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/KG كغ 26.75 QR 26.75 جبنة رومي، مصر Young roomy cheese, Egypt



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Cabinet congratulates Amir, Qatari people on referendum success

QNA
Doha

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

After the meeting, HE Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stated the following:

The Cabinet extends the highest congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

The Cabinet praises the efforts of Saudi Arabia in hosting the summit, expressing its aspiration that its results would form the basis for urgent and effective Arab-Islamic action to immediately end the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon, and to provide more humanitarian aid to civilians.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani welcomed the new ministers and congratulated them on the great trust that the Amir had placed in them, wishing them success in performing their duties, while extending thanks and appreciation to the former ministers for their valuable efforts in serving the nation and the citizen.

HE the prime minister emphasised that the next phase, which will see the implementation of the Third National Development Strategy and the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030, entails further intensified efforts in various positions across all fields, and continuing hard work to improve services to keep pace with the comprehensive developmental renaissance in the country.

The Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda as follows: The Cabinet approved a draft law on the state emblem and referred it to the Shura Council. The draft law was prepared with the aim of establishing the legal framework for the state emblem and regulating its use and areas of use as a symbol of the state's sovereignty, and providing legal protection to preserve it and consolidate the state's national identity locally and globally.

The Cabinet approved – in principle – a draft law amending some provisions of Law No 4 of 2008 on property leasing. The draft law was prepared to better confront the issue of property divisions, and avoid the negative effects resulting from the failure to register rental contracts. The Cabinet reviewed proposals by

The Cabinet welcomes the outcome of the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which was held in Riyadh on Monday, with the par-

the Shura Council regarding the regulation and monitoring of domestic worker recruitment offices, and took the appropriate decision thereon.

The Cabinet approved the National Strategy for Digital Authentication and Trust Services (2024-2026), prepared by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, in co-operation with several relevant government agencies, within the framework of achieving the goals of the Qatar Digital Agenda, the Third National Development Strategy, and contributing to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030, as well as to support the move towards the digital economy and innovation in digital services, and to develop the legislative, regulatory and technical requirements for the "digital authentication and trust services" systems, thus contributing to creating a reliable digital environment that enhances cooperation between individuals and government and private entities alike.

The Cabinet decided to take the necessary measures to ratify a memorandum of understanding for co-operation in the field of youth between the governments of Qatar and Senegal. The Cabinet decided to approve the draft basic contribution agreement to support the regular resources of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the period 2023-2024, between Qatar Fund for Development and the International Atomic Energy Agency; and the draft memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the fields of youth and sports between the governments of Qatar and Liberia.

In conclusion of its meeting, the Cabinet reviewed three reports and took appropriate decisions thereon – the sixth periodic report on the outcome of the work of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, the final report on the results of implementing the performance management system "Adaa" in 2023, and a report on the results of participation in the Second Business Forum of the Asia Co-operation Dialogue.

PM meets UN co-ordinator for Gaza



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met with the visiting UN Under-Secretary-General and Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Co-ordinator for Gaza, Sigrid Kaas. During the meeting, the two sides discussed co-operation relations between Qatar and the UN and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and in the occupied Palestinian territories, in addition to regional and international efforts to cease fire in the Strip and ways to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza without obstacles. (QNA)

PM, Egypt's FM discuss Gaza, Lebanon

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates Dr Badr Abdellatif. During the conversation, the two sides discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways of enhancing and promoting them, and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, especially with regard to facilitating unimpeded access of humanitarian and relief aid to all areas in the Strip, in addition to topics of joint interest. (QNA)

PM meets Indonesian deputy FM



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met with the visiting Indonesia Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Anis Matta. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to the latest developments in the region, especially in the Gaza Strip and in Lebanon, and ways to de-escalate the situation. They also discussed other topics of mutual interest. (QNA)

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Ministry of Commerce and Industry
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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees Qrs.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/093/24	Procurement, Construction, Installation and Commissioning (PCIC) Contract for Pipeline from MTBE to Methanol Plant & Rerouting of LEC Vent Gas to Reformer at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed	300/-	200,000/-	9 th December 2024
2	QTC/094/24	Four (4) Years Call off Contract for Supply of Assorted Gaskets at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed	300/-	50,000/-	9 th December 2024

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender document as follows:

- Collection Date : From Thursday, 14th November 2024 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time : 08:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Location : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees : As shown above, (*non-refundable*) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- Authorization : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - 1. Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 - 2. Proper Identification
 - 3. Copy of Company's Commercial Registration
 - 4. Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)
 - 5. Valid ICV Certificate (Mandatory for both tenders)

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 have 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/US>



Congratulations

For the trust bestowed by

His Highness

Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani

Amir of the State of Qatar

upon



His Excellency

Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani

We extend warm congratulations on His Excellency's appointment as

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs

We wish him continued progress and success



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ENLIGHTENMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



Ministry completes development of educational licensing platform

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has announced the completion of the development and activation of the "Educational Institutions Licensing" platform, which is now available to provide comprehensive services to various educational entities in Qatar. This platform is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance the digital infrastructure of the private education sector and streamline administrative procedures for all relevant parties.

The "Educational Institutions Licensing" platform aims to improve administrative efficiency and provide users with a smooth and secure digital experience. Educational institutions can now obtain the required licenses and follow up on procedures quickly and effectively, enhancing the quality of educational services. Omar Abdulaziz al-Naama, Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs, stated: "The launch of the Private Educational Institutions Licensing Platform is a qualitative step towards automating educational services. It reflects our commitment to the directives of His Highness the Amir

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to achieve Qatar's National Vision 2030. Through this platform, we aim to streamline procedures and enhance efficiency to support educational institutions and create an attractive environment for investment in the education sector, in line with the country's needs."

Dr Mona Saleh al-Fadhl, Director of the Information Systems Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, added: "The launch of the Educational Institutions Licensing Platform is a significant step in the digital transformation of the Ministry, adhering to the latest technological standards.



private kindergartens. The platform facilitates the completion, management, and follow-up of investors' transactions through a single, fully automated portal, eliminating the need for them to visit the departments responsible for licensing these institutions."

The platform offers a range of electronic services for investors, including managing educational centres, such as issuing educational centre licences, renewing licenses, changing the centre's name, changing the centre's owner, modifying the centre's activities, changing the director, changing the centre's location, adding or removing a partner,

obtaining permission to publish an advertisement or event, and canceling the centre's license by the investor. It also offers services for managing nurseries, including issuing and renewing nursery licences.

Activating the 'Educational Institutions Licensing Platform' is essential in supporting Qatar's National Vision 2030.

It provides a modern infrastructure to improve the quality of private education and ensure a high level of oversight of educational institutions. This enhances the quality of services the Ministry provides to investors in the private education sector.

Rain Emergency Committee ready

The Joint Rain Emergency Committee is determined to avoid the shortcomings of previous years, affirmed Muqbel al-Shammari, director of the General Cleaning Department, Ministry of Municipality. Speaking to Qatar TV, he pointed out that the committee was formed several years ago by a decision from the Minister of Municipality, based on directives from the Cabinet. The Ministry of Municipality, the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), and other member entities in the committee work on preparing for the rainy season before and during the season, as well as assessing the situation after the season. The official explained that the initial steps to prepare for the season include holding an advance meeting to assess the readiness of the entities concerned, examining their resources, tools, and equipment, and the available workforce.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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NALAKA SANJEEWA ARACHCHIGE

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LEELARATHNA WICKRAMASINGHE
ARACHCHIGE

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THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Al-Khulaifi meets UN official



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met with the visiting UN Under-Secretary-General and Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza, Sigrid Kaas. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in Gaza and the challenges that face humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip, in addition to ways of co-operation to deliver the humanitarian aid to Gaza. HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed the need for the international community to assume its responsibilities towards the humanitarian crisis in Gaza – especially in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, the starvation policy pursued by the Israeli occupation, and the occupation's obstruction in delivering humanitarian aid. (QNA)

Al-Hammadi meets Malaysian Deputy FM



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday with Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamad Alamin. During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, as well as a number of topics of joint interest. (QNA)

Labour ministry hosts seminar for recruitment office owners

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Labour hosted an insightful discussion seminar with licensed recruitment offices involved in the recruitment of overseas workers. The event, themed 'Recruitment Responsibility – Strengthening Rights and Reforms', aimed to raise awareness among licence holders regarding the latest decisions, procedures, and guidelines governing worker recruitment.

This seminar forms part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to engage with recruitment office owners, ensuring the effective implementation of regu-

lations and guidelines, and promoting balance within the labour market. Representatives from the relevant departments of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Interior attended the seminar.

During the seminar, the challenges faced by recruitment offices were thoroughly discussed, along with potential solutions to address them. The session also focused on the recently issued decisions, procedures, and guidelines aimed at improving service delivery, enhancing the labour market particularly in relation to domestic workers and ensuring the protection of the rights of all parties involved.

The Ministry of Labour reaffirmed its commitment to addressing all in-



quiries from recruitment offices and continues to organise workshops, seminars, and meetings in this regard. Additionally, the ministry reiterated its dedication to implementing the necessary measures, decisions, and in-

structions to protect employers' rights, thereby alleviating the burden on families within Qatari society, particularly in relation to obligations arising from breaches of employment contracts or the absconding of domestic workers.

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QID No. 29205000227

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HMC launches Qatar's 1st structured education programme for type 1 diabetes patients

● **DAFNE programme supports individuals with type 1 diabetes in carbohydrate counting, insulin management and use of technology in their care**

Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Diabetes and Endocrinology Section has launched the DAFNE (Dose Adjustment for Normal Eating) structured education programme for individuals with type 1 diabetes.

The programme was introduced in collaboration with the DAFNE Programme in the UK and Qatar's Ministry of Public Health, a statement said yesterday. The initiative is led by Dr Dabia al-Mohanadi, senior consultant and head of the Diabetes and Endocrinology Section in the Department of Medicine at Hamad General Hospital and M esaieed General Hospital.

The programme aims to help patients manage type 1 diabetes effectively. The chronic condition that affects insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, resulting in minimal or no insulin production. The programme also aims at enabling adults with type 1 diabetes to lead as normal a life as possible while maintaining blood glucose levels within healthy targets to reduce the risk of long-term diabetes complications.

The National Diabetes Strategy (2016-2022), alongside the upcoming Action Plan on Diabetes, Obesity, and Cardiovascular Diseases under the National Health Strategy (2024-2030), emphasises the importance of empowering type 1 diabetes patients through structured education programmes.



Qatar has taken the initiative to translate the DAFNE curriculum into Arabic. A quality assurance team has been established and trained to collect and analyse data before, during and after the training, which is essential for programme reaccreditation.

Dr al-Mohanadi, said: "As the main provider of secondary and specialised healthcare for diabetes patients in Qatar, HMC is the primary referral centre for all adults diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Therefore, launching the DAFNE programme under HMC's umbrella was a priority."

Diabetes and endocrinology senior consultant Dr Khaled Ashawesh said the programme is currently operational at both Hamad General Hospital and M esaieed General Hospital. Senior consultant Dr Khaled Baagar explained that the implementation is by multidisciplinary

teams comprising physicians, health educators and dietitians.

Senior consultant Dr Hamda Abdullah said 11 staff members have been trained in the DAFNE programme, including five physicians, three educators and three dietitians." The participants attend one session per week for five weeks, covering the entire educational period, followed by an additional three-week observation period to monitor individual outcomes. Many type 1 diabetes patients have successfully completed the programme.

The DAFNE programme aims to expand in 2025 to accommodate a larger number of patients through a 'Train the Trainer' programme. Plans are also underway to open a dedicated DAFNE clinic at both Hamad General Hospital and M esaieed General Hospital to evaluate patients before and after training.

Qatar, Turkiye leaders' support pivotal to ties, says ambassador

Qatar's ambassador to Turkiye Sheikh Mohammed bin Nasser bin Jassim Thani said that, over the past nine years, the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee has witnessed a strong incentive for developing bilateral relations and continuing joint strategic co-ordination, thanks to the great support provided by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador said that, thanks to the great support that the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee has been provided with, alongside the continued joint strategic co-ordination, more than 100 agreements have been signed between the two sides, during which the new agreements will be signed.

The ambassador highlighted the connection between holding this meeting and the great rapprochement between the two countries and the close ties that unite them, especially since Qatari-Turkish bilateral relations have always been characterised by their stability and solidity over



the past years, despite the change in global dynamics and regional contexts.

He added that this significant annual meeting contributes to consolidating outcomes, reviewing the signed agreements, and discussing any pending items or issues between the two parties, indicating that the agreements signed therein are considered an organisational framework that ensures the success and sustainability of cooperation in various fields.

In this context, the ambassador highlighted the distinguished Qatari-Turkish bilateral relations, saying that the Qatari-Turkish relations differ from other international relations in their distinction, stability and continuity, explaining that they have branched out to include all sectors at all levels, such as strategic planning, trade, economic, cultural, educational, technological, communications and other fields.

'Relations characterised by sustainable strategic depth'

Turkish ambassador to Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu said the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee represents the cornerstone of bilateral relations, which have reached broader horizons and are characterised by sustainable strategic depth, becoming a model of regional and international solidarity and cooperation.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador said the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee, established in 2014, provides a comprehensive institutional framework for effective and results-oriented co-operation.

"The committee is the highest level of co-ordination and co-operation between the two countries, with the goal of enhancing bilateral relations across various fields, including politics, economy, commerce, defence, security, education, and culture," he added.



He stressed that the committee not only formalises our shared vision but also provides a direct channel for deepening the historic ties and brotherly relations that already exist between the two fraternal peoples.

The ambassador highlighted that the committee has achieved important milestones over the years, 100 agreements and joint declarations signed and adopted across various sectors, including political, commercial, economic, and military domains.

He emphasised that thanks to the agreements signed since the committee's inception, bilateral relations have rapidly advanced in all areas, gaining a strategic character based on mutual trust and a solid contractual foundation. **Page 15**

Congratulations

For the trust bestowed by

His Highness

Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani

Amir of the State of Qatar

upon



Her Excellency

Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed al-Khater

We extend warm congratulations on Her Excellency's appointment as **Minister of Education and Higher Education**

We wish her continued progress and success



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Qatar takes part in UPU Council of Administration session in Berne

QNA
Doha

Qatar, represented by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) and Qatar Postal Services Company (Qatar Post), participated in the 2024 session of the Universal Postal Unions (UPU) Council of Administration (CA) in Berne, Switzerland.

The Qatari delegation participated in strategic discussions and committee leadership, underscoring the state's continued influence in shaping global postal standards and practices. During the UPU session, Qatar co-chaired, with Belarus Committee 4 concerned

with the Development Co-operation and Technical Assistance, reaffirming its dedication to advancing the global postal sector.

This leadership role enabled Qatar to support inclusive initiatives addressing disparities in postal infrastructure across UPU member states, fostering universal access to reliable postal services. Qatar's active engagement throughout the session highlighted its commitment to sustainable, innovative, and cooperative solutions for global postal systems.

The session's agenda covered critical topics, including disaster risk management, quality of service enhancements, financial inclusion initiatives, and sustainable development strategies. The



discussions also addressed the Quality of Service Fund (QSF) and the Integrated Quality of Service Plan (IQP), shaping postal policies and projects that will extend into 2029.

Through its participation, CRA reinforced Qatar's standing on the global stage, aligning national postal policy with international standards. This engagement ensures that Qatar remains

at the forefront of regulatory, operational, and policy advancements in the postal landscape, benefiting consumers, Service Providers, and other stakeholders within Qatar.

CRA's active role in this UPU session underscores Qatar's dynamic contributions to the global postal community. In line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy 2024–2030, CRA is committed to advancing Qatar's vision for sustainable, long-term growth through international collaboration and excellence in postal governance.

The Universal Postal Union, established in 1874 and headquartered in Berne, is one of the oldest

international organisations and a specialised agency of the UN. With 192 member countries, the UPU sets global postal standards, coordinates development initiatives, and addresses emerging challenges within the postal sector.

Since becoming a UPU member in 1969, Qatar has actively contributed to promoting robust and inclusive postal services globally. As an influential member of the Council of Administration, Qatar continues to play a pivotal role in sustaining UPU operations between Universal Postal Congress sessions, addressing essential policy, regulatory, and strategic issues to advance global postal systems.

Qatar discusses its national report on rights under Universal Periodic Review mechanism

QNA
Geneva

Qatar discussed its fourth report under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other international organisations in Geneva HE Dr Hend bint Abdulrahman al-Muftah chaired the state's delegation to the discussion.

Members of the delegation were representatives of the Standing National Committee for the Preparation of Universal Periodic Review Reports, as well as the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Social Development and Family, Labour, Public Health, Justice, Culture, Sports and Youth, Education and Higher Education, Environment, Climate Change, Municipality, Transportation, and Communi-

cations and Information Technology. The delegation also consisted of representatives from the Supreme Judiciary Council, the Public Prosecution, and the National Committee for Women, Children, the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.

In her remarks during the discussion, HE Dr al-Muftah stated that human rights in Qatar have become a steadfast strategic choice guiding both state and societal actions, stressing that awareness of the need to respect human rights and to provide all necessary guarantees for its protection has become a key element in building the state of institutions and supporting good governance. This commitment is upheld while preserving Qatar's civilisational identity and cultural and religious uniqueness, within a secure society that enjoys well-being and development.

She explained that Qatar's com-

mitment to promoting and protecting human rights stems from Islam and the Arab and Islamic culture and identity which highly values human dignity and upholds equal rights for all people. She emphasised that Qatar's keenness on human rights is grounded in national principles, foremost among them its Constitution and Qatar National Vision 2030, along with previous national development strategies which have recently culminated in the launch of the Third National Development Strategy 2024–2030 which aims to achieve seven key outcomes: sustainable economic growth, financial sustainability, a future-ready workforce, a cohesive society, a high quality of life, environmental sustainability, and exceptional government institutions.

She highlighted Qatar's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights through enacting legislation, adopting measures, poli-

cies, and strategies, strengthening international cooperation, engaging with international human rights mechanisms, and investing in training, capacity building and awareness-raising.

She also addressed recent developments related to providing quality education at both national and international levels, healthcare, and advancing the rights of women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, along with the significant reforms Qatar has implemented to enhance the rights of migrant workers.

She pointed out Qatar's role in international development and humanitarian co-operation, and its efforts to assist countries, particularly developing countries, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. She also highlighted Qatar's contributions to supporting stability and promoting international peace and security, through hosting negotiations and

engaging in mediation between conflicting parties in countries experiencing armed conflicts.

HE Dr al-Muftah noted that Qatar's recent election to a new term on the Human Rights Council for the 2025–2027 period will contribute to supporting its efforts to improve human rights conditions, and enhance its role in supporting the Council's work to promote global respect for all human rights values and principles.

Members of Qatar's delegation to the review addressed topics related to their areas of expertise, and responded to the questions submitted in advance by several member states. A total of 118 countries participated in the discussion, offering their observations and recommendations, with the majority commending Qatar's efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations during the review period.

Doha hosts meeting of GCC undersecretaries of ministries of interior

Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Interior of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries held a meeting in Doha, chaired by HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab al-Kaabi, in preparation for the 41st meeting of the GCC Ministers of Interior.

In his opening remarks, HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior underscored the importance of this meeting given the challenges faced by the world, highlighting that it represents an important opportunity to proceed with sharing visions and expertise, in pursuit of crystallising a clear-eyed future vision to address the current security challenges and unify efforts and positions pertaining to security issues of shared concern.

He underlined that the security co-operation journey between the GCC states has proven its strength and evolution, until became a role model in the joint security action, highlighting that



this journey achieved successes and milestones that contribute to enhancing security and stability of the GCC states. For his part, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior of Saudi Arabia, Dr Khalid bin Mohammed al-Battal, highlighted the importance of this meeting that epitomises the spirit of fraternity to surmount security challenges and deepen the security and stability system to provide a secure life for citizens, residents and visitors of GCC states.

Undersecretary of Ministry of Interior of Kuwait, Maj Gen Sheikh Salem Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, noted the significance of the meeting to discuss security

matters and the recommendations of the specialised committees that foster the efficiency of security agencies, as well as their ability to combat crimes in general, and the emerging crimes, in particular, such as cybercrime, fraud, and drug-related offences.

Attended by GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Security Affairs, Brig Hamad Ajlan al-Amiri, the meeting discussed myriad topics on the agenda pertaining to reinforcing the joint Gulf security co-operation and reaching constructive and productive recommendations to be further submitted to the GCC Ministers of Interior.

the presidency of the session of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers from Qatar to the State of Palestine, voicing Qatar's wishes for Palestine to succeed in its responsibilities in chairing the current session. In the same context, the Arab Ministers of Transport voiced their thanks to Qatar for its efforts during its presidency of the previous session of the council, expressing their wishes for success for the sisterly State of Palestine on the occasion of its assumption of the presidency of the current session. In remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Economic Affairs Sector at the Arab League ambassador Ali bin Ibrahim al-Maliki praised Qatar's role during its presidency of the previous session of the council. In this regard, he noted the various efforts made by Qatar in this significant field, which contributed to the issuance of decisions that serve joint Arab action.

He pointed out that Qatar is one of the advanced countries in the field of transportation and communications in general, which was greatly reflected in its presidency of the previous session of the council. He voiced his hope that the current session of the council would succeed in developing joint Arab cooperation and formulating a new vision in line with the events taking place in the Arab region.

for green hydrogen, establishing a special Arab agency for maritime safety, in addition to establishing a regional centre for managing ship traffic in the Bab Al Mandab Strait in the Red Sea, and other issues of exchanging exemptions from taxes and customs duties, which enhances co-operation in the transportation sectors among Arab countries.

He pointed out that, in implementation of the previous recommendations of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers, a workshop will be held to develop an integrated supply chain for green hydrogen as a step toward achieving sustainable development and enhancing the sustainability of the transport sector in Arab countries, which will contribute to achieving optimal utilisation of clean energy sources and creating a sustainable economic environment in the Arab region. He voiced Qatar's wishes for success for this session and its support for all joint work programs in the field of transport in all its sectors. At the conclusion of Qatar's speech, al-Ebrahim handed over

Shura Council participates in Arab Parliament Dialogue

QNA
Doha

The Shura Council participated in the Arab Parliament Dialogue on protecting honourable senior citizens from violence, abuse, and neglect. The dialogue was organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) via video conference.

Representing the Council in the dialogue was member of the Council Khalid bin Abbas Kamal al-Emadi alongside participants from Arab parliaments concerned with population and social issues, including members from specialised committees in legislation, social affairs, education, health, and human rights.

In his remarks during the dialogue, al-Emadi highlighted Qatar's respect and appreciation for senior citizens, noting that all Qatari ministries and public institutions have been directed to use the term seniors of esteem instead of elderly in all official correspondence, websites, and statements.

He outlined Qatar's efforts, poli-



cies, and measures aimed at enhancing and protecting the rights of that segment of the population and prioritising them in inclusive social policies, and providing high-quality services and care to ensure them a dignified life.

He also highlighted some of the services provided for this group, such as comprehensive healthcare in hospitals and health centres, as well as home-based care services within their family residences, known as home care.

He touched on the role of the Ehsan Center, a civil and social organisation dedicated to empowering this group, supporting their active participation in various fields, and raising public awareness about their rights and essen-

tial issues. The centre provides integrated services for seniors across Qatar.

Al-Emadi noted that this group is held in high regard within Qatari society, where cultural values and religious teachings uphold their respect and care. He emphasised that seniors of esteem are an integral part of the family and community fabric in Qatar, with efforts made to ensure their inclusion through active participation in various family and community activities.

The dialogue also dealt with recent developments in national legislative frameworks addressing violence and abuse against seniors. It discussed the challenges and gaps related to the detection, reporting, and criminalisation of abuse and violence, as well as their access to legal protection.

The Arab Parliament Dialogue serves as a platform for exchanging expertise and identifying best practices to advance the issues of seniors and protect them from abuse, violence, and neglect. It provides an opportunity to discuss ESCWA's related activities concerning them for the year 2025.

Qatar attends Council of Arab Transport Ministers

QNA
Alexandria

Qatar participated in the 37th session of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers, held yesterday at the headquarters of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in Alexandria, Egypt.

First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the Arab League Khaled Abdullah al-Ebrahim led Qatar's delegation at the meeting. In Qatar's speech at the meeting, al-Ebrahim said that while Qatar is pleased with the fruitful co-operation it found during its presidency of the previous session, it wishes this new session success in enhancing Arab co-operation in the fields of transportation and logistics, supporting efforts aimed at developing the transportation infrastructure in the Arab region, and enhancing economic integration among Arab member states, in a way that serves the achievement of sustainable development goals.

He pointed out that the session's agenda is full of vital and modern issues that keep pace with the global boom in the fields of transportation, including the Arab mechanism, database, and artificial intelligence technology in developing the transportation sector and establishing a supply chain



for green hydrogen, establishing a special Arab agency for maritime safety, in addition to establishing a regional centre for managing ship traffic in the Bab Al Mandab Strait in the Red Sea, and other issues of exchanging exemptions from taxes and customs duties, which enhances co-operation in the transportation sectors among Arab countries.

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Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is launching today its 2nd Annual Scientific Conference, titled 'Gastrointestinal Disorders in Primary Health Care'. The three-day event will be attended by many experts and specialists from various Qatari health institutions and companies.

The conference partners include the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), and Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC). The opening ceremony will be attended by QRCS vice-president engineer Ibrahim Hashim al-Sada; board member, Medical Affairs Division director-general and conference chairman Dr Abdul-Salam Ali al-Qahtani; secretary-general Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi; and other officials.

The event has a five-point agenda. The first is highlighting the National Health Strategy regarding gastrointestinal disorders and the adopted reduction, prevention, and early detection plans. The second is enhancing health care



Dr Abdul-Salam al-Qahtani

for patients with gastrointestinal disorders and defining the role of health care providers of all specialities in gastrointestinal diagnosis and management at the primary health care level.

The third point is enriching knowledge about gastrointestinal-specific disorders, complying with evidence-based parameters and guidelines from clinical experiments and research, and exploring the latest diagnosis and treatment solutions/technologies. The fourth aspect is facilitating study-based learning, training, and knowledge sharing in gastro-



Engineer Ibrahim Hashim al-Sada

enterology; and the fifth is improving the quality and continuity of patient care and agreeing on guidelines for gastrointestinal referrals to secondary health care facilities, enabling primary health care practitioners to make timely referral decisions to the right place and person.

On the sidelines of the main event, two pre-conference workshops will be held, offering participants up to 20 continuing professional development (CPD) credit hours, as approved by MoPH's Department of Healthcare Professions Accreditation Section.

2nd QRCS Annual Scientific Conference opens today



Porsche Centre Doha launches electric Macan, Taycan, 911 Coupe

Porsche Centre Doha has launched the new all-electric Macan, Taycan and the new 911 Coupe at an exclusive event at Al Baraha, Msheireb Downtown Doha, a statement said. Porsche has comprehensively upgraded the iconic 911 sports car of 2024 with a new Carrera GTS, the first road-approved 911 equipped with a super-lightweight performance hybrid system. The newly-developed, innovative powertrain system with 3.6 litres displacement delivers a significantly enhanced driving performance. The 911 Carrera GTS Coupe accelerates from zero to 100km/h in 3.0 seconds and reaches a top speed of 312km/h.

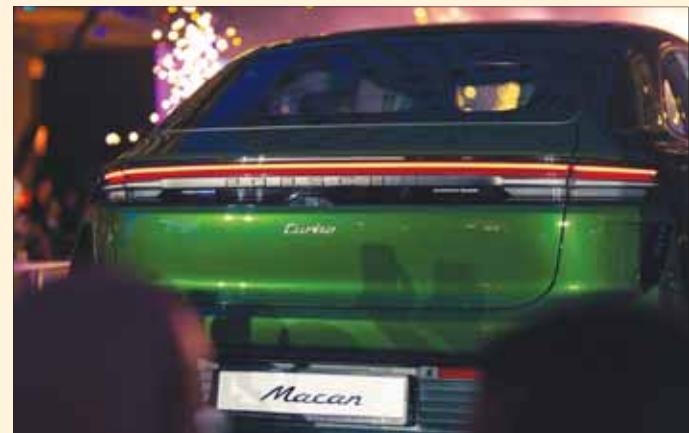
Taycan ushered in a new era of e-mobility at the end of 2019 and with just under 150,000 produced since. The new version brings more power, better range, faster acceleration and faster charging times with sharpened looks and a



refreshed interior. "The new all-electric Macan represents the expanding appeal of Porsche to a wider audience. We now have the youngest product line-up in our history and the Macan has played

an important role to achieve this," said Ahed Dawood, brand manager for Porsche Centre Doha, Al Boraq Automobiles Co. The new Macan SUV, the second generation model coming 10 years after the launch of the

original Macan, is debuting as an all-electric range. In combination with Launch Control, the Macan 4 produces up to 300kW (408 PS) of overboost power, while the Macan Turbo boasts up to 470kW (639 PS).



The maximum torque is 650Nm and 1,130Nm respectively and while the Macan 4 accelerates to 100km/h in 5.2 seconds and has a top speed of 220km/h, the Macan Turbo covers the same distance in just 3.3 seconds and tops out at 260km/h. "The exclusive launch of not one, not two, but three new Porsche

models, each representing a bold step into the future is incredibly exciting for everyone," stated Salman Jassem al-Darwish, CEO, Porsche Centre Doha, Al Boraq Automobiles Co.

"The unveiling of these three innovative yet unmistakable models, representing a bold new era for Porsche," he added.

Media City Qatar to power DFI's Ajyal

Media City Qatar has announced its partnership with the Doha Film Institute (DFI) to power the 2024 edition of the Ajyal Film Festival from November 16-23.

With Media City Qatar as the principal partner, this year's Ajyal festival is set to elevate Qatar's role in the media, entertainment, and film industries, attracting creators, filmmakers, and audiences from around the world.

"Our partnership for the 2024 Ajyal Film Festival, presented by DFI, demonstrates Media City Qatar's commitment to boosting Qatar's creative sector," said engineer Jassim Mohamed al-Khori, CEO of Media City Qatar.

"By supporting events like Ajyal, we are creating new opportunities for creators to share their work and contribute to Qatar's content creation and creative economy. This festival is a key moment in reinforcing Qatar's position as a leading force in global media," he explained.

DFI CEO and Ajyal festival director Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, said: "Our partnership with Media City Qatar marks an important milestone, allowing us to deepen our dedication to creative excellence and further position Qatar as a thriving hub for innovation in the arts."

A highlight of Media City Qatar's involvement in this edition of the festival is the exclusive premiere of



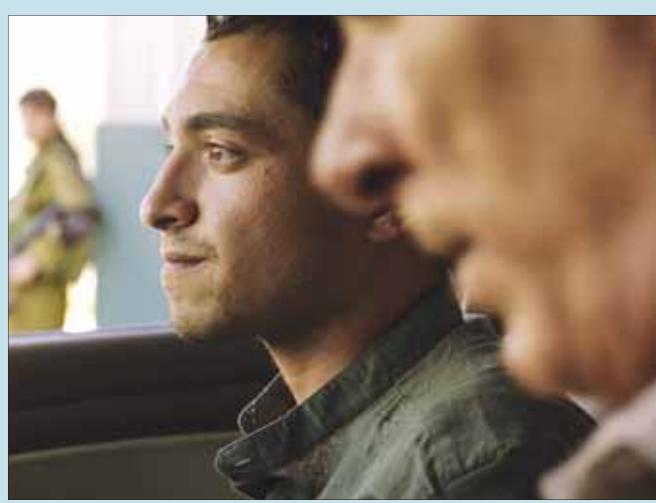
a new episode of The Apprentice: ONE Championship Edition Season 2, which showcases Qatar's unique culture and landscapes.

The Apprentice is a co-production by Media City Qatar and Group ONE Holdings, with three episodes filmed across several iconic locations in Qatar, spotlighting the country's growing presence on the world's entertainment stage.

The special screening will include a red carpet event followed by a screening and a panel discussion featuring key figures.

'Voices from Palestine' at Ajyal 2024

In a poignant tribute to the resilience, resistance and hope of the Palestinian people, Doha Film Institute (DFI)'s Ajyal 2024, will present the next instalment of its 'Voices from Palestine' programme. Standing in solidarity with Palestinians, the programme is a depiction of Palestine in times of profound collective mourning and reflection. In a statement, DFI CEO and festival director Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "These films are a call across the world for recognition, justice and empathy. We are creating a space to promote the values of empathy and compassion and believe these stories will resonate far and wide to inspire and ignite bonds of solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters". One of the highlights of the programme is From Ground Zero (Palestine, France, Qatar, Jordan, UAE/2024), an



Set against the backdrop of the 2023 attacks, each film, ranging from 3-6 minutes, offers a unique and personal lens into life in Gaza under siege.

anthology of 22 short films created by filmmakers from Gaza, curated by renowned Palestinian filmmaker Rashid Masharawi. Set against the

backdrop of the 2023 attacks, each film, ranging from 3-6 minutes, offers a unique and personal lens into life in Gaza under siege.

QIC launches blog platform

Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) has launched its digital blog, qic.blog, the company's new corporate content and insurance literacy platform designed to promote insurance culture within the community and to foster an easy understanding of everyday life in Qatar.

qic.blog offers up-to-date, informative content in both English and Arabic, including articles covering topics that range from car insurance and licensing, driving in Qatar, trends in tourism and travel to and from Doha, medical insurance and health-care tips and other topics related to living worry-free in Qatar.

The blog will soon feature the 'Insurance Dictionary' service, set to be the first online dictionary dedicated to insurance in Qatar, and providing concise and precise explanations of essential and frequently used terms in the world of insurance.

Rashid al-Buainain, Group chief administrative officer, said: "We are happy to introduce this first-of-its-kind platform in Qa-

tar as an addition to our existing web and mobile channels, in line with QIC's commitment to helping our community members better understand their insurance needs, and thereafter be able to make informed decisions when choosing the insurance products that best respond to their needs, and guarantee the financial protection and peace of mind they all deserve."

"We look forward to continuing to improve our new content platform with additional features and services, and we are confident that the qic.blog will be a game changer when it comes to strengthening the insurance culture within the community in Qatar."

To give voice to Qatar-based bloggers and content writer experts in insurance and related fields, qic.blog welcomes contributions from guest authors. Additionally, proposals can be addressed to the blog's editorial team via e-mail at hello@qic.on-line

Ministry of Culture holds poetry event at International Book Fair of Algiers



The Ministry of Culture (MoC) held a poetry evening on Tuesday as part of Qatar's participation as the guest of honour at the 27th International Book Fair of Algiers. Themed Algeria and Qatar, the evening brought together Qatari Nabati poet Ali Ahmed al-

Kuwaiti and Algerian poet Amina Hamdoon. The Ministry of Culture's Director of Culture and Arts Department Abdulrahman al-Dulaimi told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that such poetry evenings contribute to enhancing the exchange of local experiences and cultures

between poets and intellectuals of the two countries. Al-Dulaimi highlighted Qatar's interest in literature and poetry, with the Ministry of Culture establishing literary centres and festivals that support poetry and demonstrate its importance in consolidating moral values. (QNA)



Poland's charm 'draws travellers from Qatar'

By Joey Aguilar

Staff Reporter

Poland is emerging as a popular travel destination among Qatar residents and those from the other Gulf countries, according to Polish head of mission in Doha Tomasz Sadzinski.

The trend has been boosted by twice-daily direct Qatar Airways flights and growing awareness of Poland's attractions, he told *Gulf Times* while underlining the rising appeal of Polish culture, landscapes and hospitality.

"We are seeing a lot of interest in tourism and travelling to Poland," he said, attributing this to both the country's diverse attractions and the ease of travel from Qatar.

Sadzinski announced that this month, the Polish mission in Doha will participate in the Qatar Travel Mart 2024 to further showcase Poland's tourism appeal.

"We will have a display with Polish food, a live band, and cultural exhibits to invite Qataris and residents to consider Poland as a travel destination," he said.

Sadzinski noted that visitors from the GCC countries are especially welcomed in the south-



Polish head of mission in Doha Tomasz Sadzinski in conversation with *Gulf Times*.

PICTURE: Thajudheen

ern regions of Poland during the summer, where the local community has embraced this new wave of travellers, often seen enjoying the scenic landscapes and vibrant summer activities.

He pointed out that this tourism interest is just one component of the expanding relationship between Qatar and Poland, a bond strengthened by economic and diplomatic ties.

Highlighting the significance of their bilateral relations, Sadzinski noted the high-level visits between the two countries, including the visit of His Highness the

Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Poland in July this year and the Polish president's two recent trips to Doha.

He said one of the key pillars of this relationship is energy co-operation, where Qatar has played a crucial role in Poland's energy strategy as its primary supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Since 2016, Qatar has been delivering LNG to Poland through the Swinoujscie LNG terminal on the Baltic Sea. Following a 2017 agreement that doubled the LNG exports, Qatar now supplies nearly a third of Poland's LNG requirements.

"We obviously have a strong and strategic energy partnership. Qatar is delivering LNG but also a number of investments are being conducted in ports sector, logistics, and also we have substantial growth in trade. Qatar is third largest trading partner for Poland within the GCC and sixth biggest in the Middle East," Sadzinski said.

He noted that the recent Qatar Boat Show at the Old Doha Port witnessed Polish yacht manufacturer Sunreef showcasing its luxury yachts, a nod to Poland's high-tech industry and its commitment to the Qatari market.

Falcons championship concludes



The 6th Ras Laffan Falcons Championship concluded yesterday. The championship was organised by Al Gannas Qatari Society and sponsored by Ras Laffan Community outreach Programme and the supporting companies. The concluding day witnessed the finals of Al Da'aw (falcons speeding) competitions with three top winners taking home cash prizes of QR60,000, QR50,000 and QR30,000, respectively. Encouragement prizes were given to the winners of the promising falconer category (6-10 years), and those of the



young falconer category (6-10 years). The value of these prizes ranged from QR2,000 to QR6,000.



Qatari financial consultant 'helps women achieve financial independence'

By Tawfik Lamari

Staff Reporter

Born to a family of diplomats, Qatar University (QU) graduate at an early age, holder of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani Gold Medal for academic achievement, Amal bint Ali al-Kuwari is a certified financial consultant, coach and trainer.

Amal al-Kuwari's goal is to help Qatari, Arab and other women achieve financial independence and wealth.

She gave an exclusive interview to *Gulf Times* and said that: "My specialisation is quite unique in Qatar and will help in normalising talking about money (a taboo topic) in a normal manner as well as spreading financial literacy. I chose to work with women as my target audience, since the woman has a great impact in our society, she is the mother, sister, and daughter. She is the mainstay of every home."

She kicked off her professional career in January 2024, with a background in mindset development and wealth creation and has already a wide variety of professional women



then the follow up is done by e-mail. I also run sessions via Zoom meetings for women from the UAE, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

"I mainly help them get away from bad spending habits i.e. age groups between 25 and 56 years old, they are given an individual financial plan to follow to either make their money grow, or even those who want to retire. Then, they have to do the hard work by themselves and commit to the agreed plan under my coaching and supervision."

Al-Kuwari combines through her unique approach, practical financial strategies with a deep understanding of mindset and behaviour change. She added: "By offering holistic guidance to women who want to take control of their financial futures. My approach is personalised, culturally relevant, and designed to inspire lasting transformation."

She concluded by saying: "I also offer practical tools for saving, investing, and growing income. My coaching and training courses are either in Arabic or English, they are designed to be accessible, easy to understand, and culturally relevant for Qatari, Arab and other women."

clients ranging from doctors, to VIPs, HR experts and she leads by example to impact this community.

Al-Kuwari said: "By helping women I aim to develop a healthy relationship with money and my clients, through my tailored workshops, training courses, and one-on-one coaching. I empower women to achieve financial independence by understanding money psychology, investment strategies, and wealth building techniques.

"To make it easy, I send a pre-session questionnaire to assess and discover the trainee profile and habits, then hold with her 1 to 3 or four coaching sessions,

function, which leads to increased stopping distance.

The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries 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.

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Participants discussed how ancient libraries facilitated the circulation of texts within intellectual circles, serving as communication bridges between the local community and scientific institutions overseas.

The discussions also touched on the future role of libraries in an increasingly digital world,

reflecting on the challenges and successes that Moroccan institutions have experienced throughout their history.

QNL's senior archivist Dr Moez Dridi, who moderated the study day, said the event demonstrates the institution's commitment to promoting Arab heritage and providing insights into the history of the region.

The study day brought together Dr Al-Khayali Abdellah, head of Human Resources, Finance, and Scientific Research at the Hassania Library in Rabat,

along with Dr Mustafa al-Tubi, head of the Research Team on Moroccan Manuscript Heritage at Ibn Zohr University, and Abdelfattah Boukhouf, director of the Qaraouiyine Library in Fez.

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The study day is the latest in a series of initiatives that celebrate the shared history, values and heritage of Qatar and Morocco.

Qatar Museums' YoC initiative is an annual cultural exchange that strengthens Qatar's ties with nations worldwide through long-term cultural partnerships.

QNL kicked off its annual YoC

celebrations in September and is planning a series of events in the coming weeks, ranging from reading circles to lectures, workshops and exhibitions on the history and traditions of Morocco, a statement added.

As Qatar's first private university, we have spent over two decades refining our educational offerings."

The forum's agenda included keynote addresses, expert panel discussions, and networking opportunities, all aimed at fostering a global dialogue on educational

quality enhancement in tourism and hospitality.

Dr Ivan Ninov, executive dean of ARIU in partnership with the Uni-

Dodge, Hyundai, Kia models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with United Cars Almana, has announced the recall of Dodge Ram 1500, 2023-2024 models, as the turn signal which does not self-cancel after a completed turn may confuse other motorists and cause accidents.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Skyline Automotive, announced the recall of Hyundai Tucson, Azera, and Genesis Coupe, 2009-

2014 models, as an electrical short in the HECU module may rarely occur, increasing the risk of an engine compartment fire. The MoCI, in co-operation with Al-Attiya Motors and Trading Company, also announced the recall of Kia EV9, 2024-2025 models, as an error with the Integrated Electronic Booster software may result in insufficient brake pressure when using the Remote Smart Parking Assist

function, which leads to increased stopping distance.

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quality enhancement in tourism and hospitality.

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ARIU hosts IPoE Forum with global leaders

Al Rayyan International University College (ARIU), in partnership with the University of Derby, hosted the annual International Panel of Experts (IPoE) Forum organised by THE-ICE (International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education).

The forum, held from November 7-10, brought together global leaders in tourism, hospitality, and education at ARIU's campus in Doha, a statement said.

The forum was officially inaugurated by THE-ICE chair Giennke Osinga, who described the event as a cornerstone of efforts to drive quality and innovation in tourism and hospitality education globally.

Dr Mazen Hasna, chair of Qatar's National Committee for



Qualifications and Academic Accreditation, delivered the keynote address, emphasising the country's dedication to high

standards in education.

ARIU's parent organisation ARIES Group general manager Mona El Helbawi, said: "Hosting THE-

ICE IPoE Forum 2024 at ARIU's campus represents a shared dedication to elevating standards and fostering global collaboration in

tourism and hospitality education."

Dr Ivan Ninov, executive dean of ARIU in partnership with the Uni-

versity of Derby, said: "This gathering marks a milestone for ARIU as we host this esteemed forum for the first time. Since our founding almost 25 years ago by HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, ARIU has specialised in business-related degrees in tourism, hospitality, and international business studies, with a steadfast commitment to enhancing quality in higher education."

"As Qatar's first private university, we have spent over two decades refining our educational offerings."

The forum's agenda included keynote addresses, expert panel discussions, and networking opportunities, all aimed at fostering a global dialogue on educational quality enhancement in tourism and hospitality.

Qatar Charity delivers housing for displaced families in Syria



In preparation for the upcoming winter season and with the goal of providing safe and dignified shelter to the Syrian displaced families who have endured harsh conditions in tents for many years, Qatar Charity (QC), in collaboration with the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), has begun handing over homes in Al Amal City project in northern Syria's camps.

The homes are being delivered in a phased manner and the city will officially be inaugurated once the relocation process is completed. The apartments are

fully furnished with furniture, electrical appliances, and household items. Karam Ali, director of QC's office in Turkey, expressed gratitude to the people of Qatar for their generous contributions to make the project a reality.

Beneficiaries expressed their immense happiness upon receiving their new apartments in Al Amal City. Displaced woman Um Hassan said: "Today we have been blessed after ten years of patience. During those years, we faced very difficult conditions. We thank the

Qatari people and Qatar Charity, who have spared no effort in supporting us."

Al Amal City, located in the town of Suran in northern Aleppo countryside, consists of 1,400 residential units, educational and service facilities, such as schools for boys and girls, a kindergarten, a vocational training school, a mosque, commercial shops, and a clinic. The city is fully equipped with infrastructure, including a water and sewage network, electricity, and paved roads.

beIN celebrates wins in BroadcastPro ME Awards

beIN Media Group's (beIN) children's channel Jeem TV has won Best Kids' Initiative of the Year and its OTT platform, TOD, won Best OTT Production of the Year - Non-Fiction at the 14th edition of the BroadcastPro ME Awards.

The annual BroadcastPro ME Awards celebrates the best operators in the media and broadcast industries, recognising organisations for their contributions to creativity and innovation, a statement said yesterday.

beIN's awards were in recognition of Jeem TV's inaugural broadcast of F1 Kids in Classical Arabic, which marked a significant moment for children's programming in the region. TOD's original documentary *Ons Jabeur: This Is Me* exploring the life of Arab tennis superstar Ons Jabeur and her journey to the four Grand Slams of 2023 provided a candid window into the life of one of the Arab World's most prominent sports stars.

"Jeem TV's adaptation of F1 Kids and TOD's original documentary *Ons Jabeur: This Is Me* are both a testament to our ongoing commitment to delivering premier sports content that not only entertains, but also resonates with audiences worldwide," said Mohammad al-Subai, CEO of beIN Media.

Jeem TV's F1 Kids programme adaptation was designed to captivate young audiences by delivering the thrill of Formula 1 to children in the region, in their



mother tongue, with a variety of engaging features such as 3D graphics and a child commentator paired with a professional.

TOD's award-winning *Ons Jabeur: This Is Me* is a 95-minute original sports documentary that goes behind the scenes with

Jabeur, the first Arab to reach a grand slam tennis final. The Tunisian had reached the final of Wimbledon and the US Open in 2022, so the documentary follows her to the four major tournaments of 2023 as she reaches the Wimbledon Final once more.

WISH 2024 focuses on key health challenges

From Page 1

"At WISH, we strive to present the world's most cutting-edge ideas and scientific advancements. But we also focus on confronting the urgent challenges before us, particularly given that Qatar holds a firm belief in our shared responsibility to foster understanding, drive progress, and uphold the spirit of global co-operation."

The summit underscores the need for health innovation that supports everyone, leaves no one behind, and builds resilience, particularly for vulnerable communities and in regions affected

by armed conflict. Lord Darzi highlighted the challenges faced by those working to provide care during armed conflict.

He said: "War is a healthcare catastrophe. There can never be any justification for targeting healthcare personnel or infrastructure - it is purely and simply wrong. We must stand together to condemn such actions and honour those who courageously continue to provide care in the most appalling conditions." Reflecting on the summit theme of conflict, equity, and resilience, Dr Christou said he was gravely concerned that attacks on healthcare facilities and

workers have become the "new norm". "We need to know that there is a place that is respected, and that place is a hospital. We are scrambling without basic medicines, anaesthetics or antibiotics. There are many doctors in Gaza who are amputating on children without anaesthetic, for example," Dr Christou said.

When asked about the neutrality of Médecins Sans Frontières, he reiterated that the values of the organisation remain consistent, and they treat all in need, but doctors "have a mandate to bear witness, to be a voice of the voiceless.... Neutrality

means many things, but it does not mean silence."

A film shown during the opening ceremony told the story of 11-year-old Daraan al-Bayaa, a Palestinian girl who lost 47 members of her extended family as a result of a devastating attack on her home in Gaza, with only Daraan and her five-year-old brother surviving and being taken to Doha for medical treatment. "Why is it OK for me to suffer? Is this fair?" asked Daraan in the film.

Ahead of the summit, WISH entered into a strategic partnership with the World Health Organi-

zation (WHO), collaborating on the development of a series of evidence-based reports and policy papers, as well as working with the United Nations' health agency to develop a post-summit implementation strategy.

The summit has brought together more than 200 experts in health to discuss evidence-based ideas and practices in healthcare innovation with the aim of addressing the world's most urgent global health challenges.

Day one of the summit hosted discussion forums based on reports published by WISH and the WHO, alongside roundtable dis-

cussions and open sessions.

The opening session was followed by a discussion based on the joint WISH and WHO 2024 report titled 'In the line of fire: Protecting health in armed conflict', chaired by Richard Brennan, the regional emergency director of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the WHO. He was joined by expert speakers including Yousef al-Khater, president of Qatar Red Crescent Society; and Sigrid Kaag, the United Nations' Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Co-ordinator for Gaza.



Doha Photography Award unveiled with QR2.3mn in total prizes

The Ministry of Culture announced Tuesday the launch of the Doha Photography Award, which comes within the activities of the first edition of the Doha Photography Festival and aims to activate Qatar's role in various fields of arts, with a special focus on the art of photography.

HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, Assistant Undersecretary for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture Dr Ghanem bin Mubarak al-Ali, several officials, and dignitaries attended the award launch ceremony.

In a speech on the occasion, Director of the Qatar Photography Center, Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain, said the award comes to translate the vision of the Ministry of Culture in continuing to achieve artistic and cultural momentum in society and creating a great interaction between the components of the photography industry, with the aim of supporting and encouraging photographers in the field of photography among different age groups, refining young Qatari talents, and developing their aesthetic sense and photographic taste.

He noted that the objectives of the competition, which has been allocated valuable cash prizes, go beyond supporting talents and innovators to directly contribute to supporting the tourism movement in the country through a special axis in the award categories, focusing on highlighting the beauty of Qatar and introducing its tourism components and famous landmarks in an artistic and attractive way, which contributes to encouraging tourism in Qatar at the local and international levels.

Al-Buainain added that the Qatar Photography Center is keen to enhance the participation of many segments of society in this distinguished award, calling on those interested in the field of photography, young talents, innovators, and professionals to seize the opportunity to participate in the award categories as the centre is keen to expand the participation to contribute to promoting art and culture in the country.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Director of the Fire Station Artists' Residence Khalifa al-Obaidli said that the Doha Photography Festival is one of the distinguished festivals that

cares about art and photography, describing it as an "encouraging station" for Qatari photographers who were allowed by the festival to display their works in an organised and co-ordinated manner, noting at the same time that displaying the image in such beautiful festivals gives it great momentum and highlights it from all aspects, which makes its idea reach more widely.

Al-Obaidli noted that the festival was full of a group of lectures and workshops with the participation of international photographers who meet with each other to exchange experiences and participate effectively in it.

The Doha Photography Award includes several categories and axes. It has opened the door for the participation of two categories: - The first category: for the age group under 18 years, and consists of one category (general), and participation is limited to those inside Qatar with all types of photos without being restricted to a specific axis.

The first-place winner will receive QR30,000, the second-place winner will receive QR20,000, and the third-place winner will receive QR10,000.

- The second category: The adults category, is for those over 18 years old, and includes five axes: 1- Qatar axis: It allows all photographers to participate in highlighting the beauty of Qatar in an artistic and attractive way.

Three prizes were allocated for the axis: First place QR300,000, second place QR200,000, and third place QR150,000.

2- Story axis: It allows photographers to submit 6 to 10 photos that tell a complete story. Three prizes were allocated for the axis: First place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000.

3- Special axis: It is determined by the competition committee affiliated with the Qatar Photography Center and changes it every year, and witnesses the organisation of courses and workshops throughout

the season to develop the skills of photographers.

Three prizes were allocated for it: First place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000.

4- Video axis: Allows photographers to participate with creative video clips.

Three prizes are allocated for it: First place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000.

5- General axis: It is divided into the colour photos section and the black and white section, with three prizes for each section, for a total of six prizes: first place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000.

The activities of the Doha Photography Festival continued for the fifth consecutive day, as part of the cultural season activities, with a large attendance and participation of those interested in the arts of photography, as it is the appropriate destination for photography lovers and the largest event in the Qatari photography community.

Through it, all can learn about the latest equipment and devices and acquire them through the pavilions of participating international companies.

The day's activities witnessed the presentation of a group of lectures on the main stage, presented by a group of Qatari and international photographers, such as the lecture, Qatari Environment by Hamad al-Khulaifi, Exceptional Art of Photography by Graham Kerr, Newborn Photography by Reem al-Badr, and concluded with the lecture, Chasing Stories in the Himalayas by Niroj Sedhai.

The day also featured the presentation of three training workshops: the Speed Light workshop by trainer Abdullah Hamdan al-Mannai, Video Content Creation by trainer Amir, and Wedding Photography by trainer Martina.

The festival, which is located opposite Darb Al Saai in the Umm Salal area, concluded its activities yesterday. (QNA)

MIA Bazaar returns on weekends

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Bazaar returns with enhancements designed to offer both vendors and visitors a more enjoyable experience, a statement said.

Located at Zone 2 of MIA Park, the picturesque location provides stunning views of Doha's West Bay, with the iconic skyline creating the perfect backdrop for a

memorable shopping and relaxation experience.

The stalls are open from 4pm to 10pm every Friday and from 2pm to 9pm every Saturday, providing a lively weekend destination for residents and visitors alike.

As a vibrant marketplace, the MIA Bazaar showcases the diversity and creativity of local entrepreneurs, offering a wide variety of unique

products, including handmade crafts, artwork, fashion, and more.

Visitors can also indulge in treats and delicacies while enjoying the park's scenic waterfront atmosphere. Entrepreneurs interested in participating in the bazaar should e-mail BDRFP@qm.org.qa for further details on the registration steps, the statement added.

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by armed conflict. Lord Darzi highlighted the challenges faced by those working to provide care during armed conflict.

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

Troops kill 22 in Gaza, force new displacement in the north

Reuters

Cairo

Iraeli military strikes killed at least 22 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip yesterday, as Israeli forces deepened their incursion into Beit Hanoun town in the north, forcing most remaining residents to leave.

Residents said Israeli forces besieged shelters housing displaced families and the remaining population, which some estimated at a few thousand, ordering them to head south through a checkpoint separating two towns and a refugee camp in the north from Gaza City.

Men were held for questioning, while women and children were allowed to continue towards Gaza City, residents and Palestinian medics said.

Israel's campaign in the north of Gaza, and the evacuation of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the area, has fuelled claims from Palestinians that it is clearing the area for use as a buffer zone and potentially for a return of settlers.

"The scenes of the 1948 catastrophe are being repeated. Israel is repeating its massacres, displacement and destruction," said Saed, 48, a resident of Beit Lahiya, who arrived in Gaza City yesterday.

"North Gaza is being turned into a large buffer zone, Israel is carrying out ethnic cleansing under the sight and hearing of the impotent world," he told Reuters via a chat app.

Saed was referring to the 1948 Middle East Arab-Israeli war which gave birth to the state of Israel and saw the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their home towns and villages in what is now Israel.

The Israeli military has denied any such intention, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he does not want to reverse the 2005 withdrawal of settlers from Gaza. Hardliners in his government have talked openly about going back.

It said forces have killed hundreds of Hamas fighters in Jabalia, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun during its new military offensive, which began more than a month

ago. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad armed wing claimed killing several Israeli soldiers during ambushes and anti-tank rocket fire.

Speaking yesterday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel "has accomplished the goals that it set for itself" by taking out Hamas' leadership and ensuring the group is unable to launch another massive attack. "This should be a time to end the war," he said.

"We also need to make sure we have a plan for what follows," he said, "so that if Israel decides to end the war and we find a way to get the hostages out, we also have a clear plan so that Israel can get out of Gaza and we make sure that Hamas is not going back in."

Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said Blinken's comments showed: "We are facing one enemy and that the US enemy against the Palestinian people is no less than that of the occupation." On Tuesday, the US stressed at the UN that "there must be no forcible displacement, nor policy of starvation in Gaza" by Israel, warning such policies would have grave implications under US and international law.

Medics said five people were killed in an Israeli strike that hit a group of people outside Kamal Adwan Hospital near Beit Lahiya, while five others were killed in two separate strikes in Nuseirat in central Gaza Strip where the army began a limited raid two days ago.

In Rafah, near the border with Egypt, one man was killed and several others were wounded in an Israeli air strike, while three Palestinians were killed in two separate Israeli air strikes in Shejaiya suburb of Gaza City, medics added.

Later an Israeli strike on a house in western Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip killed eight people, medics said.

More than 43,500 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza over the past year, Palestinian health officials say, and Gaza has been reduced to a wasteland of wrecked buildings and piles of rubble, where more than 2mn Gazans are seeking shelter in makeshift tents and facing shortages of food and medicines.

Erdogan hopes for new US approach after 'concerning' Trump messages

Reuters

Ankara

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said he hopes US President-elect Donald Trump would take a different approach on the Middle East during his term, but that some of the messages coming from his side were concerning, broadcaster NTV reported yesterday.

"It seems too early to me to make observations about this," Erdogan told reporters on a return flight from Baku. "Our hope is that Trump takes very different steps toward the region this term because the messages being given from time to time concern us," he was cited as saying.

Asked about Turkiye's decision to halt all trade with Israel in May, Erdogan said Ankara had no trade ties with Israel at the moment and no desire to develop them.

"A Republic of Turkiye that is headed by Tayyip Erdogan can't continue to develop its

relationship with Israel. We have no such intention," he was cited as saying. "We have cut trade and ties with Israel, period."

Turkiye withdrew its ambassador in Israel for consultations after the Gaza war broke out, but has not officially severed its ties with Israel and its embassy remains open and operational.

Erdogan also said China and Russia had signed an initiative that Turkiye launched at the United Nations to impose a weapons embargo on Israel.

Fresh protests in Mozambique, border with South Africa closed

AFP

Ressano Garcia

Clashes with police broke out in Mozambique yesterday in fresh protests against disputed election results, residents said, with two people reportedly killed, and forced the closure of the main border with South Africa.

Opposition leader Venancio Mondlane called for a fresh round of protests starting yesterday after the election authority said the Frelimo party – in power since independence from Portugal in 1975 – had won October 9 elections.

A police crackdown on protests against the vote, which Mondlane claims was rigged, has already claimed the lives of at least 30 people, according to Human Rights Watch.

Police opened fire on a demonstration in the northern city of Nampula early yesterday and killed two people, the local *Ik-weli* newspaper reported.

There was no confirmation from authorities but locals contacted by AFP also said police had opened fire on the crowd.



Protesters gather in the road towards the Ressano Garcia border between Mozambique and South Africa, yesterday.

"At around 8:00am, young people gathered in the Nampula neighbourhood to march towards Nampula city centre," said civil society activist Ivaldo Nazare.

"However, the police surrounded all the streets in the neighbourhood and started shooting at the demonstrators." Further south, supporters of Mondlane blocked traffic at the Ressano Garcia border, causing dozens of trucks headed to

South Africa to be backed up, AFP reporters there said.

"We are closing the border, we are doing everything we can to call attention so that everyone can see what is happening," said one of the protesters, Feniias Matavel.

"We want the results to be clear, because the people are tired. We want the truth," said a young woman who gave her name only as Catarina.

South Africa's Border Man-

Israel presses air strikes as Beirut awaits truce ideas

Reuters

Beirut/Jerusalem

Iraeli air strikes pounded Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs for a second consecutive day yesterday, as Lebanon waited to hear Washington's latest ceasefire proposals after a US official expressed hope a truce could be reached.

More than seven weeks since Israel went on the offensive against Hezbollah, mid-morning air strikes levelled half a dozen buildings in the Beirut suburb known as Dahiya and killed eight people in Dawhit Aramoun, a village south of the capital. The dead included three women and three children, Lebanon's health ministry said.

"They used to hit Dahiya at night, now they are doing it in daytime. Things are intensifying day after day," said Hassan Moussa, 40, speaking in Beirut, adding that Israeli air strikes had also widened to areas such as Aramoun.

Israel launched a major air and ground offensive against the heavily armed Hezbollah in late September after nearly a year of cross-border conflict fought in parallel with the Gaza war.

The Israeli military said its air force had destroyed nine Hezbollah weapons storage facilities and command centres in strikes in the Beirut area, and that Hezbollah

fired 40 projectiles into Israel yesterday. Six Israeli soldiers had been killed in combat in southern Lebanon, the military said.

It said a heavy barrage of rockets was fired later in the day from Lebanon at Israel, where sirens sounded in the central areas. There were no immediate reports of any damage or casualties from that attack.

White House envoy Amos Hochstein, the US official who has led several fruitless attempts to broker a ceasefire over the last year, told Axios that he thought "there is a shot" at a truce in Lebanon soon. "I am hopeful we can get it." His comments point to a last-ditch bid by the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden to secure a Lebanon ceasefire as diplomacy to end the Gaza war appears adrift.

The US and other world powers say ceasefire in Lebanon must be based on UN Security Council resolution 1701 which ended a war between the sides in 2006. The resolution demands that the areas of south Lebanon near the Israeli border be free of any weapons other than those of the Lebanese state.

Israel long complained it was never implemented, pointing to Hezbollah weapons and fighters at the border. Lebanon in turn accused Israel of violating the resolution, with Israeli warplanes regularly violating its airspace.

UN nuclear watchdog chief Grossi arrives in Iran for talks

Reuters

Dubai

Un atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi arrived in Iran for talks yesterday, Iranian state media reported, a day after he appealed to Iran's leadership to take steps to resolve long-standing issues with his agency over its nuclear programme.

Iran's state news agency IRNA carried a video showing Grossi meeting the spokesperson for Tehran's state atomic energy agency, Behrouz Kamalvandi, after his arrival.

The International Atomic Energy Agency head has for months sought progress with Iran on issues including a push for more monitoring co-operation at nuclear sites and an explanation of uranium traces found at undeclared sites.

But little has come from Grossi's efforts and with the return of President-elect Donald Trump, who is widely expected to restore

a maximum-pressure policy on Iran, Grossi's trip should provide indications of how Iran wants to proceed in the coming months.

"I am far from being able to tell the international community... what is happening. I would be in a very difficult position. So it's like they (Iran) have to help us, to help them to a certain extent," Grossi told Reuters on Tuesday.

Iran has stepped up nuclear activity since 2019, after Trump during his first term abandoned a 2015 deal Iran had reached with world powers, under which it curbed enrichment, and restored tough US sanctions on the Islamic Republic. Iran's work on enrichment has been seen by the West as a disguised effort to develop nuclear weapons capability.

Tehran is now enriching uranium to up to 60% fissile purity, close to the roughly 90% required for a nuclear bomb. But Iran has long denied any nuclear-bomb ambitions, saying it is enriching uranium for civilian energy uses only.

POLITICS New Mauritius PM sworn in after huge election win

Navin Ramgoolam was sworn in for his third stint as prime minister of Mauritius yesterday after his landslide election victory knocked out the ruling coalition and returned the opposition leader to power after 10 years in the political wilderness, AFP reported from Port Louis.

Ramgoolam's Alliance of Change coalition made a clean sweep of the 60 parliamentary seats on the island of Mauritius in Sunday's vote, out of a total of 66. "It was an incredible victory," the 77-year-old said after the ceremony at the presidency outside the capital Port Louis and attended by dozens of politicians and ambassadors. "My mission is to ensure that Mauritius is a good place to live," said Ramgoolam, who will serve a five-year term. The two-time former premier won 62.6% of the vote against 27.8% for his 62-year-old predecessor Pravind Jugnauth's Lepep Alliance. A winner-takes-all election model means single

coalitions often dominate parliament in the Indian Ocean island nation, seen as a model of economic and political stability compared to many other countries in Africa. Alliance of Change will be joined in the National Assembly by two other legislators from an independent party representing Rodrigues, a hilly autonomous outer island. Four other parliamentary seats have been allocated under the so-called "best losers" policy, rounding up the total number of MPs to 66.

Somaliland votes as quest for recognition gathers pace

Voters in Somaliland turned out yesterday to choose their next president, as the breakaway region of Somalia pursues a quest for international recognition that has heightened tensions in the Horn of Africa, AFP reported. Many hailed the election as a display of Somaliland's peaceful democracy as it seeks to end decades of isolation following its unilateral declaration of independence in 1991. Ballot counting began after polling stations closed around 6:30pm (1530 GMT) but results are not due until next week. Around 12mn people were registered for the election, and voters in the capital Hargeisa had lined up before dawn to avoid the heat, many showing off voting cards and sporting the territory's red-and-white flag. In the city's main square, under a MiG fighter jet shot down during fighting with government forces in 1988, five polling stations were set up in tents. Incumbent president Muse Bihi faced two challengers: his main rival Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi – popularly known as "Iro" – and Faysal Ali Warabe. Bihi, who has been in power since 2017, tested special glasses introduced this year to identify people by their irises. "It's a very important day because we have to showcase to the world our peaceful co-existence in Somaliland," aid worker Hamza Moussa Ali, 32, told AFP.

AFP

Ressano Garcia

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South Africa's Border Man-

Biden welcomes back Trump at the White House, promises smooth power transfer

Reuters
Washington

President-elect Donald Trump and President Joe Biden, longtime political rivals, met yesterday for the first time since Trump won back the White House last week and both promised a smooth transfer of power in January.

The two American leaders sat side by side before a roaring fire in the Oval Office, a peaceful scene that belied tensions between them. The meeting ended after roughly two hours, a White House official said. Biden, a Democrat, defeated Trump in the 2020 election but dropped out of the 2024 race in July after a disastrous debate with the Republican candidate. Vice-President Kamala Harris became the candidate but lost to Trump.

"We're looking forward to having, like we said, a smooth transition, do everything we can to make sure you're accommodated, what you need," Biden said. "Welcome, welcome back."

"Politics is tough, and in many cases not a very nice world, but it is a nice world today, and I appreciate very much a transition that's so smooth it'll be as smooth as it can get, and I very much appreciate that, Joe," said Trump, who takes over on January 20.

Reporters shouted questions but were quickly ushered out.

The traditional courtesy of welcoming the president-elect into the Oval Office is one that Trump did not extend when Biden won in 2020. It was a sharp contrast to the criticism the two men have hurled at each other for years. Their respective teams hold vastly different positions on policies from climate change to Russia to trade.

First lady Jill Biden joined Biden in greeting Trump on his arrival. The White House said she gave Trump a handwritten letter of congratulations for his wife, Melania Trump, and "expressed her team's readiness to assist with the transition." Biden, 81, has por-



US President Joe Biden (right) shakes hands with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington yesterday. (Reuters)

trayed Trump as a threat to democracy, while Trump, 78, has portrayed Biden as incompetent. Trump made false claims of widespread fraud after losing the 2020 election to Biden.

Trump celebrated his victory earlier in the day with Republicans in the House of Representatives who have a good chance of maintaining control of the chamber as November 5 election results trickle in.

"Isn't it nice to win? It's nice to win. It's always nice to win," Trump said. "The House did very well." Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk joined Trump at the meeting with Republican lawmakers. Trump on Tuesday

named Musk to a role co-leading a newly created Department of Government Efficiency, handing even more influence to the world's richest man who donated millions of dollars to help Trump get elected.

"He believes in the norms, he believes in our institution, he believes in the peaceful transfer of power," White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said of Biden's decision to invite Trump. She spoke at a briefing for reporters on Tuesday.

Outside the White House gates, signs of the impending power transfer were evident with construction already under way for the

stands for VIP guests to sit during the parade that will take place after Trump is inaugurated. Dozens of White House staff members gathered on an outdoor stairwell to glimpse Trump's arrival.

Although Biden intended to use the meeting to show continuity, the transition itself has partially stalled. Trump's team, which has already announced some members of the incoming president's cabinet, has yet to sign agreements that would lead to office space and government equipment as well as access to government officials, facilities and information, according to the White House.

Republicans make clean sweep with House majority

The Republicans were declared the majority party in the US House of Representatives yesterday, completing a clean sweep of Congress and the White House in last week's elections and handing incoming president Donald Trump vast legislative power.

After more than a week of vote counting, CNN and NBC projected that Trump's party had reached the 218 seats needed to retain their majority in the 435-seat lower chamber, having already seized the Senate from the Democrats.

"It is a beautiful morning in Washington. It is a new day in America," said House Speaker Mike Johnson, who held a press conference to celebrate victory Tuesday before the result was official.

"The sun is shining, and that's a reflection about how we all feel. This is a very, very important moment for the country and we do not take it lightly."

Trump triumphed in every swing state in the November 5 presidential election and also looked to have won the national popular vote, with preliminary figures showing him ahead of Democratic Party challenger Kamala Harris by 3.2mn votes. Having control of both chambers of Congress will clear the way for him to confirm his nominations for key administration positions and will also allow him to push through his radical agenda of mass deportations, tax cuts and slashing regulations.

US pledges 'firm' response to North Korea's deployment in Ukraine conflict

AFP
Brussels

US top diplomat Antony Blinken warned yesterday that the deployment of North Korean troops alongside Russian forces on the Ukrainian border demanded a "firm response," during talks with top EU and Nato officials.

The secretary of state was in Brussels to confer with Washington's allies on ramping up support for Kyiv before Donald Trump reclaims the White House – potentially jeopardising future aid.

Addressing reporters alongside Nato chief Mark Rutte, Blinken said they had discussed the entry of Pyongyang's forces "into the battle, and now, quite literally, in combat – which demands and will get a firm response."

The US State Department confirmed Tuesday that thousands of North Korean troops have begun "engaging in combat operations" alongside Russian forces in the Kursk region, near the border with Ukraine.

Blinken called it "a profound and incredibly dangerous development," without specifying what form a US response might take.

Rutte meanwhile stressed the crucial role played by China in helping Russia's "war effort", as well as Iranian weapons de-

liveries – paid for with Russian funds that were in turn helping Tehran to "destabilise the Middle East".

Blinken's trip came as Trump's election victory, coupled with a political crisis in Germany, heightens fears about the future of assistance for Ukraine at a key point in the fight against Russia's invasion.

The secretary of state told reporters President Joe Biden was "committed to making sure that every dollar we have at our disposal will be pushed out the door between now and January 20," when Trump takes office.

But he also reiterated the call for Washington's allies to step up.

"We're counting on European partners and others to strongly support Ukraine's mobilisation," Blinken said – calling for more artillery, more air defences, more munitions as well as training for Kyiv's forces.

Blinken took part in a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, Nato's decision-making body, before talks with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga, who urged allies to "speed up all critical decisions."

"Ukraine's defence cannot be put on hold," Sybiga warned.

The secretary of state also held talks with the European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell and his successor Kaja Kallas, a Russia hawk who is to take over a few weeks from now.

Rubio is pick for state secretary

US President-elect Donald Trump said yesterday he is nominating Republican Senator Marco Rubio, a senior member of both the foreign relations and intelligence committees, to be his secretary of state. "He will be a strong Advocate for our Nation, a true friend to our Allies, and a fearless Warrior who will never back down to our adversaries," Trump said in a statement. The choice should come as a relief to US partners worried that the Trump administration could pull back from its global network of alliances, including Nato, given Trump's more "America First" approach to foreign affairs. Rubio, 53, is known as a China hawk.

Biden and Xi to meet in Peru

US President Joe Biden will meet Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping for likely the final time on Saturday, senior administration officials said, as Beijing prepares for a potentially more confrontational period with Washington under Donald Trump. The two leaders are expected to hold talks spanning a range of global hot spots, including heightened tensions between Washington and Beijing, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in Lima, Peru. It will be their first known interaction since an April phone call. "The conversations are not easy," said one of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "That frankness has been important in managing the relationship."

Toxic Delhi smog smashes WHO limit

Residents of India's capital New Delhi choked in a blanket of toxic smog yesterday as worsening air pollution surged past 50 times the World Health Organisation's recommended daily maximum.

Many in the city cannot afford air filters, nor do they have homes they can effectively seal from the misery of foul smelling air blamed for thousands of premature deaths.

Cooler temperatures and slow-moving winds trap deadly pollutants each winter, stretching from mid-October until at least January.

At dawn yesterday, "hazardous" pollutant levels in parts of the sprawling urban area of more than 30mn people topped 806 micrograms per cubic metre, according to monitoring firm IQAir. That is more than 53 times the World Health Organisation recommended daily maximum of fine particulate matter – dangerous cancer-causing microparticles known as PM2.5 pollutants that enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

By midday, when air usually is at its best, it eased to about 25-35 times above danger levels, depending on different districts.

Bikramjeet Singh, 25, who works as an environmental health safety manager walking on the streets, said breathing in Delhi was like "smoking cigarettes" and he worried for those with asthma.

"Older people have difficulties breathing," he said. The city is blanketed in acrid smog each year, primarily blamed on stubble burning by farmers in neighbouring regions to clear their fields for ploughing, as well as factories and traffic fumes. But a report by *The New York Times* this month, based on air and soil samples it collected over five years,

revealed the dangerous fumes also spewing from a power plant incinerating the city's landfill garbage mountains.

Experts in the newspaper spoke to said that the levels of heavy metals found were "alarming".

Swirling white clouds of smog also delayed several flights across northern India.

The India Meteorological Department said that at least 18 regional airports had a visibility lower than 1,000 metres – dropping below 500 metres in Delhi. India's Supreme Court last month ruled that clean air was a fundamental human right, ordering both the central government and state-level authorities to take action.

Russia launches drone, missile barrage on Kyiv

AFP
Kyiv

Russia escalated its attacks on Kyiv early yesterday, launching waves of drones and missiles in its first combined assault on the capital in more than 70 days, authorities said.

The attacks came as Washington and Seoul echoed warnings from Ukraine that North Korean troops had begun "engaging in combat operations" alongside Russian forces on the border between the warring countries.

Ukraine's air force said its units had downed four missiles and 37 drones launched by Russia over eight regions of Ukraine over night and into last morning.

"It is important that our forces have the means to defend the country from Russian terror," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in response to the attack.

Ukraine has for months been appealing to its Western allies to provide more air-defence systems to fend off Russian attacks on cities and critical infrastructure.

The large-scale bombardment comes at a critical moment on the battlefield. Russian forces are advancing in the east and concerns are growing over future aid for Ukraine after Donald Trump's victory in US presidential elections.

AFP journalists heard explosions ring out over Kyiv and saw dozens of residents seeking shelter in an underground metro sta-

tion in the centre of the capital.

Kyiv officials said one man was wounded by falling debris from a downed drone in the suburb of Brovary, while emergency services distributed images of firefighters battling flames at one impact site.

A separate drone attack in the Ukrainian-controlled southern region of Kherson, which the Kremlin claims is part of Russia, killed a 52-year-old woman, the regional head said.

Multiple air raid sirens rang out early yesterday as authorities said missiles were closing in on Kyiv, which was home to nearly three million people before Russia invaded in February 2022. "As missiles were approaching Kyiv, the enemy simultaneously launched a ballistic missile attack

on the capital. The enemy attack ended with another drone strike," city authorities said.

The attack is the latest in an uptick in escalating strikes on Ukrainian cities, mainly in the south of the war-battered country.

A Russian strike this week on Kryvyi Rih, Zelensky's home town, killed a 32-year-old mother and her three children.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied its forces target civilians in Ukraine, a claim its spokesman repeated yesterday in response to a question over whether Russian forces were working to minimise civilian casualties.

Over the weekend, Moscow and Kyiv launched record overnight drone attacks on each other.

Schools shut as flood-hit Spain braces for more torrential rain

AFP
Madrid

Schools in flood-hit towns in eastern Spain will be closed yesterday as the region braces for more torrential rains, officials said.

National weather office AEMET on Tuesday placed parts of Valencia as well as Catalonia in the northeast and the Balearic Islands on orange alert – the second highest level – for strong or torrential rains until today.

The alert comes two weeks after an exceptional Mediterranean

storm caused Spain's deadliest floods in decades. The October 29 storm killed 223 people, the bulk of them in the Valencia region, according to the latest official tally.

Dozens of town halls in Valencia, including Chiva, one of the worst-hit sites, suspended classes and closed public gyms because of the threats of more heavy rain.

"In response to the information provided by the emergency services, school and sports activities will be SUSPENDED from tomorrow until further notice," Chiva town hall wrote on X. A military vehicle drove through towns in Valencia using a megaphone to warn of the expected

storms and urge people not to make "unnecessary trips," images broadcast on Spanish public television TVE showed.

While the amount of rain that is forecast to fall in Valencia is less than what fell two weeks ago, local officials warned sewage systems are clogged with mud and could struggle to cope with significant precipitation making more flooding possible.

Outrage at the authorities for their perceived mismanagement before and after the floods triggered mass protests on Saturday, the largest in Valencia city which drew 130,000 people.

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GULF TIMES

Heat, air pollution, disease: How climate change affects health

Daniel Lawler and Isabelle Cortes Record-breaking heat, extreme weather events, air pollution and the spread of infectious disease: climate change poses an already vast yet rising threat to the health of humans around the world, experts warn.

The latest round of UN climate talks begin next week during what is expected to be the hottest year in recorded history – and in the shadow of climate sceptic Donald Trump's re-election as US president.

The COP29 negotiations will be held in Azerbaijan as the world continues to emit increasing levels of planet-heating fossil fuels, even as many nations have been lashed by devastating floods, droughts, heatwaves and storms.

"Climate change is making us sick, and urgent action is a matter of life and death," the World Health Organisation warned this week.

Here are some of the ways that global warming affects health.

The EU's climate monitor said this week that 2024 is "virtually certain" to surpass last year to become the hottest year in recorded history. It is also expected to be the first year that is more than 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

Out of 15 ways that climate change impacts health being tracked by experts as part of *The Lancet Countdown*, 10 have now "reached concerning new records," according to the group's latest report.

The number of over-65s who died from heat has risen by 167 percent

since the 1990s, just one of the recent all-time highs, the report said.

Extreme heat leads to numerous health risks such as kidney disorders, strokes, adverse pregnancy outcomes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, organ failure and ultimately death.

Jeni Miller, executive director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, said "this year has underlined the growing impacts of a warming climate on people's health and well-being."

She pointed to extreme heat leading to 700 deaths and more than 40,000 cases of heat stroke in India, "climate-exacerbated" rains

causing a dam to collapse in Nigeria killing 320, and 48 out of 50 US states "experiencing moderate or worse drought".

Spain is meanwhile still recovering from its deadliest floods in a generation, while parts of the United States and Cuba are picking up the pieces after recent hurricanes.

Droughts, floods and other extreme weather events are also expected to hit global crops, leading to rising hunger in many regions.

Almost all – 99% – of the world's population breathes air that exceeds the World Health Organisation's guidelines for air pollution.

This pollution has been found to increase the risk of respiratory diseases, strokes, heart disease, lung cancer, diabetes and other health problems, posing a threat that has been compared to tobacco.

Almost seven million premature deaths a year are linked to air pollution, according to the WHO.

Just last week, Pakistan's second-biggest city Lahore recorded air pollution at 40 times the level deemed acceptable by the WHO.

In better news, the *Lancet Countdown* report found that deaths from fossil fuel-related air pollution fell by nearly seven percent from 2016 to 2021, mainly due to efforts to reduce pollution from burning coal.

The changing climate means that mosquitoes, birds and mammals will roam beyond their previous habitats, raising the threat that they could spread infectious diseases with them.

Dengue, chikungunya, Zika, West Nile virus and malaria are all mosquito-borne diseases that could spread wider in a warming world.

The transmission risk of one dengue-spreading mosquito has risen by 43% over the last 60 years, according to the *Lancet Countdown*. A new global record of over five million dengue cases was recorded last year.

Storms and floods create stagnant water that are breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and also increase the risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea.

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From closed doors to open platforms: Real-world impact, real change the opener

Digital Diplomacy: Redefining global connections in a new age



By Laura Iancu

Every day, we hear about our world becoming more connected, about distances shrinking as technology allows us to reach across continents with a single click. Yet here we are – still divided by political, cultural, and ideological boundaries that keep us worlds apart. I've seen firsthand that while technology offers us the possibility of greater understanding, we often remain stuck in old divisions. But what if we could bridge these gaps? What if digital diplomacy could truly advance unity and mutual respect?

Over the last two decades, e-diplomacy has evolved from the first government e-mails and websites to digital embassies and, more recently, the reach of social media. Each tech leap brought its own challenges and opportunities for diplomats. I think of it as a long experiment in pushing boundaries.

When the first telegraph message crossed the Atlantic in the 1860s, Britain's Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston declared it the "End of Diplomacy." Ironically, diplomacy thrived. It adapted and even strengthened, evolving alongside telegrams, phones, and, more recently, the rapid-fire world of social media.

Since 1963, when the International Telecommunication Union held its first global diplomatic session with remote participation, diplomacy has been edging toward greater inclusion. Activists at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 became the first to use e-mails to coordinate their stance and rally international support, blazing a new trail. Around the same time, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in Malta established the first digital diplomacy unit, setting the foundation for the tools and strategies diplomats use today.

In 2008, Sweden made headlines as the first country to open a virtual embassy in Second Life, a 3D online world. Imagine: anyone with

an Internet connection could visit this embassy, making diplomacy accessible beyond physical limits. In 2011, the US followed with a virtual embassy for Iran, allowing digital engagement where a traditional presence wasn't possible. Digital diplomacy was no longer an abstract idea; it was happening, it was real, and it was starting to reshape how nations interact.

Growing up, diplomacy felt like something hidden behind closed doors – secret handshakes in marble hallways. Then, in the late 2000s, social media brought diplomacy out into the open. I watched how, during the Arab Spring, social media became a way for ordinary people to share their voices with the world in real-time. This shift transformed diplomacy from a closed practice into a conversation that anyone could join, and it sparked a movement. Real connections, real empathy, and shared challenges became the foundation of digital diplomacy.

Today, digital diplomacy takes many forms. We've all heard of "Twitter diplomacy" (or "X diplomacy"), where leaders, ambassadors, and organisations post updates, share perspectives, and connect with the public. But digital tools offer much more. For instance, diplomats in Geneva initially used WhatsApp to co-ordinate family plans. They quickly saw its value for co-ordinating diplomatic actions, too – showing how digitalisation often starts with small, personal changes.

When I talk about digital diplomacy, I mean more than just officials posting policy updates. To me, it's about people – connecting directly across borders, sharing stories, dreams, and even pain. It's about making diplomacy a two-way conversation where each of us has a voice. Imagine if social media wasn't just a news feed but a platform for genuine understanding, a space where people could connect and build empathy.

In today's world, where misinformation can go viral in seconds, we need this kind of diplomacy more than ever. Digital diplomacy advances transparency, moving diplomacy from secrecy to openness. It shows people that diplomacy doesn't have to be mysterious or distant – it can be real, direct, and compassionate.

Seeing Digital Diplomacy in Action: Real Stories, Real Connections

Digital diplomacy is not just theory – it's making a tangible impact right now. In times of crisis – natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies – digital platforms allow for immediate response. The speed of communication can save lives, linking those in

need with those who can help.

Consider how Canada uses social media to share its culture with the world. A recipe, a celebration, a national story – these might seem small, but they create a dialogue that feels real and human. They show that diplomacy doesn't have to be formal to be powerful. It's about building mutual respect and bridging divides in relatable, everyday ways.

The CTA Today, digital diplomacy isn't just social media posts. It's evolving, powered by big data and advancing tech. Diplomats started to have tools to analyse public sentiment in real-time, use predictive models for better decision-making, and create customised digital platforms for diplomacy. International relations are no longer the domain of just governments. Non-state actors like people, businesses, and NGOs are already adopting digital means and becoming more influential and active in influencing world affairs.

Here's where this journey really gets personal. Digital diplomacy isn't just the work of governments or ambassadors; it's something each of us can contribute to. Every comment we post, every story we share, every perspective we offer is a chance to build a bridge instead of a wall. I truly believe that in this digital age, we're all capable of being diplomats. Imagine if each of us used our online presence to connect, to understand, and to find common ground with people from other parts of the world. This is a responsibility we all share.

So, I ask you – what role will you play in shaping this digital dialogue? Are you willing to join the conversation with openness and empathy, ready to listen and learn from others? In a world where our words can reach across continents in seconds, each of us has the power to influence how we connect as a global community.

In the end, digital diplomacy is about more than politics; it's about our shared humanity. It's about realising that we're not just citizens of our own countries but part of a global family. With each post, each comment, we're either building bridges or barriers. So, the next time you're online, ask yourself: Am I contributing to a shared world? Video Link: <https://we.tl-tFDK7XXv6Y>

• Laura Iancu is an international strategist with over 15 years of experience across diverse industries, including telecommunications, semiconductors, digital marketing, event management, education, and diplomacy, in both the private and public sectors. IG handle: <https://www.instagram.com/diplomats.digital?igsh=dWVpOWIzYXeyax24>

The long road to replacing Lina Khan at the FTC

By Jody Godoy

A change of leadership at the US Federal Trade Commission, a central part of the Biden administration's pro-consumer agenda and a lightning rod for corporate criticism, will likely take months under the Trump administration.

What happens to Chair Lina Khan?
FTC Chair Lina Khan's fight against corporate consolidation in the name of consumers won fans among Democrats and some Republicans, including Vice-President-elect JD Vance. Despite Vance's praise for her approach, Khan is not seen as likely to stay after the inauguration.

Gail Slater, an adviser to Vance, a former FTC lawyer and an executive at Fox Corp and Roku, is involved in vetting candidates to lead the agency, according to sources familiar with the matter. She is also viewed as a potential candidate for FTC chair.

Who will lead the agency next?
While Khan's term expired in September, she can stay on as a commissioner until a replacement

is confirmed – though she will likely be replaced as chair soon after Trump takes office.

One of the two Republicans on the commission, Andrew Ferguson, former chief counsel to Republican Senator Mitch McConnell, or Melissa Holoyak, Utah's former solicitor general, is expected to become the agency's acting chair and set priorities for FTC staff while a replacement is confirmed.

Both Holoyak and Ferguson, who once served as Virginia's solicitor general, were involved in antitrust cases against Big Tech companies before they became commissioners.

Under Biden, it took six months for Khan to be appointed, and the FTC had an acting chair for nearly the first year and a half of the first Trump administration from 2017-2021.

Khan may choose to step down in January, leaving the commission split evenly between Republicans and Democrats.

What's the process for appointing a new chair?
Typically, an incoming president nominates new agency heads, who go through a confirmation hearing before the US Senate where they face questioning, and are then voted on, first in a

Senate committee, and then by the entire Senate. The timing of the process depends on how Trump prioritises appointments – typically other agencies are a priority over the FTC.

Trump, however, has called on Republicans who will lead the Senate to keep it in recess when its new term begins, which would allow him to install agency leaders without a vote to serve for up to two years.

What happens to Khan's initiatives?
Khan's broad approach to antitrust enforcement could continue under a Trump administration, but rules the FTC passed during her tenure are on shakier ground.

If Republicans gain control of the US House of Representatives in addition to the majority they will have in the US Senate, Congress could invalidate a rule passed in October requiring companies to provide easy cancellation methods for subscriptions. The FTC's two Republican commissioners voted against the rule.

The same goes for any rule the agency might pass before the end of Biden's term, such as a ban proposed late last year on undisclosed or misleading "junk" fees that can raise prices for concert tickets, hotel rooms and more. - Reuters

Qatar, Turkiye: United by shared values, prosperity

QNA

Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani embarks on a visit to Turkiye to strengthen the strategic relationship between Qatar and Turkiye and broaden its horizons.

His Highness the Amir will meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to discuss the growing strategic ties between the two countries and avenues for strengthening them in a range of realms, in pursuit of serving the shared objectives and interests of the two nations and their peoples, in addition to exchanging perspectives on the latest regional and global developments of shared concern.

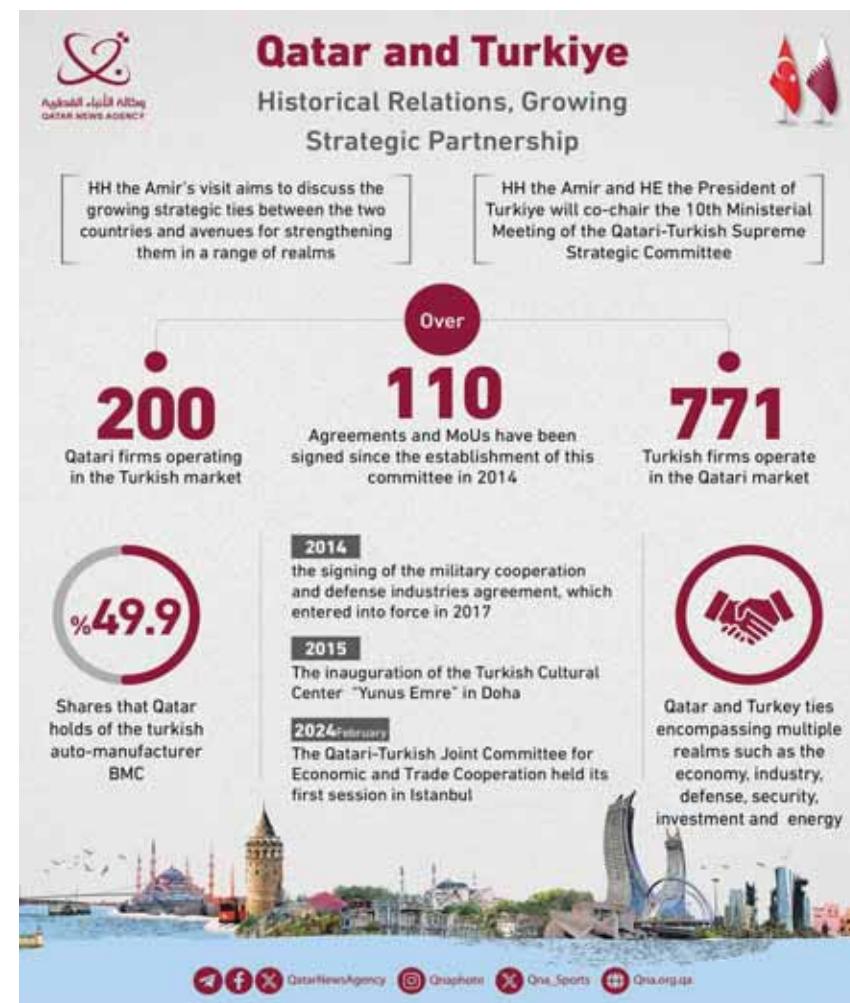
The Amir and the Turkish president will co-chair the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee, which is considered the most consequential high-level bilateral mechanism between the two countries. Since the establishment of this committee in 2014, over 110 agreements and memorandums of understanding have been signed to enhance the co-operative relationship in multiple sectors.

Qatar and Turkiye share rock-solid strategic ties that have evolved since their establishment in 1973. In July 2023, the two nations celebrated the 50th anniversary of these relations, which have transformed from a normal relationship into a strategic partnership in recent years, encompassing multiple realms such as the economy, industry, defence, security, investment, energy, culture, intellectual property, education, and youth.

Qatar-Turkiye relations have continuously evolved across all fields, thanks to the commitment of both countries' prudent leaderships to strengthening these ties, demonstrated by high-level visits and the co-operation agreements and memorandums of understanding between Doha and Ankara across all fields.

More importantly, the outcomes of the exchanged official visits between the two leaderships and senior officials in the two nations, along with the regular meetings of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee since its founding, underscore the shared commitment to deepening these bilateral relations, as well as the strong and enduring co-ordination on key global issues.

The two countries maintain reciprocal support for each other across various fields, including the support Qatar



provided to the victims of the disastrous earthquake that hit Turkiye in February 2023.

Qatar leveraged every available means and resources to assist those affected by the disaster, with the Amir paying a visit to Turkiye and meeting with the Turkish president to demonstrate Qatar's unwavering support for the Turkish and Syrian peoples, and to underscore its solidarity at the highest levels.

The volume of Qatari humanitarian aid exceeded 1,000 tonnes, delivered by over 50 aircraft since the first day of the disaster as part of an air bridge between the two nations. And The Qatari-Turkiye Container City, established in Hatay, became a powerful symbol of fraternity and solidarity in the eyes of both the brotherly Qatari and Turkish peoples.

The volume of trade between the two countries highlights their ever-evolving bilateral relationship, supported by direct maritime routes and a number of

signed agreements. Additionally, shared investments are thriving, with Turkiye positioning itself as a superb investment hub for Qataris.

Qatar is one of the largest foreign investors in Turkiye, with Qatar Investment Authority spearheading several mega projects there, with roughly 200 Qatari firms operating in the Turkish market, while over 771 Turkish firms operate in the Qatari market, as well as 15 Turkish firms activating in Qatar Free Zones.

Over recent years, the Qatari private sector has been active across various Turkish investment sectors, including real estate, construction, tourism, media, finance, and healthcare. Recently, Qatari investments have shifted toward the ports and technology sectors.

Qatar holds shares in several Turkish firms, most notably the auto-manufacturer BMC in which Qatar holds 49.9% of the company's shares, as well as

investments in numerous Turkish firms and projects, with the Istanbul Canal being one of the most consequential projects, planned for implementation in the years ahead.

The volume of trade between the two countries reached QR4.75bn in 2023, with QR1.64bn representing Qatari exports and QR3.1bn representing imports from Turkiye. Petroleum products and raw aluminium are among Qatar's top exports to Turkiye.

Additionally, Qatar's main imports from Turkiye include transformers, food items, and other goods and both countries aim to strengthen their trade ties and elevate the trade volume to \$5bn in the medium term.

Qatar hosts numerous Turkish trade delegations who regularly visit the country, with enduring communication ongoing between the private sectors in the two countries, where bilateral trade co-operation is discussed and followed up on, along with the investment climate and the foremost sectors in which businessmen from the two sides can invest.

In February 2024, the Qatari-Turkish Joint Committee for Economic and Trade Co-operation held its first session in Istanbul. The session was co-chaired by the former Minister of Commerce and Industry, HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani, and Turkish Minister of Trade Dr Omer Bolat, to discuss facets of co-operation across the gamut of multiple sectors from trade, investment, manufacturing industries, logistics, information technology, to digital services, financial services, food, agriculture, healthcare services, and education.

The two sides agreed to take essential steps to move forward in boosting trade and investment co-operation between the two countries, in pursuit of increasing the volume of trade and expediting the flow of commodities, services and investments.

In February 2024, Qatar Chamber (QC) took part in the fifth meeting of the Arab and Turkish Chambers, held at the headquarters of the General Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce in Cairo to discuss avenues for deepening economic co-operation and elevating the trade exchange between the Arab countries and Turkiye.

The existing military co-operation between Qatar and Turkiye has remarkably evolved since the signing of the military co-operation and defence industries agreement in 2014, which entered into force in 2017, after it had been endorsed by the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye. It aims to share military expertise and advance military industries, in addition to allowing each country to

use the other country's seaports, aircraft, airspace, and capitalise on its military facilities.

In confirmation of the outstanding relationship between Doha and Ankara, the International Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha Qatar marked the National Day of Turkiye in March, to highlight Turkiye's prolific culture and heritage in the presence of a host of officials, heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Qatar, and members of the Turkish community.

Director General of Exports at the Turkish Ministry of Trade Mehmet Ali Kilicay underscored the importance of exhibitions as platforms for engagement and international co-operation, noting the strength of Qatar-Turkiye bilateral relationship and co-operation in multiple domains.

For his part, Secretary-General of the Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha, Eng Mohamed Ali al-Khouri, affirmed that the Turkish agriculture offers attractive investment opportunities in a wide diversity of sectors, including Agri-tech, animal husbandry, aquaculture, seed production, and greenhouse farming, with Turkiye ranking second in Europe after Spain. It also aims to become one of the top five agricultural crop producers in the world.

In January 2024, a delegation from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, alongside a host of mega communication and digital firms, such as Ooredoo, Microsoft, Google, Meeza, and Bridge International, conducted a promotional tour in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkiye, to strengthen the digital economic ties with Turkiye. The tour sought to encourage Turkish institutions in both the public and private sectors to utilise cloud platforms and cloud data centre services in Qatar.

Qatar and Turkiye have shared a co-operative relationship in the cultural realm, culminating in the inauguration of the Turkish Cultural Center in Doha in 2015, to reinforce their bilateral cultural ties. Additionally, in 2018, an agreement was signed between the two countries to exchange historical documents, scientific resources, and cultural expertise.

Another agreement was signed in 2021 between Qatar National Library (QNL) and the National Library of Turkiye in the areas of science, technology, and culture, with the first Turkish school in Qatar opening in 2016, whereas around 10 Turkish universities are listed by the Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The two nations have forged a co-operation in the field of scholarships and academic missions.

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Al-Kuwari underlines Qatar's advances in healthcare at WISH 2024

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar has witnessed great transformation in healthcare over the years, making it a world class health system, the former minister of public health HE Dr Hanan Mohammed al-Kuwari said yesterday.

"Under the unwavering and unlimited support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and driven by Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar has established a robust, world-class health system," she told the opening session of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) 2024.

"At WISH, we strive to present the world's most cutting-edge ideas and scientific advancements, but we also focus on confronting the urgent health challenges before us. Qatar holds a firm belief in our shared responsibility to foster understanding, drive progress and uphold the spirit of global co-operation," Dr al-Kuwari explained.

The former minister commented that building upon the



HE Dr Hanan Mohammed al-Kuwari addressing the opening session of WISH 2024 yesterday.

milestones attained by the health system, the Ministry of Public Health launched the third National Health Strategy for 2024-2030. "This strategy aims to enhance the health and well-being of the people of Qatar through excellence in service provision while ensuring sustainability and efficiency across an integrated, resilient health system," she added.

"This year's theme of WISH 'Humanising Health: Conflict, Equity and Resilience' reflects our commitment to addressing the profound health challenges people face worldwide, espe-

cially those who have and continue to endure unimaginable hardship. We see this in the resilience personified in the story of a young Palestinian girl, Dareen al-Bayaa whose life changed when she lost her entire family in one day, reminding us of the human cost of conflict," she said.

Dr al-Kuwari commented that the toll of war and displacement has tested humanity's resilience and underscored the urgent need for peace, health and protection and the opening day's panel session on 'Protecting Health in Armed Conflict' focuses on this aspect. "This is about rebuilding lives, restoring hope and re-imagining a future defined by compassion, adaptability and resilience. And it is in this spirit that the 7th edition of WISH is organised in collaboration with the World Health Organisation," she pointed out.

"Let us, together, shape a future where health is genuinely humanised and no community is left behind. Thank you for your commitment, for your partnership, and for joining us in this journey," concluded Dr al-Kuwari.

"People don't think they might be susceptible to breast or cervical cancer," he said. "But nobody is shielded. And while there has been tremendous progress over the last few decades, there is still much



Panellists at a session.

Call for more investment in cancer research

Experts have made a call for greater investment in cancer research and treatment at World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) 2024 – warning that, without it, the world's health systems face severe strain.

The discussion – which focused on the societal and economic burden of breast and cervical cancers and outlined how an increasingly ageing society, coupled with poor lifestyle choices, is leading to more cancer deaths – was part of the opening day of the two-day event hosted by WISH, which concludes today.

In the session, titled 'The Case for Investing in Women's Cancer Care', Dr Lamia Mahmoud, the World Health Organisation's regional adviser, Non-communicable Disease Prevention, highlighted the cancer situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, saying: "If you look at the mortality-to-incidence ratio, it tells us that more women are dying in our region than in other regions in the world. This means we have to invest in prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment."

Mahmoud explained that, according to recently published research, the economic burden of breast and cervical cancer stood at \$15bn in 2020 and is expected to rise to \$379bn by 2040. These figures include healthcare costs, societal costs, and the value lost to society through women's premature deaths.

HE Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Jabor al-Thani, founder and chairman, Qatar Cancer Society, explained there is a significant stigma surrounding these diseases, making people reluctant to discuss them.

"People don't think they might be susceptible to breast or cervical cancer," he said. "But nobody is shielded. And while there has been tremendous progress over the last few decades, there is still much



The delegates at the opening session.

to be done." Dr Jennifer Huang Bouey, chair of the Department of Global Health, Georgetown University, told the discussion: "An increasingly ageing society, the lifestyle we're adopting everywhere – which relates to the type of diet and also lack of activity – are leading to more cancer deaths."

"I cannot emphasise more the need for investment in treating cancer, because otherwise it will break all health systems globally."

Though clinical trials and new developments will increase the effectiveness of treatment, Dr Bouey pointed out that many cost-effective analyses have shown that primary prevention – targeting the healthy population to reduce the risks, like lifestyle changes and increasing cancer awareness – is the most cost effective.

"And then there is secondary prevention, which involves screening and early detection, using portable technology so that women in remote areas can get early detection and early treatment."

New WISH CEO to focus on innovations in healthcare

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Bringing in more innovations in healthcare in a way that is much more embedded, is one of the top priorities for the new CEO of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH).

Speaking to *Gulf Times* yesterday, Dr Slim Slama said: "Our priority is also consolidation of the ideas and we have a national development vision. There is a

lot of things happening in Qatar at the moment in the area of research and development and innovation."

Dr Slama said that the WISH is of great focus but what comes before and after the event also matters a lot.

"And for me, the vision I would have is to not only maintain the momentum of the Summit, but also to be able to mobilise it locally. We need to mobilise the academic and research institutions, and also the NGOs," said the official.

Dr Slama who was formerly working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that the reports presented at WISH carry a lot impact and need to be implemented in their true spirit.

As for the collaboration with WHO, he said that with an agreement signed already with WISH, there are several reports jointly organised with WHO and presented this year at the Summit.

"We will seek, of course, WHO's guidance as a global health au-

thority. But we will also have different partners to have collective actions. There will be implementation after the recommendations that will emerge from the discussions." I think we would like to maintain this in line with the national agenda. We will be



A session at WISH yesterday. PICTURES: Thajudheen

finding a balance between supporting the domestic agenda, as Qatar has adopted the new national strategy," he added.

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