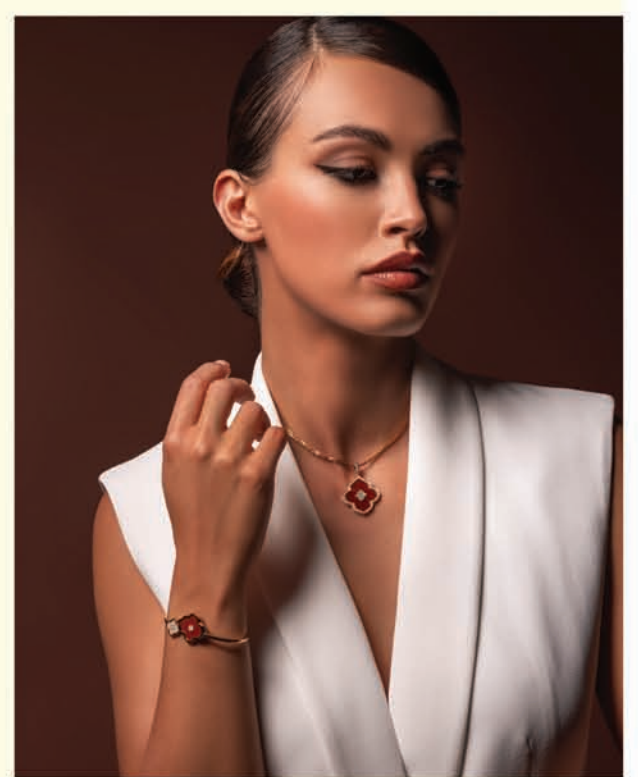
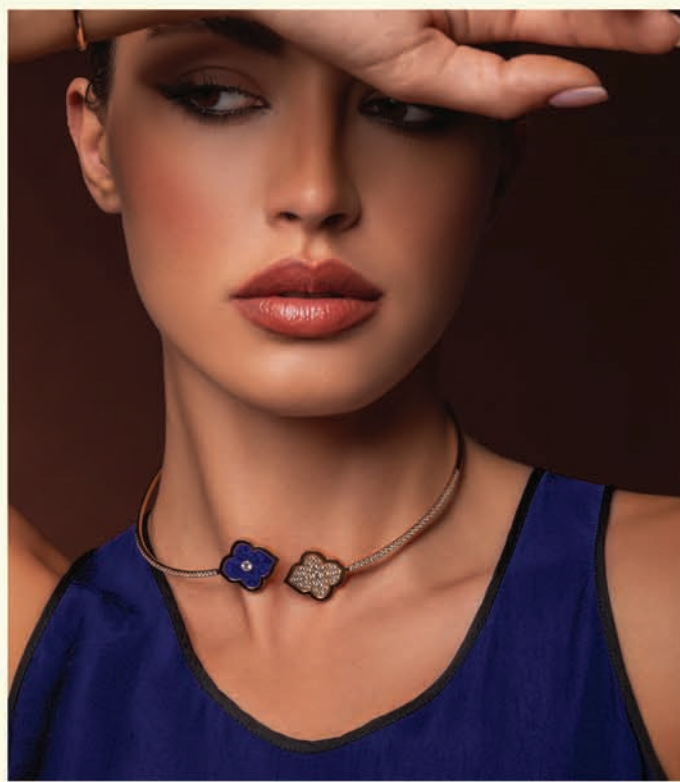
The east wind reaches Italy to blow into these jewels, mixing exotic influences with the land of the dolce-vita. Thanks to the craftsmanship that forged it, the design of Yasmeen creations is a hymn to lightness, with magnificent volumes combined with easy-to-wear structures. Each piece of jewellery seems to fly with diamond-covered wings, as sumptuous and free as the woman on whom it will choose to rest.





HRH

JOAILLERIE



HRH Joaillerie to Dazzle at ASJAD Jewellery Exhibition in Doha *Innovative and Timeless Designs Inspired by the Modern Woman*

HRH Joaillerie, the fine jewellery house founded by Hind Hariri El Karout, is set to make a striking debut at the ASJAD jewellery exhibition, which will take place from October 24th to 29th, 2024 at the Galleria Alhazm, Alfardan Pavilion, in Doha. The event promises to be a gathering point for collectors, connoisseurs, and lovers of jewellery and timepieces from across the globe, and HRH Joaillerie's presence is sure to be one of its highlights.

Infused with a bold and feminine spirit, HRH Joaillerie collections are crafted to highlight a woman's individuality and beauty, enhancing and celebrating her essence rather than defining it. Each piece from HRH is designed with the versatility to mix and match and is envisioned as a chapter in a unique, real-life story, much like the women who wear them.

At the heart of HRH Joaillerie's inspiration lies the Arab woman, embodying both strength and femininity. HRH's mission is to bridge European craftsmanship with the aesthetics of the Arab World. Our jewelry symbolizes the confluence of Oriental beauty and culture with European technology and precision, presenting designs that blend elegance and innovation for modern women.

Founded by Hind Hariri El Karout, her vision for jewelry is both personal and innovative: «Jewels are deeply tied to our emotions. Worn so close to the skin, they become a natural part of the woman who wears them, to the point where she nearly forgets they're there—yet they never cease to enhance her beauty.» This guiding principle is evident in every piece crafted by HRH Joaillerie—timeless yet modern, designed to feel like a second skin, accompanying women through every step of their journey.

As one of the prestigious brands from around the world participating in ASJAD, HRH Joaillerie will present a selection of its most exquisite pieces, offering attendees a unique opportunity to experience the house's craftsmanship and vision closer. Visitors can explore a curated selection of HRH's designs, each embodying the beauty and strength of the modern woman.

The exhibition is perfectly timed for both jewellery lovers and those preparing for the wedding season. With fine jewellery collections such as high-jewellery pieces of HRH Joaillerie's pieces available for on-the-spot purchase, this is a rare chance to acquire timeless treasures directly from the source.

Kenyan court suspends Adani power line deal worth \$736mn

Kenya's high court yesterday suspended a \$736mn deal between a state utility and India's Adani Energy Solutions to build and operate power infrastructure including transmission lines. The public-private partnership agreement between state-owned Kenya Electrical Transmission Company (KETRACO) and Adani Energy Solutions was signed earlier this month.

On Oct 11 the energy ministry said it would help address persistent power blackouts and support economic growth. The high court said the government could not move ahead with the 30-year agreement with Adani Energy Solutions until the court makes a determination on a case brought by Law Society of Kenya challenging the deal. The law society has argued that the power deal is "a constitutional sham" and "tainted with secrecy".

The law society also said KETRACO and Adani Energy Solutions did not carry out meaningful public participation around the project, a requirement under Kenya's Public Private Partnerships Act of 2021 which allows private sector development of public projects.

The energy ministry said previously that it had run a competitive bidding process. A spokesperson for Adani Group did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Adani Group, founded by Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, sparked anger in Kenya recently for another proposed public-private partnership project to lease the country's main airport for 30 years in exchange for expanding it. The Law Society of Kenya, along with the Kenya Human Rights Commission, has also challenged the proposed airport deal in court, saying it is unaffordable, threatens job losses and does not offer value for money. — Reuters

Mozambique protests turn violent over disputed vote

AFP
Maputo

Mozambique's capital Maputo awoke to wreckage and mobile Internet cuts yesterday as protests overnight turned violent following the ruling party Frelimo's re-election after 49 years in power.

Hundreds of opposition supporters demonstrated, rejecting what they called a ballot "stolen" by a "corrupt" electoral commission, which on Thursday announced that Frelimo's candidate Daniel Chapo had won the October 9 election with 71 percent of the vote.

As the election authority, widely accused of acting in the ruling party's favour, was announcing the results, crowds gathered in multiple cities. Protests escalated, with rioters setting fire to tyres to block avenues in Maputo and scaling Frelimo's election billboards and destroying them. Some also threw stones at riot police, who fired tear gas to disperse them, an AFP reporter saw. Internet outages across mobile carriers struck Maputo, although home access was not affected, according to AFP reporters.

"We can confirm a near total outage of mobile Internet connection in Mozambique" starting around noon local time (1000 GMT) that was "likely to limit coverage of events on the ground", Internet outage monitor Netblocks told AFP.

Chapo, a 47-year-old former provincial governor with no experience in national government, was little known before his sur-

prise nomination as Frelimo's candidate. He will take over from President Filipe Nyusi in January. Opposition leader Venancio Mondlane — who has declared himself the winner, claimed irregularities and urged demonstrations — officially won just over 20 percent. "We absolutely reject these results," said Mondlane, during a Facebook live broadcast on Thursday evening.

"They do not reflect the will of the people," he added, calling the political situation in the southern African country "rotten, doctored and fake". Several cities saw isolated incidents take place overnight.

In northern Nampula, one person died in clashes between law enforcement and protesters, police said.

In Maputo, demonstrators vehemently opposed the results. "This country must be led by Venancio," a protester who declined to give his name told AFP. "We did not vote for these leeches, we did not vote for this man," he said, referring to the triumphant Chapo. "We are tired of all this."

Poll observers have deplored concerning irregularities in the electoral process while the Catholic Church has gone so far as to warn of at times "foul" fraud. A European Union poll observer mission earlier this month noted "net favouritism" in favour of Frelimo. EU officials have raised concerns about the polls' legitimacy, noting "irregularities during counting and unjustified alteration of election results at polling station and district level". They also stressed that the numbers did not "add up" across about



Riot police look on as protesters burn tyres after Mozambique's ruling party, Frelimo, retains power in contested election in Maputo, Mozambique.

a third of recounts. More than 17mn out of a population of 33mn were called to vote on October 9. That figure was surprising as the median age of Mozambicans is 17 and the legal voting age is 18, experts previously said. A total of 104 percent of the adult population of voting age was registered on electoral rolls, the EU mission stressed. Chapo, 47, will be the first president not to have been a fighter during the 16-year civil war between Frelimo and Renamo that ended in 1992, which claimed around a million lives.

While Renamo has traditionally been the main opposition group, the emergence of Mondlane and the Podemos party was a novel development in this election.



Residents walk past a damaged bus stop in Maputo.

LRA commander jailed for 40 years

AFP
Kampala

Ugandan court yesterday sentenced a former Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commander to 40 years in prison after a landmark war crimes trial over his role in the group's two-decade reign of terror. Thomas Kwoyelo was found guilty in August of multiple counts of crimes against humanity in the first such trial in the East African country.

"This court has determined the 40 years sentence on the offence of murder properly reflects on the criminality of Thomas Kwoyelo," lead judge Michael Elubu said at the International Crimes Division (ICD) of the high court in the northern city of Gulu. The LRA was founded by former altar boy and self-styled prophet Joseph Kony in Uganda in the 1980s with the aim of establishing a regime based on the Biblical Ten Commandments.

Its rebellion against President Yoweri Museveni saw more than 100,000 people killed and 60,000 children abducted in a reign of

terror that spread from Uganda to Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. Kwoyelo, who was abducted by the LRA at the age of 12 and became a low-level commander, had denied all the charges against him.

But he was found guilty of a litany of charges including murder, rape, torture, pillaging, abduction and destruction of settlements for internally displaced people. Immediately following the sentence, his lawyer told the court they intended to appeal. Most of Kwoyelo's offences occurred between 1996 and 2005 in his home area of Amuru in northern Uganda, and parts of South Sudan.

The civil war effectively ended in 2006 when a peace process was launched, though the LRA's founder Kony has evaded capture. Kwoyelo was arrested in March 2009 in the DRC during a sweep by regional forces against LRA rebels who had fled from Uganda two years earlier. He was put on trial in July 2011 before the ICD, but was freed two months later on the orders of the Supreme Court as part of broad amnesty for thou-

sands of other fighters who had surrendered.

The prosecution appealed and Kwoyelo was put on trial again, though the case was repeatedly delayed.

Kony is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for rape, slavery, mutilation, murder and forcibly recruiting child soldiers. In 2021, Dominic Ongwen, a Ugandan child soldier who became a top LRA commander, was sentenced by the ICC to 25 years in prison for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"Accountability for LRA war victims has been painfully inadequate and opportunities for improvement are increasingly slim, making processes in Uganda all the more important," Human Rights Watch said in a January statement on the Kwoyelo case.

The ICD was set up in 2009 as part of efforts to implement peace agreements signed the previous year between the Ugandan government and the LRA. It has the authority to try genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, terrorism, human trafficking and piracy.

Lagos Fashion Week



Models pose for a photograph while in the backstage during the Lagos Fashion Week in Lagos yesterday.

CAR mulls 'foreign agent' bill

The Central African government is preparing a "foreign agent" bill criticised by rights groups, media and civil society, several sources told AFP, with some comparing it to repressive legislation from Bangui-allied Russia. In Russia, which has close ties to the Central African Republic (CAR), the "foreign agent" tag has been widely used to crack down on critics of the Kremlin since the law was passed in 2012. The controversial law has inspired similar legislation in countries such as Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua

and Hungary — and now the CAR. Lawmakers on Friday were due to vote on the bill but a parliamentary commission returned it to the CAR government, citing a need "for additional information". A petition demanding the withdrawal of the "liberticidal" text was signed by 44 local rights organisations. That petition was submitted on Thursday to parliament, Network of Civil Society Organisations for Governance and Development Administrator, Moise Adoumbaye, told AFP.

DR Congo opposition warns against constitution change

One of the main political opponents of Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi, Martin Fayulu, vowed yesterday to resist the incumbent's possible plans to alter the country's constitution. A leading opposition figure in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Fayulu criticised plans announced by Tshisekedi on Wednesday to set up a commission next year tasked with examining the constitution. The taskforce would be "responsible for developing a constitution adapted to our Congolese realities and which will no longer hamper the functioning of the country", the president said. "Felix Tshisekedi is playing with fire like an ignorant child," Fayulu said yesterday in reaction to the move. "I will be in front and with the Congolese people, I will block his path" in the event of a change in the constitution, he added.

"There will be no revision or change in the constitution before the 2028 elections, it is inopportune." — AFP



مجوهرات الفردان
Alfardan Jewellery
70th ANNIVERSARY
عالم



أسجد
ASJAD



الحزم
ALHAZM

Azar

TIMELESS ELEGANCE AND GLOBAL CRAFTSMANSHIP SINCE 1948

Founded in 1948, Azar Gems is a global family business that was built on the principles of integrity, unmatched quality, and a worldly style that is imbued in timeless beauty.

Azar began as a diamond wholesale and trading company based in Beirut, Lebanon and later expanded to Los Angeles and Antwerp, Belgium. As the company grew, the Azar brothers, Joseph, Nabil and Elie began to explore new opportunities in the design and manufacturing of jewelry.

Values from their diamond wholesale background along with avant-garde thinking created a jewelry business renown for its experienced goldsmiths and unique designs. Their pieces are handmade in 18k gold, diamonds and colored stones, and are identifiable by their immaculate settings.

Every year, Azar debuts new collections including a myriad of modern and traditional jewelry that pleases the most discerning eye, from members of Middle Eastern royal families to the Sports industry and Hollywood.

Recently the second generation Azars have joined the family business and are introducing designs with an edgy and contemporary flair. The Azar collections can be viewed online, at any of the three boutiques in Lebanon, at their private showroom in Dubai, and yearly in jewelry exhibitions throughout the Gulf countries, the United States and Far East Asia.





IIS triumphs in CBSE taekwondo tourney

Ideal Indian School (IIS) team emerged as champions in the CBSE National Taekwondo Championship in Uttarakhand, India.

The IIS team won the overall championship in the boys' category, by topping the Under-14 boys' and Under-17 boys' categories and as second runner-up in Under-19 boys' section.

In the Under-19 category, Ammar Obaid Qazi won a silver medal and was awarded the title of Best Player in the Foreign Zone, while Yedhu Krishna earned a bronze. In the Under-17 category, Ahmed Hayan and Mithraj Vinod won a bronze medal each. Mohammed Hassan secured a silver medal in the Under-14 category, making him the first and youngest-ever silver medallist in the Under-14 category from the Foreign Zone, representing the Junior section of IIS. The team was led by captain Ammar Obaid Qazi and vice-captain Yedhu Krishna and trained by the school's taekwondo coach Amazad Khan, with management by Satender Singh Panwar and Ajanaya. Principal Shaikh Shamim Saheb and the heads of sections commended the Physical Education Department for training the team.



IIS alumna bags gold medal

Ideal Indian School (IIS) alumna Sahar Abdul Gafoor has achieved first rank and gold medal at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Delhi, India, by securing the highest marks ever in Clinical Psychology (96%) for her post graduation.

Daughter of Abdul Gafoor and Sunitha Hameed from Koudungallur, Kerala, Sahar topped



the Gulf region and all of India with 100% marks in Psychology in the CBSE Senior Secondary Examination, and won an award from the Council of CBSE Affiliated Schools in the Gulf.

Later, she graduated with high distinction in Psychology from Maharaja's Women's College, Thiruvananthapuram, and also completed training at Oolampara Government Mental Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. The IIS management, principal, teachers, and students have congratulated Sahar. Her next goal is to pursue a Psy.D. Doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

BPS students shine in badminton tourney



Birla Public School, Doha, Qatar Primary 2 campus, celebrated the outstanding sports achievement of two students of Grade IV Q. Sugandh Sundarapandiyan won the first position in Under-11 boys' doubles category at the Indian Sports Centre India Open Cup Badminton Tournament.

Pranaya Rajesh won the bronze in the girls' single Under-11 category.



DPS-MIS welcomes Indian academics for NEP discussion

DPS-Modern Indian School welcomed Savitribai Phule Pune University vice-chancellor Prof Dr Suresh Gosavi and former vice-chancellor and National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation steering committee chairman Prof Dr Nitin R Karmalkar for a session on NEP 2020. In her welcome address, principal Asna Nafees highlighted key practices adopted in line with NEP 2020, such as the introduction of a bagless school initiative, and holistic report cards. Prof Dr Gosavi shared an overview of the university's rich legacy and achievements, while commending MIE-SPPU Qatar for its contributions to education and research.

The interaction provided insights into NEP 2020's key components, including interdisciplinary learning, flexible subject selection, credit system, and skill-based education. Prof Dr Karmalkar addressed questions on the framework's impact on higher education pathways and alignment with industrial demands, leaving participants with a deeper understanding of the policy's transformative potential in shaping the future of education.

On the occasion, the school planted two saplings with the name of the mothers of the special guests.



DPS-MIS organises breast cancer awareness workshop

DPS-Modern Indian School organised an awareness workshop titled 'Pink Power: Educate, Detect, Protect Against Breast Cancer' for its female teachers. The session, led by Dr Ashraf Awad, consultant medical oncologist, National Centre for Cancer Care and Research, Hamad Medical Corporation, aimed to educate the participants on breast cancer prevention, early detection and care. The workshop covered vital topics, including cancer causes, symptoms, screening methods, and the significance of lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise in reducing cancer risks. Dr Awad emphasised the importance of regular screenings for women aged 45-69 and provided insights into Qatar's National Breast Screening Programme, underscoring the life-saving potential of early detection.

31 Filipinos recognised as Asean engineers at Doha ceremony

The Asean Federation of Engineering Organisations (Afeo) recently conferred 31 Filipino engineers from diverse disciplines as Asean engineers.

The conferment in Doha, organised by the Philippine Technological Council (PTC) - Middle East North Africa Qatar Affairs, was a highlight of the 6th IECEP GCC Convention and 1st Leaders' Summit, with distinguished guests in attendance.

The speakers included Simon Yeong Chin Chow of IEM-Malaysia and head commissioner of the Asean Engineers Registry; Gerhard Tan, Professional Regulatory Commission - Professional Regulatory Board for Electronics Engineering, who officiated the oath of membership; and Romulo Agatep, country registrar for PTC - Manila, who also led the charging of the new inductees with their duties as advanced level engineers.

In her speech at the event, Philippine ambassador Lilibeth V Pono said: "Engineers are not just there to help build things but doing the work which is vital in transforming lives, not just of individuals, but of communities and of nation".

Roy L Baquiran, presidential deputy adviser for PTC - Mena Qatar Affairs, led the conferment ceremony. The newly conferred Asean engineers include three



civil engineers, 13 electronics engineers, 11 mechanical engineers and one chemical engineer.

They met the stringent qualifications for the Asean Engineers Registry, which requires a minimum of seven years of post-graduate professional experience and two years of significant engineer-

ing works. Becoming part of this prestigious registry not only acknowledges their achievements but also promotes the recognition of Asean Engineers globally, encouraging professional mobility across Asean countries.

Afeo, a non-governmental organisation, aims to foster goodwill and mutual understanding among

Asean engineers, while establishing a standard for the profession that enhances opportunities for regional collaboration and mobility. The event served as both a recognition of individual accomplishments and a testament to the growing role of Filipino engineers in the global engineering community.



MPPAQ holds Onam celebrations



Moodadi Panchayat Pravasi Association Qatar (MPPAQ) celebrated Onam with an event titled 'Members Meet with Onasadhya 2024'. The celebrations began with the traditional floral carpet and the welcoming of the mythical king Mahabali. Spot dubbing by Ismail Nandi and a musical programme organised by the members, added to the festive atmosphere. Following a sumptuous Onam lunch, the meeting was held. President Ismail N K presided and general secretary Shaji Peeves welcomed the gathering. The meeting was inaugurated by digital creator Najeeb Moodadi. MPPAQ chief patron Ashraf K P also spoke at the event. Shihab Babu, Siraj Paloor and the programme sponsor Khalid M P also addressed the gathering. Programme committee chairman Shanahas Edodi proposed a vote of thanks. Anju Nishin was the master of ceremonies.

QU students achieve prestigious UK certification

The College of Business and Economics (CBE) at Qatar University (QU) has announced that 28 of its students have obtained the esteemed Level 5 Certificate in Management and Leadership from the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) in the UK.

The achievement positions QU as one of the pioneering institutions in Qatar and among the first in the Middle East to have students receive this globally recognised certification.

The CMI certification, represents a significant milestone for the students, providing them with advanced skills in strategic decision-making and efficient team leadership.

These capabilities not only enhance their professional competencies but also substantially improve their career prospects in the increasingly competitive



job market. CBE dean Prof Rana Sobh said the CMI certification opens greater opportunities for the students to compete in the global job market and strength-

ens their ability to lead teams and make strategic decisions.

Dr Ibrahim al-Nawas, head of the Management and Marketing Department at QU, said:

"The process of obtaining this accreditation took more than a year of hard work, reflecting the dedication of the entire team. Additionally, the students'

achievement of these certificates required significant efforts from the Management Department team, including Dr Omar Ababneh, Dr Sara al-Mari, Dr Hameed

Jalad, and Amna al-Muhanndi. Their contributions were crucial in guiding and supporting the students throughout this journey."

Qatar Incas Pathanamthitta elects new officials



Qatar Incas Pathanamthitta elected new office-bearers for 2024-2026. President Ronsy Mathai presided at the meeting. General secretary Siby Abraham presented the annual report and Abey Varghese presented the annual accounts. The new officials are Jiji John (patron), Sunny Samuel (advisory board chairman), Ronsy Mathai (president), Jetty George (general secretary), Joji Thomas Moolayil (treasurer), Philip Kuruvilla (senior vice-president). District Youth Wing office-bearers: Vibin K Baby (president), Lijo Thomas (secretary), Liju Chacko (treasurer). Ladies Wing: Sheela Sunny (president), Asha Jetty (vice-president), Athira Jubin (secretary), Sheeba John (treasurer) and Anuja Robin (programme co-ordinator).

Session on public speaking organised



Doha Malayalam Toastmasters Club held a session titled 'Master Your Public Speaking'. The event featured an educational module, 'Rules of the Game' by world champion speaker Nisha Shivram, who shared tips on using voice and body language to enhance public speaking. Club president Mohammad Ajmal, Mohammed Fausi, Ahammad Gulshad, Shalini Lal and Hashim led the event.



Breast cancer awareness meeting held



Aurora Toastmasters women's club, a distinguished club under District 116, Division G, held its 187th meeting, on the theme 'Together in Pink for a Brighter Tomorrow'. President Prameetha, Ruby Paul, Ritu Maheshwari, Kamakshi, Toyin, Dharini, Suchita, Ruby, Praveena, Susmita, Sahitya, Pradnya, Vinita, Poornima Dhulipala, Muna, Poornima Raj and Keerthi attended.

Expat group celebrates Pink October



Saree Sakhis, a community of saree enthusiasts, celebrated Pink October to spread awareness about breast cancer and the importance of early detection. Wearing shades of pink, the team members embarked on a bus tour of Doha for the cause, Priya Bhedi explained in a statement.

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The biodiversity crisis is a security crisis

Global long-term prosperity and the well-being of future generations are in jeopardy, as biodiversity loss and the collapse of critical ecosystems not only threaten the environment, but also raise risks for the economy, public health, national security, and world stability. At the 2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference, currently taking place in Cali, Colombia, leaders must finally meet this crisis with the level of political commitment and funding that it warrants.

Biodiversity is often understood in terms of the variety of life on Earth – the number of species of plants, animals, and microorganisms. Its significance cannot be overstated. Biodiversity underpins the ecosystem services that sustain human life, such as water purification, flood control, and climate regulation. The rapid decline of species and ecosystems – 1mm plant and animal species are on the brink of extinction – thus amounts to an existential threat.

If left unaddressed, biodiversity loss will accelerate climate change and amplify its consequences, contributing to more natural disasters and market shocks. It will also leave the agricultural systems increasingly vulnerable to hazards – from pests and pathogens to extreme weather – and deplete the ocean of critical fish stocks. This will affect both the price and availability of food, causing scarcity in the Global South and compounding insecurity in already-fragile societies. These trends will leave a growing number of people with little choice but to flee their homes in search of better living conditions.

As the planet's total habitable area shrinks, and competition for resources grows, conflict will become all but inevitable. Biodiversity loss also threatens public health, which is inextricably linked to the ecosystems that surround us. Many diseases can be tied directly to changes in biodiversity. As the destruction of habitats forces wildlife into closer contact with human populations, the risk of zoonotic diseases like Covid-19 rises.

To prevent such a future, all countries must recognise biodiversity loss as a security issue. This means integrating biodiversity considerations into defence and foreign policymaking. And it means financing the response – including investments in practices that protect ecosystems, and ambitious measures to address the root causes of biodiversity loss, such as habitat destruction and climate change – as robustly as they would for any other security crisis.

The consequences of biodiversity loss know no borders. Countries must work together to protect critical habitats, enforce environmental regulations, and promote sustainable development practices. As such, multilateral groups, such as the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, should continue to take the lead in forging international agreements and action plans that establish biodiversity conservation as a cornerstone of global security. Policymakers must continue to focus on working to meet the biodiversity framework's "30x30" target, by encouraging and facilitating government action to protect 30% of the planet's land and ocean by 2030. Furthermore, members from the Global North should increase financial support for countries in the Global South to implement necessary designations, specifically by meeting their commitment to deliver at least \$20bn of nature finance annually by 2025.

Finally, governments must engage and inform the public. Education and awareness campaigns that explain the importance of protecting biodiversity can empower individuals and communities to advocate for policies that protect natural resources, thereby helping to generate the necessary political will.

If an enemy state threatened the economy, public health, national security, and global stability, we would throw everything we had at it to defend ourselves. The biodiversity crisis is no different. - Project Syndicate

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Working-class antiheroes

By Ngaire Woods
Oxford

In both the United Kingdom and the US, political parties on the left and the right are competing to show voters that they are on the side of working people. The question is whether prevailing approaches to protecting workers – which focus on a combination of industrial policy and restrictions on trade, investment, and immigration – are actually in workers' interest. Protecting workers has become practically synonymous with protectionism. In recent years, voters in many countries, concerned about their economic well-being, have turned against free trade, immigration, and inward foreign direct investment – and have rejected the leaders and parties who long promoted such policies.

Europe is a case in point. After the 2007-08 global financial crisis plunged even middle-class households into economic insecurity, voters began to look beyond mainstream political parties in search of greater support and protection, and were often attracted by those blaming immigration for their struggles. The Covid-19 pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis that followed, reinforced this trend, and recent elections in Austria, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands saw surging support for anti-immigration parties.

In the US, new political parties did not emerge, but a new kind of leader did. Donald Trump won the US presidency in 2016 partly by blaming free trade (particularly with China) for decimating jobs and investment in America's Rust Belt. While criticising free markets and capitalism used to be the preserve of the left, even The American Conservative now runs articles pillorying trade, immigration, and the free movement of capital for the ravages of deindustrialisation.

One answer to such "carnage" is tariffs, which Trump eagerly introduced while in office. But Joe Biden – who defeated Trump in the 2020 election – maintained and even built upon those tariffs. Earlier this year, Biden imposed a 100% tariff on Chinese-made electric cars – a very high rate, though it affects a very small percentage of US imports from China. Trump promises that, if re-elected, he will implement 60-100% tariffs on all Chinese imports.

The protectionist message is clearly one that workers want to hear. But tariffs are unlikely to work. For starters, they lead to retaliation



and distrust among trading partners, as we saw in 2018, when Trump imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium from Canada, Europe, and Mexico. They thus reduce a country's access to overseas markets, while driving up prices. Because they disrupt supply chains providing vital components for domestic manufacturing, they might also lead to employment losses.

Those losses would not be offset by the "reshored" jobs the protectionists promise, as previously offshored (low-wage) jobs are increasingly filled by machines, not workers. This is already happening in China, where "smart manufacturing" is carried out in "dark factories" run entirely by robots. Protecting manufacturing jobs is thus no more a solution to China's high youth unemployment rates than reshoring such jobs is a realistic means of revitalizing the Rust Belt.

But, as US president Franklin D Roosevelt's administration showed in the 1930s, there is a better way to protect workers: domestic labour legislation that supports unionisation. Beyond ensuring a decent standard of living for workers, such legislation in the US and the UK gave greater political voice to working people, enabling them to rise through the labour movement into politics.

That changed when traditional labour parties came to be dominated by urban liberal professionals, rather than representatives of the working

class. For example, the proportion of working-class members of Parliament representing the UK's Labour Party plummeted from nearly 30% in 1987 to only 10% in 2010.

Fortunately, policymakers in the UK and the US increasingly seem to recognise the role of domestic labour legislation in protecting workers. In the UK, the new Labour government has put forward an Employment Rights Bill, which would extend workers' rights in areas like sick pay, flexible schedules, and protection against unfair dismissal. The bill paves the way for reviving trade unions, removing restrictions on workers' right to strike, addressing the gender pay gap, and strengthening protections against sexual harassment in the workplace. Predictably, employer reactions have been mixed, and the government will now engage in extensive consultations as it works to turn the bill into legislation.

In the US, the Biden administration sought to include incentives for supporting unionisation in the Build Back Better Act, which aimed to create "millions of good-paying jobs." But industry lobbyists pressed the US Congress to eliminate the bill's proposed incentives for manufacturers to base their assembly plants in the US and to use unionised labour. Ultimately, the Act's passage came down to one vote – that of Democratic Senator Joe Manchin, who insisted that the support for unionised labour be removed.

Trade policy can also be used to protect labour – if we look beyond tariffs. The US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which the Trump administration negotiated as a successor to NAFTA in 2018, has the strongest and farthest-reaching labour provisions of any US free-trade agreement. Beyond placing labour obligations at the core of the agreement, and making them fully enforceable, the USMCA provides that countries can help workers adapt through domestic programs, such as the US Trade Adjustment Assistance programmes that have been helping workers transition away from jobs lost to import competition since 1962. The USMCA proves that worker protections are compatible with international competitiveness.

Political support for protectionist trade policies is easy to explain. A growing share of working people in industrialised democracies feel – and, in fact, are – less represented and less protected than previous generations, and both Chinese factories and immigrant workers are easy targets. So, when politicians acknowledge these voters' frustration and promise to improve their lives with tariffs and immigration controls, they are easily convinced. Ultimately, however, this approach will do little for workers – or for the political leaders who embrace it. – Project Syndicate

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A new paradigm for standing forests

By Ajay Banga, Fernando Haddad, and Marina Silva
Washington, DC/Cali, Colombia

With this year's global summits on biodiversity (COP16), climate change (COP29), and desertification (COP16) fast approaching, the consequences of the climate emergency are evident everywhere. Floods have ravaged Central Europe, super-typhoon Yagi has just struck Southeast Asia, and Hurricanes Helene and Milton have wreaked havoc in the southeastern US. Hotter, drier conditions have created ideal conditions for wildfires like those that have raged across Brazil, South Africa, and Colombia, while droughts have pushed people into food insecurity this year in Africa.

If the scale and speed of our response to climate change are inadequate to the threat, this new normal will get only worse, jeopardising hard-won development gains in low- and middle-income countries. In addition to curbing emissions from burning fossil fuels, one of the biggest priorities must be to protect and conserve the world's remaining tropical forests.

Tropical forests store significant amounts of carbon, and their demise would result in a massive IC increase in global average temperatures, not to mention the loss of untold biodiversity and the depletion of ecosystem services such as atmospheric rivers that supply water to food crops around the world. Scientists warn that the degradation of several of these forests is approaching a tipping point where the remaining forest will be unable to sustain itself or recover.

Individuals, countries, and NGOs are stepping up to protect and preserve the world's forests from devastation. But we will need a combination of economic and environmental solutions to address the complex, rapidly changing factors driving illegal deforestation. Fortunately, such solutions



are at hand. In Brazil, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration has already significantly curbed deforestation. Between August 2023 and July 2024, tropical forest loss in the Brazilian Amazon was cut by 46%, compared to the previous 12 months. And at the global level, Brazil, which holds the G20 presidency this year, has emphasised nature-based solutions to climate challenges as part of its agenda, paving the way for further progress at COP30 in Belém in 2025.

For its part, the World Bank Group is supporting similar public and private efforts across developing economies. The goal is to design strong policies, build credible institutions, and mobilise investments in the infrastructure that is needed to conserve and manage forests sustainably. Making forest finance more widely available and more affordable is key.

The World Bank Group is also working to turn the vast potential of carbon markets into an income stream for developing countries that are committed to reducing emissions and conserving their forests. Already, 15 countries are benefiting from a pipeline that could produce more than 24mm carbon credits by the end of 2024 – a win for both the climate and development.

beyond purely public-sector tools. Crucially, it would allow private investors to support a global public good by quantifying and verifying the underlying asset on terms aligned with their business models. This is the kind of bold, innovative solution that we need if we want to make a real difference in the fight against climate change. One of the biggest advantages of the TFFF is that it is not expected to depend on scarce donor grants and recurrent replenishments. Instead, it would require a one-time, fully repayable investment from potential sponsors, who therefore would be presented with a conceptually novel development-aid model.

Those designing the TFFF are also studying how to simplify disbursement models (without any loss of rigour) through digital monitoring, reporting, and verification systems, and how to disburse enough annually to tip the scales away from deforestation. Finally, another important question that is coming into focus is how to improve access to such mechanisms for indigenous peoples, local communities, and other forest owners and stewards. The countries working on the TFFF intend to address these issues by COP30.

Forests are vital not just for the carbon they store, but also for their role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting environmental health, and promoting economic growth and human development. The period between COP16 in Cali and next year's COP30 in Brazil could be the perfect time to launch the TFFF and set the stage for a new era in forest-conservation finance. We must start properly rewarding countries that have controlled deforestation and redouble our efforts to conserve existing forests for future generations. – Project Syndicate

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The Bazaar, which opened on October 24 and runs until November 12 at Souq Waqif, offers shoppers an array of food and non food items. **PICTURES:** Joey Aguilar



The Bazaar at Souq Waqif a big hit with shoppers

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Bazaar, a new shopping event in Souq Waqif's Eastern Square, has drawn huge crowds since its opening on Thursday, with hundreds of vendors offering a diverse range of goods from Qatar and beyond.

Around 200 shops representing over 170 companies from 24 countries, including Qatar, other Gulf countries and those from other regions, are showcasing a vast array of products. Organisers noted an overwhelmingly positive response on opening day, with a massive turnout of both residents and visitors from neighbouring countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

The event, which runs until November 12, showcases a diverse range of products, creating a vibrant and bustling atmosphere in the popular destination.

According to the organisers, The Bazaar's appeal lies in its curated selection of items, providing a one-stop-shop for a variety of needs.

Foodies can indulge in a range of culinary delights, from traditional dates and nuts to international delicacies.

Shoppers can browse through an extensive selection of apparel, shoes, accessories, jewelry, and perfumes.

Home decor enthusiasts will find unique pieces, particularly the Turkish-made items proving popular.

Other highlights include an array of kitchenware, children's toys, and souvenirs, making it an ideal destination for families and tourists seeking exceptional mementos of their visit.

"This is the first time we've organised this one-of-its-kind event," an organiser told *Gulf Times*, expressing confidence that The Bazaar will become an annual event, given its initial success. "We aim to present a diverse range of popular offerings at reasonable prices, and the response has been incredible. People really love it."

He noted that the strategic location within Souq Waqif itself has undoubtedly contributed to The Bazaar's popularity.

The iconic marketplace, a major tourist attraction, provides a captivating setting, enhanced by the pleasant October weather.

The surrounding area also gives visitors a wealth of dining options, with numerous local and international restaurants providing a rich culinary experience.

The Bazaar operates under extended hours to accommodate the large number of visitors: from 10am-10pm between Saturday and Wednesday, from 10am-11pm on Thursday, and from 2pm-11pm on Friday. Entry is free.

Participating companies have expressed satisfaction with the event, highlighting its ability to reach both local residents and tourists.

The Bazaar's success marks a significant boost to Souq Waqif's already vibrant atmosphere and promises to be a highlight of Doha's autumn events calendar.

