



Insure your visitors
in 2 mins



Visit

qic.online

QIC

*Regulated by QCB

GULF TIMES



MONDAY Vol. XXXXV No. 13177

October 28, 2024
Rabia II 25, 1446 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

Published in
QATAR
since 1978



Introducing our new
Unlimited+ plans

UNLIMITED+
PLANS



HABARI REAL ESTATE Ready To Occupy Camps
Available @ Umm Birka & Industrial Area, Al Khor

CR No: 174849

+974 3030 0880 | +974 3341 9475

P. O. Box: 60861, 1s. Floor, Building #11, Street 852, Zone 74, Al Khor, Qatar.

Family فاميليا
Welcoming the winter
الشتاء مرحبا بقدوم
600+ Products on Offer

Promotion period: 23/10/2024 - 16/11/2024

Aim for the Top

Advertise with us
Call: 444 11 300

TAP to school with
talabat up to 60% off

Amwaj
BOTTLED DRINKING WATER

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

Available in
1500ml | 500ml | 330ml | 200ml

CALL NOW!
7794 9987 | 7061 5604
+974 30454443

Egypt proposes initial two-day Gaza ceasefire

AFP/Reuters
Cairo

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has proposed an initial two-day ceasefire in Gaza and limited hostage and prisoner exchange aimed at securing "a complete ceasefire".

The proposal includes exchanging four Israeli hostages held in Gaza for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, and would be followed by more negotiations within 10 days, Sisi said at a news conference in Cairo.

He did not say whether the plan had been formally presented to either Israel or Hamas.

Egypt, alongside Qatar and the United States, has for months been mediating indirect talks with little success.

Israeli spy chief David Barnea was due in Qatar yesterday for talks aimed at restarting negotiations towards a hostage deal.

There was no immediate comment from Israel or Hamas but a Palestinian official close to the mediation effort told Reuters: "I expect Hamas would listen to the new offers, but it remains determined that any agreement must end the war and get Israeli forces out of Gaza."

Israel has said the war cannot end until Hamas has been wiped out as a military force and governing entity in Gaza.

Families of the hostages have

The proposal includes exchanging four Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners, and would be followed by more negotiations within 10 days

called on the Israeli government to broker an agreement in the wake of the killing of Hamas' leader Yahya Sinwar earlier this month.

Earlier yesterday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said "painful concessions" would be needed in negotiations and that military action alone would not achieve the country's war aims.

Out of 251 hostages, 97 are still held in Gaza including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

Speaking in Cairo, Sisi warned of famine and said it was "very important that aid enters as soon as possible".

At least 42,924 Palestinians, a majority of them civilians, have been killed in the Israeli offensive on Gaza, according to figures from the Hamas-ruled territory's health ministry.

Hezbollah fires rockets at north Israel

Hezbollah said it fired rockets at northern Israel yesterday, a day after it declared several areas in the region a "legitimate target" due to the presence of Israeli troops. The Iran-backed Lebanese group, at war with Israel since last month, said it targeted a "military industries base north of Haifa... with a large rocket salvo". Since late September Hezbollah

has announced similar strikes against defence industry facilities and military bases near Haifa, a major northern Israeli city. The group also claimed rocket fire on Nahariya and drone strikes near Acre, both of which are north of Haifa. Hezbollah issued an evacuation warning for more than 20 areas in northern Israel on Saturday.

Amir, deputy ruler of Abu Dhabi review relations



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at his office in Lusail Palace, with Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and National Security Adviser of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed al-Nahyan, along with his accompanying delegation.

At the outset of the meeting, Sheikh Tahnoon conveyed the greetings and best wishes of President of the UAE Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Vice-President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum to His Highness the Amir, and their wishes for the Amir's good health and happiness

and for the Qatari people further development and prosperity.

In response, His Highness the Amir entrusted Sheikh Tahnoon with his greetings to the president, and the vice-president, prime minister, and ruler of Dubai, wishing them good health and well-being and the people of the UAE continued progress and prosperity.

The meeting discussed enhancing the strong fraternal relations between Qatar and the UAE, in addition to a host of topics of mutual interest. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani attended the meeting. (QNA)

Iran president vows response to 'strikes'

President Masoud Pezeshkian said yesterday that Iran did not seek war with Israel but was ready to deliver "an appropriate response" to strikes this week on Iranian military sites. "We do not seek war but we will defend the rights of our nation and country," Pezeshkian told a cabinet meeting, adding: "We will give an appropriate response to the aggression of the Zionist regime."

Ruling coalition loses majority in Japan

Japan's ruling coalition lost its parliamentary majority in a drubbing at yesterday's national election, raising uncertainty over the make-up of the next government and the outlook for the world's fourth-largest economy. With all but 20 of the 465 seats accounted for, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has ruled Japan for almost all of its post-war history, and junior coalition partner Komeito took 209 seats in the lower house of parliament. Page 11

Trump, Harris woo voters

Donald Trump supporters lined up for his rally yesterday at a famous New York arena while Kamala Harris went neighbourhood to neighbourhood in Philadelphia, just over a week before America votes in an extraordinarily close White House race. Trump's gathering at the nearly 20,000-seat Madison Square Garden drew a blitz of coverage in the Republican's home city - a Democratic stronghold. Both candidates are making closing pitches in one of America's most divisive and suspense-filled electoral fights. Page 11

Calls for probe into Georgian elections

The Georgian opposition yesterday called for protests and the European Union demanded an investigation into "irregularities" after a disputed legislative vote that showed a win for the ruling party accused of moving towards Russia's orbit. Pro-Western President Salome Zurbishvili accused Moscow of being behind the election fraud, calling it a "Russian special operation". Amid angry opposition claims over the result, Zurbishvili called for a rally on Monday. Jailed former president Mikheil Saakashvili also called for mass protests.

Israeli strikes kill 45 across Gaza; civilians' plight unbearable: UN

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli military strikes killed at least 45 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip yesterday, most of them in the north of the enclave, Palestinian health officials said, as efforts to secure a ceasefire in the more than year-long war resumed in Qatar.

The directors of the CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence agency will meet with Qatar's prime minister in Doha, an official briefed on the talks told Reuters.

The death toll from Israel's campaign in Gaza is approaching 43,000, Gaza health officials say, with the densely populated enclave in ruins.

At least 43 of those killed yesterday were in northern Gaza, where Israeli troops have re-



Displaced Palestinian light a fire at their tent as they live at a cemetery, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

turned to 'root out' Palestinian resistance (Hamas) fighters who it says have regrouped there.

The United Nations said the plight of Palestinian civilians

in northern Gaza was "unbearable" and the conflict was being "waged with little regard for the requirements of international humanitarian law".

Qatar Tourism Awards 2024 winners revealed

● Hussain Alfardan gets Lifetime Achievement in Tourism award



A group picture of the winners with QT officials and guests.

Qatar Tourism (QT) revealed the winners of the Qatar Tourism Awards 2024 yesterday, at an event dedicated to honouring the organisations and individuals elevating the country as a premier global destination.

The winners of the second edi-

tion of the awards were announced at a ceremony at the Raffles Doha Ballroom, attended by QT and Visit Qatar chairman HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, UN Tourism executive director Natalia Bayona, and regional director (Middle East) Basma al-Mayman.

Developed in partnership with the World Tourism Organisation (UN Tourism), the QT Awards are designed to encourage all industry actors who directly, or indirectly, deliver experiences to Qatar's visitors to emulate exceptional initiatives characterised by uniqueness, sus-

tainability, accessibility, and high-quality service, a statement said.

In his opening remarks, HE al-Kharji said over 1,200 applicants were evaluated, "reflecting the growing interest from the public to participate in such prestigious awards".

"Qatar Tourism is committed toward a clear strategy aimed at making Qatar one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the region, with service excellence at the heart of our priorities," he stated.

"Qatar Tourism Awards has become a benchmark of excellence, highlighting the best offerings, services, innovations, and achievements in the tourism sector," he said while encouraging all tourism professionals to apply for the next edition of the awards and showcased all the advantages including full access to the Winners Alumni Network.

This year, the QT Awards expanded from three to seven categories to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive representation of the visitor experience. The categories were: Service Excellence, Gastro-nomic Experiences, Iconic Attractions, World-Class Events, Digital Footprint, Smart and Sustainable Tourism, and Community Leadership. To Page 6

Amir greets governor-general of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Governor-General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Susan Dougan on the anniversary of her country's Independence 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 of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves on the occasion. (QNA)

Justice minister meets Saudi counterpart

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi met yesterday with the visiting Minister of Justice of Saudi Arabia Dr Walid bin Mohammed al-Samaani. The meeting addressed areas of legal and judicial co-operation between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and ways to enhance and develop it. (QNA)



Qatar, India convene for fifth round of political consultations



Qatar and India held the fifth round of political consultations in Doha yesterday. The Qatari delegation was led by HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi while the Indian delegation was headed by Under-Secretary for Consular Affairs, Passports, Visas, and Overseas Indian Affairs at India's Ministry of External Affairs, Arun Kumar Chatterjee. The consultations addressed avenues for deepening co-operation across various sectors, in addition to reviewing regional and international issues of mutual concern. (QNA)



Super League Kerala set to transform state's football culture



The launch of the Super League Kerala (SLK) and the formation of six professional football clubs, including the Kannur Warriors, marks a significant moment for football in Kerala. This initiative is set to revive Kerala's stadiums and reestablish the state as a formidable presence in Indian football.

The professional clubs aim to bring a fresh direction to Kerala's football culture, generating excitement for players, fans, and the sport itself. SLK, Kerala's first professional football league, goes beyond just hosting competitions—it's heralded as a turning point for the future of football in the state.

Football holds a special place in the hearts of Malayalees, being more than just a sport; it is an emotion. Kerala is unique in that it has passionate fan bases for all the world's top teams. The state is brimming with untapped football talent, and SLK's mission is to identify and nurture this talent from an early age.

The Kannur Warriors, one of the flagship clubs, is leading this effort. With a squad of 25 players, including six international players and a foreign coach, the club is committed to revolutionizing Kerala's football landscape. Promising young talents who demonstrate exceptional skills will be offered professional contracts as early as age 11, along with expert training. These players will receive competitive compensations,

TEAM OWNERS



international training opportunities, and exposure to top-level matches.

In addition to technical training, the players will follow specialized fitness regimes and receive guidance for their overall intellectual development, helping them reach international standards. SLK will also serve as a stepping stone for young players aiming to break into the Indian Super League (ISL).

The league kicked off on September 7 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Cochin and will conclude with the final match on November 10. Matches have been played across various stadiums in Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram, drawing crowds of up to 400,000 spectators so far. The turnout is expected to grow even more as the competition reaches the semi-finals.

The champion team will be

awarded a grand prize of 10 million Indian rupees and a golden cup adorned with symbols of Kerala's cultural heritage. The runners-up will take home 5 million rupees and a silver cup.

The establishment of these professional clubs and the investments they bring are sparking significant development in Kerala's football infrastructure. In a statement, the Kannur Warriors' management expressed confidence that the club would become one of India's leading football teams, having learned from the financial and operational challenges faced by previous clubs.

The club's owners include prominent figures from the sports and film industries, with four key partners from Qatar. Popular Malayalam actor Asif Ali has also joined as a celebrity owner, further enhancing the club's appeal. The support from Kerala's expatriate community in Qatar, alongside the country's growing role in global football, is expected to help elevate Kerala into an international football hub.



Shura Council attends Arab Parliament meetings in Cairo

Palestinian rights discussed

The Shura Council yesterday participated in the first plenary meeting of the first session of the fourth legislative term of the Arab Parliament at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo.

The Council was represented in the meeting by Shaikha bint Yousef al-Jufairi, Issa bin Ahmed al-Nasr, Salem bin Rashid al-Muraikhi, and Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla, members of the Shura Council and members of the Arab Parliament.

The session discussed the overall developments and a number of Arab issues, in addition to the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories. It also reviewed the reports of the standing committees and a number of topics related to strengthening joint Arab action.

The session adopted a draft decision on the situation in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, which included the Arab Parliament's affirmation of the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with its capital in East Jerusalem, which is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

The resolution condemned the ongoing Israeli violations against the Palestinian people, including settlements, population displacement, land confiscation, and attacks on Islamic and Christian holy sites.

The Arab Parliament's decision stressed the need to provide continuous Arab support to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinians, especially in financial and political aspects, and to provide legal support to protect Palestinian rights in international organisations. It also called on the international community and the Security Council to take serious steps to stop Israeli violations and ensure the protection of the Palestinian people and their property, and to oblige Israel to implement relevant international legitimacy resolutions. The Shura Council delegation had earlier participated in the procedural session of the Arab Parliament, during which the president and vice presidents as well as heads of the permanent committees of the Arab Parliament were elected.

Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla was elected by acclamation as Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Political and National Security Committee of the Arab Parliament. Mohammed bin Ahmed al-Yamahi



was elected as President of the Arab Parliament.

On the other hand, Shaikha al-Jufairi participated in the committee that supervised the elections of the Parliament president and his deputies. Furthermore the Shura Council delegation participated in meetings of the permanent committees of the Arab Parliament.

In this context, Shaikha bint Yousef al-Jufairi participated in the meeting of the Social, Educational, Cultural, Women and Youth Affairs Committee, while Issa bin Ahmed al-Nasr participated in the meeting of the Legislative, Legal and Human Rights Affairs Committee, and Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla participated in the meeting of the Foreign Affairs, Political and National Security Committee of the Arab Parliament.

During their meetings, the permanent committees discussed an array of important topics.

The Social, Educational, Cultural, Women and Youth Affairs Committee addressed the promotion of social and cultural values in Arab countries, and touched on education and upbringing issues, and the development of policies that support women's and youth

rights, with a focus on empowering them socially and economically, and combating the challenges they face, such as unemployment and domestic violence.

The Economic and Financial Committee also raised the economic challenges facing Arab countries, such as inflation and unemployment rates, and the impact of global economic changes on member states, and discussed ways to enhance Arab economic cooperation and support joint investment initiatives to achieve sustainable development.

The Legislative, Legal and Human Rights Affairs Committee discussed human rights issues in the Arab world, and adopted a report on the most prominent proposed legislation to protect rights and freedoms, which included strengthening legal frameworks to combat cross-border crimes, protecting the rights of minorities and freedom of expression, and supporting reform legislation.

The Foreign, Political and National Security Affairs Committee also addressed the current political situation in the Arab region, with a focus on security issues, including foreign interventions and regional political crises, and called for strengthening Arab-international co-operation to enhance stability and Arab national security. (QNA)

CGB president launches first edition of 'Irtiqa' programme



President of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB) and Secretary-General of the National Planning Council, Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa yesterday launched the inaugural edition of the 'Irtiqa' programme.

A joint initiative between the National Planning Council and the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, the programme aims to enhance the skills of teams managing projects under Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (NDS3), in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The 'Irtiqa' programme welcomes 50 participants from ten government agencies involved in projects under NDS3. This first edition, set to continue through July, is structured to build es-

sential skills to support effective project implementation, ensuring projects contribute successfully to the nation's long-term development goals.

In his address, Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa emphasised that the programme reflects Qatar's commitment to developing human resource capabilities, equipping civil servants with international best practices, and fostering excellence in implementing national development plans.

He described 'Irtiqa' as an investment in human capital, focused on empowering government teams to execute their tasks with high efficiency, consistent with NDS3 objectives.

The 'Irtiqa' programme includes a comprehensive array of applied training modules and intensive

skill-building sessions tailored to the practical needs of participants, enabling them to make direct contributions to their respective projects. The programme also integrates cutting-edge technologies, including virtual reality and generative artificial intelligence, offering an innovative educational experience that enhances learning outcomes and enriches the project development process.

As a transformative initiative, the 'Irtiqa' programme is designed to cultivate a proactive, adaptable civil service dedicated to achieving the national goals outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030. By equipping government representatives with the tools needed for effective project management, the programme plays a crucial role in driving national development forward. (QNA)

Over 2,000 to participate in first Mena edition of World Summit AI in Doha

The Middle East and North African (Mena) edition of World Summit AI, scheduled to take place in Doha on Dec 10-11, will attract over 2,000 participants gathering under the theme "Putting Humanity at the Heart of AI."

This event is the first global summit on artificial intelligence (AI) in the region, organised by Inspired-Minds in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). It will convene at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC), bringing together a select group of experts and decision-makers to explore the latest advancements in AI. The summit is expected to unveil the new National AI Strategy 2024. It will highlight key topics such as human-AI interaction, AI-driven innovation, and responsible AI governance.

Participants at the summit aim to produce outcomes that enhance decision-making for the region's digital future. In addition to gaining insights into the latest AI developments, they will outline the future of AI in the region. The summit offers a unique opportunity for startups and digital companies of all sizes to connect with global industry leaders in AI, forge strategic partnerships, and contribute to shaping the

future of AI in the Middle East and North Africa.

The event will feature over 100 expert speakers in the field of artificial intelligence and cover 10 specialised tracks across four main stages, with a particular focus on Intelligent Health and the use of AI to save lives.

Since its inception in 2017, the World Summit AI has gained international recognition as the most influential gathering of AI experts and visionaries.

The summit in Doha will serve as a platform to discuss the future of AI, explore challenges, and uncover new opportunities, attracting global attention as the largest assembly of AI leaders and innovators worldwide.

It will focus on the strategic vision of Qatar and its leadership in AI within the region, while enhancing unique opportunities for startups, investors, and business partners.

The organisation of this summit in Doha aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030, recognising AI as a critical technological enabler across its four main pillars: economic, social, human, and environmental. AI supports the economic pillar's goal of developing a knowledge-based economy. (QNA)

Qatar Charity in pact to support orphans' education in Jordan



Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a partnership agreement with the Aman Fund for Orphans in Jordan (a charity established by Queen Rania), a statement said yesterday.

Under this agreement, the education of 18 students benefitting from the fund will be supported.

The signing took place in the presence of Qatar's ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Saud bin Nasser bin Jassim al-Thani, QC Jordan office general supervisor Saleh al-Marri, and Aman Fund's general director Noor al-Hammoud.

This collaboration is part of

QC's ongoing efforts in its social responsibility in Jordan, including providing educational opportunities for low-income students, especially orphans, empowering them to build a better future.

The beneficiaries are distributed across various areas of the capital, Amman, and northern Jordan, studying diverse fields such as business administration, physical and health education, management information systems, and radio and television, among others, at public and private universities.

Ambassador Sheikh Saud al-

Thani, said: "Our Qatari humanitarian institutions strive through their continuous support for charitable humanitarian work in Jordan to strengthen our mutual brotherly relations." Al-Marri said: "Qatar Charity seeks to enhance co-operation with trust-worthy and impactful Jordanian charitable organisations to unify efforts in serving humanitarian issues. Al-Hammoud, lauded the collaboration by stating that QC's contribution to support the Aman Fund represents a model of humanitarian and charitable work in Jordan.

Katara Astro Fair ends with awards ceremony



Cultural Village Foundation - Katara concluded successfully the Katara Astro Fair that was held from October 24 to 26, 2024 at Al Thuraya Planetarium.

Organised by Katara in collaboration with MAPS International, the fair featured hands-on projects, interactive exhibits, and live painting activities that added a creative touch to the event. Over three days, the Astro Fair brought together young science enthusiasts, space experts, and the wider

community to explore the wonders of science and the vital role of space technology in addressing global challenges.

Winners were recognised in various categories, receiving cash prizes as a testament to their creativity and dedication and Salman al-Nuaimi, director of the Follow-up and Co-ordination Unit at Katara, distributed the trophies to the winners.

The winners include Future Scientist Award for Most Innovative Concept for the project

Handmade Jet Engine Model by Birla Public School; Young Innovator Award for Creative Problem-Solving Idea jointly awarded to the project AI-Enabled Assistance by Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys and Robotic Hand by Ghalib Shajea and Nawaf Alammari; Outstanding Presentation and Design Award for the project Music from the Cosmos: The Melody of Space-Time by Noble International School; Most Popular Community Choice Award for the project Automated Gas Leakage Alert and Safety System by Birla Public School; Best Decorative/promising Award jointly awarded for the project GenRx; and Bringing Precision Medicine Home.

These awards recognised projects that demonstrated innovative thinking, impactful solutions, and exceptional presentation skills, encouraging the students to continue exploring and innovating within the realms of science and technology. (QNA)

QRCS project to assist families in northern Syria

In pursuit of food security and livelihood support for the most vulnerable families in northern Syria, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched a new development project to help enhance livestock breeding and to ensure self-dependence for widows with no breadwinners, by providing dairy cows/sheep, training, fodder, and veterinary services for three months.

Implemented in Aleppo and Idlib countryside in co-operation with the Binaa Organisation for Development, the project involves providing 50 families with 50 dairy cows (one cow per family), as well as distributing 500 heads of sheep to 100 families (five heads of sheep per family). This livestock will represent a permanent source of



income for the beneficiaries, as they will be able to produce and sell milk and dairy products, thus meeting the needs of the local market, while securing their own needs.

Also, the veterinary care services for cows and sheep will be secured

for three months, including vaccinations and treatment to ensure good health and better productivity for the livestock. The beneficiaries will receive technical support from veterinarians, who will make monthly visits to provide guidance and supervision. (QNA)

The View Hospital in a Qatar first for private healthcare sector

Qatar's first full-thickness corneal transplants performed



The View Hospital in affiliation with Cedars-Sinai has successfully performed the first full-thickness corneal graft transplant surgeries (penetrating keratoplasty) in Qatar's private healthcare sector, a statement said yesterday.

Performed by a highly skilled team from the Ophthalmology Department at The View Hospital, these complex procedures involved replacing the damaged cornea, offering patients suffering from corneal disorders a chance to regain their sight.

Corneal transplant surgery is a highly specialised and delicate procedure, that involves the full-thickness transplantation of the cornea to replace damaged tissue, allowing for the restoration of sight in patients with severe corneal conditions. These surgeries

were performed using state-of-the-art technology, further positioning The View Hospital as a leader in innovative medical care.

Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul, CEO of The View Hospital, said: "The successful corneal transplants reflect the skill and dedication of our medical team, marking a significant advancement in the range of specialised healthcare services now available in Qatar's private healthcare sector. Restoring vision for these patients has been incredibly rewarding,

and we look forward to continuing to offer life-changing treatments at The View Hospital."

This milestone is a testament to The View Hospital's commitment to providing cutting-edge care and advancing medical treatments in the field of ophthalmology. It solidifies the hospital's role as a pioneer in Qatar's private healthcare sector, as it consistently strives to enhance patient outcomes and ensure the best possible results for patients in Qatar and the region, the statement added.

QIB, Visa reveal summer campaign winners



Summer campaign winners.

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) and Visa have announced the winners of the Summer Campaign, which ran from July 1 to September 30, 2024.

The campaign offered QIB Visa cardholders the chance to win four BMW iX40 electric cars and cash prizes for 90 winners totalling QR900,000 during the campaign period. QIB awarded up to 20,000 loyalty points to new Visa credit cardholders for activating and spending on the card within the first 30 days of card issuance. In line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the bank's commitment to sustainability, QIB chose to award electric cars as grand prizes to encourage its customers to make sustainable choices that contribute to a better future by reducing the carbon emissions. Masoud Ibrahim al-Marri, Rashid Dakhilalla al-Nabet, Rashid al-Mansoori, and Ghanim Jaber al-Kubaisi were announced winners of the BMW electric iX40 cars. They were

welcomed at Al Sadd branch to collect their prizes. In addition to the grand prizes, 90 Visa cardholders received cash prizes of QR10,000 each upon their qualification for the draw by using their Visa Credit or Debit Card for a transaction worth QR500 or more during the campaign period. The draw process was conducted electronically and overseen by representatives from QIB and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. "We are pleased to once again partner with Visa to introduce this opportunity to win prestigious prizes, all while contributing to a more environmentally sustainable future," said D Anand, QIB's General Manager - Personal Banking Group. Shashank Singh, Visa's VP and general manager for Qatar and Kuwait, said its collaboration with QIB for this summer campaign underscores the commitment to delivering outstanding rewards and creating memorable experiences for Visa cardholders in Qatar.



التخفيضات الكبرى

BIG SALE

أكتوبر 1 - 31
OCTOBER



Don't miss out the wide range of Exclusive discounts and offers at Hyatt Plaza outlets



LC WAIKIKI



homes r us



ALDO
SHOES & ACCESSORIES



athlete's co.



NATURALIZER



Qatar Optics



MOMENTO
WATCHES



crō|nō



مجوهرات وساعات السليمان
Al-Sulaiman Jewellery & Watches



باري غاليري
Pina Gallery



Shop with
Confidence
16001



Gekko DiVino



تسبيق
16001
ثقفة

16001 2024/8357

Labour ministry holds awareness workshop on occupational safety



The Ministry of Labour, represented by the Occupational Safety and Health Department, organised an awareness workshop for workers from several private sector companies in the municipality of Al Sheehaniya.

The workshop aimed to inform participants about occupational safety and health guidelines applica-

ble to both work and living environments. As part of its ongoing commitment to worker protection, the ministry seeks to enhance awareness of occupational safety and encourage the adoption of effective practices to prevent risks and injuries during work and in accommodations. During the workshop, representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Department provided a comprehensive overview of the principles and requirements of occupational safety and health, as well as methods for preventing injuries and infectious diseases. They also introduced healthy behaviours and emphasised the importance of adhering to safety guidelines. (QNA)

First batch of fuel to supply Lebanese army arrives in Beirut

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has announced that the first batch of fuel to support the Lebanese army had arrived at the Port of Beirut.

The Qatari assistance aims at bolstering the capabilities of the Lebanese army in addressing the increasing security challenges, and supporting the continuity of its vital operations in light of the current economic conditions. QFFD provided similar support last year, supplying the Lebanese army with \$30mn worth of fuel for six months. (QNA)



Qatar wins chairmanship of Arab Parliament's foreign and political affairs committee



Hamad bin Abdullah al-Mulla, a member of the Shura Council, won by acclamation the chairmanship of the foreign and political affairs and national security committee of the Arab Parliament during the parliament's procedural session that was held on Saturday as part of its first session of the fourth legislative term at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo. (QNA)

QMC chairman meets Sudan's ambassador

HE Chairman of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met yesterday with Sudan's ambassador to Qatar Ahmed Abdel-Rahman Siwar al-Dahab. They discussed during the meeting media relations between the countries and ways to bolster and develop them. (QNA)



Call for leveraging Finnish experience in education

HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi urged the male and female teachers participating in the second cohort of the "Khebarat" programme for Qatari teachers who are being sent to Finland to benefit from the Finnish experience in education and to study the reasons behind its excellence and leadership, emphasising the importance of adopting best practices in preparation for localising them in a manner suitable for local context.



He also stressed the need to highlight the strengths of the nation's leading educational system, including values and ethics. He called on them to be ambassadors for their country in a way that befits its international reputation while reflecting its ideals and traditions. Furthermore, he encouraged them to be a qualitative addition to the education system upon their return.

This took place during his meeting with 14 male and female teachers, along with their parents and companions. The decision was made to send them to Finland from Oct 21-Nov 29. This visit aims to explore the Finnish education experience and participate in classroom immersion lessons in various learning environments with their peers in Finnish schools. This step follows the successful experience of the first cohort of the "Khebarat" programme, which enhances their professional growth.


The meeting, attended by senior officials from the ministry, aimed to introduce the teachers and their parents to one another and their companions in the programme. They were also prepared for their trip by providing the necessary procedures, guidelines, and instructions they needed to know before and during their stay in Finland. Topics discussed included the school environment, its systems and procedures, the educational community, weather conditions, living and housing conditions, transportation, and Finnish society's cultural and social context.

Their questions and inquiries were also addressed, contributing to facilitating their experience while in Finland. In his speech during the meeting, HE the undersecretary of the MoEHE thanked the teachers for joining the "Khebarat" programme and provided them with inspiring tips and guidance. He praised their commitment and eagerness to learn from leading global experiences, which will assist them in acquiring competencies and skills that can be applied in their work. He noted that they teach various subjects, including science, English, Arabic, business administration, mathematics, and information technology, across all educational stages. He also commended the partnership with the Ministry of Education in Finland for training Qatari teachers. He emphasised that the state has provided all the necessary inputs for the educational process, believing in the importance of investing in human capital, particularly in building national capacities in education. He explained that elevating the teaching profession, attracting distinguished Qatari individuals, and empowering them at all professional levels represent a strategic goal for the MoEHE. In turn, Director of the Training and Development Office at the MoEHE Iman al-Mahannadi voiced her happiness regarding completing the procedures for the second cohort of teachers being sent to Finland to exchange and transfer international expertise. The second cohort of the "Khebarat" programme includes new specialisations based on the impressive results achieved by the first cohort. These new specialisations, including Arabic language, business administration, and information technology, aim to broaden the programme's impact across different educational fields. The programme content covers educational planning, assessment, classroom management, individual differences, and teaching and learning strategies, as well as the integration of technology in education within Finnish schools. (QNA)

Top experts for Business and Human Rights Dialogue from today

The inaugural Business and Human Rights Dialogue in the Arab States region, organised by the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) in Qatar, will kick off today, with the attendance of around 200 participants from representatives of national human rights institutions, international experts, and academics, in addition to a number of online participants. The two-day inaugural dialogue includes


plenary sessions, expert panels, and focus group discussions on various dimensions of business and human rights, including corporate respect for women's rights, children's rights, labour rights, and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. Participants in the dialogue will exchange views on good practices and strategies for addressing regional business-related human rights challenges. (QNA)



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Subject	Tender Fee	Closing Date
1	AT/C/1146/24	Design, Supply, Delivery & Installation of Wellness & Recreation Center at Mina Hotel & Residences	QR.500/-	28.11.2024

- The tender documents are available for collection from the Finance Department (Tel.: 44465612) of The Torch Doha upon presentation of a formal letter of authorization on Company letterhead, copy of the Commercial Registration and a non-refundable fee as specified above.
- The closing time will be 12.00 noon on the closing date mentioned above, any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- A site visit for the above tender is scheduled for 3rd November 2024. Interested companies are advised to purchase the tender documents before that date in order to be able to attend the site visit.
- Tenders (Technical and Commercial envelope separately in duplicate) are to be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to The Chairman, General Tender Committee, The Torch Doha and deposit in the tender box available at The Torch Doha Purchasing Office.



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-204	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New Parking Guidance Systems for Underground Northeast car park at QF	1,000.00	Nil	20-Nov-2024 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-654	Event Production Services for National Sport Day 2025	500.00	Nil	18-Nov-2024 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-660	Provision of (Local) Multimedia Services to QF HQ and Entities on Call-off Basis for a Period of 3 Years with the option to Extend up to 1 Year	1,000.00	100,000.00	28-Nov-2024 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-661	Provision of Multimedia Services (International, Regional and Local) to QF HQ and QF Entities on Call-off Basis for a Period of 3 Years with the option to Extend up to 1 More Year	1,000.00	100,000.00	28-Nov-2024 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

- Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tenders. Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.


Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 28th October until 04th November 2024.

- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
 - The commercial bid must be valid for 180 days from Bid Closing Date.
 - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for 180 days from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
 - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
 - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/WPM/6880/24 PROVISION OF PORTABLE AIR COOLERS FOR WELL OPERATIONS	27/10/2024 to 10/11/2024	0	0	18/11/2024

Scope of Work: Contractor to provide on call off rental basis, portable air coolers which needs to have sufficient capacity to cool the working area and be suitable for use in onshore and offshore hazardous environment. Contract duration shall be for five (5) years with an optional extension provision up to five (5) years at COMPANY's sole discretion.

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

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

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



GEORGE HAKIM DISPLAYS ITS MOST OPULENT PIECES AT THE ASJAD GOLD & PEARL EVENT 2024 IN DOHA

The George Hakim maison is set to be present at the ASJAD exhibition in its 6th edition alongside Alain Philippe. The ASJAD Gold & Pearl event 2024 will be held at Al Hazm Mall, Doha - Qatar from October 24th till 29th. This exhibition showcases some of the most luxurious jewellery brands from around the world, with a special focus on opulent creations from different artists. ASJAD 2024 aims to be a particular celebration of luxury and craftsmanship. George Hakim Jewellers and Alain Philippe will be exhibiting their newest and most celebrated collections in their very own booth.



GEORGE HAKIM
Since 1875
— GENEVA —


ALAIN PHILIPPE
SWISS WATCHES

Qatar Tourism Awards 2024 winners revealed

From Page 1

Winners were selected by a panel of judges who evaluated the businesses and individuals that excelled in each category.

This year's edition featured a new category, the "Tourism Influencer Award", included to celebrate talented content creators who have brilliantly showcased Qatar's vibrant culture and unique experiences to the world.

The winners of the "Community Leadership" category, a tribute to extraordinary individuals who inspire and catalyse positive change within Qatar's tourism landscape, are:

- Tourism Personality of the Year: Katara Cultural Village chief executive Dr Khalid Ibrahim al-Sulaiti
- Emerging Leader in Tourism (Future Leader in Tourism): Al Hazm vice-president and McLaren Automotive chief executive Jassim Mohammed al-Emadi
- Lifetime Achievement in Tourism: Alfardan Group chairman Hussain Alfardan.

The "Service Excellence" category recognises outstanding businesses and individuals within the tourism sector that epitomise excellence in customer service. The winners are:

- Outstanding 3-Star Hotel: Premier Inn Doha Education City
- Outstanding 4-Star Hotel: Embassy Suites Doha Old Town



Snapshots from the event.

- Outstanding 5-Star Hotel: Mandarin Oriental
- Exceptional Spa Experience, Exceptional Resort Experience: Zula Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som
- Exceptional Holiday Home Experience: The Cottage
- Outstanding New Tourism Accommodation: Waldorf Astoria Doha West Bay
- The "Heart of Hospitality" award: Hala Eh Sayegh
- Tour Guide of the Year: Karolanne Pacheco
- Leading Destination Management Company: Q Moments.

- Exceptional Casual Dining Experience: Bayt El Talleh
- Premier Quick Service Experience: Evergreen Organics
- Noteworthy Cafe Experience: Qinnwan Premium Dates
- Outstanding Authentic Qatari Dining Experience: Belhambar
- Outstanding New Restaurant: Yun.
- The "Iconic Attraction and Activities" category recognises the best tourist destinations and experiences. The winners are:
- Outstanding Cultural Tourism Experience: Old Doha Port
- Unforgettable Adventure Tourism Experience: National Cruise Tourism
- Leading Local Retail Brand: Hiraat
- Premier Shopping Mall Experience: Place Vendome
- Premier Theme Park Experience: Doha Quest

- Iconic Local Attraction: Msheireb Museums.
- The "World-Class Events" category recognises small, medium and major events that have a significant impact on tourism and elevate Qatar's profile on the global stage. The winners are:
- Top MICE Event of the year: Doha Forum
- Leading Event Celebrating Local Culture: Old Doha Port
- Premier Sport Event of The Year: AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023
- Outstanding Multi-purpose MICE & Events Venue: Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.
- The "Digital Footprint" category recognises those who effectively use digital tools and platforms to enhance the visibility and reputation of Qatar's Tourism sector. The winners are:



- Outstanding Destination Campaign: Hamad International Airport
- Capture Qatar: Ahmed Mohamed Hassan
- Tourism Influencer (Content Creator) of the Year: Saoud al-Kuwari - Shljadwal.
- The "Smart and Sustainable Tourism" category recognises the visionary initiatives that revolutionise Qatar's tourism landscape with innovative and environmentally conscious practices. The winners are:
- Tourism Innovation Award: Hayya
- Accessibility Initiative of the Year: AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023
- Leading Sustainable Attraction: Msheireb Downtown
- Leading Eco-Friendly Accommodation: Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel.

HEC Paris launches bilingual guidebook for entrepreneurs

HEC Paris in Qatar has launched the bilingual edition of *Qatar's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: The Founder's Guidebook*.

The publication serves as a comprehensive resource for entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers navigating Qatar's rapidly evolving business landscape, a statement said yesterday.

The guidebook, authored by Dr Allan Villegas-Mateos, senior research fellow and entrepreneur in residence at HEC Paris in Qatar, is the result of over three years of extensive research and offers insights and strategies for all stages of the entrepreneurial journey, from ideation and startup processes to scaling and securing funding.

"This guidebook is the product of a collaborative effort across Qatar's entrepreneurial ecosystem," said the author. "Our mission is to simplify access to key resources and provide entrepreneurs with a clear roadmap to success, empowering them to contribute to Qatar's economic diversification."

The launch event, hosted at Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Multaqa Student Centre in Education City, featured



Officials at the launch event.

a panel discussion on *The Future of Entrepreneurship and Innovation*.

In his opening remarks, HEC Paris in Qatar dean Pablo Martin de Holan affirmed the business school's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

"The guidebook is a result of extensive research and collaboration with QF partner universities in the context of multiversity and key

stakeholders across Qatar's entrepreneurial ecosystem," he said.

The event also featured the presentation of the latest Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey report, a collaboration between QF's partner universities and Qatar University, providing key insight into the entrepreneurial education landscape and highlights emerging talent among young entrepreneurs.

Qatar participates in IEC general assembly

Qatar actively participated in the annual meetings of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), hosted by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in Edinburgh, Scotland, from October 21-25.

The delegation from Qatar was led by Qatar General Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology chairman engineer Mohammed bin Saoud Mohammed al-Musallam.

The IEC meetings and events included an array of dia-

logue sessions, workshops, and formal gatherings among the organisation's governance entities, as well as the specialised conference on *Towards a Fully Electric and Connected Society*.

This event, considered a strategic pillar of the IEC's mission, focused on advancing a digital society that relies entirely on sustainable electricity.

Discussions highlighted how global access to renewable, sustainable, and affordable energy can leverage technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), to decarbonise energy infrastructures efficiently.

The 88th IEC General Assembly session marked the conclusion of the meetings, where delegates reviewed ongoing IEC activities and discussed future strategies.

Key objectives of the sessions included supporting the IEC's strategic plan, integrating AI into the development of international standards, and enhancing conformity assessment practices, with a commitment to circular economy standards and promoting a shift towards clean energy.

The assembly's agenda featured the appointment of a new committee chairman for 2026-28, approval of new board members and specialised councils for standardisation and conformity assessment, and endorsement of advisory committee appointments.

Additionally, delegates approved the financial statements for the previous year and discussed the upcoming year's budget.

Following the assembly, a ceremony was held to present the annual Lord Kelvin Award, named after the IEC's founding president.

This award recognises outstanding leadership and technical expertise in the field, requiring at least five years of active contributions through national bodies.

The Thomas Edison Award, honouring exceptional achievement among leaders of technical and sub-committees, was also presented in a dedicated session.

Additionally, the distinguished 1906 Award was awarded to experts from member nations, commemorating the IEC's founding and celebrating innovative and dedicated service to the scientific and industrial community. - QNA

Mada virtual translator for Qatari sign language 'a pioneering step'

The "Bou Hamad" project, the virtual translator for Qatari sign language, has received positive feedback from beneficiary groups, confirming the importance of this technology in improving the quality of life for people with hearing disabilities.

Mada Centre media and publishing officer Khalifa al-Mutlaq told the Arabic daily *Arrayah* that "Bou Hamad" relies on artificial intelligence (AI) technology to translate written and visual texts into Qatari sign language, helping to facilitate access to information and digital services.

He expressed his pride that this virtual translator was made by Qatari hands.

Al-Mutlaq noted that the project aims to enhance digital inclusion and provide a supportive digital environment, and was developed by the Mada Centre with the active participation of people with hearing disabilities.

"Bu Hamad", an advanced solution that helps facilitate access to digital services for people with hearing disabilities, is not only useful on websites, but has also been employed at major events such as the Asian Cup, where it translated reports on events into sign language for followers with hearing disabilities.

"Bu Hamad" has been well received by many, and we at the Mada Centre are constantly developing it based on the feedback we receive from people with hearing disabilities," al-Mutlaq said. "We have a specialised team that focuses on de-



veloping innovations and adapting them to suit the needs of this group."

"Our goal is to promote digital independence and inclusivity, and provide tools that facilitate people with disabilities' access to digital services and content effectively," he continued.

"We started working on 'Bu Hamad' in 2018," the official said. "Its development took a long time to reach the final product in 2021."

"During this period, we undertook many experiments and modifications based on the feedback of people with hearing disabilities," al-Mutlaq added. "Since its launch, 'Bu Hamad' has been integrated into several government and private platforms, such as the Asian Cup, where it was used to translate sporting events into sign language."

"We aspire to make it an essential tool on all digital platforms that serve people with hearing disabilities," he said.

Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School earns coveted STEM accreditation

The Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys has achieved a milestone, obtaining STEM programme accreditation from the highly esteemed US-based STEM.org for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The school's programme has been recognised as among the top 5% of accredited institutions worldwide, earning it the title of "Best in STEM" from the organisation.

This recognition by STEM.org, a leading institution in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, is a testament to the school's dedication and excellence.

Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys principal Mohammed Ali al-Emadi affirmed the school's unwavering commitment to STEM education.

"Our achievement of STEM.org accreditation and the recognition of our programme among the top 5% of accredited institutions worldwide is a testament to the relentless efforts of our entire school community, including teachers, students, and administrators," he said. "This accomplishment reflects our dedication to providing world-class education in STEM."

"Our partnerships with prestigious international institutions and our adoption of the Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum affirm our com-

mitment to preparing students for admission to top universities worldwide," al-Emadi said.

"Through these partnerships, we aim to broaden students' horizons, enhance their practical experience, and equip them with the necessary skills for a successful professional future," he added.

STEM.org is one of the world's leading institutions that provide academic accreditation to educational institutions specialising in STEM.

It is renowned for developing precise and well-defined evaluation standards to promote quality and innovation in education.

These standards cover five key areas: innovation in education, advanced infrastructure, professional development for educators using the latest teaching methods, project-based learning, and comprehensive student performance assessment.

The organisation strives to ensure a well-rounded educational experience that integrates theoretical and practical aspects.

It also focuses on equipping students with essential skills such as innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving to help them tackle future challenges in various scientific and technological fields.

Thanks to this holistic vision, institutions accredited by STEM.org are recognised as among the best globally in

delivering high-quality STEM education.

The Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys was founded in 2018, with a focus on STEM education through advanced curricula emphasising scientific research and project-based learning.

This approach helps prepare a generation of students capable of innovation and contributing to developing a technologically advanced future.

The school accommodates approximately 240 students in grades nine to twelve, and features 15 scientific and specialised laboratories, providing students with opportunities for applied learning, research, and innovation.

The school has also earned numerous awards and accreditations, including accreditation from Cognia and membership in the College Board, enabling it to offer the Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum and serve as a SAT testing centre.

In addition to its recent STEM accreditation, the Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys has a history of excellence and achievement.

The school has been recognised with the Scientific Excellence Award in the Outstanding School category, the Hamdan Bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance for two consecutive years, and the Outstanding School Award Gold Category at the GCC level.

Furthermore, the school's students consistently earn awards in scientific research, mathematics, science, robotics, and innovation at local, regional, and international levels. - QNA

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, AMINE MAHAMAT IBRAHIM

holder of

CHAD Passport No. R0474200
QID No. 29714800004

hereby change my name

from

AMINE MAHAMAT IBRAHIM

to

AMNA MAHAMAT IBRAHIM

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Qatar and Japan continue to strengthen cultural ties: official

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Qatar and Japan continue to strengthen their already robust cultural ties by expanding artistic collaborations beyond traditional exchanges, a Japanese embassy official in Doha said.

“One particularly exciting area of potential co-operation is anime and manga. Promoting this particular culture in Qatar and exploring potential collaborations in hosting events to attract young audiences, animation production, for instance, can be one of the areas to focus on,” Michiko Nariai, second secretary and head of the cultural section, told *Gulf Times*.

In organising events in Qatar, she said the embassy tries to incorporate different elements to reach



The embassy of Japan in Doha participates in the Doha International Book Fair every year.

a wider audience and effectively promote a rich and diverse understanding of Japanese culture.

Nariai said Qatar and Japan have been actively exploring new avenues for cultural diplomacy to bolster their bilateral relations,

building on the momentum of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2022 and the Expo 2023 Doha.

“Our partnerships with cultural institutions like Qatar Museums and Katara have been instrumen-

tal in executing numerous joint projects,” she noted.

Nariai highlighted numerous initiatives that have fostered mutual understanding, including participation in events like the Doha International Book Fair

(DIBF), Qatar Travel Mart, and Hospitality Qatar.

The embassy also holds cultural performances and lectures in schools and shopping malls. The Japanese Language Speech Contest, held annually since 2009, provides a platform for Qatari learners to showcase their skills.

The embassy’s consistent participation in the DIBF, including its role as guest of honour in 2012, offered opportunities for Japanese calligraphy, origami workshops, and introductions to the Japanese language.

Additional initiatives include the “Let’s Speak Japanese” monthly meetings and promotional activities for the MEXT scholarship programme.

Nariai underlined the importance of balancing the promotion of traditional and modern Japa-

nese culture as a key focus for the embassy.

“Japanese culture is unique. Traditional arts like tea ceremonies and calligraphy appeal to those interested in history, while anime, manga, and music performances attract a younger, broader audience.”

She noted that Origami and Japanese cuisine also resonate strongly with the Qatari public as this strategic approach ensures a diverse engagement with Japanese culture across all age groups.

Nariai highlighted Qatar’s position as a regional cultural hub and its commitment to cultural diversity, a vision entirely compatible with Japan’s cultural diplomacy strategy.

“Qatar is definitely the epitome of cultural diversity in the region with over 100 nationalities living and working together in harmony,” she added.



A panel discussion on the Future of Arabic in Media.

NU-Q concludes public symposium on Arabic storytelling

Northwestern University in Qatar’s (NU-Q) media majlis museum (mm:museum) in collaboration with the global media and educational platform afikra, hosted a public symposium on the future of Arabic storytelling through artificial intelligence, film, and media.

Held on the sidelines of mm:museum’s ongoing exhibition on Arabic curated by Nu-Q alumna Amal Zeyad Ali, the full-day, multidisciplinary event explored the intersection of technology and storytelling in the Arab world. It included several panel discussions with local and regional voices, each focusing on a unique theme, two performances, and various collateral activities.

Alfredo Cramerotti, director of mm:museum, said: “With this event, we wanted to speak to a young audience through relevant and interactive content, providing a platform to experiment and question contemporary issues, and inviting young people to explore different perspectives.”

Safa Arshad, manager of

audiences and community outreach at mm:museum, noted: “This symposium not only highlighted the richness of Arabic narratives but also sparked vital conversations on how AI and media are reshaping the way these stories are told and shared with the world.”


“With this event, we wanted to speak to a young audience through relevant and interactive content, providing a platform to experiment and question contemporary issues, and inviting young people to explore different perspectives”

The event is part of a broader collaboration between mm:museum and afikra, which also includes a three-episode podcast series exploring the Arabic language, culture, and identity. The series is jointly produced and published on The Afikra Podcast Network, furthering the conversation on these vital themes.

Mercedes-Benz, Harley-Davidson models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes S-Class, 2024 model, as the software of the drive train control unit may not correspond to the current series production configuration. It is possible that the driver may detect some jolting during shift operation. The MoCI, in co-operation with NBK powered sports, also announced the recall of Harley-Davidson Touring and CVO Touring, 2024 model, as the output wire of centre-cooled regulator may rub against the front corner of the crankcase exposing the wire and cutting it, resulting in the loss of power and causing a sudden stop without the possibility of restarting. The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

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



DERMOND

REIMAGING LUXURY




DECO ELEMENT

MAGNETIC • PLAYFUL • CONTEMPORARY

EXPERIENCE THE DELIGHT OF TIMELESS ELEGANCE.

Deco Element is a collection that will create visual attraction for the wearer with a clear identity, which is a combination of the classic architecture of the Deco era, which has strength and the courage to play with curves, both concave and convex, combined with the mood of fun and versatility in the present era. This fusion creates an iconic collection for DERMOND.

The beginning of this collection is the extension of the signature collection, Absolute Deco, which has an elegant identity with fascinating Art Deco art, combined with new ideas to create a simple and elegant design with a touch of creativity, to have more diverse functions. This ensures that wearing the jewelry provides a delightful experience every day.



Hour and Hour Programme CEO honoured by Women's Police Institute



The Police Academy, represented by the Women's Police Institute, has honoured Tamani al-Yafei, CEO of the Hour and Hour programme, in recognition of her efforts to raise community awareness and co-operation with the institute.

The honour was given following a celebration of the graduation of two leadership courses: The Interpol Senior Leadership Courses of Women in Law Enforcement and the Trainer Development, organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior's Arab and International Police Communications Department and the Interpol Global Academy Network.

Al-Yafei was honoured by Maj Gen

Al-Yafei said she viewed the honour also as responsibility to continue serving the community through initiatives that promote cultural identity and raise awareness on health, cultural, and sports issues, as well as those related to national identity

Dr Abdullah Yousef al-Mal, legal adviser to HE the Minister of Interior and General Supervisor of the Police Academy, in the presence of Lt Col Fahad Saeed al-Subaie, deputy head of the Police Academy and director of the Police College, besides a number of women police officers of different

military ranks up to the rank of Brigadier, from Qatar and seven other Arab countries.

Al-Yafei appreciated the efforts of Lt Col Kholoud Anbar al-Nuaimi, director of the Women's Police Institute and the institute itself in providing support for community activities, raising public awareness, and enhancing the institute's engagement with the public through initiatives, presentations, lectures, and participation in seminars.

She described the honour as a decoration of appreciation and thanked Maj Gen Dr al-Mal, the Police College director Brig Gen Abdulrahman Majid al-Sulaiti, and Lt Col al-Nuaimi.

Al-Yafei said she viewed the honour also as responsibility to continue serving the community through initiatives that promote cultural identity and raise awareness on health, cultural, and sports issues, as well as those related to national identity.

Al-Yafei pointed out that the Women's Police Institute took part in an event organised by the Hour and Hour programme during the National Sport Day, where the institute conducted a session on movement games and self-defence.

The institute also recently collaborated with the programme on a breast cancer awareness event, under the theme 'Window of Hope' as part of the Pink October campaign.

Hyatt Plaza's Big Sale wraps up soon

Running until October 31, the Big Sale Campaign at Hyatt Plaza has been a resounding success, offering significant discounts on a diverse array of products, ranging from fashion and toys to jewellery, furniture, cosmetics, electronics, and home décor.

"We are delighted to witness the overwhelming response from our shoppers during the Big Sale Campaign"

"Hyatt Plaza, firmly established as a family mall, has been buzzing with enthusiastic shoppers taking advantage of the buy-one-get-one-free deals, flat sales, and special offers available during the campaign with only a few days left to seize these incredible deals," a statement said yesterday.

"We are delighted to witness the overwhelming response from our shoppers during the Big Sale Campaign," said Hyatt Plaza's head of marketing Mohammed al-Hawamdeh.

"At Hyatt Plaza, we take immense pride in being a family mall, where families can come together to shop, dine, and create lasting memories. As we approach the campaign's end, we encourage everyone to make the most of these remaining days to enjoy substantial savings on their favourite products," he remarked. Hyatt Plaza stands as a testament to exceptional shopping experiences, offering a curated selection of national and international retail brands alongside outstanding customer service, the statement added.



Alessa Jewelry, a brand founded by visionary jeweler Yuvraj Pahuja in 2009, is proud to continue its legacy of elegance and innovation. With roots that span five generations, Alessa Jewelry draws inspiration from Yuvraj's Indian heritage and his experiences in the Middle East, blending tradition with cutting-edge design. The brand's collections, defined by their intricate craftsmanship, aim to celebrate unity in diversity, appealing to a global audience seeking timeless yet contemporary pieces.

Driven by a passion for excellence, Alessa Jewelry offers a diverse array of designs that reflect meticulous attention to detail. The fusion of cultural influences and a commitment to quality has made the brand a symbol of creativity and refinement. Each piece is a testament to Yuvraj's dedication, pushing the boundaries of jewelry design. Alessa Jewelry continues to stand as a beacon of artisanal beauty in the luxury jewellery market.



Pregnant women advised to get flu vaccine

As flu season approaches, health-care experts in Qatar are urging pregnant women to prioritise getting the flu vaccine as a vital preventive measure.

"The flu can lead to serious complications for pregnant women, including pneumonia, hospitalisation, and even premature delivery," said Dr Huda Abdulla al-Saleh, senior consultant obstetrics and gynaecology and executive director of Quality and Safety at Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Women's Wellness and Research Center.

"By getting vaccinated, pregnant women can protect themselves and their newborns from the



Dr Huda Abdulla al-Saleh

"The influenza vaccine has been given safely to millions of pregnant women worldwide over many years," she said. "Women who have had the flu vaccine while pregnant also pass some protection on to their babies, which lasts for the first

"By getting vaccinated early, pregnant women can ensure they are protected throughout the flu season"

potentially devastating effects of the flu virus?"

The flu vaccine is safe and effective for pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy. It helps to build immunity against the flu virus, reducing the risk of infection and transmission to newborns in Qatar.

"The best time to get the flu vaccine is now, before the flu season begins in earnest. By getting vaccinated early, pregnant women can ensure they are protected throughout the flu season," she said.

Dr al-Saleh said the flu vaccination is extensively researched and not only is it safe in pregnancy at any stage, but it is positively recommended in pregnancy.

few months of their lives. It is also safe for women who are breastfeeding to have the vaccine."

People can get the flu vaccine at all Primary Health Care Centres and private clinics as well as when they attend outpatients' appointments at HMC.

"At HMC, patients can ask to receive their flu vaccine when they attend their scheduled outpatient's department appointments and we are encouraging them to do this as soon as possible," Dr al-Saleh said.

"You can also take the vaccine at all Primary Health Care Centres and a range of private clinics in Qatar."

7th gen Nissan Patrol launched in Qatar



Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, the exclusive agent of Nissan in Qatar, launched the 7th generation Nissan Patrol, at a grand event attended by over 500 guests who witnessed the latest model of the iconic SUV roll out.

The all-new Nissan Patrol combines decades of heritage with cutting-edge advancements, representing prestige and performance, a statement said. The enthusiasm from the crowd highlighted the Patrol's long-standing popularity in the region and how the new-generation SUV is set to elevate the driving experience for Qatari customers. The traditional Qatari Ardah performance set the tone at the event at the Raffles and Fairmont in Lusail, symbolising the seamless blend of tradition with modern innovation.

A heritage area showcased Patrol's various generations. A Japanese stage performance highlighted the Patrol's Japanese roots while reinforcing Nissan's dedication to delivering a truly global automotive experience.

The event was hosted by automotive expert Karim Dib, co-founder of Arab GT, the largest automotive media platform in the Middle East.

Hisham Saleh al-Mana, chairman of Al Mana Holding, said: "The arrival of the all-new Nissan Patrol to Qatar marks a pivotal moment in our automotive landscape. This remarkable vehicle embodies the pinnacle of engineering excellence, tailored to meet the sophisticated tastes of our Qatari

clientele, further cementing our position as leaders in the premium vehicle market."

The all-new Patrol's bold design, new powerful engines, and advanced NissanConnect 2.0 system set a new benchmark for premium SUVs in the region. With an ideal blend of power, comfort, and cutting-edge technology, the new Patrol is crafted to meet the diverse needs of Qatar's drivers, whether navigating the bustling streets of Doha or exploring the country's rugged terrain.

Thierry Sabbagh, divisional vice-president, president Middle East, KSA & CIS - Nissan, Infiniti, said: "The all-new Patrol is a vehicle that stands as a testament to heritage, strength and prestige in the Middle East. Our strong partnership with Saleh Hamad Al Mana Co, since 1975, has consistently delivered exceptional experiences for our valued customers in Qatar, and each new Patrol reinforces this legacy."

Nassim Mourani, general manager of the Automotive Group at Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, said: "The all-new Nissan Patrol is more than just a vehicle in the Middle East; it is a symbol of adventure, pride, and resilience. This latest model embodies the essence of what has made this iconic nameplate legendary – an enduring legacy forged through decades of shared experiences and unforgettable journeys across the region's diverse landscapes."

The all-new Nissan Patrol combines heritage with innovation, featuring a striking



redesign, a new powerful V6 twin-turbo engine, and a 9-speed transmission. The 3.5-litre V6 twin-turbo engine delivers an impressive 425HP and 700Nm of torque, marking a 7% increase in power and a 25% boost in torque compared to the outgoing V8 engine, while enhancing fuel efficiency by 24%. An alternative 3.8-litre naturally aspirated V6 engine option is also available, producing 316HP and 386Nm of torque.

The all-new Nissan Patrol features a customisable adaptive air suspension that seamlessly transitions between urban and desert terrains. The premium interior showcases beautifully quilted leather seats inspired by traditional Japanese Kumiko woodcraft, complete with massage functionality and eight-way adjustments for maximum comfort.

A panoramic sunroof enhances the spacious cabin, while the 28.6-

inch monolith display provides control over vehicle systems. The introduction of a stylish horizontal 'Piano Button' E-shifter offers an intuitive gear selection experience.

The NissanConnect 2.0 features Google built-in, offering drivers access to their favourite apps and control various vehicle functions through voice commands. With the introduction of Nissan's Pro-Pilot technology and a comprehensive suite of driver

assistance features, safety remains paramount.

The innovative Panorama View system, including Ultra-Wide View and Invisible Hood View, provides unparalleled visibility in challenging driving conditions. The new body structure, constructed with increased high-strength steel, improves frontal crash and pedestrian protection. The all-new Nissan Patrol now includes seven airbags, as well as knee airbags for the driver, a first for this model. The new e-damper technology automatically adjusts damper settings according to driving conditions. It also introduces a 4WD transfer mode interlock system, a first for Nissan, offering intuitive handling across various terrains.

Available in select grades, the innovative Biometric Cooling system uses a built-in infrared sensor to detect the body temperature of front and second-row passengers, automatically adjusting airflow settings for optimal comfort.

The all-new Nissan Patrol includes a Puddle Lamp that auto-activates as occupants approach, displaying a unique throwback motif featuring the iconic Nissan Patrol silhouette in the desert and the text 'Since 1951'.

The all-new Nissan Patrol will be available by mid-November at Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co showrooms across Qatar. For more information, visit the showrooms on Salwa Road, The Pearl, Al Sadd, Bin Omran, Barwa, and Al Khor or call 8000505, the statement added.

Doha conference to present new visions for the future of family

Dr Sharifa Noaman al-Emadi, Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, has stressed that the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference, which will kick off on Wednesday under the title: "Family and Contemporary Megatrends", is a call to action, a platform for presenting new and sustainable visions for the future of the family in the contemporary world, and a forum for understanding and keeping pace with the transformations and challenges facing families.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Dr al-Emadi said the conference would provide an interactive platform for policymakers, academics, experts, and stakeholders to discuss and exchange ideas on the latest evidence-based studies in order to come up with a deep understanding of the impact of megatrends, such as technological, demographic, and climate changes, and international migration, on the structure of the family.

The conference will be held on October 30-31 at the Qatar National Convention Centre. Preceded by a youth summit tomorrow, it will bring together leaders from different countries of the world.

Dr al-Emadi termed the conference an opportunity for dialogue and discussion about the future of the family, and an invitation to the international community, organisations, stakeholders and decision-makers to support and empower the family at the global level and enhance international awareness of its crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on issues related to mental health, education, and children's well-being, hoping for building strategic partnerships to develop innovative solutions that ensure the prosperity of current and future generations.

She explained that the conference will discuss demographic trends, such as declining fertility rates and ageing societies in sessions that will review the challenges

and policies aimed at increasing fertility, and those that can improve the balance between work and family life.

She pointed out that innovative solutions will be proposed and presented by experts and participants with the aim of enhancing these policies. In addition, existing and required policies regarding the impact of digital technology on children's well-being will be addressed, while reviewing appropriate solutions on how to benefit from new digital technologies and programmes, social media and their impact on marital relations, as well as the impact of artificial intelligence on family privacy, and its role in empowering people with disabilities, with a special focus on upgrading education and learning tools for adults and children, including design and planning for elderly care.

The discussion in the climate change axis will centre on designing family-friendly cities and solutions that rely on natural resources in the surrounding environment to deal with contemporary challenges, such as forced migration resulting from climate change, food insecurity, and environmental anxiety.

She said the conference's outcomes are expected to contribute to drawing a clear roadmap for the next 10 years in relation to family support and protection policies at the local and international levels.

This map will focus on developing innovative policies that respond to the challenges of demographic and technological transformations, the impact of climate change, and international migration in order to ensure the stability and prosperity of families in the face of these transformations.

The conference, she added, will seek to provide comprehensive recommendations aimed at enhancing family empowerment programmes and developing legislation that ensures the protection of families from future challenges.

Regarding DIFI's role in developing the recently announced flexible and remote work system in the government sector, Dr al-Emadi said that the institute presented recommendations regarding the system



Dr Sharifa Noaman al-Emadi

which later led the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB) to implement it.

The DIFI study "Work-Family Balance: Challenges, Experiences and Implications for Families in Qatar" showed that long working hours lead to fatigue and stress among Qataris especially working mothers and thus affect the needs of the family, she said.

She added that the study indicated that 49.4% of male employees and 38.4% of female employees expressed dissatisfaction with their working hours, and in response to this, CGB announced a flexible and remote work system that allows Qatari female employees with children under the age of 12 to work remotely for one month annually.

Other provisions included reducing working hours for reasons such as disability, medical excuses and maternity benefits.

DIFI's recommendations which were

presented to the Cabinet included granting maternity leave for at least three months with full pay and three optional months with half pay, granting fathers a one-week paternity leave, providing nurseries for mothers to store milk.

It was also suggested that fathers accompany sick children during treatment as well as limit working hours in the public sector to a maximum of 30 hours per week.

Dr al-Emadi explained that this new system provides flexible work options so that working mothers can select working hours that best suit their family schedule and bring a balance between work and family which in turn helps them manage their time better.

She expressed her hope that this system will be developed to include giving sufficient paid leave for mothers after childbirth, in addition to providing support programmes for new mothers.

She stressed the importance of supporting persons with disabilities (PWDs) by providing the necessary tools and technology that would better help them perform their tasks more effectively, in addition to creating a work environment to meet their needs, providing flexible work options according to their health conditions, allowing PWDs to work remotely to avoid any difficulties during transportation, and providing individual support programmes to help them deal with daily challenges.

The DIFI executive director highlighted that the institute participated in formulating many family-related policies. It launched several prominent initiatives including the "Tansheeh" programme which is structured to protect teenagers from behavioural problems. The programme was implemented in all schools by the Ministry of Education and High Education in 2023.

She noted that DIFI additionally called for mandatory pre-marriage programmes to help reduce divorce rates and that the institute is currently working on developing a curriculum for family relations for

secondary schools which is scheduled to be launched this year.

DIFI is also developing parenting programmes that were adopted by the Ministry to educate parents and provide them with the necessary skills and knowledge they need to upbring their children, Dr al-Emadi added.

Regarding DIFI's role on the regional and international scale, Dr al-Emadi stated that the institute plays an influential role in family policies through its co-operation with United Nations (UN) agencies and the issuance of important reports including its report on "Framework of Family-Sensitive Social Protection" which it completed in co-operation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

DIFI also worked with the League of Arab States on a first-of-its-kind survey evaluating marital relations during the first five years of marriage in the Arab world. In 2018, the institute established a partnership with the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) to increase the presence of parental education programmes across the Arab region, Dr al-Emadi underlined.

She expressed her hope to achieve a long-term impact on the family policy by establishing a set of strategic priorities and ambitious initiatives through increasing the number of studies, developing more effective advocacy strategies, establishing strong partnerships, and designing special policies and programmes to support PWDs, working mothers and families with low-income.

Executive Director of DIFI Dr al-Emadi concluded her statements to QNA by saying that work is currently being made to implement innovative awareness and educational initiatives and programmes, provide workshops and training courses aimed at professionals and decision-makers on best practices in supporting the family, in addition to establishing international research partnerships to exchange knowledge and expertise to improve family matters locally, regionally or globally. (QNA)

CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
- ☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)
- ☎ 44350474
- 📘 facebook.com/gulftimes
- 🐦 twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar
- 📷 instagram.com/gulftimes
- 📺 youtube.com/GulftimesVideos



Poor sleep linked to brain ageing

People in early middle age who have poor sleep quality, including having difficulty falling or staying asleep, have more signs of poor brain health in late middle age, according to a study published last week in the online issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The study, by a group of researchers from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), does not prove that poor sleep accelerates brain ageing and only shows an association between poor sleep quality and signs of brain ageing.

“Sleep problems have been linked in previous research to poor thinking and memory skills later in life, putting people at higher risk for dementia,” said study author Clémence Cavallès, PhD. “Our study which used brain scans to determine participants’ brain age, suggests that poor sleep is linked to nearly three years of additional brain ageing as early as middle age.”

The study included 589 people with an average age of 40 at the start of the study. Participants completed sleep questionnaires both at the beginning of the study and again five years later. Participants had brain scans 15 years after the study began. Researchers reviewed participants’ responses to questions such as, “Do you usually have trouble falling asleep?” “Do you usually wake up several times at night?” and “Do you usually wake up far too early?” They recorded the number of six poor sleep characteristics for each participant: short sleep duration, bad sleep quality, difficulty falling asleep, difficulty staying asleep, early morning awakening and daytime sleepiness.

Participants were divided into three groups. Those in the low group had no more than one poor sleep characteristic. People in the middle group had two to three, and those in the high group had more than three. At the start of the study, about 70% were in the low group, 22% were in the middle and 8% were in the high group.

Researchers examined participants’ brain scans where the level of brain shrinkage corresponds to a specific age. Researchers used machine learning to determine the brain age for each participant.

After adjusting for factors such as age, sex, high blood pressure and diabetes, researchers found people in the middle group had an average brain age that was 1.6 years older than those in the low group, while those in the high group had an average brain age 2.6 years older. Of the sleep characteristics, bad sleep quality, difficulty falling asleep, difficulty staying asleep and early morning awakening were linked to greater brain age, especially when people consistently had these poor sleep characteristics over five years.

“Our findings highlight the importance of addressing sleep problems earlier in life to preserve brain health, including maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, exercising, avoiding caffeine and alcohol before going to bed and using relaxation techniques,” said author Kristine Yaffe, MD, of the UCSF and a member of the American Academy of Neurology. “Future research should focus on finding new ways to improve sleep quality and investigating the long-term impact of sleep on brain health in younger people.”

A limitation of the study was that participants reported their own sleep problems and it is possible they may not have reported them accurately. The study was funded by the National Institute on Ageing. Also last week in *Neurology*, Yale researchers reported that middle-aged people with uncontrolled blood pressure, blood sugar or cholesterol who don’t exercise, eat healthfully or sleep well face a higher risk of stroke, dementia or depression later in life. “Our study found that making these healthy lifestyle choices in middle age can have meaningful impacts on brain health later in life,” study author Dr Santiago Clocchiatti-Tuozzo said.

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621 ☎ 44418811

Classified

☎ 44466609 ☎ 44418811

✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2024 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



The era of Vietnamese nation’s rise



By **Nguyen Huy Hiep**
Ambassador of Vietnam

After nearly 80 years of Independence and almost 40 years of Renewal, Vietnam stands at a new historical starting point, a new era, the era of Vietnam’s ascent.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party, Vietnam has been thriving to become a key player in Southeast Asia with constantly-developing social culture, improved material and spiritual life, stable politics and society. Recent years have seen growing reputation, prestige and presence of Vietnam in the international arena.

Diplomatic relations have been constantly expanded and deepened. To date, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with 193 countries in the world, including strategic partnerships and comprehensive partnerships with 30 countries, economic relations with more than 230 countries and territories, has signed 16 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including many new-generation FTAs.

Despite unpredictable, unprecedented changes in the world, the Government of Vietnam has closely followed the situation inside and outside Vietnam and promptly implemented resolute, flexible measures to achieve the set targets. These are a solid foundation for achieving future breakthroughs and accomplishments.

“Vietnam is Asia’s shining economic star”

Vietnam’s economy is projected to expand by close to 6% in 2024, up from 5% in the previous year, driven by a recovering export sector, robust foreign direct investment, and policy support, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Overall economic growth is supported by vigorous manufacturing activity as well as a recovery in the trade sector. Both the manufacturing and service sectors have grown strongly in the past two quarters. Over the long term, favourable macroeconomic and demographic trends support Vietnam’s strong economic growth. This has helped Vietnam become the rising economic star of Asia.

Vietnam has 3,260km of coastline alongside from north to south and a vast sea area including thousands of large and small islands. Vietnam is restructuring its marine economy with top priorities in developing marine and island tourism, renewable energy, biotechnology, pharmaceutical industry, maritime, exploitation of oil and gas and other minerals, fish farming and shipbuilding... to adapt to climate change and promote economic growth.

“Vietnam-Qatar relations have huge potential”

Vietnam and Qatar are dynamic, rapidly advancing countries that hold increasingly significant positions in their respective regions and on the international stage. The two countries share a common aim to promote peace, stability, co-operation and prosperity throughout the world.

Over the years, Vietnam and Qatar have cultivated a multifaceted relationship, marked by significant achievements in politics, diplomacy, trade, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. Qatar is now one of Vietnam’s



Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh is scheduled to pay an official visit to Qatar from Oct 30-Nov 1.

most important trade partners in the Middle East, and the two nations have made great joint efforts in global discussions.

In political and diplomatic ties, the two countries have witnessed positive developments, as demonstrated by more frequent exchanges of delegations at all levels, particularly the high-ranking visits, underscoring the importance both countries attach to their bilateral ties.

In the economic aspect, bilateral trade between the two countries has experienced robust growth over the years, reaching US\$740mn in 2023. Exchanges between the business sectors of both countries are being further promoted, as evidenced by the two-way trade turnover of US\$562mn in the first eight months of this year.

Vietnamese Prime Minister’s official visit to Qatar

In that context, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh is scheduled to pay an official visit to Qatar from Oct 30-Nov 1.

The visit is of special significance, being the first visit by a Vietnamese prime minister to Qatar in 15 years (2009) and 12 years after the high-level visit of

His Highness the Amir of Qatar to Vietnam (2012). This visit shows that Vietnam highly appreciates Qatar’s potential and role in the Middle East and in the Arab world, attaches importance to the Vietnam-Qatar friendship and co-operation, and wishes to promote multifaceted co-operation with Qatar to become more in-depth, substantive and effective.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh’s visit to Qatar is expected to help strengthen comprehensive and extensive cooperation between Vietnam and Qatar in various fields, including politics, economics, trade, investment, energy, labour, aviation, agriculture, industry, culture, tourism and sports... The visit will contribute to consolidating political trust between the two countries; creating momentum, opening a new phase of co-operation in Vietnam-Qatar relations.

Co-operation with Qatar can help Vietnam penetrate the Gulf region and other markets. Similarly, with Vietnam’s role and geographical location in the Asean region, Qatar can access other neighbouring markets through Vietnam.



This aerial photo taken from a seaplane shows tourist boats sailing on the waters of Ha Long Bay in Vietnam’s northeastern province of Quang Ninh.

King Charles to resume foreign tours

King Charles III's cancer diagnosis will not prevent him flying abroad next year for foreign visits, a Buckingham Palace official said, as the monarch wrapped up a tour of Australia and Samoa.

"We're now working on a pretty normal looking full overseas tour programme for next year, which is a high for us to end on, to know that we can be thinking in those terms," the official said late on Saturday.

Charles was diagnosed with an undisclosed cancer earlier this year but doctors agreed that he could pause his treatment to allow him to travel to Australia and Samoa.

The palace announced in April that he would make a limited return to public duties, as doctors were "very encouraged" by his progress.

The official added that the king had "thrived" on the tour's programme which had much improved "his spirits, his mood and his recovery".

"In that sense, the tour, despite its demands, has been the perfect tonic," he added.

The tour was Charles's first to Australia, where he is also head of state, since he became king following the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022.

Charles and Queen Camilla left Samoa on Saturday after the marathon 11-day tour that saw the king carry out more than 30 engagements.

The royal couple visited Sydney, Canberra and the Samoan capital Apia, where Charles attended a meeting of Commonwealth nations.

The 56-nation bloc - made up mostly of British ex-colonies - had hoped to focus on a future threatened by climate change, but instead bickered over a troubled past marked by slavery and colonisation. - AFP

Thousands turn out for rare Thai royal barge pageantry

Thousands of well-wishers lined the banks of Bangkok's Chao Phraya River yesterday to watch King Maha Vajiralongkorn ride a glittering royal barge procession to mark his 72nd birthday.

A flotilla of 52 ornately decorated boats, paddled by more than 2,000 oarsmen decked out in scarlet and gold, carried the king and Queen Suthida in formation through the heart of the Thai capital to a Buddhist ceremony at Wat Arun, the city's ancient Temple of Dawn.

The king took his place on a century-old royal barge known as the "Golden Swan" to deliver robes to monks in a ceremony marking the end of Buddhist Lent.

Royal barge processions date back hundreds of years, but are held rarely, saved for the most significant occasions - most recently, the king's coronation in 2019.

During the 70-year reign of the previous king, Bhumibol Adulyadej, only 16 barge processions were held.

King Vajiralongkorn turned 72 in July, completing his "sixth cycle"

Trump holds rally at Madison Square Garden, Harris in Philadelphia

Reuters
Washington

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump will headline a rally at New York's Madison Square Garden yesterday, a high-profile event in a state that last backed a Republican president in 1984.

Opponent Vice-President Kamala Harris is traversing Philadelphia, the largest city and a Democratic stronghold in must-win Pennsylvania, and plans stops in a black barbershop and a Puerto Rican restaurant to encourage people to vote.

Speaking at the Church of Christian Compassion yesterday morning, Harris did not mention Trump by name.

"In this moment we do face a real question: what kind of country do we want to live in?" she said.

Trump's rally in Manhattan, like Harris's event in Houston on Friday with Beyonce, hopes to lean on star power to support local congressional candidates ahead of the November 5 election.

US billionaire Elon Musk, who is supporting Trump's re-election bid with his X social media platform, enormous wealth and cash giveaways that have raised legal questions, will be among the featured speakers, the Trump campaign announced.

Trump, a New York celebrity for decades, will use the event at the iconic venue known for Knicks basketball games and Billy Joel concerts to deliver his closing argument against Harris.

Bulgaria holds another snap election

Bulgarians voted yesterday in their seventh snap election in four years, but opinion surveys suggest that it is unlikely to break a political deadlock that has slowed economic reforms in the European Union's poorest member state.

Bulgaria has been plagued by short-lived governments since 2020, when anti-graft protests helped to end a coalition led by the centre-right GERB party.

Latest opinion polls suggest that, once again, no single party

will win a parliamentary majority, setting the stage for a fresh round of difficult and prolonged coalition talks.

"People want security and stability. We have sunny weather today, so people should go out and vote. We will see what will happen after the polls close," GERB leader Boyko Borissov told reporters after voting.

A Gallup International Balkans poll, published on Friday by Bulgarian National Radio, put GERB ahead with 26.1% of

the vote, followed by two parties in a tight race for second place.

The reformist PP (We Continue The Change) and the ultra-nationalist, pro-Russian Revival party were seen at 16.2% and 14.9% respectively.

The same poll projected voter turnout at 31.1%.

Yesterday's vote was triggered by the failure of Bulgaria's political parties to agree on forming a coalition government after an inconclusive June 9 election. - Reuters



Spectators watch the Royal Barge Procession on the Chao Phraya River, in front of Wat Arun in Bangkok, yesterday. - AFP

Iran kills four after deadly attack in southeast

Iranian armed forces have killed at least four "terrorists" behind a deadly attack on police the day before in the country's southeast, Tasnim news agency reported yesterday.

Ten police officers were killed in Sistan-Baluchistan province on Saturday in an attack claimed by the Pakistani-based Jaish al-Adl.

In response, Iran's Revolutionary Guards backed by intelligence forces and police killed at least four "terrorists" suspected of involvement in a drone strike, Tasnim said, citing the Guards.

"During this operation, four terrorists were killed, some were wounded and escaped and four others were arrested," it said. "The operation to arrest and destroy the remaining terrorists is still ongoing."

The official IRNA news agency, citing a police statement, reported the death of "10 personnel in two patrol units" in what it called an ambush.

Sistan-Baluchistan borders Pakistan and Afghanistan and is one of the most impoverished provinces in the Islamic republic. - AFP

India warns social media after airline bomb threats

AFP
New Delhi

India has warned social media platforms of "consequential action" after hundreds of hoax bomb threats to Indian airlines this month triggered travel chaos and terror it said threatened national security.

Some threats led to planes being diverted to Canada and Germany, and fighter jets scrambled to escort aircraft in the skies above Britain and Singapore.

The government called the spread of the threats "dangerously unrestrained".

It warned social media platforms of "consequential action as provided under any law" if they do not comply with the

"prompt removal of misinformation".

"The instances of malicious acts, in the form of hoax bomb threats to such airlines, lead to a potential threat to the public order and security of the state," it said in a statement on Saturday. "Such hoax bomb threats, while affecting a large number of citizens, also destabilises the economic security of the country."

At least 275 bomb threats were made since mid-October, all reported to have been false, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency.

Other Indian media suggest it could be as high as nearly 400.

"The exemption from liability for any third party information ... shall not apply if such intermediaries do not follow the due

diligence obligations," it added.

Civil aviation authorities have had to check every flight that has been threatened, many by messages posted on X.

The government warning did not mention any social media company by name, but cited an advisory notice from the information technology ministry.

"The scale of (the) spread of such hoax bomb threats has been observed to be dangerously unrestrained due to the availability of the option of 'forwarding/re-sharing/re-posting/re-tweeting' on the social media platforms," the information ministry said.

It said companies must report any offences "likely to threaten the unity, integrity, sovereignty, security or economic security"

Japan's ruling coalition loses majority in parliament

Reuters/AFP
Tokyo

Japan's ruling coalition lost its parliamentary majority in a drubbing at yesterday's national election, raising uncertainty over the make-up of the next government and the outlook for the world's fourth-largest economy.

With all but 20 of the 465 seats accounted for, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has ruled Japan for almost all of its post-war history, and junior coalition partner Komeito took 209 seats in the lower house of parliament, public broadcaster NHK reported.

That was down from the 279 seats they held previously and marked the coalition's worst election result since it briefly lost power in 2009.

"This election has been very tough for us," a sombre-looking Ishiba told TV Tokyo.

Footage from the LDP headquarters showed gloomy faces as the projections based on exit polls said Ishiba's justice and agriculture ministers were likely to lose their seats.

Ishiba, a self-confessed security policy geek who likes making model planes, had said his target in the election was for the coalition to win a majority.

Komeito's Keiichi Ishii, who took over as that party's new leader last month, lost in his district.

The biggest winner of the night, the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP), had 143 seats so far, up from 98 previously, as voters punished Ishiba's party over a funding scandal and inflation.

The outcome may force parties into fractious power-sharing deals to rule, potentially ushering in political instability as the country faces economic headwinds and a tense security situation in East Asia.

"This is not the end, but the beginning," CDPJ leader Yoshihiko Noda told a press conference, adding that his party would work with other opposition parties to aim for a change of government.

Ishiba said he would wait until the final results, likely due in the early hours today, before considering potential coalitions or other power-sharing deals.

The prime minister had called the snap poll immediately after being elected to head the party last month, hoping to win a public mandate for his premiership.

His predecessor, Fumio Kishida, quit after his support fell due to anger over a cost of living crunch and the scandal involving unrecorded donations to lawmakers.

The election also took place nine days before voters in the United States - Japan's closest ally - head to the polls in another unpredictable ballot.

The LDP has held an outright majority since it returned to power in 2012 after a brief spell of opposition rule.

It also lost power briefly in 1993, when a coalition of seven opposition parties formed a government that lasted less than a year.

Smaller parties, such as the Democratic Party for the People (DPP) or the Japan Innovation Party, could now prove key to forming a government.

The DPP had 27 seats so far and the Japan Innovation Party 35 seats, according to NHK. But both propose policies at odds with the LDP line.

DPP chief Yuichiro Tamaki has not ruled out some co-operation with the LDP-led coalition, but Innovation Party head Nobuyuki Baba has rejected the idea.

Ishiba has pledged to revitalise depressed rural regions and to address the "quiet emergency" of Japan's falling population through family-friendly measures such as flexible working hours.

However, he has rowed back his position on issues including allowing married couples to take separate surnames. He also named only two women as ministers in his cabinet.

Ishiba has backed the creation of a regional military alliance along the lines of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) to counter China, although he has cautioned it would "not happen overnight".

Mali army says 40 'terrorists' slain

AFP
Bamako

Mali's army has said that it had killed some 40 "terrorists" and destroyed one of their bases in two operations in the centre of the militant-plagued country.

Since taking power in a double coup in 2020 and 2021, Mali's military leaders have made a priority of tackling the Sahel nation's multiple security issues.

An operation on Thursday in Ounguel destroyed "an enemy base, with around 30 terrorists neutralised", an army statement said.

Weapons, ammunition and 24 motorbikes were seized, the statement added.

On Friday, a second operation saw 10 militants killed and goods including pick-up trucks and motorbikes seized.

Mali is battling a political, security and economic crisis and has been ravaged by Al Qaeda and Islamic State factions since 2012. It also faces a separatist insurgency in the volatile desert north.

Uruguay heads to the polls

Reuters
Montevideo

Voters in Uruguay went to the polls yesterday in an election race between moderates that contrasted with the polarised politics in many other Latin American countries.

The nation of 3.4mn was voting for its next president and lawmakers, with pollsters predicting a run-off will likely be needed in November.

The country will also decide on a referendum on pension reform that would lower the retirement age by five years to 60 and another that would boost police powers to fight drug-related crime.

The vote in the small South American nation sees Broad Front centre-left candidate Yamandu Orsi, the pre-election favourite, take on continuity contender Alvaro Delgado.

Behind him is young, social media savvy conservative Andres Ojeda, who addressed reporters outside his local gym on Election Day.

Polls showed Orsi in the lead, but indicated no presidential candidate would likely get more than 50% of the vote, meaning a second round run-off would be held on November 24 between yesterday's top two finishers.

Storm Trami lands in Vietnam after wreaking havoc in the Philippines

Storm Trami hit central Vietnam yesterday, threatening to trigger heavy rains and dangerous floods after leaving a path of destruction in the Philippines.

The Southeast Asian country, with its extended coastline, is prone to storms and floods that often cause significant casualties and property damage.

Rainfall in provinces from Quang Binh to Quang Nam is forecast to hit 60cm, according to the national weather forecast agency.

"The risks of floods are high at urban areas from Ha Tinh to Binh Dinh provinces," the agency said.

Heavy rains are also expected to hit the Central Highlands, the country's key coffee growing area, according to the agency.

After sweeping across the Philippines' main Luzon island, Trami left large areas submerged under floodwaters, making rescue and relief operations difficult as Manila braces for the impact of incoming storm Kong-rey.

The storm hit the Philippines on Thursday, causing floods and landslides.

The Philippines' disaster agency announced last night that at least 110 people were reported dead, though no provincial

breakdown was provided for the death toll.

Trami is the deadliest storm to hit the Southeast Asian country so far this year "especially with the reported number of casualties", Ariel Nepomuceno in the Office of Civil Defence - which oversees disaster management - told AFP.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos vowed yesterday that help was underway for the residents of Camarines Sur province, located in the hardest-hit region of Bicol.

"By air, land, or sea, we'll keep the support coming. Together, we will rise again,"

Marcos said on his social media accounts.

Trami, with wind speeds of up to 88kph (54.7mph), made landfall in Hue and Danang. Maximum wind speeds have since weakened to 74kph (46mph).

Last month, typhoon Yagi and the floods it triggered killed more than 300 people and caused property damage of more than \$3.3bn in northern Vietnam.

A recent study showed that storms in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change. - Reuters/AFP



A view of the officials at the event.



Right: Officials at the news conference yesterday. PICTURES: Shemeer Rasheed

More than 250 companies for Milipol Qatar

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

The Milipol Qatar Exhibition & Conference 2024 is set to welcome over 250 international and national companies specialising in internal security and safety, along with six major international pavilions.

The 15th edition of the international event, taking place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), will cover an area of 23,000sq m, with an additional outdoor space showcasing the Ministry of Interior (MoI)'s fleet of vehicles.

"The committee has worked diligently with the French company Comexposium to ensure a comprehensive event showcasing the latest innovations and technologies in security," Milipol Qatar committee chairman Major-General Nasser bin Fahd al-Thani told journalists at a press

conference yesterday.

The three-day event, beginning tomorrow, will include seminars on various security topics, such as cybersecurity, civil defence and airport and border security, with 15 presentations, he explained.

The official noted that this edition of Milipol Qatar would see a record attendance of over 350 official delegations, demonstrating the exhibition's global importance.

The event provides opportunities for direct interaction with high-level delegations, military and security leaders, and representatives from government bodies, facilitating contracts and agreements with companies.

Some exhibitors will launch new systems and solutions, providing manufacturers of internal security and safety equipment an opportunity to engage with decision-makers and security experts, Maj-Gen Nasser al-Thani added.

Milipol Qatar 2024 to focus on AI in homeland security

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the 15th edition of Milipol Qatar is set to feature innovations in technology and host experts in homeland security under the theme of *Technology in the Service of Security*.

Organised by the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the event will be held from October 29-31 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), and welcome ministers of interior from friendly and allied nations along with representatives of security companies.

At a news conference yesterday, Milipol Qatar committee chairman Major-General Nasser bin Fahd al-Thani said that the event reflects Qatar's commitment to advancing technological capabilities to meet growing security challenges and support the security needs aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030.

A highlight of this edition of Milipol will be a special two-day conference on artificial intelligence (AI) for homeland security and safety technology, scheduled for October 29-30.

Milipol Qatar offers a platform bringing together governments, sector leaders and experts to discuss the global security environment

Leading global experts will discuss AI innovations and ethics focusing on four main themes: AI and smart technologies, AI in security operations, ethics of AI, and security challenges and opportunities in AI.

The conference underscores Qatar's pioneering role in the region and internationally, as it addresses complex AI-related security and legal issues, proposing recommendations to guide the positive application of AI technologies for governmental benefit and sustainable development.

"This positions Qatar as a pioneer in the region and globally in addressing this complex topic, from multiple security and legal perspectives, proposing recommendations for the positive regulation and use of AI technologies to support governments and current technological developments essential for growth," the official said.

Anne Fresinet, the director of the Milipol

International Network, emphasised the importance of the event in keeping pace with the rapidly evolving security landscape.

"Milipol Qatar offers a platform that brings together governments, sector leaders, and security experts to address ongoing changes in the global security environment," she said. "Our primary commitment is to enhance co-operation and showcase solutions that directly address these complex challenges."

Milipol Qatar committee member Major-General Saud Rashid al-Shafi was present at the news conference, which also marked the Milipol Qatar Committee signing sponsorship agreements with several companies, including Barzan Holdings, Qatar National Bank, Al Abdulghani Motors, Stark Motors, Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana, Teyseer Group, Ooredoo, Al Emadi Enterprises, Eshaar Holding, Qatar Factory, Al Mana Company, Multi Services Company, Audi Qatar, and Sports City Advertising.

ASSURED GOLD COINS ON GOLD & DIAMOND JEWELLERY

FREE GOLD COINS

Get a guaranteed gold coin for every QAR 3,000 worth gold jewellery.
Validity: 25th to 29th Oct

FREE 1 GRAM GOLD COIN

On purchase of Diamond & Precious gem jewellery worth QAR 5,000

FREE 1/2 GRAM GOLD COIN

On purchase of Diamond & Precious gem jewellery worth QAR 3,000

0%

ZERO DEDUCTION ON OLD GOLD (916) EXCHANGE

100%

VALUE ON DIAMOND EXCHANGE

Special buy counters with attractive discounts

Scan to view the festive jewellery collection

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

*T&C apply.

Shop with Confidence
For Complaints: 16001
License number: 2024/8660

Offer valid until 2nd November 2024

Shop 24/7 at www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com

تسوق بثقة
16001
رقم التماس: 2024/8660

OVER 360 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS QATAR, UAE, OMAN, BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, USA, INDIA, UK, CANADA & AUSTRALIA