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GULF TIMES



FRIDAY Vol. XXXXV No. 13195

November 15, 2024
Jumada I 13, 1446 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

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Amir, Erdogan vow to strengthen relations



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan co-chaired the 10th meeting of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee, held in the presidential complex in Ankara yesterday.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the presidential complex in Ankara yesterday.

QNA
Ankara

plex in Ankara yesterday.

At the outset of the meeting, the Turkish president expressed his warm welcome to His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation, appreciating the Amir's joint keenness to enhance the strategic co-operation relations between the two fraternal countries and consolidate them across all fields.

President Erdogan noted His

Highness's efforts and Qatar's regional and international diplomatic and humanitarian endeavours.

In turn, His Highness the Amir voiced his great pleasure at meeting the president of Türkiye, expressing his deep appreciation to Erdogan for the warm welcome and fraternal feelings His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation received. **To Page 12 Pages 6,10**

Amir performs Istisqa prayer



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani performed the Istisqa (rain-seeking) prayer along with crowds of worshippers at the Lusail prayer ground yesterday morning, reviving the Prophetic Sunnah in asking Allah the Almighty for rainfall. His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, and HE Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa al-Thani joined the Istisqa prayer. HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, and a number of ministers also performed the prayer. In a sermon after the prayer, the Judge of the Court of Cassation and Member of the Supreme Judiciary Council, Sheikh Dr Thaqeel Sayer al-Shammari, who led the prayer, urged worshippers to seek forgiveness and charity as causes for the rainfall, noting that water is a great indispensable blessing, and the importance of supplication in the Istisqa prayer. **(QNA) Page 2**

Amir reiterates determination to bolster Qatar-Turkiye ties

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday reiterated the determination to continue strengthening relations between Qatar and the Republic of Türkiye, in a way that serves the interests of the two countries across all fields. In a post on his official X account, His Highness the Amir said that during the meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

at the 10th Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee meeting in Ankara yesterday, he reiterated determination to continue strengthening the strategic relations in a way that serves the interests of the two countries across all fields. His Highness the Amir added that he was pleased with the mutual eagerness to strengthen the bilateral partnerships and consolidate the historical friendship. **(QNA)**

Amir appoints new chief of staff

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. (77) of 2024, appointing HE Lieutenant General (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed bin Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Mannai as Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces. The decision is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. **(QNA)**

Himyan for govt payments from February 2025

The Qatar Central Bank (QCB) issued a statement yesterday about the exclusive use of the national card, Himyan, for payments at government agencies. QCB clarified that this payment method is part of a phased digital transformation initiative set to commence in February 2025. QCB said that it will provide the public with the detailed information about the transition. **Page 2**

HRW accuses Israel of war crimes

Israeli authorities have caused a forced displacement of Palestinian people in Gaza to an extent that constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report yesterday. The report is the latest in a series of aid groups and international bodies warning about the dire humanitarian situation in the besieged enclave. "Human Rights Watch found that forced displacement has been widespread, and the evidence shows it has been systematic and part of a state policy. Such acts also constitute crimes against humanity," the report said. Palestinian resistance movement Hamas denies that it uses civilians as human shields or hides fighters and weapons in facilities such as hospitals and schools. The law of armed conflict forbids the forcible displacement of civilian populations from occupied territory, unless necessary for the security of civilians or imperative military reasons. The Israeli forces have killed at least 43,736 Palestinians and injured at least 103,370 others since the beginning of the Gaza war in October 2023. Human Rights Watch said the displacement of Palestinians "is likely planned to be permanent in the buffer zones and security corridors".

Amir, Erdogan witness signing of agreements

QNA
Ankara

●Pacts, MoU signed for co-operation in several fields including youth and sports, media, land transport of passengers and goods, trade and defence

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the sister Republic of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan witnessed the signing of a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two countries, at the Presidential Palace Complex in Ankara yesterday.

His Highness the Amir and President Erdogan witnessed the signing of a co-operation agreement on humanitarian aid, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation in the field of documents and archives between the Qatar National Archives and the Archives Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, an MoU for co-operation in the fields of media and communication, the executive programme for the years

2025 and 2026 within the framework of the MoU for co-operation in the fields of youth and sports, a co-operation agreement in the field of international land transport of passengers and goods, a declaration of intent on facilitating trade between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Qatar and the Ministry of Commerce

in Türkiye, an executive protocol between the Qatari Ministry of Defence and the Turkish Ministry of National Defence on logistical support for aircraft, and a technical protocol between the Ministry of Defence in Qatar and the Ministry of National Defence in Türkiye on logistical support for naval vessels. **To Page 12**



Qatar win 3-2

Qatar's defender Lucas Mendes (2nd-R) celebrates scoring his team's third goal during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian qualification match against Uzbekistan at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha yesterday. Qatar won 3-2. The result moves Qatar up to seven points from five matches and to within three of Uzbekistan, who remain in second place in the group but are now three behind the Iran following their 3-2 win over North Korea earlier in the day. **Sport Page 1**

Israel committing genocide in Gaza, says UN committee

AFP
Jerusalem

Israel's warfare in Gaza is consistent with the characteristics of genocide, a special UN committee said yesterday, as a Human Rights Watch report said Israel's displacement of Gazans amounts to a "crime against humanity".

The UN Special Committee pointed to "mass civilian casualties and life-threatening conditions intentionally imposed on Palestinians", covering the period from October 7, 2023 to July.

The committee said Israel's siege, blocking of aid, and targeted attacks and killing of civilians, despite UN and Inter-

national Court of Justice (ICJ) orders, was "intentionally causing death, starvation and serious injury".

Israel's warfare practices in Gaza "are consistent with the characteristics of genocide", the committee said in the first use of the word by the UN in the context of the current war in Gaza.

Israel, it said, was "using starvation as a method of war and inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinian population".

It's not the first time Israel has faced such accusations.

A UN-backed assessment at the weekend warned famine was imminent in northern Gaza, the site of an intense Israeli offensive since early October.



Palestinians inspect the damage at a school sheltering displaced people, after it was hit by an Israeli strike, in Gaza City yesterday.

Amir performs Istisqa Prayer at Lusail ground



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani performed the Istisqa (rain-seeking) prayer along with crowds of worshippers at the Lusail prayer ground yesterday, reviving the Prophetic Sunnah in asking Allah the Almighty for rainfall. In a sermon after the prayer, the Judge of the Court of Cassation and Member of the Supreme Judiciary Council, Sheikh Dr Thaqeel Sayer al-Shammari, who led the prayer, urged worshippers to seek forgiveness and charity as causes for the rainfall; noting that water is a great indispensable blessing, and the importance of supplication in the Istisqa prayer. (QNA)

Al-Muraikhi meets Malaysian envoy



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with ambassador of Malaysia to the State of Qatar Mohammad Faizal Razali. During the meeting, the two sides discussed relations between the two countries and several topics of mutual interest. (QNA)

Farewell to Pakistani ambassador



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the State of Qatar Dr Muhammad Aejaz following the end of his tenure. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs thanked the ambassador for his efforts in supporting and strengthening bilateral relations, wishing him success in his new duties. (QNA)

National Action Plan launched to combat obesity, diabetes, ASCVD

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) launched Qatar's National Action Plan on Obesity, Diabetes, and Modifiable Risk Factors for Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) 2024-2030 yesterday, coinciding with World Diabetes Day.

The launch took place at the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) 2024, one of Qatar Foundation's global initiatives, which concluded yesterday under the theme 'Humanising Health: Conflict, Equity, and Resilience'.

Qatar's National Action Plan to combat obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases caused by atherosclerosis sets forth an ambitious path to improve national health outcomes, aligning with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy 2024-2030. Assistant Minister for Health Affairs, Dr Salih Ali al-Marri, said: "The launch of the Action Plan marks an important step towards addressing obesity, diabetes, and ASCVD, which are major contributors to Qatar's non-communicable disease burden. The Action Plan is centred on empowering individuals and families to make informed health choices, while underscoring the

role of proactive policies in creating supportive environments for health and wellness, he explained. The new Action Plan sets ambitious targets, including a 36% reduction in mortality from non-communicable diseases by 2030, in line with Qatar's National Development Strategy (QNDS) and the National Health Strategy (NHS-3), as well as emphasises the critical role of primary care in providing patient-centred services to address diabetes and obesity at the community level, Dr al-Marri added.

All stakeholders involved in the care of patients with obesity and diabetes in Qatar contributed to developing the Action Plan, launched under the slogan, 'Together to Prevent Diabetes, Obesity, and ASCVD,' with an emphasis on preventive measures while encouraging individuals and communities to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The MoPH's Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention Programmes director Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani, pointed out that diabetes and obesity are among the most pressing public health challenges and the new Action Plan is a pivotal step towards reducing their



prevalence and impact on the community.

"Based on the results from Qatar's 2023 STEPwise Survey on non-communicable diseases and their risk factors, as well as the previous 2012 survey, we have a unique opportunity to improve by focusing our policies and interventions, enhancing our approach to early diagnosis and prevention, and by fostering a healthier and more resilient community through data-driven insights."

Speaking on the progress made under the National Diabetes

Strategy (2016-2022), Prof Abdul Badi Abou Samra, co-chair of the National Diabetes Committee and director of the Qatar Metabolic Institute, noted that the 2024-2030 Action Plan builds on the strengthened screening programmes, national clinical guidelines, and community awareness initiatives achieved in recent years.

"Comparing the data from Qatar's 2012 and 2023 National STEPwise Survey on non-communicable disease risk factors shows that our collective efforts can curb the prevalence of obes-

ity and diabetes. Building on this achievement, the new Action Plan prioritises preventing new cases and, where possible, reversing existing cases through optimal and proactive management.

"By targeting modifiable risk factors, reducing overweight and obesity, and effectively managing diabetes and its associated conditions, we can mitigate complications, reduce mortality, and improve population health outcomes, in line with the National Development Strategy's goals.

"We aim to establish robust, patient-centred healthcare mod-

els that emphasise prevention, personalised care, and seamless co-ordination across sectors by engaging healthcare providers, policymakers, and the community. Our vision is to make health a sustainable reality for every member of our society."

The Action Plan includes 58 projects to achieve three main objectives: Prevention of obesity, diabetes, and ASCVD; optimal management of diabetes, obesity, risk factors and complications; and empowerment of the public and healthcare professionals, a statement added.

QFFD continues sending aid to Afghanistan



Qatar Development Fund (QFFD) has sent a Qatar Amiri Air Force aircraft carrying 16 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. In a statement yesterday, QFFD explained that this aid includes basic medical supplies and four ambulances. This initiative comes within the framework of the State of Qatar's ongoing efforts to enhance international co-operation and meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan. (QNA)

Clarification regarding use of national card Himyan

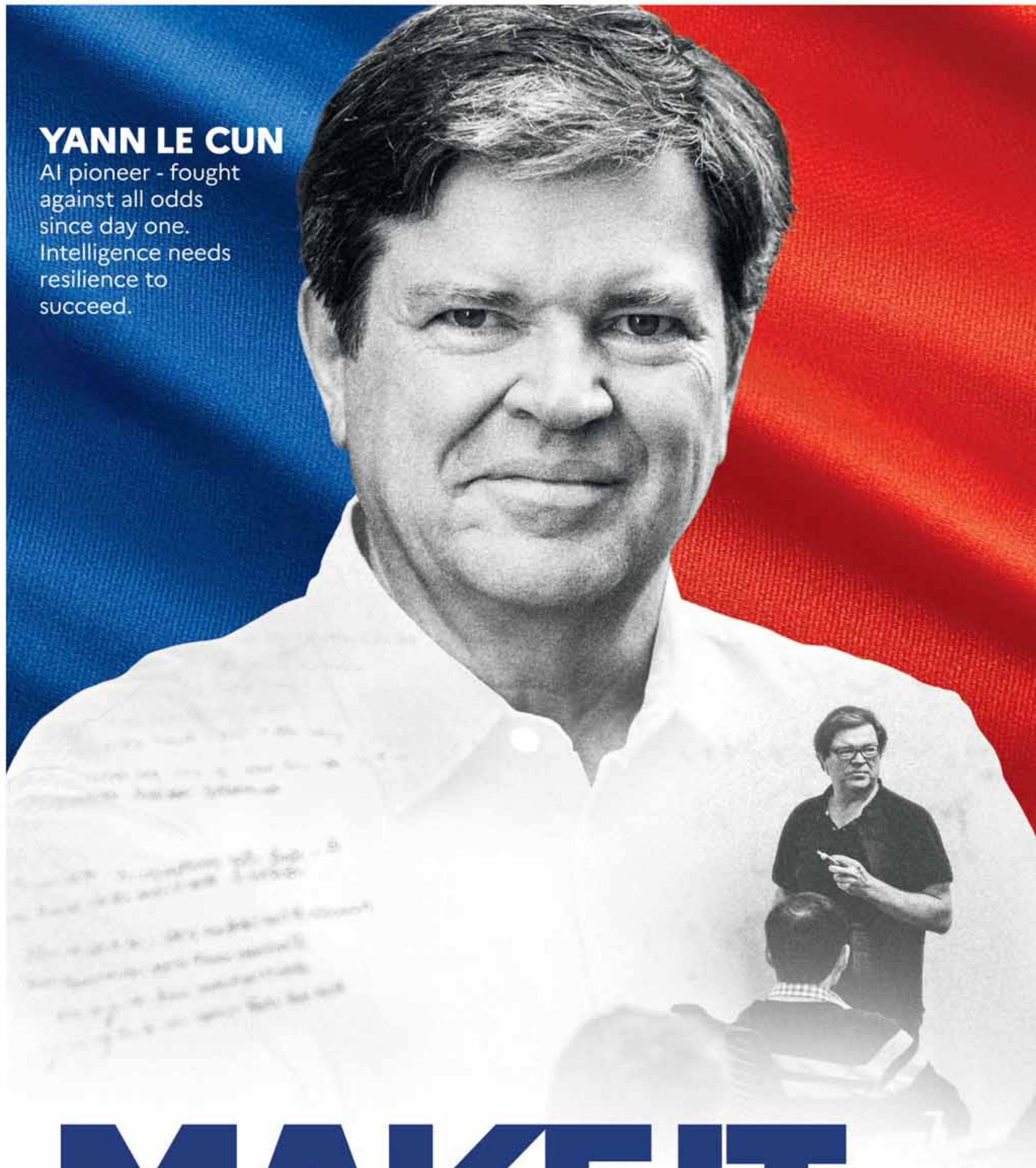
The Qatar Central Bank (QCB) issued an official statement addressing recent discussions about the exclusive use of the national card, Himyan, for payments at government agencies. QCB clarified that this payment method is part of a phased digital transformation initiative set to commence in February 2025. The initiative aims to enhance the security of government transactions and lower costs associated with payment processing. QCB emphasised that the quality of services provided to citizens, residents, and visitors in Qatar will remain unaffected throughout this transition. Furthermore, QCB said it is closely monitoring the deployment of financial products and digital transformation initiatives in Qatar. The central bank said that it will provide the public with the detailed information about the transition, ensuring easy access to government services. (QNA)



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QFFD affirms commitment to healthcare innovation

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has affirmed its commitment to promoting innovation in healthcare, exchanging knowledge and best practices to support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and bringing about positive change in the global healthcare sector.

During its participation in the 7th edition of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH 2024), QFFD showcased its commitment to global health at WISH with the "Healing Journey" booth. This interactive exhibit highlighted the Fund's impactful work in healthcare, particularly in conflict-affected regions. The booth served as a platform to share the Fund's vision for a healthier, more equitable future, engaging attendees through activities that underscored both humanitarian and developmental solutions to urgent health challenges.



Additionally, QFFD hosted a high-level roundtable discussion entitled "Strengthening Health Systems in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings." This session convened leading healthcare and humanitarian experts to address the multifaceted challenges hindering access to essential health serv-

ices in crisis-impacted regions. Through collaborative dialogue, participants explored innovative strategies to build more resilient and sustainable health systems, ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to the care they need, even in the most challenging environments. (QNA)

Sheikha Moza meets WHO director-general



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development met yesterday with Director-General of World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on the sidelines of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH 2024), held at Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC). During the meeting, the two sides discussed strategic partnerships with WISH, in addition to enhancing the co-operation between WISH and Education Above All Foundation (EAA), particularly with regard to providing psychological support to children affected by the conflicts in Gaza. (QNA)

WISH speakers discuss health conditions in Gaza, how to overcome aid challenges

QNA
Doha

The 'Rebuilding Hope: Healing, Reconstruction, and Resilience' discussion panel, held yesterday as part of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH 2024), discussed the health situation in Gaza and ways to overcome the challenges facing relief and medical teams in the sector.

Speakers at the panel, which was attended by HE the Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, along with a number of Sheikhs, ministers, policy-makers and health officials from Qatar and worldwide, agreed that what is being broadcast about the situation in Gaza is far less than the reality.

People there live among the remains, many of whom had their limbs amputated without anaesthesia, and entire families have disappeared from existence. They stressed that health sector workers are targeted and exposed to danger at all times and everywhere. In this context, Minister of Health of the State of Palestine Majid Ramadan reviewed a number of difficult cases and situations that health sector workers are exposed to on a daily basis, as they carry out their work despite the lack of electricity, water, first-aid equipment, and

medicines, and are surrounded by shelling from all sides, as body parts are scattered around them.

The number of injured people increases day after day, and they are unable to meet their needs and provide relief to the injured and those in need, and this leaves a great impact on their psyches, he said, stressing that recovery from horrific scenes, whether for adults or children, is a difficult process and requires a long time.

However, the situation in Gaza is different from any other place, as the recurrence of shelling has given the Palestinians the ability to withstand and restore cohesion and strengthen their belief in the justice of their cause and teaches them the meaning of homeland and the necessity of defending it and adhering to the land and being connected to it, he continued.

He called for the need to work to stop this war immediately and provide support to all Palestinians because the extent of the destruction is huge and the needs are tremendous. He pointed out that the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) are stubbornly preventing medical teams from entering the Strip and are placing various obstacles in front of them.

For her part, UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Co-ordinator for Gaza Sigrid Kaag addressed the suffering of the people of Gaza, stressing that political officials are the ones who are ob-

WHO chief describes situation in Gaza as 'hell'

Director-General of World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the situation in the Gaza Strip as "hell," and as one of the worst and most difficult situations in the world, pointing out that 80 percent of the population is suffering from constant displacement, in light of the lack of safe places to avoid the ongoing Israeli aggression. In a discussion panel held as part of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH 2024), he presented UN reports that underscored the situation in Gaza as the end of the world and that it is getting worse by the day, pointing out that more than 43,000 persons have been murdered, and more than 150,000 have been injured, while tens of thousands have

gone missing, which is a very high percentage considering the population.

He called on the major influential countries to push for discussion and negotiation and to establish an urgent political solution to end the war, noting that the UN had shared this concept with the Israeli entity repeatedly, considering that the entity must understand that it is better to resolve this conflict through peaceful and sustainable means. He stressed the increasing targeting of relief workers and the health sector in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as in other parts of the world that are undergoing wars and conflicts, noting that WHO issued a report and recommendations on the necessity of protecting health facilities, and not targeting them

in bombings and destruction, given the significant increase in the need for them as the aggression continues.

Dr Ghebreyesus pointed out that 84 percent of the health facilities in the Gaza Strip are out of service and have been completely destroyed, while the remaining percentage is still partially functioning, emphasizing that the need for them is increasing by the day, and that this act represents collective punishment being practiced in Gaza. In this regard, he said that WHO has repeatedly denounced these conflicts, and continuously documented the crimes, expressing that it is difficult to verify these facts on the ground, which makes the documentation incomplete.

schools as shelters for thousands of people suffering from tragedies and the horrors of war, he added.

He explained that over the decades, the UN agency has gained the trust of the Palestinian people and the entire world, considering the Israeli legislation banning the work of UNRWA as a major crime as it will stop its efforts and humanitarian services that it provides to millions of Palestinians, which are a platform for all services necessary for recovery.

UNRWA Chief of Staff also pointed out that the agency's 17,000 employees are part of the community, and work in Gaza in all specialisations with the utmost neutrality and professionalism, and are committed to the principles of work and human rights, noting that hundreds of its employees have been subjected to bombing and killing.

On the other hand, President of Emergency NGO Rossella Miccio discussed the ongoing problems in Sudan, considering it the largest displacement operation in the modern world, due to the armed conflict that the country has been witnessing since April 2023.

She pointed out that 80 percent of the health facilities in the capital, Khartoum, were out of service after being looted and robbed by the Rapid Support Forces, noting that several Sudanese health workers preferred to stay to serve their community.

structing the ceasefire and hindering relief and reconstruction efforts. It took a long time to adopt a resolution to ceasefire in Gaza, but it was not implemented, so relief and medical workers cannot perform their duties in the absence of political solutions, she noted.

In the same context, Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of South

Africa Naledi Pandor stressed the need for major countries to do their duty in allowing support for the sector because it is in a very dangerous situation. She noted that the situation in the sector requires a global approach that does not allow these events to continue or be repeated in other places, to establish a mechanism for negotiation and reconciliation, and to al-

low the victims to live and recover, which means that major countries must do more to enable them to impose peace.

In turn, Chief of Staff of UNRWA Ben Majekodunmi addressed the status of the agency, indicating that it includes more than 17,000 employees and provides all medical, educational, and food services to Gaza. UNRWA has opened its

WISH '24 ends with Qatar in Mena first to join Novartis' Cardio4cities initiative

Qatar is to adopt the Cardio4cities approach - a data-driven cardiovascular population health initiative - and become the regional hub for its expansion across the Middle East and North Africa, it was announced at the closing session of Qatar Foundation's (QF) World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) 2024 yesterday.

Cardio4cities, created and validated by the Novartis Foundation, is proven to rapidly improve cardiovascular health in urban populations, a statement said. It leverages the power of data to help authorities make better decisions for their healthcare systems and populations, and has been validated in three cities across three continents - Sao Paulo in Brazil, Dakar in Senegal, and Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia.

"The Novartis Foundation's Cardio4cities initiative has shown extraordinary impact in other geographies, for example in Latin America, where significant reductions in heart attack and stroke rates were achieved," said Dr Ann Aerts, head of the Novartis Foundation.

"By launching Cardio4cities in Doha, Qatar is not only joining this movement by leveraging its excellent health and data infrastructure to replicate these successes for the benefit of its population, but also demonstrating regional leadership which will hopefully inspire more countries in the Middle East to champion precision population health."

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the world's leading cause of death - taking more than 20mn lives per year, with up to 80 percent of these deaths occurring in low and middle-income countries. Most



A view of the audience at WISH 2024 yesterday.

deaths related to cardiovascular disease are preventable.

Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, director of Public Health Department, Ministry of Public Health, explained: "Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Qatar. Noncommunicable diseases cost Qatar QR18.1bn annually, and CVDs account for 73% of that burden.

"In many cases, CVDs are preventable, and that's why we are committed to shifting our focus and approach to prevention, rather than only improving care - this is especially important for chronic diseases, as most drivers of these diseases can be addressed outside of the health facilities, in our daily life.

"This is exactly why we are eagerly looking forward to implementing Cardio4cities in Qatar, and working together with different sectors and stakeholders to

improve cardiovascular health in the country."

Speaking about the significance of Qatar joining the initiative, Dr Hilal Lashuel, Research, Development, and Innovation adviser to the Chairperson's Office and executive director of Research, Development and Innovation at QF, said: "Participating in Cardio4cities offers Qatar unique opportunities to improve public health and drive innovation. Collaborating with a global network of cities allows us to share knowledge, learn from each other, and be inspired by new solutions developed in different urban settings.

"This partnership will help us develop tools to capture, integrate, and analyse data, as well as scalable strategies to improve cardiovascular health at both the population and individual levels."

He added that one of the programme's key strengths is its tailored, data-driven approach,



Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani addressing WISH 2024.

which adapts interventions to local needs. While fostering global collaboration, Cardio4cities ensures local ownership and prioritises data privacy and security.

Held under the theme 'Humanising Health: Conflict, Equity, and Resilience', the two-day WISH 2024 brought together over 3,000 delegates, including more than 200 global health leaders and expert speakers to discuss evidence-based ideas and practices in healthcare innovation to address the world's most urgent global health challenges including the impact of conflict on healthcare, cancer, antimicrobial resistance, mental health and palliative care.



Dr Hilal Lashuel at WISH 2024



Dr Ann Aerts at WISH 2024.



Qatar Digital Library wins AFLI Award for Best Arab Initiative

QNA
Muscat

Qatar Digital Library has won the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI) Award for the Best Arab Initiative, during the 35th AFLI conference held in Oman's capital, Muscat, from 12 to 14 November, under the theme 'Libraries and Arab Archive Institutions and Their Role in Enhancing Identity and Digital Citizenship'.

HE the Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library, Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari was presented with the award by President of Sultan Qaboos University, Dr Fahd bin al-Julanda al-Said at an event that brought together a host of academics and experts in the library and information sector across Arab countries.

Launched in October 2014 by Qatar National Library in partnership with Qatar Foundation and the British Library, Qatar Digital Library (QDL) is the world's largest digital repository dedicated to heritage documents and manuscripts on the Gulf region and the Arab world, as well as scientific discoveries in Arab and Islamic civilisation.

Commenting on QDL's recognition, Dr al-Kawari said: "The library takes pride in this achievement, which reflects QNL's suc-



cess in fulfilling its mission as a premier knowledge hub founded in a profound vision. Over the past ten years, our efforts have yielded significant achievements in preserving documentary heritage and disseminating knowledge through the establishment of an Arabic digital portal, now recognised as the foremost and primary reference on the history of the Gulf, the Arab world, and the broader Middle East."

"This award from the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information, in collaboration with the esteemed Sultan Qaboos University, underscores our team's steadfast dedication and commitment to safeguarding our cultural heritage of manuscripts and documents. It further strengthens our services, solidifying the library's role

as a bastion of knowledge and a premier destination for researchers and academics in Qatar and across the region," he added.

On 30 September, Qatar National Library celebrated the 10th anniversary of QDL with a conference titled 'Unlocking Histories: 10 Years of Qatar Digital Library'. The event brought together academics, researchers, and practitioners to discuss the work and research they conducted using QDL. The conference showcased the extensive array of materials available on the platform and demonstrated how researchers can leverage these resources for their work.

QDL is home to a wealth of primary historical materials and collections, offering insights into the regions trading practices, the two World Wars, the petroleum industry, Britain's imperial administration, treaties, marine navigation, military operations, civil aviation, economic forums, Arab nationalism, and medicine. It also houses a rare collection of Arabic manuscripts covering a variety of topics, including medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geometry, geography, and military science.

The platform, which currently holds nearly 2.5mn digitised pages of records, maps, manuscripts, photographs and drawings, attracts an average of 200,000 users and over 2mn page views per year.

QNA director-general meets Malaysian envoy

HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met with ambassador of Malaysia to the State of Qatar Mohammad Faizal Razali. The meeting discussed aspects of joint co-operation between the two countries in the field of media. **(QNA)**



Made in Qatar Shabab to empower young filmmakers

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Ajyal Film Festival's two-day 'Made in Qatar Shabab' programme aims to empower young filmmakers with practical skills, industry insights, and networking opportunities. With a focus on practical training and career development, Doha Film Institute said the programme offers masterclasses, panel discussions, and workshops.

"Through specialised sessions that focus on practical skills and industry know-how, we aim to inspire and equip young talents to continue the legacy of local storytelling, ensuring their voices are heard both regionally and globally," organisers said.

The programme will start with 'I Made a Film, Now What?'; masterclass on film distribution, aimed to equip participants with strategies for audience reach, including marketing, securing funding for future projects, and building industry connections—essential foundations for a sustainable filmmaking career.

The panel 'From Short to Feature: A Journey of Personal and Professional Growth' explores the creative and professional transformation filmmakers un-



A scene from *Alkaline* by Paul Abraham and Abdulla al-Hor.



dergo when transitioning from shorts to features. It examines the importance of proof-of-concept shorts, how they facilitate larger projects, and strategies for scaling creative vision and overcoming the unique challenges of feature-length storytelling.

Shabab's interactive workshop 'The Art of Film Pitching' will help participants develop the skills to pitch their film ideas persuasively. By focus-

ing on storytelling, communication, and presentation, attendees will learn how to craft compelling pitches that attract producers, investors, and collaborators, enabling them to transform their ideas into tangible projects.

In addition, the broader Made in Qatar programme will continue to celebrate the achievements of local filmmakers. This year's lineup includes short films such as *Alkaline* by Paul Abraham and Abdulla al-Hor, *I Lay for You to Sleep* by Ali al-Hajri, and *Can You See Me?* by Dhoha Abdelsattar, showcasing Qatari talent to an international audience.

The programme's jury includes Palestinian actor Saleh Bakri, Kenyan filmmaker Debra Aroko, and Qatari director Amal al-Muftah. Ajyal is set to open tomorrow (November 16).

Belgium King's Day marked in Doha



Belgium ambassador William Asselborn is joined by Qatar's Minister of Labour HE Ali bin Saeed bin Smaikh al-Marri in cutting a ceremonial cake yesterday at a reception on the occasion of the King's Day 2024. Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakro and other dignitaries were present. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Qatari students take home eight medals at Arab Math Olympiad

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) concluded yesterday the 4th Arab Mathematics Olympiad 2024, which was organised in partnership with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, where Qatari students won 8 medals, including one gold, 5 silver, and 2 bronze.

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir and Director-General of ALECSO Mohamed Ould Amar honoured the students who won gold medals, in addition to three teams that achieved the best performance from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Algeria.

In her closing speech, HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education expressed her thanks and appreciation to HE the Minister of Social Development and Family and former minister of education Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, for her role in preparing and making the 4th edition of the Arab Mathematics Olympiad a success, and to all those involved in its success, stressing that everyone will serve the nation from their various positions.

In addition, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the MoEHE Maha Zayed al-Ruwaili and Director of the Department of Education at ALECSO Rami Iskander honoured the students who won bronze and silver medals and presented honorary certificates to students who came close to winning bronze.

In his speech at the beginning of the closing ceremony, Secretary-General of the Qatar National Committee for Education, Culture, and Science Ali Abdulrazzaq al-Marafi highlighted the excellence and giving of the 4th Arab Mathematics Olympiad among a distinguished elite of Arab students who excelled in this vital scientific field, which contributed to strengthening the bonds



of brotherhood and co-operation, and provided an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas and experiences in a rich scientific and cultural framework.

He noted that the students proved through the competition that ambition and knowledge are the basis of success and that the Arab future is built by the hands of students with their scientific passion and their insistence on excellence. He considered that the comprehensive presence of Arab countries in the Olympiad is a reflection of joint Arab co-operation and support for establishing a scientific identity in the region. He emphasised that organising this scientific event is fully consistent with the State of Qatar's educational strategy (2024-2030), which aims to build a pioneering educational system that relies on creativity and innovation to prepare a generation capable of facing the challenges of tomorrow, and in the belief that investing in youth is the best investment for a better future.

For his part, Director of the Department of Education at ALECSO Rami Iskander praised the State of Qatar's organisation of the 4th Arab Mathematics Olympiad with international standards that distinguished this edition from the previous ones, whether in terms of the number of participating countries with the presence of delegations from 22 Arab countries or in terms of scientific and cultural activities that varied between workshops, lectures, and presentations, in addition to the value of the names with expertise that participated in it from Arab and international universities and educational institutions.

He indicated that the 4th edition of the Olympiad was a good opportunity to develop the spirit of scientific competition among around 83 male and female students from the elite of distinguished mathematics in the Arab world, in addition to strengthening scientific and friendly ties between specialists in this science.

Ajyal 2024 to open with Sudan, Remember Us

Doha Film Institute (DFI) will open Ajyal Film Festival tomorrow with *Sudan, Remember Us* (Tunisia, France, Qatar) by Hind Meddeb, a powerful documentary, a statement said yesterday. The DFI supported film, is a depiction of compelling young activists in their fight for freedom using words, poems, and chants.

The documentary delves deep into the untold stories of Sudan, bringing forward young voices of resilience, dignity, and hope in the face of turmoil, and highlights the strength of the Sudanese people in their struggle for peace and unity. The film premiered at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year. In a press statement, DFI CEO and fe-



A still from *Sudan Remember Us*.

tival director Fatma Hassan Alremaihi said: "Ajyal is a festival that honours hope, courage, and shared humanity, and this documentary

epitomises those values, reminding us all of the power of cinema to raise awareness, inspire compassion, and foster unity?"

Turkish transport minister hails distinguished ties with Qatar

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of Turkey, Abdulkadir Uraloglu, highlighted Türkiye and Qatar's shared values in foreign policy and the resulting strong co-operation in multiple sectors, particularly in transportation and construction.

In comments to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Uraloglu noted the Development Road project as a key area of collaboration with Qatar, alongside Iraq and the UAE. This road is part of a broader trade route stretching from China to London. Additionally, both countries have forged numerous agreements across land, air, and sea sectors to enhance mutual connectivity.

He mentioned the establishment of a technical maritime committee under the 2015 maritime agreement to enhance collaboration in the transportation and infrastructure fields. This committee encourages expertise exchange in various technical areas like maritime transport, port operations, training, ship maintenance, and security. Notably, the

committee will address global objectives like digitalization of seaports, green energy, and emission reductions.

Türkiye is a significant cruise destination, which aligns with the interest of Qatari tourists in Turkish cities along the Black Sea and Istanbul's role as a transit hub, creating prospects for tourism co-operation. Air transport between the two countries has also grown, with Turkish Airlines and Pegasus Airlines operating regular flights on the Istanbul-Doha and Sabiha Gokcen-Doha routes, respectively. Qatar Airways operates multiple routes to Turkish airports, further enhancing connectivity. The wide network of both airlines underscores the importance of continued collaboration between the countries' aviation authorities to capitalise on these expansive routes.

On infrastructure, Türkiye offers a strong investment landscape, attracting Qatari interest, especially in developing infrastructure like the Development Road. Türkiye's experience in infrastructure and construc-

tion, coupled with Qatar's strategic location and financial strength, opens avenues for joint investments in ports, logistics hubs, and highways. Port integration projects and expanding logistics networks are crucial to developing maritime transport infrastructure. Smart transport solutions and technological advancements in sustainable transportation are also priorities, aligning with global objectives.

In the area of joint investments, Uraloglu confirmed that Türkiye and Qatar actively evaluate co-operation opportunities in port and logistics facilities and air transport. He noted Türkiye's role as a strategic link between Europe and Asia and Qatar's energy hub position in the Gulf, which could expedite goods transport in the region.

The minister announced the recent negotiations for a land transport agreement with Qatar, marking a significant addition to the partnership. The agreement's final terms were discussed on November 11, and it is anticipated to be formalised during the Supreme

Strategic Committee's session. This agreement reflects the increase in trade volume and the growing relationship between the two countries.

The Development Road project was further discussed at two council meetings, held in Istanbul and Baghdad. The Declaration of Understanding was signed in Baghdad, illustrating the commitment to this strategic initiative, which aims to connect goods from India, South Asia, and the Gulf to Europe via Iraq and Türkiye. The project is anticipated to boost trade and co-operation, fostering peace and prosperity in the region.

Uraloglu highlighted Türkiye's focus on sustainable transport systems and its interest in Qatar's experience in environmentally friendly infrastructure, aiming to enhance co-operation for mutual gain. The integration of highways, railways, ports, and other sustainable transport networks is a priority for Türkiye within the Development Road framework.

Türkiye's interest in strengthening maritime transport and



ports with Qatar also extends to increased regional and international trade. The strategic integration of Turkish and Qatari ports will bolster their maritime sectors and support the development of energy transport and port infrastructure.

Türkiye is a global leader in producing tugboats, specifically those powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG). Four LNG-operated tugboats have already been produced and delivered to BOTAS. Qatar,

which may incorporate these advanced marine vessels, aligns with Türkiye's readiness to provide further co-ordination in marine technology.

The remarks from Uraloglu highlight the strength of the Türkiye-Qatar partnership in transport and infrastructure, emphasising strategic projects and sustainable goals that will promote regional trade and stability while expanding mutual benefits across multiple sectors. (QNA)

Turkish analysts, media: Mutual visits boost ties

Two Turkish analysts and media personnel have said relations between Qatar and Türkiye have made great progress across all fields, with an increase in the frequency of high-level official visits between the two countries.

In statements to Qatar News Agency (QNA), they emphasised that the convening of the Turkish-Qatari Supreme Strategic Committee will contribute significantly to advancing co-operation between the two countries. They pointed out that the committee is being held in extremely important circumstances in the region, and therefore its agenda is expected to be full of many important issues and files.

Turkish political analyst and Editor-in-Chief of Ulke TV news channel Hasan Ozturk said that Turkish-Qatari relations have gained great momentum through mutual visits between the leaderships of the two countries in recent years and the agreements signed between the two sides.

He added the boom in Turkish-Qatari relations has contributed to achieving the supreme interests of both sides, on the political, economic, and defence levels, which has led to several important results, particularly the meeting of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee, which is considered an opportunity to strengthen relations.

Ozturk described bilateral relations as "strong and advanced,"



expecting that they would witness positive development during the next stage in terms of enhancing strategic co-operation, which would be reflected in the regional partnership and mutual understanding on regional and international issues, especially the Palestinian issue and joint co-ordination to stop the war of extermination in the Gaza Strip.

The Turkish political analyst said Türkiye and Qatar are two major powers with clear influence in the Middle East, and they share a strong friendship and co-operation in various fields. Ozturk concluded by saying that the Turkish motives in its relationship with Qatar reflected the extent to which the Turkish decision-maker was aware of the uniqueness and importance of this relationship, and the necessity of its distinction for political and economic considerations.

In turn, Turkish media personnel and Chief Editor of Türkiye newspaper Ismail Kapan said Turkish-Qatari relations have



witnessed great momentum in recent years, as their goal was to strengthen relations in all fields and push them forward.

Kapan added that Qatar and Türkiye are two important countries in the region and have the ability to support the issues of the Islamic world, in an era characterised by various transformations imposed by the nature of political and economic developments, and the new data they produce.

He indicated that relations between the two countries in the coming period will witness a qualitative shift, which will benefit all regional countries.

He believed that Qatari-Turkish relations enjoy a significant distinction because they are based on continuous co-operation and development, especially in the political and economic fields.

He concluded by saying that the mutual visits between officials in the two countries have a major and influential role in establishing relations and pushing them toward broad horizons. (QNA)

TOBB president upbeat about prospects

Rifat Hisarciklioglu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), expressed optimism about the 10th Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee session, co-chaired by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, bringing enhanced bilateral co-operation.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Hisarciklioglu emphasised the deep-rooted and rapidly developing relations between Qatar and Türkiye, strengthened by high-level visits and close co-ordination on regional issues. He highlighted a strategic focus on economic and investment partnerships, noting his optimism about expanding trade, particularly



through the comprehensive economic partnership agreement between the two countries. Hisarciklioglu urged efforts to increase trade volumes, pointing out Türkiye's industrial strength, with 94% of its exports being industrial products, largely to developed markets like the United States and Europe. He also mentioned the Turkish private sector's interest in

expanding its role in Qatar across sectors including technology, defence, energy, tourism, logistics, and health.

Qatar has invested approximately \$10bn in Türkiye, while Turkish companies have executed projects worth \$20bn in Qatar. Hisarciklioglu noted ongoing collaboration with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with joint events aimed at strengthening trade and exploring new co-operation opportunities. He concluded by discussing the development road project linking Basra, Iraq, through Türkiye to Europe, which could serve as a key transportation hub, enhancing regional co-operation and integration into global value chains.

10th Supreme Strategic Committee meeting to spur ties: Qatari media

Several Qatari newspaper editors and political analysts underscored that the upcoming meeting of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee demonstrates both countries' commitment to enhancing their strong relations across various sectors, bolstered by support from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), they noted the meeting's heightened significance this year due to regional challenges, including recent aggressions in Gaza and Lebanon.

The Supreme Strategic Committee, established in 2014 with its inaugural meeting in 2015, has facilitated substantial co-operation between Qatar and Türkiye, with over 100 agreements signed across economics, defence, health, and other fields. Faleh Hussein al-Hajri, editor-in-chief of *Al Arab* newspaper, emphasised the committee as a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship, stating, "this committee has strengthened strategic co-operation between the two countries and elevated their relations to a level of complementary partnership."

Al-Hajri highlighted that trade between Qatar and Türkiye more than doubled from 2016 to 2020, reaching \$1.9bn in 2020. He anticipates that the upcoming session will further expand joint co-operation strategies. Al-Hajri expects the 10th session to address various

areas, noting, "At the forefront of the agenda will be enhancing trade exchanges, increasing mutual investments, and co-operation in defence, security, culture, education, health, and energy."

Similarly, Abdullah Talib al-Marri, editor-in-chief of *Al-Raya* newspaper, affirmed that these meetings underscore both nations' dedication to continued solidarity and co-ordination.

"The 10th session comes at a time when bilateral relations have reached the desired complementary partnership, supported by the leadership of HH the Amir and President Erdogan," al-Marri noted, adding that the meeting's timing is crucial given the ongoing Israeli actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

Al-Marri remarked on the Supreme Strategic Committee's role in institutionalising the partnership between Qatar and Türkiye, which he says has transcended political collaboration to embrace economic, cultural, and security co-operation. He added, "This meeting strengthens the deeply rooted fraternal bonds and strategic relations that have developed over decades," emphasising that the partnership across fields, including security, military, and development, serves the mutual interests of both nations.

Dr Nafja Sabah al-Buafra, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Qatar University, highlighted the economic component of the Qatar-Türkiye relationship. She

10th Supreme Strategic Committee meet to boost co-operation: Al-Hitmi

The 10th Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee meeting will further enhance the already strong Qatar-Türkiye co-operation, stated Shura Council Member and Chairman of the Qatari-Turkish Parliamentary Friendship Group, Eng Ahmed bin Hitmi al-Hitmi.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Hitmi remarked that the meeting reflects the deep and robust historical ties between the two brotherly countries, built on mutual respect and shared interests. He noted that over the past years, the Supreme Strategic Committee has proven to be an effective platform for advancing bilateral co-operation across critical fields, including economy, trade, education, culture, defence, and security. This is a testament to both countries' commitment to strengthening co-operation and promoting regional stability.

The Committee holds high importance given the shared vision



of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, both of whom are dedicated to supporting bilateral co-operation and strategic partnerships to serve the interests of the Qatari and Turkish people.

The directives of the two leaders have been a strong incentive for productive co-operation, encompassing the exploration of new economic and investment opportunities, the activation of joint initiatives on sustainable de-

velopment, and the enhancement of cultural and scientific exchange between the two nations.

Highlighting the close collaboration between the Shura Council and the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, al-Hitmi noted the increasing frequency of mutual visits and co-ordination on various issues, benefiting both nations and the broader Islamic community.

In this context, he mentioned his leadership of a Shura Council delegation in February 2024 to the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye to exchange expertise, foster mutual understanding, and advance international co-operation. During the visit, the delegation held discussions with Turkish lawmakers and officials on issues of shared interest.

Al-Hitmi expressed the hope that both countries would achieve further joint projects that advance their development goals and affirm their solid strategic partnership as a vital pillar of regional stability and prosperity. (QNA)

Akar highlights multifaceted rock-solid ties

Chairperson of the National Defence Commission of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and Chairperson of the Türkiye-Qatar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, Hulusi Akar, has emphasised that Qatar and Türkiye maintain rock-solid ties across multiple fields, particularly in diplomacy, economics, and culture.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Akar highlighted the friendly and brotherly relationship between Qatar and Türkiye, noting that the two nations demonstrate unwavering solidarity in times of crisis, supported by strong people-to-people bonds and the guidance of both countries' leaders. The two countries share common ground on numerous regional and global issues, upholding a unified stance in leading mediation efforts rooted in trust and stability. Through diplomacy and dialogue, they work to seek solutions for regional and international conflicts, he emphasised.

Akar noted the consistent support shown by the nations toward each



other in times of crisis and the consultative approach they take in addressing regional and global events. This approach, he explained, underscores the deep diplomatic relationship between Türkiye and Qatar, built on mutual trust and confidence. Akar mentioned that Qatar-Türkiye diplomatic relations celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2023, with successful steps taken to strengthen strategic co-operation. He highlighted the 13 co-operation agreements signed during the recent Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee meeting, bringing the total to 108 agreements. The military framework agreement, in particular, will significantly enhance

co-operation, as Qatar remains a strategic partner in defence industries, with ambitions to expand current joint activities through new initiatives.

He stressed the important role of parliamentarians in enhancing co-operation and international relations to ensure global security, stability, economic growth, environmental sustainability, human rights, and cultural understanding. The world faces challenges such as conflicts, terrorism, transnational crime, and an arms race, all of which require resolution through international co-operation and dialogue. Akar highlighted the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in building trust and understanding among nations to resolve crises peacefully. In conclusion, Akar called on parliamentarians to pursue a proactive, fair, and conciliatory approach, describing it as the most effective way to address the pressing challenges facing the international community and to foster global prosperity. (QNA)



noted the steady growth in trade and the diverse range of Qatari investments in Türkiye, from hospitality to financial markets and logistics.

"This progress in the partnership is also reflected in Qatari investments across multiple sectors," she said, adding that the Supreme Strategic Committee reflects a genuine desire for enhanced co-operation. Dr Al

Buafra expects the upcoming session to yield several new agreements, particularly in education, culture, and tourism. She pointed out that Qatar and Türkiye share common political perspectives on key regional issues, saying, "We see alignment between Qatar and Türkiye's foreign policy towards Gaza, and similar positions on Libya, Syria, Yemen, and the Russia-Ukraine war." Dr Tarek Hamoud, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Lusail University, commented on the committee's role in advancing Doha-Ankara relations. "The committee has paved the way for dozens of agreements in trade, security, banking, education, health, and the environment," he said, noting the heightened significance of this year's meeting amid current regional challenges.

Dr Hamoud expects that a significant portion of the agenda will address enhanced diplomatic and political co-ordination. He highlighted that the committee meets after thorough preparation, often culminating in new agreements, and added, "The continued existence of the committee is a testament to the evolving and strengthening ties between Qatar and Türkiye." The editors and analysts concluded that the 10th Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee session will further solidify the strong partnership between Qatar and Türkiye, fostering deeper co-operation that meets shared goals for regional stability and prosperity. (QNA)



Unique



Bauhinia purpurea or the butterfly orchid tree has uniquely shaped leaves, which are thick, deeply divided into two lobes and 100mm long when fully developed. The ornamental species is found across public gardens and parks in Qatar. PICTURE: Gulf Times news editor Bonnie James (Instagram: the.explorer7)

QU Alumni Association – Psychology Chapter celebrates third anniversary

The event featured a range of speakers and a panel discussion with experts from academia, media, sports, mental health, pharmacology

The celebration reflected the association's goals of presenting psychology in innovative ways, fostering individual self-awareness, and enhancing personal capacities to create a positive impact on society

The Qatar University (QU) Alumni Association – Psychology Chapter marked its third anniversary, at an event aimed at promoting psychological and social awareness across various community segments.

The celebration reflected the association's goals of presenting psychology in innovative ways, fostering individual self-awareness, and enhancing personal capacities to create a positive impact on society.

The event was held in collaboration with key partners, including the Ministry of Municipality, and Friends of the Environment Center.

The programme featured a theatrical presentation showcasing true stories of overcoming mental health challenges,

along with dedicated spaces with themes such as 'Prison of Thought,' 'Healthy Routine,' and 'Planting Corners' that illustrated the connections between mental health and various aspects of life.

The event featured a range of speakers and a panel discussion with experts from academia, media, sports, mental health, and pharmacology, as well as specialised workshops, including art therapy for professionals, calligraphy, and the mental benefits of gardening.

Training sessions for children were conducted in collaboration with QU's Toastmasters chapter to enhance public speaking and leadership skills, making the event a comprehensive family-friendly experience.

In her opening remarks, Roaa El-Otify, chairperson of the Psychology Chapter of the QU Alumni Association, said: "Our chapter aims to unite QU's psychology graduates under one roof, working towards social impact through mental health education and awareness."

Kamal Naji Mohammed, a member of the Psychology Chapter, said: "I am

delighted to contribute to this event through a station that revives past memories by displaying vintage items, from our youth and childhood, bringing happiness amidst today's challenges. I named my station 'Memories of Yesterday, Happiness for the Soul,' and hope it resonated with everyone and brought back beautiful memories."

"Our chapter aims to unite QU's psychology graduates under one roof, working towards social impact through mental health education and awareness"

Narmeen Nader, a psychology specialist and member of the Psychology Chapter, introduced the 'Prison of Thought' station: "When we think of a prison, we think of restrictions; sometimes these are mental barriers that limit us in different life situations. At this station, we helped visitors understand the reasons behind their tense or exaggerated reactions to certain situ-

ations by addressing cognitive distortions and guiding them towards a positive liberation."

Aseel Taha, an active member of QU's Alumni Psychology Chapter and event organiser, shared insights on the planting station, stating, "We aim to enhance the connection to nature through planting and nurturing plants, encouraging a sensory experience that includes touching the soil and inhaling natural scents. This process helps people immerse themselves in nature, enhancing focus and reducing stress, making planting a powerful tool for self-awareness and reflection."

Reham al-Moghari, a psychological specialist and member of the Psychology Chapter, underscored the importance of a healthy routine, which extends from physical to mental aspects, affecting various facets of life.

"Our goal was to highlight the value of starting the day with spiritual and healthy practices, such as prayer, exercise, and proper nutrition, as well as fostering social connections to build a

balanced personality capable of handling life's challenges."

Ahood al-Yafei, a member of the Psychology Chapter, contributed a dedicated station to support children through various activities. "Activities included storytelling with educational values, intellectual games like LEGO, and educational stations on planting and recycling, to highlight the mental health benefits of plants. We also included a public speaking workshop to help children express themselves confidently."

This event served as a holistic platform, linking psychological, environmental, cultural, and scientific awareness to underscore the importance of mental and environmental health. It encouraged participants to reflect inwardly and work towards personal and professional development.

The initiative also provided a diverse and inspiring educational experience for all attendees, focusing on deepening understanding of mental health challenges and strategies for overcoming them.





Inaugural ladies golfing event hosted

Doha Golf Club's lady captain Chere-hzade Boocho hosted the Inaugural Ladies Doha Desert Classic 2024.

There were 52 participants from 14 nationalities and four clubs in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Education City Golf Club, and the hosts.

The winner of Division A was Rukkaiya Pachisa (41 points) followed by Nichapa Wichaidit as runner-up (34 points).

In Division B, Elizabeth Harris was the winner (42 points) with Alana Lewis in second place (35 points). All four winners are members of Doha Golf Club.

The event also had 18 on-course prizes along with eight raffle prizes. The event was supported by Doha Golf Club's Mike Shouairy (technical expert, sports & events manager), Russel Mayne (deputy general manager operations) and Nikhil Kavlekar (ProSport) and Elias Sahyooun (Mayfair Hospitality).



Integral Knights win Amuaaq's Sir Syed cricket tournament

Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association Qatar's (Amuaaq) Sir Syed Memorial Cricket Tournament concluded with the Integral University Alumni Association Qatar (Integral Knights) emerging champions beating the hosts. The final match was the decisive encounter of a series that had been tied 1-1. The tournament was part of a series of events commemorating the 207th birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the visionary founder of AMU, whose contributions to education in the 19th century continue to inspire. Amuaaq is an associate organisation of the Indian Community Benevolent Forum under the aegis of the embassy of India. Before the final match, Amuaaq president Dr Nadeem Zafar Jilani welcomed the guests. Chairman Jawed Ahmad introduced the guests to the captains of both

teams. Integral's Ahmad was the Man of the Match and Sher Afghan the Man of the Series. The commentators were Sanjeev Sharma, Vivek, Jawed Ahmad and Ali Imran. The arrangements were made by officials including sports head Farukh Farooq, cricket captain Mamnoon Bangash, Faisal Naseem and Dr Mohammad Nayeem. The parallel programme for ladies and children were led by Amuaaq executive committee members Saima Rafat and Ghazala Yasmeen. Vice-president Mohammad Faisal Naseem and general secretary Khan Farman Khan co-ordinated refreshments. The guests included Nihad Ali, Safer Rahman, Deepak Shetty, Shahabuddin, Rashid, Faisal Abdullah, Shah Nawaz, Saeed, Lutfi, Majid, Ashfaq, Dr Imtiyaz, Dr Imran Mumtaz, Ghufraan Ali and Farhan.



Nadapuram wins KMCC volleyball tournament



The Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KMCC) Nadapuram team won the volleyball tournament organised by KMCC Qatar State Sports Wing as part of Sports Gala 2024, beating the Kuttiady team 3-1. Eight teams competed in the group stage. Players from various countries participated. During the closing ceremony, long-time sports contributor and KMCC State vice-president Muhammad Isa was honoured with a memento.

MES student wins speech prize



Jitesh Adithya (Class 12) of MES Indian School bagged the first runner-up position in the Youth Humorous Speech Contest of the Qatar Talks event.

International Open Badminton Tournament held



The 2nd International Open Badminton Tournament, organised by Expats Sportev over four days, drew hundreds of badminton enthusiasts from various nationalities and top academies across Qatar. Competitions were held in 22 categories, offering singles and doubles matches for players of different grades and ages, from children to adults.

Parents showcase talents at MES fest



As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, MES Indian School hosted a cultural and literary fest for parents over two days with on-stage and off-stage competitions. Shameel Abdul Jaleel was the 'Best Male Individual Artist' and Dhanya Prashant the 'Best Female Individual Artist.'

JUSTICE

Hong Kong bomb plot 'mastermind' jailed for 24 years

Seven Hong Kong men involved in a thwarted 2019 bomb plot to murder police officers were jailed yesterday, with the plan's "mastermind" receiving a sentence of almost 24 years. Prosecutors said the men intended to lure officers into an ambush by ransacking shops during a democracy rally, before detonating bombs and shooting them. Ng Chi-hung, a 28-year-old former engineer, was given a total of 23 years and 10 months over the bombing offence and another charge of possessing firearms with the intent to endanger life. It is the longest sentence handed out yet for a case relating to Hong Kong's huge and at times violent pro-democracy protests.

DECISION

Malaysia to protest to Manila over new maritime laws

Malaysia will send a protest note to the Philippines over its new maritime laws due to their overlapping claims in the South China Sea, its deputy foreign minister said yesterday. The protest will follow a complaint also from China over the Philippines' Maritime Zones Act and the Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act, which Manila said was intended to strengthen its maritime claims and bolster its territorial integrity. Malaysia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamad Alamin said the government has reviewed the reference documents related to the Philippines' laws and found that they touch upon claims to the Malaysian state of Sabah on Borneo island.

CRIME

Thai military accused of beating Myanmar man to death

A human rights organisation yesterday accused the Thai military of torturing and killing a Myanmar man near the border between the two countries this year. Fortify Rights said in a report that four soldiers detained Aung Ko Ko, 37, in Thailand's western Mae Sot district on January 12 for wearing the uniform of an official Thai village security force. Three of them beat Aung Ko Ko with a long wooden stick while interrogating him, leaving him bruised and bleeding nearby until he died hours later, the rights group said, citing eyewitness accounts, photos of the scene and an autopsy report.

DISASTER

Indonesia's VP visits area hit by volcano eruptions

Indonesia's vice-president visited areas hit by multiple eruptions of the Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano yesterday, as some international airlines resumed flights to the resort island of Bali, officials said. The first eruption of Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in East Nusa Tenggara province on November 3 killed at least nine people, damaged more than 2,000 houses and forced the evacuation of 13,000 residents. It has since erupted repeatedly, belching ash up to 10km into the air. East Nusa Tenggara is located about 800km from Bali. Vice-President Gibran Rakabuming Raka visited temporary shelters in the East Flores area.

Lanka counts votes for new parliament with economic reforms at stake

Reuters
Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday began counting votes cast in a snap general election that will decide if the Indian Ocean island nation will give its new leftist president greater legislative power to help the poor as it recovers from a financial meltdown.

Just over 17mn Sri Lankans were eligible to elect lawmakers to the 225-member parliament for a five-year term. A record 690 political parties and independent groups are in the fray across 22 electoral districts. Counting of the paper ballots started shortly after polling closed yesterday, with results expected today. Voter turnout was about 65% at close of polling, the election commission said.

The president, Marxist-leaning Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 55, was elected in September but his National People's Power (NPP) coalition had just three of parliament's 225 seats, prompting him to dissolve it and seek a fresh mandate. People trickled into temples, schools and other public buildings being used as polling stations soon after polls opened.

"I think we are seeing the first signs of a positive political change in Sri Lanka after the president was elected and we should give him the

chance to continue that change," said Umeshi Perera, 32, who queued to vote in a Colombo suburb.

Analysts say Dissanayake's coalition is expected to draw significant support, while a victory for a rival could lead to a policy logjam the country cannot afford.

A political outsider in a country dominated by family parties for decades, Dissanayake backs policies to fight poverty, such as bigger welfare measures, as well as battle graft.

Sri Lanka typically backs its president in general elections, especially if it is held soon after a presidential vote.

The president wields executive power but Dissanayake still requires a parliamentary majority to appoint a fully-fledged cabinet and deliver on key promises to cut taxes, support local businesses, and fight poverty.

He also has plans to abolish Sri Lanka's contentious executive presidency but requires a two-third majority in parliament to implement it.

"This election is critical as it is a test for the NPP to get the numbers needed for the IMF package and to take forward promised governance, constitutional and economic reforms," said Bhavani Fonseka, a researcher at Colombo's Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The main challenger to Dissanayake's coalition is the Samagi

Jana Balawegaya party of opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, who favours a mix of interventionist and free-market economics.

Also a key contender is the New Democratic Front, backed by previous president Ranil Wickremesinghe.

A nation of 22mn, Sri Lanka was crushed by a 2022 economic crisis triggered by a severe shortage of foreign currency that pushed it into a sovereign default and caused its economy to shrink by 7.3% in 2022 and 2.3% last year.

Boosted by a \$2.9 billion bailout programme from the International Monetary Fund, the economy has begun a tentative recovery, but the high cost of living is still a critical issue for many, especially the poor.

The country's stocks and bonds have rallied sharply since the presidential election, with MSCI's Sri Lanka's equity index rallying some 35% and the defaulted 2030 sovereign dollar bond up 20% since then.

Dissanayake also aims to tweak targets set by the IMF to rein in income tax and free up funds to invest in welfare for the millions hit hardest by the crisis.

But investors worry his desire to revisit the terms of the IMF bailout could delay future disbursements, making it harder for Sri Lanka to hit a key primary surplus target of 2.3% of GDP in 2025 set by the IMF.



A rescuer carries a young resident during a forced evacuation operation in Buguey town, Cagayan province, north of Manila, ahead of super typhoon Usagi's landfall.

Thousands flee as typhoon Usagi hits north Philippines

AFP
Manila

Typhoon Usagi slammed into the Philippines' already disaster-ravaged north yesterday, as authorities rushed to evacuate thousands of people from flood-prone areas.

The fifth storm to strike the country in just three weeks, Usagi made landfall in the town of Bag-gao in Cagayan province at 0530 GMT, packing winds of 175kms an hour, the national weather service said. The brutal wave of weather disasters has already killed 159

people and prompted the United Nations to request \$32.9mn in aid for the worst-affected regions.

The national weather agency had initially raised its highest storm alert, but downgraded to its second-highest as Usagi made landfall. It weakened to 165kms an hour as it ploughed north to the municipality of Gonzaga and open waters beyond it.

Baggao police said no casualties or substantial damage were immediately reported, while 28 residents of a village were evacuated amid concern it would get flooded.

"It was weaker than we expected," a relieved police officer, Karen

Ibarra, said. President Ferdinand Marcos, visiting storm-affected areas to dole out emergency cash aid, urged residents to comply with evacuation orders.

"We know that it is difficult to leave your homes and possessions, but sheltering could save lives," he told residents of Mindoro island south of the capital Manila, according to an official transcript of his speech. "While we cannot prevent typhoons from hitting the country, we can take steps to reduce their impact," he said, calling for better infrastructure to cope with worsening storm effects he blamed on climate change.

Suspect wanted by India held on gun charges in Canada

A man wanted for murder in India, who is also an alleged associate of a prominent Canadian Khalistan activist, has been arrested in Canada on gun charges, a local broadcaster said. Arshdeep Singh Gill, 28, was one of two men arrested in late October in Milton, Ontario and charged with the illegal discharging of a firearm after showing up at a local hospital. CTV News said. CTV said Gill and the other suspect, Gurjant Singh, remain in custody pending a bail hearing. According to a January 2023 Indian ministry of home affairs notice, Gill is wanted on suspicion of murder, extortion, the smuggling drugs and weapons, and terror financing. He is also described by CTV as having been "very close" to Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a naturalised Canadian citizen and prominent Khalistan campaigner who was killed in Vancouver in 2023. Ottawa has accused India of orchestrating Nijjar's murder.

Prince William visits Northern Ireland



Prince William tries out a motorbike in the state-of-the-art Virtual Production Studio, where students are developing their skillsets in virtual production, during a visit to Ulster University's Belfast City Campus Centre. The prince was briefed on the work being carried out to solidify Northern Ireland as a global leader of creative excellence and innovation by developing and upskilling the future workforce and expanding technological capabilities.

Will not block ICC if Duterte wants to be probed: Marcos

Reuters
Manila

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr yesterday said his government would not block the International Criminal Court (ICC) if former leader Rodrigo Duterte wants to be investigated for alleged crimes against humanity in his anti-drugs crackdown.

The Philippines will not cooperate with the ICC but it has obligations with Interpol, Marcos told reporters.

"If that's the wish of (Duterte), we will not block ICC. We will not just co-operate," Marcos said. "But if he agrees to be investigated, it is up to him."

Marcos' remarks follow a marathon congressional hearing on Wednesday during which Duterte, president from 2016-

2022, refused to apologise for his role in the bloodshed and urged the ICC to start its investigation.

Duterte remained defiant during Wednesday's hearing as he defended his drugs crackdown, which was a key plank of his election campaign, during which he had promised thousands of drug pushers and criminals would be killed.

"I have nothing to hide. What I did, I did it for my country and for the young people. No excuses. No apologies," said the 79-year-old Duterte during the hours-long hearing, which was also attended by families of drug war victims.

"I am already old, I might die soon. You might miss the pleasure of seeing me standing before the court hearing the judgment whatever it is," Duterte said, adding he assumed full responsibility for what happened.

King Charles turns 76 after year of little celebration

AFP
London

Britain's head of state King Charles III turned 76 yesterday, after a torrid year in which both he and his daughter-in-law Catherine, Princess of Wales, have battled cancer.

Ceremonial gunfire rang out across the British capital to mark the occasion after Charles spent the morning visiting a surplus food distribution centre in south London.

His wife, Queen Camilla, 77, did not join him at the Coronation Food Hub in Deptford as she was recovering from a chest infection that

prevented her from attending last weekend's Remembrance events for Britain's war dead.

Senior royals wished him happy birthday with William, his elder son and heir, sharing a photo online of his father wearing sunglasses and a floral garland.

William has described the last 12 months as a "brutal" year because of the health issues affecting his wife and father that forced both to step back from royal duties.

The king's cancer diagnosis was announced in February but two-and-a-half months at the end of April he was back at work.

"The problem is trying to stop him," Camilla has said several times

since. Last month, the couple visited Australia then Samoa for a Commonwealth heads of government meeting. Charles paused his cancer treatment during the trip.

According to those close to him, Charles returned "invigorated" from the 11-day trip, while one palace official said the king intended to return to a "normal" schedule of overseas trips next year.

Last Sunday, he led the nation in a two-minute silence to honour Britons killed in battle since 1914 at the Cenotaph memorial in London, one of the most important dates in the royal calendar.

The previous evening, he joined William and Kate, as Catherine is

widely known, who recently completed chemotherapy for her own cancer diagnosis this year - at the Royal Albert Hall for a commemorative concert.

On Tuesday he hosted the king of Bahrain, then on Wednesday held a reception at Buckingham Palace for the British film and TV industry, before attending a screening of *Gladiator II* to mark its global release.

Members of the public yesterday greeted him at the Coronation Food Hub, a project he launched on his 75th birthday last year to tackle food waste and support people in need.

Charles's late mother remains at the top of YouGov's royal popularity rankings, followed by Kate, his sister

Princess Anne, and William. Charles is at fifth place. The king remains estranged from his younger son Prince Harry and wife Meghan, and has seen both his and William's finances scrutinised in a recent documentary.

In Samoa, he faced direct calls for slavery reparations stemming from Britain's colonial rule, adding to concerns about his health.

Royal officials have not disclosed what type of cancer he and Kate were diagnosed with.

Kate, 42, announced the end of her chemotherapy on September 9, in a widely praised video posted on social networks.

Earlier this month, William described the twin diagnoses as

"dreadful" "It's probably been the hardest year of my life," he told reporters on a visit to South Africa.

"I'm so proud of my wife, I'm proud of my father, for handling the things that they have done. But from a personal family point of view, it's been, yeah, it's been brutal," he added.

Despite the better news, the health of senior royals is still being closely watched.

A doctor accompanied the king and queen to Australia and Samoa. The king and queen then spent three days at a wellness retreat in Bengaluru, India, on their way back to "help break" the long journey, a palace spokesperson said.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

- ✉ P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
- ☎ 44466404 (Sport),
- ☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)
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GULF TIMES

Could Trump be good for Europe?

Before the US presidential election, it seemed like no-one but Donald Trump's staunchest supporters believed he could win. After all, the man is a convicted felon, a putschist-provocateur, an agent of chaos, and a walking scandal who has been disowned by almost all his former advisers, some of whom describe him as a fascist. Moreover, the incumbent Democratic administration presides over an economy with low inflation, low unemployment, high economic growth, a record-high stock market, and major new investments in infrastructure, technology, and green energy. Yet it happened.

Much has already been written about the reasons for the Democrats' failure, and about the dire implications of another Trump presidency. With Trump, it is difficult to predict anything, especially now that he is no longer surrounded by serious, reasonable advisers and seasoned politicians. Nor is his Republican Party what it used to be. Like Poland's Law and Justice (PiS) party under Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the GOP has effectively become the property of its leader.

Still, let's try to think of something positive, if only to ward off fatalism or despair. First, there is the war in Ukraine. Although the Biden administration has devoted plenty of attention to this issue, one thing is certain: continuing the same policy would not lead to an outright victory for Ukraine. Biden's approach did not guarantee success, and may instead have guaranteed only a slow bleed in Eastern Europe.

Trump's unpredictability may therefore have a silver lining. It was he, after all, who sent the first shipment of anti-tank Javelin missiles that later aided Ukraine's initial defence. When Ukraine approached Barack Obama's administration to purchase lethal arms after Russia's 2014 incursions into its territory, it was turned down. And when Russia began amassing troops and military equipment

The president-elect's unpredictability may have a silver lining

near the Ukrainian border in March 2021, the Biden administration approved only \$125mn in aid, followed by another \$60mn that May. Yes, Trump threatened to withhold aid unless Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky helped him implicate the Biden family in corrupt dealings. But this plot blew up in his face and led to his first impeachment. Looking ahead, it is rather hard to imagine that a man with such a big, all-consuming ego would simply hand over Ukraine. What would he get out of it? Putin has nothing to offer, and he has become a junior partner to China, Trump's bête noire.

As for the broader transatlantic relationship, America's pivot away from Europe was going to happen sooner or later. It has been dragging on since the Obama years, and now the European Union may finally get the jolt it needs. You cannot drag your feet forever when it comes to investing in your own arms industry and defence. If South Korea can afford it, why can't Germany and the EU as a whole?

The Covid-19 shock already significantly reshaped the EU for the better, proving – finally – that it is possible to incur common debt to finance necessary investments. Equally, the war in Ukraine showed that the EU should also have a common defence policy. Now it will finally have to pursue this goal in earnest. Since Europeans can afford it, there is no reason to rely on support from someone else.

Poland has been a leader in this respect, having already put its defence spending on track to reach 5% of GDP by 2025. Again, why can't Germany do the same? If properly armed, the EU is fully capable of defending its eastern flank. Considering that the risks are distributed unevenly (with Poland and other Eastern European countries being the most exposed), the least that the rest of the EU can do is share the expense of a common defence budget.

Poles also can be somewhat reassured by the fact that Trump's Euroscepticism is directed primarily at Western Europe, since it is Germany and France that compete economically with the United States. While the new American right has little patience for "Old Europe," it loves "New Europe," owing to its own right-wing populist leanings. Perhaps these political impulses can finally be of some use. Hitherto, Poland's PiS-aligned president, Andrzej Duda, has only hurt the country; but as a good friend of Trump's, he may now have a beneficial role to play.

With many allies and a budget ten times larger than Russia's, Europeans can easily take care of themselves as long as they maintain a united front. It no longer has any excuse not to tackle its own problems. – Project Syndicate

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Qatar -Turkiye Supreme Strategic Committee expanding horizons

Established in 2014, the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee has convened annually, alternating between Qatar and Turkiye, under the joint leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The committee serves as a platform for consultation on Qatari-Turkish relations and stands as a key indicator of the strong, strategic partnership between Doha and Ankara. It functions as a collaborative tool for exploring and enhancing co-operation between the two nations across multiple sectors, notably in the fields of economy, investment, industry, defence, security, development, and culture, to achieve the common interests of the two countries and their brotherly peoples.

Since its establishment, the committee has held nine meetings alternately between the two countries. The first meeting took place in Doha in 2015, followed by the second in Trabzon, Turkiye, in 2016. The third was held in Doha in 2017, the fourth in Istanbul in 2018, the fifth in Doha in 2019, the sixth in Istanbul in 2020, the seventh in Doha in 2021, the eighth in Istanbul in 2022, and the ninth in Doha in 2023.

These meetings have resulted in the signing of over 110 agreements and memoranda of understanding aimed at fostering and supporting co-operation between the two countries in various fields.

During these sessions, the two nations review the progress of their collaboration, assess the current state of their strategic partnership, and explore new opportunities to elevate their relationship in ways that serve their shared interests and aspirations. The meetings also provide a platform for discussing pressing regional and international issues of mutual concern and aligning the countries' stances in support of Islamic and humanitarian causes to benefit friendly and allied nations while reinforcing global peace and security.

The first session in Doha witnessed the signing of 16 agreements covering diverse sectors, including security, banking, finance, education, journalism, environmental management, archiving, transportation, energy, and science and technology.

The second session, held in Trabzon, Turkiye, in 2016, led to additional agreements in fields like accounting oversight work, higher education, information and communications technology, health and medical sciences, youth and sports, culture, avoiding double taxation and preventing financial evasion, customs affairs, agriculture, specifications and standards, organising exhibitions, investments in free zones, and co-operation in the defence field.

The third session in Doha in 2017 resulted in agreements and MoUs on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, university research collaboration, central banking, tourism, legal training,



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara yesterday.

meteorology, ports, food safety, humanitarian aid, and media.

In 2018, the fourth session in Istanbul saw agreements and MoUs to co-operate in civil aviation, culture, training, defence, trade and economy, e-commerce, and attracting investment.

The fifth session in Doha in 2019 included several agreements and MoUs on bilateral currency exchange, industrial and technological co-operation, finance, investment promotion, and urban planning. A joint declaration of intent was also signed to establish a trade facilitation and consumer protection lab between the two parties, and a memorandum of understanding for co-operation in the field of standards between the Qatari Public Works Authority and the Turkish Standards Institution.

In 2020, the sixth session in Istanbul yielded agreements and MoUs on investment, free zones, and water management. A joint declaration was also signed to establish the joint economic and trade committee between the two countries, enhance economic and financial co-operation, co-operation in the fields of family affairs, women and social services, and exchange of diplomats.

The seventh session, held in Doha in 2021, saw the signing of numerous agreements and MoUs on organising major events, emergency and disaster management, protocols, and a content partnership program between the Doha Forum and the Antalya Diplomacy Forum. Additionally, an MoU was signed between Qatar Development Bank and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organisation in Turkiye, in addition to the fields of youth and sports, health and medical sciences, endowments and Islamic affairs, standardisation, and culture. An agreement of understanding was also signed between the Qatari Businessmen Association and the Turkish Investment Office.

The eighth session took place

in Istanbul in October 2022, where a series of agreements and MoUs were signed to strengthen strategic co-operation between the two countries. These agreements covered media and communications, halal quality infrastructure, protection of industrial property rights, food security, disaster management, emergency response, humanitarian aid, construction, establishment and operation of cultural centres, museums, and diplomatic archives. An agreement was also signed for the mutual inclusion and integration of territories within the satellite service area between Qatar's Communications Regulatory Authority and Turkiye's Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

In December 2023, the ninth session was held in Doha, resulting in further agreements in political consultations on mutual concerns, culture, labour, philanthropy and humanitarian work, higher education, military and scientific co-operation, research, information and communications technology, finance, and investment promotion.

The regular meetings of the committee and the resulting agreements and memoranda of understanding have significantly strengthened relations between the two countries, elevating them to distinguished strategic levels. The growth in trade volume between Qatar and Turkiye attests to the development of their bilateral relations, particularly with the establishment of direct shipping routes and an abundance of mutual investments.

Turkiye is a notable investment destination for Qataris, while Qatar ranks among the largest foreign investors in Turkiye. The Qatar Investment Authority manages several large-scale projects in Turkiye, with approximately 200 Qatari companies operating in the Turkish market. In Qatar, more than 771 Turkish companies are active, along with an additional 15 Turkish companies operating in

the Qatar Free Zone.

Qatari private sector presence has grown significantly in recent years across various Turkish sectors, including real estate, construction, tourism, manufacturing, media, finance, and healthcare. More recently, Qatari investments have expanded into Turkish ports and technology. The trade exchange between the two nations reached QR4.75bn in 2023, with Qatar exports amounting to QR1.64bn and imports from Turkiye totalling QR3.11bn. Both countries aspire to increase this trade volume to \$5bn in the medium term.

The Qatar Chamber of Commerce regularly hosts Turkish delegations and participates in key Turkish economic events to explore ways to strengthen commercial and investment ties. The relationship between Qatar and Turkish business communities is described as exceptional, with mutual participation in each other's events and joint investments between Qatari and Turkish businesspersons in various global markets.

The continued convening of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee underscores the strength of the relationship between Doha and Ankara, as well as the mutual commitment of both countries' leadership to developing this relationship, fostering Qatari-Turkish co-operation and partnership, and strengthening their alliance.

Both nations have maintained a strong stance against regional challenges they have faced in recent years, overcoming difficulties through close co-operation as two friendly and allied countries. There is outstanding coordination between Doha and Ankara on numerous critical regional issues, with shared perspectives on a range of regional and international concerns, particularly significant efforts in mediation, conflict resolution, and promoting peace, security, and stability across the globe.

(QNA)





Avoid Shirk, associating partners with Allah

Allah, *subhanahu wa ta'ala*, sent the prophets and the messengers with glad tidings and warnings to humanity. Their main duty has been to call people to worship Allah Alone, ie to the faith of *Tawheed*, and warn them against *shirk*, or associating partners with Allah. This monotheistic creed is what distinguishes between Islam and *kufir*, between a believer and a non-believer, between entering Paradise and entering Hellfire. Indeed, Allah and His messengers have placed great emphasis in warning us against falling into *shirk*; which has two categories: major and minor.

Major *shirk* itself divided into four types: *shirk* in supplication, in intention, in loving and in obedience.

The first category of major *shirk* is "association in supplication" ie, *shirk al-du'a*. This involves directing one's supplications to other than Allah as a means of gaining provisions or being cured from a sickness or obtaining help during a crisis or for any other purpose. Allah says: "Do not call on any other than Allah. Such can neither profit you nor hurt you. And if you do, you shall certainly be of those who do wrong." (Qur'an 10:106). Allah also says: "Now, if they embark on a boat, they call on Allah, making their supplication sincerely and exclusively to Him Alone. But when He has delivered them safely to land, they associate others in their worship." (Qur'an 29:65).

It is narrated in Sahih al-Bukhari that the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "Whoever dies while supplicating to someone other than Allah whom he considers equal to Allah, will enter Hellfire." In another verse of the Qur'an, Allah says: "Say: Call upon the other gods besides Allah whom you pretend. They have no power, not even the weight of an atom in the heavens or on earth. Nor do they have a share in them, nor is any of them a helper to Allah. No intercession can avail with Him, except for those who He has granted permission." (Qur'an 34:22-23). In this verse Allah has closed four avenues of *shirk*, namely: owner besides Allah, sharer with Allah, helper for Allah, intercessor without Allah's permission. It has been narrated that the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said in his advice to Ibn Abbas, *radhiallahu 'anhhu*: "Know that if the people were to gather together to benefit you with anything, they would benefit you only with something that Allah has already prescribed for you, and that if they gather together to harm you with anything, they would harm you only with something Allah had already prescribed for you." (Authentic *hadith* related by Al-Tirmidhi).

The second category of major *shirk* is "association in the intention." That is, to perform deeds that may be good themselves but which are done for the sake of this worldly life and not for the sake of Allah. Allah says: "Those who desire this life and its glitter, to them We shall pay the price of their deeds in this same life in full measure. They are those for whom there is nothing in the Hereafter but the Fire. Vain are their designs and of no effect are their deeds." (Qur'an 11:15-16).

The third category of major *shirk* is "association in loving Allah." That is, to love someone or something else more than or as much as one loves Allah. Allah says: "There are men who take others besides Allah as equal with Him. They love them as much as they should love Allah. But the believers have more love for Allah." (Qur'an 2:165).

There are people who recognise Allah as the Creator, the Owner and the Sustainer of the universe, and yet love others more



than Him. Some people love money more than they love Allah and for this reason, they do not pay *zakat* or they gain their money from unlawful sources. They are the slaves of Dirhams and Dinars, or in today's terminology, the slaves of dollars. The Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said, "He who became the slave of the *Dinar* or the *Dirham* will perish and be destroyed." (This is part of a *hadith* related by Al-Bukhari).

Some people love their desires more than they love Allah. Consequently, they would follow their desires even when they lead to disobeying Allah: "Do you see the one who is taking as his lord his own desires?" (Qur'an 25:43). Therefore, loving Allah and His Messenger more than anything is a precondition for tasting the sweetness of faith. It has been narrated in an authentic *hadith* that the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "There are three qualities whose favor has them will taste the sweetness of Iman: loving Allah and His Messenger above all else, loving someone solely for the sake of Allah, and hating to return to disbelief after Allah has rescued him from it, as much as he would hate being thrown into Hellfire." (Related by Al-Bukhari).

Allah has put two criteria to test whether one's love for Him is more than the love of anything else. The first is following the *Summah* of the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*. Allah says: "Say (Muhammad), if you do love Allah, follow me, Allah will love you (in return) and forgive your sins." (Qur'an 3:31). Thus, following the *Summah* in all aspects of our lives is absolutely essential. The second criterion to know if one's love of Allah is more than anything else is through jihad for the sake of Allah: "Say: If it be that your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives or your kindred, the wealth that you have gained, the commerce in which you fear a decline or the houses in which you delight, are dearer to you than Allah or His Messenger, or the jihad for Allah's sake; then wait until Allah brings about his decision; and Allah does not guide the rebellious." (Qur'an 9:24).

The fourth category of major *shirk* is "association in obedience" which is to obey people when they make unlawful things lawful, and to believe that it is permissible to follow those who make such legislations. Allah says: "They take their priests to be their lords beside Allah." (Qur'an 9:31). A *hadith* of the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, relates that

when Adiy Ibn Hatim heard the Prophet reciting this verse, he said to him: "But they did not worship them (their priests)!" The Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam* said: "Didn't those priests make lawful some of the things that Allah has made unlawful and didn't they make unlawful some of the things that Allah has made lawful? And didn't they follow them in that respect? That is how they worshipped them!"

So whoever obeys scholars or rulers when they legislate these kinds of laws while knowing that they are changing the religion of Allah and still believes that they have the authority to do so, is in fact committing an act of disbelief. However, if he does not believe that they have the authority to do so, but still follows them in disobeying Allah, he is committing a sin for which he may be punished according to the gravity of the sin. As for the scholar who makes this judgment while trying his best to find the truth with the intention of following the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, and he fears Allah as much as he could but did not find the truth, he will not be punished for his mistake but he will be rewarded for his *jihad*, ie. the effort he exerted in searching for the truth. However, the scholar or a Muslim who knows what the rule of Allah should be in the matter under consideration but nevertheless chooses otherwise, has fallen into "the *shirk* of association in obedience" especially if he has been following his desires and has been propagating his ideas with the means at his disposal.

Today in many communities, there are people who get close to and even fall into one of these types of *shirk*, especially the *shirk* of obedience. If the rule of Allah coincides with their own desires, they will rush to apply it. But if it does not, they will shop around for a fatwa (legal ruling) that suits their whims. Eventually they may find a shaykh who will give them the fatwa they desire even though this does not legalise what Allah has forbidden. Unfortunately, we find such shaykhs gaining popularity. They are described to be the ones who are moderate, who are understanding, who can deal with the requirements of modern life when in fact, they are following the desires of the people.

In many communities, we find people who are very eager to follow Qur'an when it talks about striving to gain worldly provisions in such verses as, "Walk through the earth and enjoy the sustenance which

Allah furnishes." (Qur'an 67:15). They would exert efforts and spend much energy to gain more money and it will never cross their minds to sit at home without working and Allah will provide for them - and they are right in this respect. But when it comes to working for the Hereafter, such as avoiding sins, increasing their faith with righteous deeds, they would say: "This is the destiny of Allah" to justify their failure for performing their duty towards Allah. They would hope that Allah will guide them to the straight path, while unwilling to make any effort for getting guidance to it. What if somebody comes and begins beating a person, would he say this is the destiny of Allah or would he defend himself and take the necessary precautions to protect himself? Thus, relying on Allah means that one should exert his/her effort to the utmost while at the same time expecting the support and help of Allah.

Some of these people would say that some of the companions of the Prophet such as Uthman Ibn Affan, Abdurrahman Ibn Awf, and Sa'ad Ibn Abi Waqqas were wealthy. However, the comparison stops there because they want to be like them only in the aspect of being rich. They do not ask themselves: How did these companions earn their wealth? How did they spend it? How were their manners? How was their worship, their piety, their fear of Allah? How were their homes? How were their wives and children? What were their interests? Whom did they mix with? The companions never negotiated part of their religion to gain their worldly life, but that is precisely what most Muslims are doing today.

In Sahih Muslim, Jabir, *radhiallahu 'anhhu*, reported that a man came to the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, and said: "O Messenger of Allah, what are the two essential matters?" the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, said: "Whoever dies without associating any partner with Allah will enter Paradise and whoever dies associating anybody with Allah will enter Hellfire."

The second category of *shirk* besides major *shirk* is minor *shirk*. This means showing off, or having the desire to be praised about one's actions. Minor *shirk* does not take a person out of the fold of Islam, but it is nevertheless a grave sin for which there is severe punishment. Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, may Allah have mercy on him, related on the

authority of Labeed that Jabir, *radhiallahu 'anhhu*, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam* said: "The thing I fear most for you to fall into is minor *shirk*". They (the Companions) asked; "What is minor *shirk*?" He, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, replied: "Al-riya" ie 'showing off'. Allah will say to the people who commit it on the Day of Judgment when every one will account for his deeds: "Go back to the ones whom you showed off your deeds for their sake and see if they can reward you."

Umar Ibn al-Khattab said that he heard the Messenger of Allah, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, saying: "Actions are judged by their intentions and every person shall have but that which he intended. Thus, he whose migration was for the sake of Allah and His Messenger, his migration was for Allah and His Messenger. And he whose migration was to achieve some worldly benefit or to take some woman in marriage, his migration was for that which he migrated." (Related by Al-Bukhari and Muslim). Allah says in warning us against spoiling our deeds, "O you who believe, cancel not your charity by reminders of your generosity or by harming; like those who spend their wealth to be seen of men." (Qur'an 2:264).

Furthermore, the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, told us about those who will be thrown first into Hellfire on the Day of Judgment. Abu Hurairah, *radhiallahu anhhu* narrated in Sahih Muslim: "I heard the messenger of Allah saying: 'Among the people who will be punished first on the Day of Judgment is the martyr (ie, one who died while fighting in jihad). He will be brought before Allah and reminded of the bounties of Allah and he will acknowledge them. Then he will be asked; 'What did you do with them?' He will reply: 'I fought for Your sake until I was killed.' It will then be said to him: 'You lied, you fought so that people will say you were a brave man and they have said so.' Then he will be taken on his face and thrown in Hellfire. The second is a man who acquired sound knowledge of the religion, taught it, read it, and memorised the Qur'an. He will be brought before Allah and reminded of the bounties of Allah and he will acknowledge them. Then he will be asked: 'what did you do with them?' He will reply: 'I have learned the knowledge and taught it to people and read the Qur'an for Your sake.' Then it will be said to him: 'You lied, you did it so that people will say you are a knowledgeable man and they have said so.' Then he will be taken on his face and thrown into Hellfire. The third is a man whom Allah has given a lot of wealth. He will be brought before Allah and reminded of the bounties of Allah and he will acknowledge them. Then he will be asked: 'What did you do with them?' He will reply: 'I never left any means to spend my wealth for Yours sake.' Then, it will be said to him: 'You lied, you did it so that people will say you are a generous man and they have said so.' Then he will be taken on his face and thrown into Hellfire."

It must be noted here, that their entering Hellfire is not an everlasting one. Rather, they will be punished for their lack of sincerity and will then be allowed to enter Paradise.

We ask Allah, *subhanahu wa ta'ala*, to let our actions be directed by sincere intention which is done solely for His pleasure, and not to let our good deeds be destroyed by lack of good intentions. We also ask Him to let our deeds be in accordance with the directives of the Qur'an and the *Summah* of the Prophet, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*. May Allah accept our deeds and guide us to the Right Path.

Caring for the environment in Islam

By Dr Abdelhak Hamiche

Islam being the last of all religions cared for the environment and emphasized the importance of maintaining all its elements. The generality and infinity of this message are two qualities that guaranteed for Islam its comprehensiveness of all the aspects of life both physical and moral, and its comprehensiveness of all that lead to eternal happiness. There is no doubt that the environment in all its elements is included in this comprehensiveness if not being its center, that is because the environment is the place where humans realise the purpose of their lives which Allah brought them on earth for. If the safety conditions are not applied in the environment, humans cannot perform their purposes.

The issue of the safety of the environment has become the interest of individuals, societies and countries. That is due to the persistence and aggression of humans towards the resources of the environment, the poor utilisation of its resources, the destruction of massive areas of forests, wasting enormous amounts of water, and the pollution of a high percentage of our air.

Multipled efforts were made in the past few years towards maintaining the elements of the environment and its surroundings. There have been many responses for the calls made for co-operation in order to preserve the environment in its nature to protect it from any harm. There are also many committees, organisations and bodies formed to defend and represent the environment.

The issue of the environment and its problems has become an important topic of discussions amongst intellectuals and scientists all over the world. It has even become the concern of masses of ordinary people. That due to the actions of humans

that caused damages and pollution to the environment, that have now caused symptoms that affect the wellbeing of humans, animals, plants, and the water, which lead to depletion of the natural resources and environmental imbalance in the universe.

It is the Muslims' duty to thank and praise Allah for the graces He provided within the environment. Muslims must utilise the environment and use it for their advantage and for the advantage of humanity, without causing any damage, pollution or destruction, because the environment is a grace that must be taken care of.

The Islamic jurisprudence has previously emphasised the need to protect, preserve and develop the environment prior to all the modern legislations and regulations, and international conventions for preserving the environment. Allah has set out in the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad, *sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, in his *Summah*, guidelines which constitute a platform in all the affairs of life including the environment. Such as, preserving water and not wasting or polluting it, preserving plants not cutting them unless necessary, sowing the plants to eat as grains, vegetables, and fruits. In addition these guidelines enjoin us to preserving the animals and the wildlife and caring for them to use for their meat, wool, milk, honey, and onion.

Everything in the earth is balanced; therefore, if humans violated any element of the environment, it will affect other elements. Allah Almighty says: "And the earth We have spread out (like a carpet); set thereon mountains firm and immovable; and produced therein all kinds of things in due balance." *Al-Hijr* verse 19. "Verily, all things have We created in proportion and measure." *Al-Qamar* verse 49. "Do ye not see that Allah has subjected to

your (use) all things in the heavens and on earth, and has made his bounties flow to you in exceeding measure, (both) seen and unseen?" *Luqman* verse 20.

The sanctity of the environment in Islam:

The environment has great sanctity in Islam protecting it from tampering, pollution, and depletion. This sanctity is derived from verses of the holy Qur'an which forbade corrupting the earth and abusing its natural resources. The security and safety of the environment derive their strength from the basic rules of Islam which called for respecting the environment and protecting it. That is where we derive the rule of allowing and forbidding which obliges Muslims to commit to the rules of Islam which forbade corrupting the earth. That is why Islam called for rehabilitating the environment and preserving it, exposing its features for it to be the center of humans' attention and care, and for them to realise their connection with the environment and the importance of protecting it.

Islamic *Sharia* urges taking care of the agriculture and the livestock. It also calls for respecting the environment and repairing it, and threatens against wasting and destroying it in vein. Islam has set retribution in life and in the afterlife protecting the environment from corruption and it encourages humans to care for the environment through the method of carrot and stick.

After Islam had forbade all manifestations of corruption and abuse of environment it set a base for environmental security which sets the rules for maintaining the nature of the environment and protecting it from corruption which might increase and affect the peoples' lives and earnings. Allah Almighty says: "Mischiefs have appeared on land and sea because of (the deeds) that the hands of men have

earned." *Al-Rum* verse 41. The issue of environmental security in hand is no stranger to Muslims, yet it is a behavior that they are keen on practicing, since the environment has been the concern of the first of the Muslims.

Islamic jurisprudence books have dealt with the importance of preserving the safety of cities from danger, and everything that may cause danger or harm, as they dealt with controlling bad smells, noise, vibration, pollution, sewage, waste and fumes.

Islamic heritage provided provisions and regulations on organising streets and roads in a way that provides security, prevents harm and makes utilising them possible. Ibn Abdul Ra'oof - mercy be upon his soul - mentioned the importance of preventing the disposal of garbage and carcasses and from the streets, since they cause damage to the homes and to the residents.

The books of scholars have discussed many matters relating to the ethics of the road and its security, anything that may hurt or harm the users of the road is forbidden. The Muslims' markets had a monitoring system in order to provide environmental security. The *Muhtaseb* municipal controller was responsible for security in the market, its cleanliness and preventing fraud, pricing and monopolies.

The *Muhtaseb* played an important role in organising the markets, where he would allot the sellers of one item in a single area, or keep them in a separate market of their own, in order to facilitate monitoring their quality and prices, and to facilitate accessibility for the people. The *Muhtaseb* prevented any person that would cause harm to the clients of the market, and protected the people from any methods of circumvention that aim at taking people's money unlawfully.

The books of Islamic heritage discussed

the importance of the residence buildings to be strong and fortified, because they are the subject of protecting lives and possessions. Ibn Abdoun - mercy be upon his soul - said: "Buildings are dwelling places".

The Hesba men and the scholars were keen on removing walls and buildings which were likely to fall, after the building experts give their consent.

Thus, integrating environmental security in its overall concept in the Islamic heritage, where it is not limited to safety from the physical pollution of the environment, such as garbage, gasses, smokes, and noise, it also includes behavioural security, intellectual security and cultural security.

The environment cycle is wide and it includes human's animals, plants, and people's possessions, decedents, minds and health, which indicates the importance of preserving them because they are part of the goals of Islamic *Sharia*. Awareness of this goal affects the development of laws for protecting the environment and thus judging in cases of its pollution. It is necessary to enact laws that deter people from abusing the environment, by damaging, polluting or wasting it. Allah executes through legal authority of rulers what cannot be executed closer through the Qur'an.

The foregoing concludes that the goals of the Islamic *Sharia* are closely linked to the protection of the environment and preserving it from attrition, damage or corruption. This is what old scholars came to know, the interpretation by Abi Hayan of the holy verse "Do no mischief on the earth, after it hath been set in order." *Al-A'araf* verse 56. As follows: "This verse forbids causing corruption on earth, which includes the whole life. Thus it forbids all kinds of corruption, such as corrupting the souls, lineages, possessions, minds and religion."

Amir, Turkish president vow to strengthen relations

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His Highness praised the level of strategic partnership between the two fraternal countries, which has been strengthened over the years within the framework of the Joint Supreme Strategic Committee. His Highness the Amir stressed Qatar's constant keenness to discover and deepen horizons of co-operation, in a way that meets the aspirations of the two countries and achieves the progress, advancement, and prosperity they aspire to.

During the meeting, they discussed the strategic relations between the two countries across various fields and the bilateral partnership between them in the fields of economy, trade, investment, energy, industry, and other vital sectors.

In addition, they exchanged views on key regional and international developments, particularly the developments in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, HE the

Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani al-Thani, HE the Minister of Transport Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Thani, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi, and a number of members of the official delegation accompanying the Amir. On Türkiye's side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan, Minister of National Defence Yasar Guler, Minister of Trade Omer Bolat, Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacir, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloglu, Minister of Treasury And Finance Mehmet Simsek, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Alparslan Bayraktar, and a number of senior officials.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir and the Turkish president held a bilateral meeting, where they exchanged views on a number of issues of common concern.

His Highness the Amir also attended the dinner banquet hosted by President Erdogan, in honour of His Highness and the accompanying delegation.

His Highness the Amir was accorded an official reception ceremony upon arrival at the presidential complex, which included the firing of 21 artillery rounds.



Amir, Erdogan witness signing of agreements

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His Highness the Amir and the Turkish president also witnessed the signing of the joint statement of the 10th session of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee.

The signing ceremony was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and the members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir. On the Turkish side, it was attended by a lineup of ministers and senior officials.



Amiri Guard wraps infantry competition; graduation for 4 training courses



The Amiri Guard concluded its 2024 infantry competition and celebrated the graduation of four specialised courses in a ceremony held at the Barzan camp yesterday. The graduating courses included a Protection, Rapid Intervention, and Convoy course in partnership with the French Armed Forces, a Basic Snipers course also conducted with the French side, a Facilities Security course, and the Advanced Khazanah course. The ceremony was attended by HE the Commander of the Amiri Guard, Lt Gen Hazza bin Khalil al-Shahwani.

The event was also attended by senior officials, including the Deputy Commander of the Amiri Guard, the Inspector General, various assistants to the Commander, and the Internal Security Attaché at the French embassy. Officers from the Qatari Armed Forces and the Internal Security Force Lekhwiya were also present. During the ceremony, Chairman of the Infantry Competition Committee, Major Abdullah Thawab al-Qahtani delivered a speech emphasising



the significance of the annual competition, which drew participation from nine platoons representing various departments and units. He noted that the competition aligns with the Amiri Guards commitment to enhancing preparedness and discipline as they gear up for the Qatar

National Day parade. In conclusion, HE the Commander of the Amiri Guard awarded the top winners across various competition categories and honoured the first-place graduates from each course, extending his best wishes for their continued success. (QNA)

