



Insure your visitors
in 2 mins





*Regulated by QCB






0 668039 136499

MONDAY Vol. XXXXV No. 13198


November 18, 2024
Jumada I 16, 1446 AH


www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in
QATAR
since 1978



Introducing our new
Unlimited+ plans







READY TO OCCUPY CAMPS
Available @ Umm Birka & Industrial Area, Al Khor

+974 3030 0880 | +974 3341 9475

P.O. BOX 80861, 15 FLOOR BUILDING # 11, STREET 852, ZONE 74, AL KHOR, QATAR














**STAY COOL
DRINK WATER**



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

CALL NOW!
7794 9967 | 7061 5604
+974 3045 4443

Anti-corruption meet in Doha on Nov 26

Under the patronage of HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, Qatar will host the Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the member states of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC). The event is organised by the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) and will take place on November 26-27 in Doha. Abdul Wahab Saleh al-Kuwari, the official spokesperson for the ministerial meeting, told reporters that combating corruption is no longer just a procedural task but a shared responsibility. **Page 2**

Environment ministry launches ‘strategy’

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change yesterday launched its 2024-2030 strategy, which was prepared under the slogan “Together towards a sustainable environment for a better future”. The new strategy was launched in the presence of a number of Sheikhs, ministers and officials in entities related to environmental work. **Page 2**

Amir to attend G20 Summit in Brazil today, visit Costa Rica and Colombia

● **Amir to attend 8th edition of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, which is held this year in San Jose, Costa Rica**

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will take part in the Group of 20 (G20) Summit today, at the invitation of President of the Federative Republic of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose country holds the current G20 presidency.

The 2024 G20 Summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro in the presence of heads of state and government, and delegations.

After the summit, His Highness the Amir will pay official visits to the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Colombia, where His Highness will meet leaders of the two countries and senior officials to discuss means of bolstering co-operation in various areas, as well as regional and international issues of joint interest.

His Highness the Amir will attend the 8th edition of the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani In-



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani

ternational Anti-Corruption Excellence Award which is held this year in San Jose, Costa Rica.

His Highness the Amir will be accompanied by an official delegation.

Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award is a global event celebrating the remarkable work of Anti-Corruption fighters around the world. Since 2016 the

award has been held around the world in support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Rule Of Law and Anti-Corruption Center is proud to serve as the secretariat of this prestigious award.

The award crowns the efforts of Qatar locally, internationally, and regionally in promoting the principles of transparency and integrity. The award is considered a global initiative with objectives and dimensions that reinforce good governance and transparency. It unleashes the hand of justice to uproot the scourge of corruption, which poses a serious threat to the future, progress, and well-being of nations, especially since corruption jeopardises the stability of societies, hinders the path of development and progress, and deepens division within a single society.

The first round of political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of Qatar and the Republic of Colombia was held in the Colombian capital of Bogota on October 20.

The Qatari side was led by HE Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, while the Colombian side was headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco J Coy G.

Bilateral co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them were reviewed during the round of consultations.

The second round of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and the Republic of Costa Rica was held in San Jose in September this year.

The Qatari side was headed by HE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, while the Costa Rican side was headed by Vice-Minister of Bilateral Affairs and International Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lydia Mara Peralta Cordero.

The political consultations, dealt with bilateral co-operation relations, in addition to a host of topics of common interest.

34 Gazans massacred as Israel bombs residential building

AFP
Gaza City

Gaza’s civil defence agency said an Israeli air strike killed at least 34 people including children yesterday, with dozens more feared buried under the rubble in the Palestinian territory’s north.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Basal said that 34 bodies had been pulled from the rubble of the bombed five-storey residential building in Beit Lahia, “including children and women”, revising an earlier toll of 30 dead.

Seven people were wounded, he said. Images showed men covered in dust scrambling to reach people under the rubble, as some of the bodies were taken away on a donkey-pulled cart.

Other images showed the flattened

building with broken concrete and twisted metal sticking out from the ruins, as more bodies covered in blankets lay nearby.

“The chances of rescuing more wounded are decreasing because of the continuous shooting and artillery shelling,” he said.

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas accused Israel of committing a “massacre” in Beit Lahia, saying it was part of its “genocidal war and revenge against unarmed civilians”.

The Hamas-run territory’s health ministry said the overall death toll in more than 13 months of war had reached 43,846.

Israel on October 6 - nearly a year into its war against Hamas - began a major air and ground assault in the already ravaged north of the Gaza Strip.

AFPTV images showed Palestinians, including young children and elderly people, who fled Beit Lahia, many on foot, carrying their belongings along a main road. **Page 8**

PM, Jordan king discuss aid delivery to Gaza



King Abdullah II Ibn al-Hussein of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan welcomed yesterday in Amman HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. At the beginning of the meeting, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to King Abdullah II and continued progress and prosperity to brotherly Jordanian people. For his part, King Abdullah II entrusted HE Sheikh Mohammed to convey his greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to His Highness the Amir and further progress and prosperity to the Qatari people. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation relations and ways to boost them along with the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, especially the facilitation of an obstacle-free humanitarian and relief aid access to all areas of the Strip. They also took stock of several topics of common interest. **(QNA) Page 2**

‘CultuRide’ celebrates Qatar-Morocco friendship

●Sheikha Al Mayassa attends kick-off in Marrakesh

QNA
Rabat

More than 40 cycling athletes and enthusiasts from Qatar and Morocco gathered yesterday in the historic heart of Marrakesh, kicking off the second annual CultuRide cycling tour in the presence of HE Chairperson of Qatar Museums Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE Minister of State for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maryam

bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, Qatar Cycling Federation President Dr Mohammed bin Jham al-Kuwari, former Moroccan Olympic hurdles champion and Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee Nawal al-Moutawakel, and other senior officials from both countries.

This eagerly awaited event, a flagship of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, highlights the friendship through an inspiring journey across Morocco’s diverse landscapes.

Led by well-known Qatari entrepreneur and athlete Ali bin Towar al-Kuwari, CultuRide: Morocco embodies the Year of Culture initiative’s mission of deepening international ties through shared experiences. From November 16-22, cyclists will cross over 600km of Morocco’s famed landmarks and hidden gems and meet local communities along the way.

Al-Kuwari noted: “CultuRide captures the essence of the Years of Culture initiative by creating meaningful connections

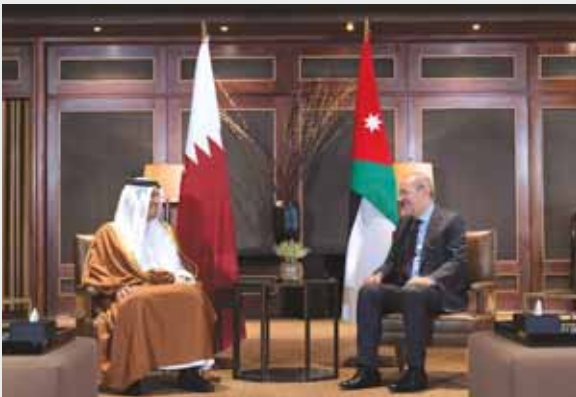


HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and HE Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad and Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee Nawal al-Moutawakel cheer the riders at the start of CultuRide Morocco.

through shared exploration. Each stop along the route from cities to secluded villages-offers an intimate view of Morocco’s heritage, culture, and traditions, affirming our belief that these shared experiences build the strongest bonds between people, communities, and countries.” At the start line, Qatar Cycling Federation President Dr Mohammed bin Jham al-Kuwari, who is taking part in the tour, expressed his excitement about the upcoming journey, saying: “After last year’s incredible trip in Indonesia, returning for CultuRide in Morocco is a privilege. This route is more challenging, but it brings us closer as a team and enriches our cultural understanding in profound ways.” The seven-day tour will take riders from iconic destinations like Marrakesh and Tangier to traditional Berber villages in the Atlas Mountains. Each stop has been thoughtfully curated to highlight Morocco’s history, arts, and people, aligning with the Year of Culture’s mission to promote cross-cultural exchange. **To Page 7**

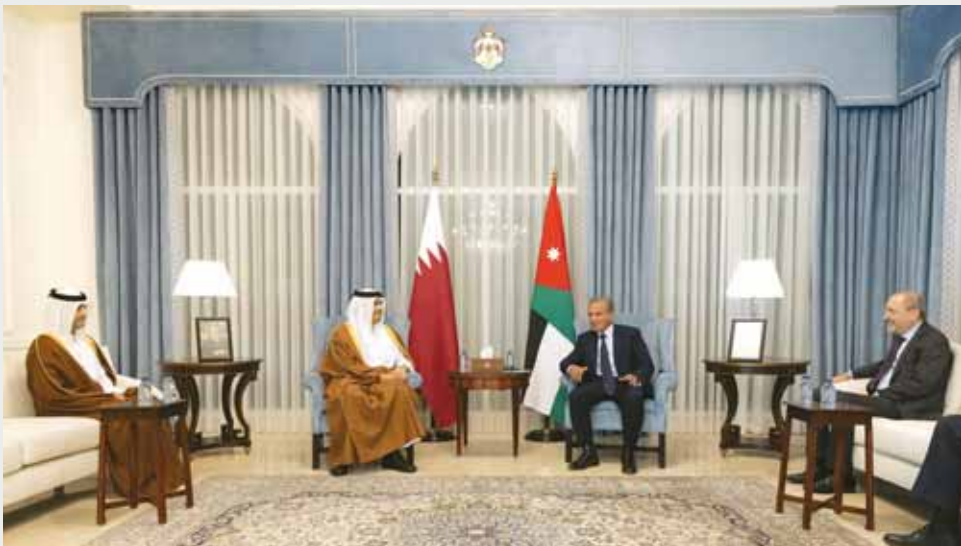


PM meets Jordan's deputy premier



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met in Amman yesterday with Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr Ayman al-Safadi. The meeting discussed aspects of co-operation between the two countries and ways to enhance and promote them, in addition to the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, means to de-escalate in Lebanon, and topics of joint interest. **(QNA)**

Jordanian PM meets Qatar's PM



Jordanian Prime Minister Dr Jaafar Hassa met with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani in Amman yesterday. Discussions during the meeting focused on strengthening co-operation relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to enhance them it across various fields. The two sides also addressed the latest regional and international developments, particularly the situations in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, and efforts to de-escalate tensions, in addition to a host of issues of common concern. **(QNA)**

OFFICIAL

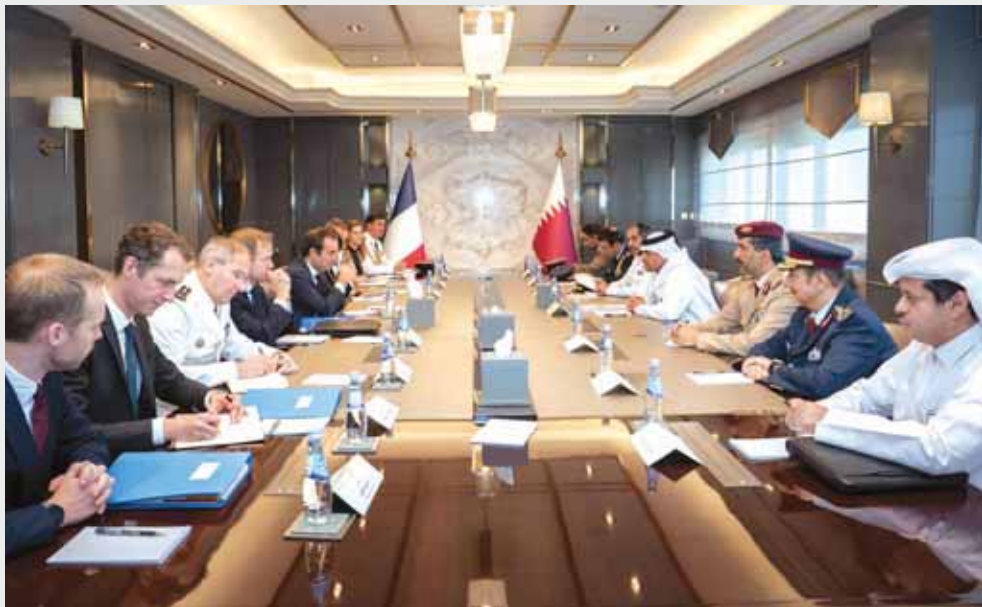
Amir sends congratulations to Sultan of Oman

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman on the anniversary of his country's National Day. **(QNA)**

PM sends written message to Kuwaiti FM

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a written message to Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali al-Yahya, pertaining to the close fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to further bolster them. Qatar's ambassador to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud delivered the message during a meeting with the Kuwaiti foreign minister yesterday. **(QNA)**

Deputy PM meets French minister



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, met with the visiting Minister of the French Armed Forces Sebastien Lecornu and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed topics of shared interest, as well as co-operation relations between the two sides and ways to strengthen them. High-ranking officials and officers from the two sides attended the meeting. **(QNA)**

Ministry of Environment launches 2024-30 strategy

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change yesterday launched its 2024-2030 strategy, which was prepared under the slogan "Together towards a sustainable environment for a better future". The new strategy was launched in the presence of a number of Sheikhs, Ministers and officials in entities related to environmental work.

In his speech on this occasion, HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, said that the launch of the strategy represents a pivotal step towards the commitment to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030, especially since the world today faces unprecedented environmental challenges, which makes the ministry's role essential in leading the sustainability sector within the third national development strategy.

He added that within the framework of a comprehensive and sustainable approach to addressing contemporary environmental issues, and benefiting from previous lessons, the state has set a set of targets that reflect its vision for a sustainable environmental future, primarily enhancing sustainability practices and cut 25% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, restoring 30% of the area of environmentally affected natural resources, protecting 30% of island and coastal areas, and preserving 17 endemic and endangered species.

His Excellency explained that achieving these goals is part of the ministry's comprehensive efforts to preserve biodiversity, so more than 30 initiatives and more than 100 projects have been developed to achieve the desired goals and sustain them in the long term, expressing in this context his thanks and appreciation to the partners for their contributions and co-operation during the previous stages, and his aspiration for this co-operation to continue in the next stage, reflecting the



joint commitment to achieving national goals.

He also pointed out that the ministry's strategic vision aims to achieve a sustainable and balanced environment with development, and capable of adapting to climate change, by focusing on protecting the environment and preserving natural resources through joint institutional and community co-operation, supporting an effective regulatory framework, and enhancing public environmental awareness relying on four main axes.

The first axis, he explained, is "Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change", which is the core of the ministry's work through protecting the environment and natural reserves; comprehensive management of hazardous radioactive and chemical materials; and combating climate change, while promoting environmental sustainability practices that preserve natural resources for future generations.

The second axis, "Innovation and Digital Transformation", aims to enhance research and development, and find innovative solutions that increase the efficiency of the Ministry's activities that face environmental challenges, with a focus on digital transformation to support the sustainability of environmental activities, His Excellency said.

The third axis, "Governance", focuses on strengthening environmental legislation and

policies, and building modern legal frameworks that ensure commitment to implementing standards while accurately and effectively following up on project implementation and ensuring accountability and responsibility for the environment, said HE the Minister.

The fourth axis, "Sustainable Institutional Development", seeks to enhance institutional capabilities, community co-operation, and raise environmental awareness to ensure effective participation in achieving national goals, he added.

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change said that launching this strategy is the beginning of a new journey towards achieving ambitious goals, protecting the environment and promoting sustainability, all of which are responsibilities that fall on everyone's shoulders, and can only be achieved through joint work and strong commitment.

The vision of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's strategy (2024-2030) is to provide a sustainable environment that is balanced with development, capable of adapting to climate change, and working to deliver a message of protecting the environment and preserving its natural resources through joint institutional and community co-operation and with the support of an effective regulatory framework, and enhancing public environmental awareness. **(QNA)**

Qatar to host OIC anti-corruption law enforcement meeting on Nov 26

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, Qatar will host the Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC).

The event, organised by the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA), will take place on Nov 26-27 in Doha.

During a press conference held yesterday, Abdul Wahab Saleh al-Kuwari, the official spokesperson for the ministerial meeting, stated that combating corruption is no longer just a procedural task but a shared responsibility requiring co-operation and solidarity from all, including government officials, media representatives, and members of civil society.

He added that the meeting is evidence of the participants' strong commitment to combating corruption and promoting integrity and transparency, supporting the joint efforts to entrench principles of accountability and justice in the institutions and societies.

Al-Kuwari expressed his hope that the upcoming ministerial meeting would serve as an effective step toward achieving shared goals and exchanging expertise and practices that advance anti-corruption efforts in Islamic countries for the benefit of their peoples and nations.

He pointed out that the meeting, held every two years, aims to enhance the exchange of information and investigations among law enforcement authorities with



efficiency and speed. This collaboration facilitates the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes covered by the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention and contributes to the recovery and restitution of stolen assets. The meeting also seeks to bolster technical assistance, training, and expertise sharing between participating states to improve the effectiveness of their anti-corruption efforts.

Al-Kuwari added that the meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states is the second-largest international gathering in this field. It brings together heads of anti-corruption enforcement authorities from 56 countries, alongside key national entities, including the Ministry of Interior, the Public Prosecution, and the Ministry of Justice, along with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol).

The meeting is also attended by OIC representatives, the Egmont Group, the International Anti-Corruption Academy, the World Bank, the Arab League, the GCC General Secretariat, Transparency International, the African Union, the European

Union, and the GLOBE Network.

ACTA Director of Public Relations and Communications Eid Saeed al-Hajri said that Qatar has taken comprehensive steps for the successful organisation of the event, both logistically and in terms of media coverage. A central committee and task forces have been formed, bringing together multiple national entities, including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lekhwiya Internal Security Force, Ministry of Public Health, Vodafone, the visitors' entry committee (Hayya), Qatar Airways, the Government Communications Office, Qatar News Agency, and Qatar Tourism.

Al-Hajri revealed that Qatar and Saudi Arabia will sign the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention during the event, signalling the intention of the member states to protect integrity and combat corruption in all its forms and manifestations, and the importance of seeking to establish effective practices to combat corruption in all forms.

ACTA Director of Public Relations and Communications also announced that Qatar would sign a memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia and Jordan in the area of enhancing integrity and combating corruption. **(QNA)**

GSC conference discusses transformations reshaping Gulf and Middle East

The Gulf Studies Center (GSC) at the College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with Waseda University in Japan, hosted the 9th Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference under the theme "The Gulf in the Emerging Regional (Dis) Order." The conference focused on the significant transformations reshaping the Gulf and the Middle East and their implications for regional and global stability.

In recent years, the Gulf and the broader Middle East have witnessed significant geopolitical shifts, marked by evolving alliances, emerging partnerships, and dynamic power plays. These changes are not confined to the Gulf but reflect broader global trends challenging the international rules-based order.

The conference aimed to examine and understand the evolving regional order, exploring the roles of states, non-state actors, and external powers, as well as the implications for Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, Iran,



Iraq, and Yemen. The conference provided a comprehensive analysis of the significance, motivations, scope, and impact of the emerging regional system in the Gulf.

The conference featured expert-led sessions exploring topics such as energy transitions, geopolitical challenges, and security dynamics. Attendees also discussed policy recommendations and strategies for effectively responding to the emerging regional order.

Over two days, the conference will explore several critical

topics. These include theoretical perspectives on the chaos of the emerging regional order, the Gulf's role within the broader international system, ongoing and emerging conflicts in the Middle East and their impact on the Gulf region, and the interplay between the Indo-Pacific and Middle East in shaping regional order and chaos. Discussions will also delve into the role of governmental and non-governmental actors in Gulf international relations and examine policymaking within the emerging regional order. **(QNA)**

talabat hosts Annual Choice Awards



talabat, the Mena region's leading on-demand food, grocery and retail platform for everyday deliveries, hosted the annual talabat Choice Awards at Hospitality Qatar for the fourth consecutive year.

The event on November 14 was held in the presence of key industry stakeholders and partners.

The talabat Annual Choice Awards celebrates excellence across multiple categories, highlighting outstanding restaurants, grocery stores, pharmacies, and dedicated logistics partners who are

"We are proud to host the Annual Choice Awards at Hospitality Qatar 2024. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate excellence within the food and hospitality sectors in Qatar and recognise the outstanding contributions of restaurants and valued partners across the country"

propelling the industry forward in Qatar. This year's award ceremony consisted of 28 categories, including Fastest Delivery, Best Quality, Best Service and Most Loved Brands of 2024, among many others. Francisco Miguel De Sousa, managing director of talabat

Qatar, stated: "We are proud to host the Annual Choice Awards at Hospitality Qatar 2024. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate excellence within the food and hospitality sectors in Qatar and recognise the outstanding contributions of restaurants and valued partners across the country. Our goal is

to continue to uplift the local culinary sector and support in creating opportunities for community engagement and industry growth."

International Fairs and Promotions Qatar general manager, Haidar Mshaimesh, said: "This event highlighted the dedication, creativity, and hard work of industry leaders, showcasing the immense potential within our community." Consumers can download talabat on the iOS App Store, Google Play Store or Huawei App Gallery.

Climate change awareness video contest for students announced

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has announced the launch of an innovative awareness competition for high school and university students.

Entries should be in the form of videos in Arabic or English. The content must be original and address the following topics: Reducing plastic consumption, protection of natural resources, recycling, planting trees and afforestation, and renewable energy.

The content of the video should focus on raising awareness of the impacts of climate change and the possible solution for the involved issues. The video should be at least HD quality (720p), may be shot using smart phones or professional cameras, must comply with the sustainability regulations and the related environmental laws and should not contain any offensive or inappropriate material. Entries will be accepted from individuals or teams of up to three students. However, no professional film makers will be allowed in this competition.



The whole video must be completely produced by the participants. In case of using external content, it must be licensed and free of intellectual property rights.

Participants have the intellectual property rights to their videos but they will grant the organising entity the use of the submitted videos, uploaded on YouTube, Google Drive, or the other accepted platforms.

Each participant has the right to submit only one video. To participate, the video link has to be sent by e-mail to prd@mecc.gov.qa. The competition will have prizes worth QR30,000.

Shura Council participates in Baku climate conference

QNA
Baku

The Shura Council participated in the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which concluded yesterday in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Shura Council members Nasser bin Mohammed al-Nuaimi and Nasser bin Mutarraf al-Humaidi represented the Shura Council in the two-day conference.

In his opening remarks before the first session titled: "Making climate commitments a reality: parliaments' role in raising

mitigation ambition and implementing nationally determined contributions", al-Nuaimi shed light on Qatar's role in backing climate efforts through executing clear-eyed policies based on the Qatar National Vision 2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He noted the ambitious projects Qatar has launched in clean energy, highlighting that these projects are the largest renewable energy initiatives in the region, which help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and significantly cut carbon emissions, underscoring the State's unwavering efforts in advancing carbon capture and storage technologies.

He noted that Qatar aims to capture 5mn tonnes of carbon emissions annually by 2030, as these initiatives are part of the country's commitment to fulfilling its international obligations under the Paris Agreement.

In another session that discussed the topic of addressing climate vulnerability, and promoting an inclusive and equitable approach to climate action, al-Humaidi affirmed the importance of pursuing an overall approach that ensures the engagement of all nations, especially those which are more vulnerable to climate change effects, such as small island states, mountainous countries, and landlocked nations.

He stressed that climate challenges require a comprehensive international response that considers the needs of these countries, citing the Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030, which aims to enhance energy efficiency and increase reliance on renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy.

He noted that the Al Daayen solar power plant project, which intends to produce 500 megawatts by 2025, thereby contributing to reducing dependence on traditional energy sources, emphasising Qatar's role in supporting developed countries.

He stressed Qatar's active engagement in supporting the



Green Climate Fund and renewable energy projects in Africa, as these projects helped improve the living conditions in remote communities suffering from resource scarcity.

The conference addressed an array of key topics, including bolstering parliamentary action in drafting climate-related legislation, supporting innovation in

clean technology, and providing the necessary funding to help developing countries mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The participants discussed the significance of promoting climate justice by providing support to the most affected countries and communities, and ensuring the implementation of overarching and enduring solutions.

Gord forges strategic alliances to tackle global climate challenges at COP29



The Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) and its affiliate, the Global Carbon Council (GCC), underscored their commitment to addressing global climate challenges through a series of strategic collaborations with international and regional organisations at the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP29) taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

One of the most significant MoUs signed at COP29 was between Gord and the United Nations Office for South-South Co-operation, marking a pivotal step in the effort to foster collaboration across the Global South.

Through this MoU, Gord will play a key role in the South-South and Triangular Co-operation Solutions Lab, a groundbreaking initiative designed to leverage the collective expertise of countries in the Global South, while also incorporating triangular co-operation with the Global North.

The lab aims to accelerate the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by scaling up innovative, locally driven solutions in sectors such as climate action, clean energy, health, and sustainable agriculture.

Dr Yousef Alhorri, founding chairman of Gord and GCC, said: "By joining forces for the creation of the South-South and Triangular Co-operation Solutions Lab, we are continuing our commitment to driving innovation and fostering practical solutions that meet the unique development challenges of the Global South."

Gord has also entered a strategic collaboration with the Joint Meeting Industry Council (JMIC)



to promote the adoption of sustainable event practices, with a specific focus on the Green Events Tool (GET), a web-based tool developed in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. GET allows event organisers to measure and report the environmental impact of their events, focusing on key areas such as energy consumption, transportation, and waste management.

By joining forces with JMIC, Gord aims to drive the widespread adoption of GET within the events industry and support the Net Zero Carbon Events initiative, which calls for the sector to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Through this collaboration, Gord and JMIC will help shape the future of sustainable event management, enabling organisers worldwide to align their activities with the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

In the realm of sustainable energy, Gord has signed an MoU with the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. This collaboration aims to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions across the Mena region. The two organisations will collaborate on a variety of initiatives, including promoting energy-efficient building practices, enhancing the

region's capacity for sustainable energy solutions, and supporting the use of Gord's Energia Suite software to assess and reduce the carbon footprint of buildings.

"Given the Arab region's historical reliance on hydrocarbons, it is critical that we embrace a diverse energy future that includes renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions," said Dr Alhorri.

Gord's Climate Action Centre of Excellence (CACE) has also signed a memorandum of co-operation with the ministry of environment, agriculture, and livestock in Burundi. This agreement, aimed at developing a robust regulatory framework for carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, marks a significant step in strengthening Burundi's capacity to engage in international carbon trading.

As part of this collaboration, CACE will assist Burundi in establishing transparent and effective carbon market systems through capacity-building activities, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement.

The first phase of this project will focus on developing policies and standards to ensure the credibility and integrity of Burundi's carbon markets, setting the foundation for the country to actively contribute to global climate mitigation efforts.

Reinforcing the Qatari Market's Confidence in Geely Cars

Skyline Automotive Signs a New Partnership with Select



From Left: Mohamed Eldeib - Fleet Sales Manager - Geely, Maher Tinawi - General Sales Manager - Geely, Omar Abdelrahman - General Manager, Maen Qaddoumi - Sales Manager.

Skyline Automotive, part of the Jaidah Group and the official distributor of Geely in Qatar, has announced a new partnership with Select (Nasser Bin Khaled & Al Mulla Car Rental), one of Qatar's leading car rental companies. This partnership aims to strengthen the presence of Geely cars in the Qatari market, underscoring their quality and reliability.

The agreement was signed last August, with Mr. Omar Abdul Rahman, General Manager of Select (Nasser Bin Khaled & Al Mulla Car Rental), and Mr. Maher Tinawi, Geely Brand Manager at Skyline Automotive, in attendance.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Maher Tinawi emphasized that "this partnership with Select (Nasser Bin Khaled & Al Mulla Car Rental) highlights the growing confidence in Geely cars within the market and reaffirms the brand's reliability that has developed over the years in Qatar."

Geely vehicles are distinguished by features that ensure durability and high performance, along with factory warranties, making them the preferred choice for customers who value quality. This partnership reflects Select's commitment to providing a premium driving experience to its clients through a fleet of

vehicles backed by the strength and high-level services of the Geely brand.

Geely vehicles are distinguished by features that ensure durability and high performance, along with factory warranties, making them the preferred choice for customers who value quality.

Labour ministry partners with QF, Workers’ Fund to mark Int’l Day for Tolerance

The Ministry of Labour in collaboration with Qatar Foundation and the Workers’ Support and Insurance Fund, hosted a special event yesterday at the Education City Theatre to mark International Day for Tolerance, which is observed annually on Nov 16.

The event aimed to promote dialogue among the diverse communities in Qatar, foster social integration, and highlight the role of tolerance in achieving peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Labour, the Workers’ Support and Insurance Fund, and Qatar Foundation to champion values of tolerance and cultural diversity,

contributing to the development of a cohesive, strong and inclusive society. It also underscores Qatar’s commitment to being a beacon of compassion, fostering national unity through empathy, and embedding these principles within its institutional framework.

The celebration featured a series of cultural, artistic performances by various communities, highlighting the importance of tolerance and cultural diversity.

Additionally, the ‘Akhlaquna’ initiative was launched, alongside an awareness campaign under the slogan ‘In Our Compassion Lies Our Strength’ and the release of a guide outlining the campaign’s objectives and target audience. The campaign aims to promote

compassion through core values such as co-operation, empathy, and mutual respect, and to translate these into actionable behaviours.

As outlined in the guide, the campaign calls for collaboration across all sectors both public and private and the involvement of key influences to spread the message of compassion throughout institutions and society, transforming it from an abstract ideal into a concrete way of life.

The ‘Akhlaquna’ is an initiative launched by Qatar Foundation to emphasise the interlink between knowledge, education and good morals, and to promote the message of ethics as a basis for success in all aspects of life. (QNA)



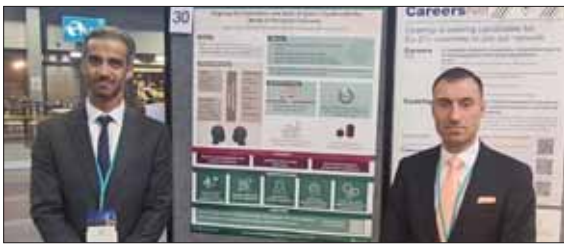
QCDC engages with global experts at conference in Finland

Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC), founded by Qatar Foundation (QF), participated in the recent International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG) conference held in Jyväskylä, Finland.

The IAEVG International Conference 2024, organised by the Finnish Institute for Educational Research in collaboration with the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, took place from Nov 12-14. Representing QCDC at this event were Acting Director Saad Abdulla al-Kharji, and Strategy and Administration Manager Fouad El Rassi.

Themed “Riding the Wave of Change,” the conference brought together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss innovative strategies and best practices in the evolving landscape of career guidance. Key sessions explored critical topics such as the integration of career guidance within education systems, the role of international agencies, and the application of Hope-Action Theory.

QCDC’s participation provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, enabling the centre to refine its strategies in alignment with international best practices. Notably,



bly, on the sidelines of the conference, QCDC representatives had the opportunity to meet with long-standing strategic partners from EduCluster Finland. Together, they further fleshed out avenues for collaboration to implement and optimise Qatar’s national career development ecosystem.

Al-Kharji underscored the significance of the centre’s participation in the IAEVG Conference: “Collaborating with international experts, especially from Finland recognised for its leadership in education and career guidance allows us to adopt cutting-edge knowledge and implement international best practices. We have always believed that engagement with the global community is essential for empowering

youth in Qatar and advancing our sustainable human capital development objectives.”

He further highlighted the value of the partnership with EduCluster Finland: “Our collaboration with EduCluster Finland will serve as a cornerstone for advancing career development in the country by combining their extensive international expertise with the strategic vision and local insights of our centre. We will reap the benefits of this collaboration and witness its profound impact on Qatar’s efforts to achieve its National Vision.”

QCDC’s active involvement in international forums such as the IAEVG Conference reinforces its position as a leader in career development. (QNA)

Qatar strongly condemns UNRWA school bombing in Gaza

Qatar strongly condemned yesterday the Israeli occupation’s bombing of a school affiliated with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which shelters displaced persons in the Al Shati camp in the Gaza Strip, and led to several deaths and injuries, considering it a continuation of the occupation’s policies targeting unarmed civilians, civilian infrastructure and a blatant violation of the principles

of international law and international humanitarian law. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned of the serious repercussions of the occupation’s attempts to obstruct the activities of UNRWA, including education services, after the Israeli Knesset passed draft laws banning its activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, and its earlier approval of a draft law classifying it as a terrorist organisation. (QNA)

Doha Institute organises second ‘open day’ for postgraduate programmes

The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) organised the second open day for students interested in completing their postgraduate studies in doctoral and masters programmes.

The open day included presentations of the masters programmes, sharing of learning experiences, faculty presenting and discussing the available study options, and offering information as required to the audience in the designated kiosk of each programme.

On this occasion, Naseema Abdeen, director of Communications and External Relations, spoke about the importance of this annual event as a bridge to enhance communication between the interested students and the DI, noting that the event allows the students to explore the academic programmes available and understand the admission requirements.



It will also provide an opportunity for prospective students to interact with other students of the same discipline, enriching their knowledge and increasing their enthusiasm for discovering DI academic life, Abdeen added.

The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies offers masters programmes through two schools – the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the School of Economics, Administration and Public

Policy. The DI also offers eight doctoral programmes under both schools which are: Development Economics, Public Administration, Politics and International Relations, Linguistics and Arabic Lexicography, History, Sociology, Media Studies, and Critical Security Studies.

The DI has already announced the dates for the online admission application for the academic year 2025-26 from Sept 1, 2024 up to Jan 15, 2025. (QNA)

QU Alumni Association holds annual poetry gathering

The Culture and Arts chapter of the Qatar University (QU) Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the College of Arts and Sciences, hosted the Annual Poetry Gathering 2024.

The event brought together literature and poetry enthusiasts for a special poetry session featuring a distinguished group of poets from the department’s faculty.

The gathering showcased the talents of esteemed academic poets, including Dr Abdelsalam Hamed, Dr Mahrous Barak, and Dr Mahmoud Kaheel. Assistant Professor of Arabic Language at Qatar University, Dr Zainab al-Mahmood, who offered the audience a rich poetic experience, moderated the session. Participants presented a diverse array of new poems and literary works, creating a captivating cultural atmosphere.

The gathering witnessed a large turnout of students, faculty members, and literature enthusiasts. It highlighted the role of poetry and literature in enriching culture and arts, and served as a platform for academic and public cultural exchange.

Dr al-Mahmood addressed the audience, saying, “Today, we meet with a profound sense of unity and eloquence, sharing heartfelt expressions and insightful reflections with my fellow poets. Poetry is a refined human art through which individuals convey their emotions, thoughts, experiences, and life lessons, both sweet and bitter. Arabs, both pre- and post-Islam, held poetry in high regard it could elevate the status of a tribe or diminish it. In Islam, poetry became a tool to defend the faith. As it has been said, poetry is the art of blending enjoyment with truth, encapsulating majesty and beauty in its concise, imaginative form.”

Vice-President of the Culture and Arts chapter at the QU Alumni Association, Amina Abdulkarim stated, “At the Culture and Arts chapter of the QU Alumni, we strive to host this annual poetry gathering, which has become a literary tradition. It allows the public to explore the latest works of the university’s poets and serves as a bridge connecting literary culture with eloquent expression. Just as the alumni association acts as a bridge between the university and its graduates, we are committed to events like this.” (QNA)



A new healthcare facility is seeking dedicated professionals to join our team.

- Senior consultant Ophthalmologists (Surgeons) All Specialties.
- General Ophthalmologists
- Senior Dentists (All Specialties)
- General Dentists
- Senior E.N.T Consultant (Surgeons)
- Specialist E.N.T
- Audiologist
- Audiology Technician
- Consultant Dermatologist
- GP Practitioner

Requirements:


- ✓Min 5 years Experience
- ✓Candidate must be resident in Qatar
- ✓Transferable visa
- ✓Or Family Sponsorship Visa

- Senior Sales Representatives with 5 years experience in healthcare providers.
- HR Senior Officer
- Frontline Office Staff

Requirements:

- ✓Min 3 years Experience
- ✓Candidate must be resident in Qatar
- ✓Transferable visa
- ✓Or Family Sponsorship Visa

Interested candidates can send their CV to hospitalhr2025@gmail.com



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/MNT/6830/24 CATALYST REPLACEMENT WORKS ON CALL-OFF BASIS	17/11/2024 to 05/12/2024	0	1,000,000	23/12/2024

Scope of Work:
Providing Catalyst / Molecular sieve /Activated Carbon replacement services on a call off basis for a period of five (5) years tentatively from 3Q2025, with an option for Company to extend for a further period of two (2) years.

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

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

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

QNB Group provides ‘Strategic Sponsorship’ for WISH 2024

QNB Group provided ‘Strategic Sponsorship’ for the 2024 World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a global initiative of the Qatar Foundation, held recently under the theme of ‘Humanising Health: Conflict, Equity and Resilience.’

The sponsorship stresses QNB’s commitment to supporting initiatives that foster innovation and contributes in building better and healthier communities, for an impactful and sustainable change, a statement said.

It also emphasises its efforts in developing technologies that address health challenges on both national and global levels.

Over the course of two days, more than 2,000 health policy-makers, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and practitioners came together for WISH 2024 to explore innovative solutions to some of the world’s biggest health challenges.

Commenting on this sponsorship, QNB Group CEO Abdulla Mubarak al-Khalifa, said: “We are proud of sponsoring the



QNB Group CEO Abdulla Mubarak al-Khalifa among other dignitaries at WISH 2024.



QNB Group provided ‘Strategic Sponsorship’ for WISH 2024.

seventh edition of WISH with which we share values like creativity, driving innovation, and excellence.

“Sponsoring this unique global platform for healthcare innovation, affirms our commit-

ment to promoting health and wellness of all Qatari citizens in line with QNV 2030, while enabling us to support sustainable causes and benefit local communities in countries where QNB operates.”

First EU Youth Short Film Festival to be held in Qatar

The Delegation of the European Union to Qatar has announced the launch of the first EU Youth Short Film Festival, with the theme ‘Frames, reframed,’ on November 24-25, at the Doha Beach Club.

The event will bring together emerging filmmakers from both the EU member states and Qatar to showcase their work, exchange ideas, and celebrate the evolving art of short filmmaking, a statement said yesterday.

The festival will also feature two masterclasses led by renowned industry professionals. Aspiring filmmakers and enthusiasts will gain insights into the transformative role of AI in film production and learn practical approaches to creating impactful short films using minimal resources.

On November 24, Rafael Antunes, associate professor in the Bachelor’s programme in Cinema, Video, and Multimedia Communication at Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, will lead a session on Transforming Film Production with AI Tools, exploring how AI enhances script analysis, visual planning, and audience engagement.

On November 25, Pedro Canavilhas, Lisbon-based filmmaker and producer, and the co-founder of B’Lizzard Motion Pictures, and Hadeer Omar, an Egyptian media artist, designer, and Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, will conduct a masterclass on Social Media Short Films, focusing on creating compelling content using only a smartphone or low-budget camera.

The EU ambassador to Qatar, Dr Cristian Tudor,



said: “By bringing together filmmakers from Europe and Qatar, we aim to highlight the universal power of storytelling and build deeper connections between our communities.”

The festival is open to the public, and registration is required to attend. To register, visit the event’s website at <https://eufilmfestival.qa>

National Paints holds dealer meet

The National Paints Factories Company held its Qatar dealer meet recently. General manager Saleh bin Ahmed al-Khulaifi, department managers and owners and managers of the shops selling, marketing and supporting the company’s products Oryx and Robson paints were present. The meeting featured a presentation about the products that obtained the Qatari Quality Mark. National Paints Factories Company is the first paint company to obtain this mark. The company already has three ISO certificates: 9001-2015 for Management systems, 14001-2015 environmental management system, and 45001-2018 Occupational and Health safety management systems. National Paints is currently in the process of obtaining ISO 17025 certificate for ISO accredited laboratories.



LIQUIDATION ANNOUNCEMENT “2”

Based on the Extraordinary General Assembly Resolution

To Liquidate
QARIAH WORLD ENTERTAINMENT (The Company)
(under Voluntary Liquidation)

The Liquidator
Linsar Karuppamveetil Shamsudheen

Kreston SVP Chartered Accountants

Announce the Liquidation of

QARIAH WORLD ENTERTAINMENT
Commercial Registration No. (140925)

Any party who has any claims from this Company should send a registered letter, including all supporting documents, to P.O Box 82297, Doha – Qatar
7712 9898 or 6668 8575 or info@krestonsvp.com
Within the remaining legal period of 20 days.

Renewable energy is not sustainable without justice: GU-Q professor

An academic has highlighted that the energy policy is really about people and it is not just a material to be governed, as it is a political relationship with the people who extract it.

Dr Trish Kahle, an assistant professor at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) said: “How energy is governed in a country is the key to understanding its political system and agenda” while launching her first book *Energy Citizenship: Coal and Democracy in the American Century*.

Recently published by Columbia University Press Dr Kahle’s book highlights that energy and its governance have a profound impact on society as the foundation of political economy.

Dr Kahle’s book delves into the human side of energy, offering a new perspective on the history of coal miners in America and the imprints they have left on the country’s laws and political imagination.

Yet her research is not confined to American history alone, it also addresses broader global trends affecting governance and injustice worldwide.

“Labour injustice and environmental destruction associated with extractive mining has a long life, and can undercut a government’s aspirational claims to democracy, and people’s ability to participate in it, even if they receive financial benefits,” noted the academic.



Dr Trish Kahle

The connection between American energy and labour governance to global systems of inequality means that the book’s insightful treatment of the role of coal miners in shaping foundational energy justice principles offers a new understanding of energy citizenship critical to today’s discussions about a sustainable energy transition.

“A shift to renewables isn’t enough to achieve energy justice on a global scale. You have to build a better energy system in order to achieve environmental justice,” she highlighted.

Dr Kahle further discussed themes of labour justice, sustainable futures, and the process of decolonising energy humanities in the Gulf region at the book launch event hosted by the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS).

Director of CIRS, Zahra Babar, moderated the event in conversation with the co-leaders of the CIRS Energy Humanities Research Initia-

tive, Dr Kahle, Dr Firat Oruc, and Dr Victoria Googasian.

In her book Dr Kahle examines the struggles of coal miners and the rights they fought to secure, from the Progressive Era in the 1880s through president Reagan’s election in 1980. She also emphasises the core contradictions between the mines as an engine of democratic politics, and a source of violence, oppression, and environmental destruction. The result is a strong case to rethink energy production in terms of its human costs and benefits, rather than solely thinking of the environmental costs and benefits. Whether the energy raw materials are used at home or abroad, considerations for energy labourers need to be at the heart of energy policy.


“The message from this particular history has lots of resonance with today’s push to decarbonise energy systems,” advised Dr Kahle, who while writing the book has also concurrently read accounts of industries driving the renewables industry such as cobalt mines in the Congo, and lithium mines in Latin America.

“I’m seeing this same story playing out again, but there is still time to make a difference. We have to realise that renewables are not inherently more just simply because they are not fossil fuels. Decarbonisation is not energy justice if you are perpetuating the same forms of extractivism and global inequality,” she added.

Emax opens fourth Qatar store



Premium electronics retailer Emax has opened its fourth store in Qatar at Doha Festival City’s ground floor. Emax offers a diverse product range that includes mobiles, IT products and accessories, premium televisions, home appliances, small appliances, health and fitness gadgets, gaming, gifting, personal care, car electronics and speakers. Landmark Group Qatar territory head Shumalan Naicker, said: “The new Emax store at Doha Festival City will definitely enhance the customer shopping experience in the electronics segment by offering premium brands under one roof with great customer service”. Also, in Emax now customers can earn and burn Shukran points and with Shukran Gift cards customers have choice for gifting too. In connection with the inauguration, the brand is offering sale on a wide range of premium electronics from 20% to 50% discount.



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BARWA TENDER

BARWA REAL ESTATE COMPANY WISHES TO INVITE CAPABLE AND COMPETENT COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENDER DESCRIBED BELOW:

TENDER REFERENCE	TENDER DESCRIPTION	TENDER BOND	NON - REFUNDABLE TENDER FEES	CLOSING DATE
BRE/RFP/GAM/020/2024	LEASE AND OPERATION OF SCHOOL IN "MADINATNA" PROJECT	QAR 100,000	QAR 500	31 DECEMBER 2024 12.00 P.M.

TO RECEIVE THE TENDER DOCUMENTS, A COPY OF THE TENDER FEE DEPOSIT SLIP AND VALID COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION OF THE BIDDER MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: TENDER@BARWA.COM.QA




TO PAY THE TENDER FEE, IT SHOULD BE DEPOSITED INTO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:

BENEFICIARY : BARWA REAL ESTATE COMPANY
BANK NAME : DUKHAN BANK, MAIN BRANCH, DOHA – QATAR
ACCOUNT No. : 200000008022
IBAN NUMBER : QA04BRWA000000000200000008022

NO OFFERS SUBMITTED BEYOND THE CLOSING DATE WILL BE CONSIDERED

TENDER BIDS TO BE SUBMITTED TO:

TENDER COMMITTEE SECRETARY
BARWA REAL ESTATE COMPANY
BARWA AL-SADD TOWERS – TOWER 1 – 16TH FLOOR
P.O BOX: 27777 DOHA-QATAR



Session spotlights empowering of women in digital era



The second session of the International Academy for Women Leaders, under the theme: “Leadership in the Digital Era”, kicked off in Doha yesterday with a high-level local, regional, and global attendance.

The event is jointly organised by the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRIs), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

In her opening remarks, HE the Chairperson of NHRC Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah, who is also the Chairperson of ANNHRIs, affirmed that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is closely intertwined with the empowerment of women and girls digitally, adding that reaching a more sustainable and equitable world requires ensuring the active engagement of women in policy-making and decision-making processes.

She highlighted that there is a clear nexus between the empowerment and leadership of women in the digital age and the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 and other related resolutions, noting that the role of women in conflict prevention, peace-building, and their engagement in relief, recovery, and reconstruction efforts has become a critical and foremost issue, given the devastating wars that are engulfing the world, where women are paying a heavy price. She underlined those armed conflicts, in general, exacerbate the marginalisation of women in all areas, emphasising the importance of countries’ unwavering commitment today to promoting women and girls’ access to digital technology and enabling them to benefit from it in areas such as strengthening leadership capacities, accessing information, and creating platforms for interaction, networking, and exchanging experiences among themselves.

HE al-Attiyah highlighted that there is a need to protect women and girls from all forms of digital violence and from stereotyping and biases on digital platforms, underscoring the multiple roles played by national human rights institutions (NHRIs), particularly through their monitoring of legislation and various related measures and practices, providing their perspectives on these issues, and conducting productive dialogues among all stakeholders and official bodies on emerging human rights matters.

For her part, HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti hailed the

NHRC’s efforts and initiative, alongside its partners, describing it as leading in organising the session, adding that such an initiative aims to achieve peace and development by fostering women’s engagement in decision-making processes.

Dr al-Sulaiti affirmed that there is no doubt that Qatar’s selection to launch this event internationally is a testament to the world’s trust in Qatar, as well as the region, and the Arab world, thereby underscoring Qatar’s commitment to achieving international peace and security, while also demonstrating the country’s dedication to supporting women and enhancing their role in various developmental fields.

She emphasised the importance of women’s engagement in decision-making processes to shape a better future for the world, and for the region in particular, calling for more partnerships between various institutions to launch academic initiatives and implement diverse training programmes to enhance the capabilities and potential of women and girls in decision-making processes.

Additionally, Dr al-Sulaiti noted the marginalisation and discrimination that women face despite their role in any society, highlighting that women face myriad challenges that squarely undermine their ambitions and hinder their ability to contribute to development fields, in addition to the heavy burden they bear in wars, conflict zones, and disaster-stricken areas.

The Secretary-General of ANNHRIs Sultan bin Hassan al-Jamali underscored the duty of national institutions to bolster the role of women and their rights through awareness, education, training, reviewing laws and policies, and proposing amendments. This includes adopting laws and policies that promote women’s rights and ensure their fair representation in political institutions, as well as monitoring and opposing hate speech and stereotypes they face.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa Martha Pobe said the rapid technological advancements in recent years have created opportunities and challenges to foster the overall democratic processes, in addition to addressing the digital divide both within and among nations, highlighting that if this gap is not properly addressed, new technological advancements could perpetuate and amplify inequality, discrimination, misinformation, and violence against women.

For her part, representative of the German Agency for International Co-operation (GIZ), Shatha Alawneh, affirmed that women in many parts of the world, including Arab countries, face daunting challenges and discrimination, especially in adapting to the digital age and thriving within it, highlighting that these challenges range from barriers to accessing digital knowledge to issues of protection in the digital space.

Dr al-Sulaiti cited the wanton aggression led by the Israeli occupation army against the Gaza Strip and the other occupied Palestinian territories, which has been extended since last September to include Lebanon. She emphasised that the Israeli occupation army continues to disregard the international community and persists in perpetrating genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced displacement against the Palestinian people, despite repeated calls from the international community to take responsibility and put an end to this barbaric war. (QNA)



Angolan ambassador Antonio Coelho Ramos da Cruz is joined by Qatar’s Minister of Communications and Information Technology HE Mohamed bin Ali al-Mannai in cutting a ceremonial cake at the reception yesterday as Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro and another dignitary look on. PICTURE: Thajudheen

Angola’s I-Day celebrated in Doha

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The embassy of Angola in Doha marked yesterday, the 49th anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of Angola at a celebration hosted by ambassador Antonio Coelho Ramos da Cruz.

Qatar’s Minister of Communications and Information Technology HE Mohamed bin Ali al-Mannai and Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Department of Protocol director ambassador Ibrahim Fakhro, African Affairs Department acting director Khalifa al-Mahmoud al-Sherif, and other dignitaries were present.

The Angolan ambassador appreciated the excellent Qatar-

ing relations and the growing, effective role of Qatar in making peace in the region and its ongoing efforts to arrive at a peaceful settlement for a number of key regional disputes.

“Qatar is a hub of regional and international politics and diplomacy. Like Qatar, Angola is also one of the political hubs of sub-Saharan Africa, where its President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco, as champion for peace and reconciliation in Africa, with mandate given by the African Union, has been developing a series of initiatives limited to the Great Lakes Region and extending to all areas of the African continent where situations of insecurity and conflict persist.

“Within the framework of Angola’s strategic vision for attract-

ing investment to the country, Qatar is a great potential economic partner in the GCC region due to its high level of development and great capacity to transform oil and gas revenues into the driving force behind its economy and the country’s multifaceted development.

“Bilateral co-operation between Angola and Qatar has also evolved significantly in recent years, based on the co-operation agreements and protocols signed during the official visit of President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco to Qatar, in September 2019, during which His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, encouraged Qatari business people to invest in the different sectors of the Angolan economy.”

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims marked



The National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC), in collaboration with the General Directorate of Traffic, organised an event yesterday, to mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims under the theme ‘Remember – Support – Act’.

The event aimed to highlight the issue of road accidents and ways to mitigate their impacts. Traffic director general Maj Gen Abdul Aziz bin Jassim al-Thani, Ministry of Public Health’s Non-Communicable Disease Prevention Programmes Department director Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, NTSC secretary and member Brig Dr Mohammed Radi al-Hajri, along with representatives from entities concerned, military college students, and school students attended.



The event featured a documentary on enhancing traffic safety in Qatar and speeches by officials. An accompanying exhibition showcased the contributions of various entities in promoting safety standards and raising traffic awareness.

Public schools set to observe remote learning day tomorrow

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has announced that Tuesday, Nov 19, 2024, will be designated as a remote learning day for all public schools in Qatar.

This initiative aims to enhance the technological skills of teachers and students in education and learning.

In an official circular, the ministry emphasised that the remote learning day is part of its efforts to diversify educational approaches and maximise the use of the advanced technological resources offered by e-learning platforms.

The ministry clarified that the initiative will apply to all 215 public schools across Qatar, with the exception of kindergarten, where

on-site education will continue as usual.

Parents of students from Grades 1-12 have been provided with detailed instructions for the day. Students are expected to attend live-streamed lessons via the Qatar Education System platform.

Classes for elementary students will start at 7:10am, while classes for preparatory and secondary students will begin at 8am.

The ministry urged parents to ensure a quiet and conducive learning environment at home and to adhere to the schedule provided by schools to ensure students attend all their lessons. Attendance policies will apply, and students will be marked absent if they miss two sessions.

Additionally, the ministry stressed the importance of preparing for the remote learning day by ensuring that the Qatar Education System and Microsoft Teams applications are updated to the latest versions on students’ devices, in addition to ensuring the availability of the username and password to facilitate the students’ entry into the system, and following the steps to recover the username or password when needed via <https://pwdreset.edu.qa/>.

For technical support, parents can contact the ministry’s hotline at 155 or reach out to their child’s school to address any challenges related to remote learning on this day. (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ABDULKERIM HUNDESSA
holder of
ETHIOPIA Passport No. EP6428975
QID No. 25823000040
hereby change my name
from
ABDULKERIM HUNDESSA
to
ABDULKERIM HUNDESSA GUDU

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ANDIPET SOJAKRISHNAN
holder of
INDIA Passport No. X4099744
QID No. 27535601327
hereby change my name
from
ANDIPET SOJAKRISHNAN
to
SOJA ANDIPET

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SYED MOHAMMAD SHAMIM
holder of
INDIA Passport No. U0587176
QID No. 27735647490
hereby change my name
from
SYED MOHAMMAD SHAMIM
to
SYED MOHAMMAD SHAMIM RAZA

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Ministry recalls Kia models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Al-Attiya Motors and Trading Company, has announced the recall of Kia Rio, 2011-2017 models, as the HECU may experience an internal electrical short circuit that could result in overcurrent, thereby increasing the risk of an engine compartment fire while the vehicle is driven or parked.

The MoCI said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The MoCI said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The MoCI urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries and suggestions through the following channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, social media channels @mociqatar, and mobile application MOCiQatar available on iPhone and Android devices.

**‘CultuRide’ celebrates
Qatar-Morocco
friendship**

From Page 1

Beyond the athletic feat, CultuRide offers participants immersive experiences, including hands-on workshops and personal encounters with Moroccan residents. Throughout the journey, local Moroccan cyclists will join the tour, sharing unique insights into their communities and traditions, and providing an invaluable local perspective.

As a centrepiece of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, CultuRide celebrates the power of cultural exchange through sport, reinforcing the enduring friendship between Qatar and Morocco while showcasing how shared journeys can build understanding and create lasting memories.



CultuRide Morocco Start



CultuRide Morocco Team

Qatar takes part in ‘Generations for a Competitive Future’ conference



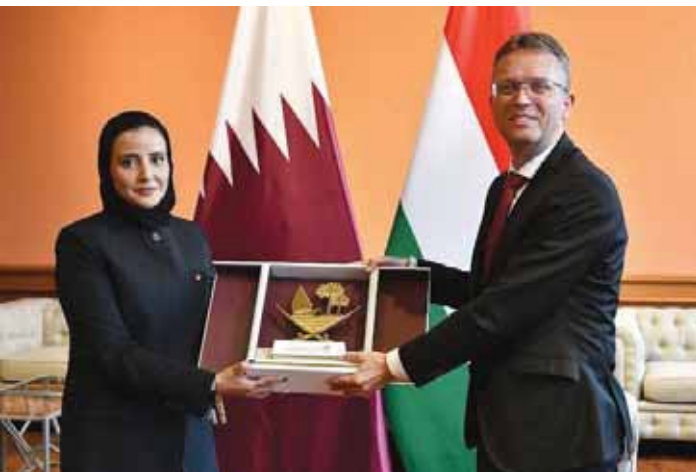
QNA
Budapest

Qatar has taken part in the “Generations for a Competitive Future” conference held in Budapest, Hungary.

The Assistant Undersecretary for Family Affairs at the Ministry

of Social Development and Family Sheikha Sheikha bint Jassim al-Thani chaired Qatar’s delegation to the conference.

The conference, which gathered experts, policymakers, and prominent civil society figures from various countries, discussed family-supportive policies, the family’s pivotal role in building a strong



and balanced society, and ways to enhance its role in addressing future challenges.

On the sidelines of the event, Sheikha Sheikha met with several Hungarian officials, including Minister of Culture and Innovation Balazs Hanko and Secretary of State for Families Dr Zsolia Koncz. Discussions centred on

policies related to family and child protection and empowering women in society.

During the meetings, the Assistant Undersecretary for Family Affairs reviewed Qatar’s efforts in strengthening the role of the family, noting that the State pays great attention to the issues of the family, children and women.



She pointed to the role played by the Ministry of Social Development and Family to achieve positive results in this regard. She highlighted Qatar’s initiative to adopt the term “senior citizens” instead of the elderly in confirmation of the status of this group and its pivotal role in the family and society.

Sheikha Sheikha also stressed the value of the bond between different generations within the Qatari family, explaining that grandparents represent one of the main pillars of the family, which reflects the Qatari values that pay great attention to strengthening relations between new generations and the senior citizens.

‘Zulal remains committed to fostering long-term, sustainable health habits’

Chiva-Som Hua Hin, the brand’s flagship resort situated in Hua Hin, Thailand, has set the standards for luxury wellness retreats since it opened in 1995. The resort, founded by Boonchu Rojanastien, a former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, was born from his vision to provide a holistic sanctuary where guests could find balance and tranquility. Now led by his son, Krip Rojanastien, as Group Chairman and CEO, Chiva-Som has grown into one of the world’s most esteemed wellness destinations. Translated from Thai as “Haven of Life,” Chiva-Som has earned international acclaim for its unique approach to integrating health, fitness, and mindfulness, attracting wellness enthusiasts from across the globe.



Krip Rojanastien, Chairman and CEO of Chiva-Som.

In 2022, Chiva-Som extended its philosophy of holistic health and wellbeing to the Middle East with the launch of Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som in Qatar. This landmark project in the Qatari desert is the first of its kind in the region, focusing on Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM) while simultaneously bringing Chiva-Som’s globally recognized approach to wellness to a new cultural landscape.

“Zulal Wellness Resort carries Chiva-Som’s core wellness value of ‘the wellbeing of mind, body, and spirit,’” Rojanastien explains, emphasizing that the resort “pays homage to the indigenous wellness traditions of the region.” Zulal has quickly

become a pioneer by merging Chiva-Som’s holistic practices with TAIM, offering guests a culturally resonant, wellness-focused experience.

The philosophy at Zulal focuses on creating a balanced and comprehensive approach to health, encapsulating mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. Rojanastien underscores that TAIM is a fundamental component of this journey. He says, “TAIM focuses on the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit,” which aligns seamlessly with Chiva-Som’s principles. According to him, Zulal thoughtfully incorporates Qatari heritage, drawing from ancient Islamic wellness practices to create an environment that reflects the cultural identity of the region.

“Zulal builds upon Chiva-Som’s foundation of holistic wellness, thoughtfully integrating Qatari culture into our architecture, design, and cuisine,” Rojanastien notes. This cultural integration is evident in everything from Zulal’s décor, which features local elements and motifs, to its wellness cuisine that utilizes traditional herbs and ingredients with nutrient-dense properties.

TAIM, the foundation of Zulal’s wellness programs, is a holistic system rooted in Islamic wellness practices that have been preserved for centuries. It emphasizes herbal medicine, balanced nutrition, and mindfulness, blending these ancient approaches with modern therapeutic practices. For example, Zulal’s wellness cuisine is inspired by TAIM principles, focusing on locally-sourced ingredients like dates, spices, and herbs that have both culinary and medicinal uses. The resort also incorporates traditional fasting practices, which are interwoven into Islamic culture as a means to cleanse and reset the body. These practices are carefully adapted to modern wellness standards, allowing guests to experience the benefits of TAIM in a way that aligns with contemporary health goals.

Distinct from its Thai counterpart, Zulal Wellness Resort takes a unique approach with its dedication to family wellness, which Rojanastien sees as a key differentiator. “Wellness is a journey that should encompass the whole family,” he emphasizes. Zulal’s Family Wellness programs were designed with multi-generational engagement in mind, promoting bonding and wellbeing across age groups. Rojanastien explains, “Family wellness fosters strong connections while promoting healthy habits for the entire family.”



Through activities like digital detoxes, family fitness sessions, cooking classes, and cultural storytelling, the resort encourages families to participate together, creating lasting memories while instilling a sense of balance and wellness. Rojanastien believes that family wellness can create lifelong healthy habits, adding, “Well-balanced children grow into well-balanced adults. Empowered children become empowered adults.”

At the heart of Zulal’s family-focused offerings is the idea that wellness should be sustainable and lasting, not only for the individual but also for society as a whole. The resort provides a range of activities and programs specifically crafted for different age groups, ensuring that each family member, from young children to grandparents, finds purpose and enjoyment. Through educational workshops and hands-on activities, children learn the importance of mindfulness, healthy eating, and self-care, while adults and seniors receive tailored wellness therapies aimed at reducing stress and promoting longevity.

Zulal has already begun making an impact on the wellness landscape in the Middle East. As Rojanastien describes it, “We are the region’s first immersive wellness destination, redefining the concept of holistic wellness.” Zulal’s programs are meticulously crafted to offer personalized wellness journeys that support each guest

in achieving optimal physical, mental, and emotional health. Rojanastien firmly believes that wellness is “a lifelong journey, not a destination,” emphasizing that Zulal’s approach goes beyond quick fixes to foster long-term, sustainable health habits.

Sustainability plays a significant role in Zulal’s philosophy, aligning with Chiva-Som’s commitment to minimizing its environmental footprint. The resort has incorporated energy-efficient architecture, waste reduction practices, and a water conservation system that collectively reduce its ecological impact. “Sustainability is no longer a luxury; it’s a necessity,” Rojanastien asserts. Zulal’s eco-friendly initiatives include banning single-use plastics and implementing waste management systems that align with Qatar’s National Vision 2030 for environmental stewardship.

One of Zulal’s unique offerings is its Mangrove Conservation Programme, which invites guests to participate in planting trees and conserving the mangrove ecosystems surrounding the resort. This initiative is aimed at fostering a deeper connection between guests and the environment, while also contributing to Qatar’s national goals for biodiversity and ecological protection. “The health of the planet is a collective effort, but individuals can initiate change and inspire others,” Rojanastien says, highlighting the importance of sustainability in wellness tourism.

Zulal’s integration of TAIM and family wellness has also strengthened its connections within the local Qatari community. Collaborating with organizations like the Dadu Children’s Museum of Qatar, Zulal promotes wellness education for younger generations, encouraging children to adopt healthy habits from an early age. Rojanastien believes this focus on education offers broader societal benefits, stating, “Educating a generation about wellbeing is an investment in long-term health and sustainability.” Zulal hopes that by instilling these values early on, it can foster a healthier, more resilient society in the years to come.

Looking to the future, Rojanastien is optimistic about Zulal’s potential to continue innovating within the wellness industry. His team at Zulal stays attuned to emerging wellness trends and integrates them thoughtfully, ensuring that Zulal remains at the forefront of wellness tourism while preserving the cultural authenticity of TAIM. Plans are already underway to expand Zulal’s outreach by collaborating with local schools to promote sustainable, healthy practices among children. “Family wellness holds the key to personal, societal, and planetary wellbeing,” Rojanastien emphasizes. He envisions a future where wellness is a fundamental part of the home environment, empowering families to live healthier lives.



People check the rubble of a building hit in an overnight Israeli strike in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Pope calls for Gaza ‘genocide’ probe

AFP
Vatican City

Pope Francis for the first time tackled claims of Israel’s ongoing “genocide” of Palestinians in Gaza in extracts from a forthcoming book published yesterday, urging further investigation into whether Israel’s actions meet the definition.

Titled *Hope Never Disappears. Pilgrims Towards a Better World*, the book includes his latest and most forthright intervention into the more than year-long war sparked by Hamas’ October 2023 storming of Israel.

“According to some experts, what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of genocide,” the pontiff wrote in extracts published on the front of Italy’s *La Stampa* daily yesterday.

“It should be studied carefully to determine whether (the situation) corresponds to the technical definition formulated by jurists and international bodies,” he added.

The Argentine pontiff has frequently deplored the number of victims of Israel’s operations in Gaza, with the territory’s Hamas-run health ministry putting the toll at least 43,846 people,



Palestinian women and children injured in an Israeli strike, wait in an ambulance in front of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

most of them civilians.

But his call for a probe marks the first time he has publicly used the term genocide - without endorsing it - in the context of Israeli military operations in the Palestinian territory.

On the Pope’s account on X yesterday, he wrote: “Let us #PrayTogether for peace: in martyred Ukraine, in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, and Sudan.

“War dehumanizes, leading us to tolerate unacceptable crimes. May leaders listen to the cry of

the people who long for peace.”

The new book by the Pope comes out tomorrow in Italy, Spain and Latin America, with other releases elsewhere due later.

On Thursday, a United Nations Special Committee judged Israel’s conduct of warfare in Gaza “consistent with the characteristics of genocide”, accusing the country of “using starvation as a method of war”.

Its conclusions have already been condemned by Israel’s key backer the United States.

Illegal miners battling to survive SA standoff

Hundreds of clandestine miners at a disused South African shaft are struggling to survive in grim conditions because of a police operation to force them out, one of the men who escaped said yesterday, AFP reported from Stilfontein.

For nearly two weeks police have been stationed outside the abandoned gold mine at Stilfontein, about 150 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg, intermittently blocking locals from sending down food and water, and arresting undocumented migrants who surface. “There’s nothing left for

someone to eat, to drink or anything that can make a human being survive. There is nothing left underground for now,” said Ayanda Ndabeni, who was hoisted out the shaft by rope on Friday.

“This operation of the police stopped everything, we suffered underground. Some of us, they died. Some of us are sick, critical.” One decomposed body was brought out last week and there are fears there may be more. A local who works with the miners has claimed to have been told there were around 4,000 people underground.

Beirut businesses struggle to stay afloat under Israeli raids

AFP
Beirut

Lina al-Khalil has fled her south Beirut home to escape escalating Israeli attacks on Hezbollah, but she still returns daily to the bombarded area to keep the family business running.

“It’s more important than my house,” said the pharmacist, in her 50s, of the business she inherited from her father in Haret Hreik, a southern suburb of the Lebanese capital where Hezbollah fighters hold sway.

Whenever the Israeli military issues a warning to evacuate before a strike - a near-daily occurrence for nearly two months - she closes down the shop and rushes out.

Despite the ever-present fear and the steep decline in business activity, Khalil does what she can to keep her business afloat, like many other shopkeepers in Beirut’s southern suburbs.

The vast majority of the area’s estimated 600,000-800,000 residents have fled, seeking refuge elsewhere.

“With the drop in customers, the financial impact has been severe,” Khalil told AFP, adding that she has had to halve the salaries of her employees due to the pinch.

Khalil has moved most of the

pharmacy’s stock to her second home in the mountains for safe-keeping.

To serve the few customers she still has, she drives up to collect the medicine they need, and even delivers it to their homes when they can’t reach the pharmacy.

Some areas of south Beirut have been devastated by strikes since Israel intensified its campaign against the powerful Hezbollah movement on September 23, after nearly a year of limited cross-border clashes over the Gaza war.

South Beirut grocer Mehdi Zeitar, in his 50s, has had to find a place to live after an Israeli strike destroyed his home.

For the time being, his vegetable stall has survived, but “all the surrounding buildings have been damaged”, he said.

“We’re playing hide-and-seek,” Zeitar added bitterly, referring to Israeli attacks.

“We leave by car until the strikes are over, then we go home.”

He comes in for two or three hours a day to run his shop, saying he has no other option to support his family. But he told AFP that he spends much of his time waiting for customers, who never come.

“We are truly unemployed.”

In a recent report, the World Bank estimated that the Lebanese commercial sector incurred losses of \$1.7bn over 12 months of



Many shops in Beirut’s southern suburbs have been damaged or destroyed by Israeli bombardment.

conflict, on top of billions more in losses to the economy and material damage.

Lebanon had already been reeling since 2019 from an intense economic crisis that pushed most of the population into poverty.

According to the World Bank report, around 11% of establish-

ments in the conflict zones have been damaged, particularly in the southern areas of Tyre, Sidon and Nabatiyeh, where Israel’s military campaign has targeted Hezbollah strongholds.

It said that the “displacement of both employees and business owners from conflict-affected ar-

ees” has led to a near-complete halt in business activity as well as “disruptions to supply chains to and from conflict districts”.

Many consumers now buy only essentials, the report said.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

When the war began in late September, Ali Mahdi and his brother

shuttered their clothing stores and warehouse in Beirut’s southern suburbs as well as in Tyre and Nabatiyeh, taking some of their merchandise with them.

They set up shop in several locations including Beirut’s Hamra district, at a distance from the majority of the strikes.

But they still face many challenges there.

“There’s the rise in rents, and the fears of residents in certain areas when it comes to renting to displaced residents from the southern suburbs and villages,” said Mahdi, who is in his 30s.

With their future shrouded in uncertainty, “we’re trying to clear our stocks,” he said.

“We don’t know whether to import new products or save our cash.”

Mahdi added that he had to make some of his 70 employees redundant and dock pay from the rest.

In the southern suburbs, an Israeli strike turned the cafe Abdel Rahman Zahr El-Din had opened five years ago into a pile of rubble.

He said he must salvage what he can, now that he has lost his only way to make ends meet.

“There’s nothing left but stones,” he said as he inspected the upper floor, emerging with a small table in his hand, unharmed but covered in grey dust.

Iraq blast kills three security personnel

AFP
Baghdad

A blast from an explosive device yesterday killed three members of Iraq’s security forces and wounded three others in the northern province of Salaheddin, officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack in Tuz Khurmatu, which borders a province plagued by sporadic militant attacks.

Iraq declared victory over the Islamic State group in late 2017,

but its militants remain active in the country, particularly in rural areas. Yesterday’s blast killed an army regiment commander, another officer and a security service member, said Zulfikar al-Bayati, mayor of Tuz Khurmatu.

A security official confirmed the death toll to AFP, adding the victims had been in a vehicle when the explosion occurred.

Those killed were members of the Peshmerga forces of the autonomous northern region of Kurdistan, while the wounded were members from the Iraqi army. The Iraqi defence ministry

paid tribute to the three soldiers who “fell as martyrs...while carrying out their duty”. The Islamic State group overran large swathes of Iraq and neighbouring Syria in 2014, proclaiming its “caliphate” and launching a reign of terror.

It was defeated in Iraq in 2017 by Iraqi forces backed by a US-led military coalition, and in 2019 lost the last territory it held in Syria to US-backed Kurdish forces. A report by United Nations experts published in July estimated there were around 1,500-3,000 militants remaining in Iraq and Syria.

Senegal heads to polls as new leaders eye parliamentary win

AFP
Dakar

Senegal yesterday voted in parliamentary elections, with the new leaders aiming for a resounding majority to see through the promise of ambitious reform that swept them to power eight months ago.

President Bassirou Diomaye Faye secured victory in March pledging economic transformation, social justice and a fight against corruption - raising hopes among a largely youthful population facing high inflation and widespread unemployment.

But an opposition-led parliament hampered the government’s first months in power, leading Faye to dissolve the chamber in September and call snap elections as soon as the constitution allowed him to do so.



People line up to cast their vote during the early legislative election, at a polling station in Parcelle, suburb of Dakar, yesterday.

“I hope that (the ruling party) Pastef will win the elections to gain a majority so that they can better carry out their mandate,” said 56-year-old voter Pascal Goudiaby in the capital Dakar.

“The priority is unemployment, young people are facing so much unemployment,” he added.

Faye appointed his firebrand mentor Ousmane Sonko as prime minister, after Sonko’s own bid to run for president was blocked following a three-year deadly stand-off with the former authorities.

The pair promised a leftist pan-African agenda - vowing to diversify political and economic partnerships, review hydrocarbon and fishing contracts and re-establish Senegal’s sovereignty, which they claimed had been sold abroad.

Mademba Ndiaye, a 20-year-old student, was voting for the first time in Dakar.

“It’s one of the only ways we can really have an impact on society, and I think that if we don’t vote, we couldn’t really complain about what happens in society afterwards,” he said.

The west African country’s roughly 7.3mn registered voters

will elect 165 MPs for five-year terms.

Analysts say Senegalese voters have historically confirmed their presidential choice during parliamentary elections, and the Pastef party is the favourite to win.

“I think that whoever you gave your confidence to in the presidential election, you need to renew your confidence in him so that he can achieve what he started,” said 56-year-old voter Toure Aby.

“We want life to be less expensive for the Senegalese,” she added. “Everything’s expensive: water, electricity, food”.

Voters are continuing a long democratic tradition in Senegal, widely seen as a stable outlier in a coup-plagued region.

President Faye praised Senegalese democracy and called for a peaceful vote as he cast his ballot in his family’s village of Ndiagniao. There will always be winners and losers, but “in the end, it is the people of Senegal who will win”, he told journalists in a video aired by public broadcaster RTS.

Prime Minister Sonko also urged calm as he voted in the southern city of Ziguinchor.

“Democracy is expressed in peace and stability, and I believe that in a democracy there is no room for violence,” he said.

Sonko spent three weeks on the campaign trail promising projects and regional investment. Reminiscent of his years as a fiery opposition leader, he

had called for vengeance after attacks against his supporters, but later urged restraint.

Despite the heated tone, clashes were sporadic in the run-up to the vote.

Though some agreements have been reached between coalitions, the opposition remains fragmented.

Former president Macky Sall is leading an opposition grouping from abroad.

He left power in April after triggering one of the worst crises in decades with a last-minute postponement of the presidential election.

Former prime minister and presidential runner-up Amadou Ba and Dakar mayor Barthélemy Dias are also heading coalitions.

The opposition has accused the new government of inaction, amateurism and a desire to settle scores with the previous administration. Unemployment stands at more than 20% and scores continue to risk their lives every month attempting to reach Europe by boat.

The government said an audit of public finances revealed a wider budget deficit than previously announced.

Moody’s downgraded Senegal’s credit rating and placed the country under observation.

Polling stations close at 6:00pm (1800 GMT). Reliable projections of the new parliament’s makeup could be available from today morning.

CO-OPERATION

Japanese troops to train with Australia, US armies in Darwin

Japanese troops will begin regular deployments in northern Australia as part of military co-operation with Australia and the US, Australia's Defence Minister Richard Marles said. Around 2,000 US Marines are already hosted in Darwin for six months of the year amid growing concern among Washington and its allies about China's growing military power in the Indo Pacific region. "Today we are announcing that there will be regular deployments of Japan's amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade to Australia," Marles said in Darwin, alongside US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani.

COMMENT

1,500 killed in protests against Hasina: Yunus

About 1,500 people died in protests that brought down Bangladeshi prime minister Sheikh Hasina this year, and as many as 3,500 may have been forcibly abducted during her 15-year rule, interim leader Muhammad Yunus said yesterday. The estimate by the economist and Nobel peace laureate, who is due to organise elections, is higher than the previous official count of about 1,000 deaths in the student-led demonstrations, which drew a ferocious crackdown. "Every day, new names are being added to the list of martyrs," Yunus said in an address to the nation marking 100 days of the interim government, pledging to prosecute those responsible for the violence.

CORPORATE

Tata 'seals deal' with Pegatron for iPhone plant in Tamil Nadu

Tata Electronics has agreed to buy a majority stake in Taiwanese contract manufacturer Pegatron's only iPhone plant in India, forming a new joint venture that strengthens Tata's position as an Apple supplier. Under the deal, Tata will hold 60% and run daily operations under the joint venture, while Pegatron will hold the rest and provide technical support, said two sources. The sources did not elaborate on the financials of the deal. Apple is increasingly looking to diversify its supply chain beyond China amid geopolitical tensions between Beijing and Washington. For India's Tata, the Chennai Pegatron plant will bolster its iPhone manufacturing plans.

EVENT

Glastonbury 2025 tickets sell out in 35 minutes

Tickets for next year's Glastonbury Festival sold out within 35 minutes yesterday, with more than 200,000 people expected to attend the world-renowned musical celebration in rural southwest England. Sales opened at 9am and event organisers posted on the social media platform X at 9.35am that "Tickets for Glastonbury 2025 have now sold out". "Thanks to everyone who bought one and sorry to those who missed out, on a morning when demand was much higher than supply," they added. Talks are reportedly under way to secure acts for next year's festival, which will run from June 25-29.

23 arrested in Manipur after violent protests

Reuters
Guwahati, India

Police arrested 23 people yesterday in the north-eastern Indian state of Manipur for ransacking and setting fire to the homes of lawmakers and ministers, while hundreds of protesters demonstrated against recent violent killings in defiance of a curfew.

The violence, marking the second straight day of unrest in the area, has led to a tense standoff in Imphal, the state capital.

"The situation is relatively calm today but unpredictable," a senior state police official said, adding the situation was being closely monitored.

Since May 2023, inter-communal clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities have resulted in at least 250 deaths and displaced 60,000 people in the region.

As a result Manipur has become divided into two ethnic enclaves: the Meitei controlled valley, and the Kuki-dominated hills, separated by a stretch of no-man's land monitored by federal forces.

Tensions flared last week when a 31-year-old woman from the Kuki tribal community was burned alive. Kuki groups have blamed Meitei militants for the act.

Citing a failure by state Chief Minister N Biren Singh to resolve the crisis, the National People's Party, an ally of the ruling BJP with seven lawmakers in

the 60-member state assembly, announced yesterday its withdrawal of support from the state government.

The 23 arrests followed Saturday's violence, which involved what a police statement said was the "ransacking and arson" of the houses of several state lawmakers and ministers.

"Police resorted to firing tear gas shells to disperse the mob. Eight persons have been injured in the process," the statement said, adding additional security forces were deployed.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on Saturday and internet and mobile services were suspended after protesters tried to storm the residences of several lawmakers including Chief Minister Singh.

Protesters are demanding accountability for the deadly violence, that has, in the latest incident, claimed the lives of at least two women and two children.

The body of a woman, and that of a two-year-old child, believed to be members of a missing Meitei family, were on Sunday found in a river, after three other bodies, including two children, were recovered on Friday.

Identification is ongoing, but they are likely linked to the missing family, a district administration official from Jiribam said.

A Kuki man's body was also found from the area yesterday though authorities have yet to confirm cause of death, but said it "could be linked to the violence".

Racing to the finish



Riders participate in round 5 event of the 2024 MRF MOGRIP FMSCI National Supercross Championship in Bengaluru, India, yesterday.

India, Nigeria renew ties as Modi visits

AFP
Abuja

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu met to renew what they called the "strategic partnership" between the giants of Asia and Africa yesterday. Nigeria's capital Abuja was Modi's first stop in a tour that will take the Indian premier on to the G20 summit in Brazil, and to Guyana.

The visit was billed by New Delhi as a meeting of the largest democracy in the world and the largest in Africa, "natural partners" as both push

for a more central role in world affairs.

Modi was welcomed to the Nigerian presidency by a military pipe band and honour guard, before entering closed door talks with Tinubu and senior officials at his Aso Rock residence.

"Our co-operation is very strong and there are many new possibilities as well for us to take our co-operation forward," Modi said in preliminary remarks as talks got underway.

"As we just said, we have always worked together to address challenges such as terrorism, separatism, piracy and drug trafficking."

Tinubu conferred on Modi the Nigerian honour Grand Commander of the Order of Niger,

congratulated him on India's democratic credentials and pledged to work together on the "basis of mutual respect and a shared mission".

Photos posted on Modi's account showed him arriving late Saturday at Abuja airport to be welcomed by Nigerian officials and a cheering crowd from the country's 60,000-strong Indian community. The visit comes amid a revived push by both India and Nigeria for permanent representation on the United Nations Security Council. The five permanent members of the top UN body - the US, Russia, China, France and Britain - hold a powerful veto that they can use to protect their international interests.

Five Maoist militants die in police clashes

Indian security forces have killed five Maoist rebels in jungle clashes, an officer said yesterday, as security forces seek to quash the decades-long insurgency in the resource-rich central regions. Gun battles took place in the Abujmahad forests of Chhattisgarh state on Saturday, taking the toll of the conflict in 2024 to around 200, one of the highest in years. More than 10,000 people have died in the insurgency against the Maoists - known as the Naxalite movement, who say they are fighting for the rights of marginalised indigenous people. "In the gun battle five Maoists have been killed," senior police officer P Sunderraj said, adding that two of the rebels were women.

The clash took place in regions bordering Kanker and Narayanpur, with police seizing rifles and ammunition from the corpses.

Sheltering from the typhoon



People rest at an evacuation centre for those affected by super typhoon Man-yi in San Vicente town, Camarines sur province, Philippines, yesterday. The typhoon lashed the Philippines' most populous island yesterday, with the national weather service warning of flooding, landslides and huge waves as the storm sweeps across the archipelago nation. Man-yi was later downgraded to a typhoon category as it traversed the mountainous island.

India test fires 'historic' hypersonic missile

Reuters
New Delhi

India yesterday successfully tested a domestically developed long-range hypersonic missile, attaining a key milestone in military development that puts it in a small group of nations possessing the advanced technology.

The global push for hypersonic weapons figures in the efforts of some countries, such as India, which is striving to develop advanced long-range missiles, along with China, Russia and the US.

Hypersonics are the new frontier in missile technology, because they fly lower and are harder to detect than ballistic missiles, can reach targets more quickly, and can be ordered to change target in mid-flight. The Indian missile, developed

by the state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation and industry partners, is designed to carry payloads for ranges exceeding 1,500km for the armed forces, the government said in a statement.

"The flight data...confirmed the successful terminal manoeuvres and impact with high degree of accuracy," it added.

The test-firing took place from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam island off the eastern coast of Odisha state on Saturday, it said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called the test a "historic achievement" in a post on X, adding that it placed India among a select group of nations possessing such critical and advanced technologies.

The test flight comes days after neighbour China showcased its expanding aviation capabilities at an airshow.

China's second mass attack in a week spurs soul-searching

Reuters
Wuxi, China

A former student went on a stabbing rampage at a vocational college in eastern China, killing eight people and injuring 17, police said yesterday, prompting further soul-searching just days after the deadliest attack in the country in a decade.

Saturday's knife attack took place at the Wuxi Vocational College of Arts and Technology in Yixing, part of Wuxi city in the eastern province of Jiangsu. The suspect, a 21-year-old man, was arrested at the scene and confessed, police said.

Also on Saturday, authorities in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai said they had charged a 62-year-old man who they said rammed his car into a crowd outside a sports stadium, killing 35 people and injuring 43 on Monday night.

In both cases, the suspects lashed out with fatal violence against unrelated bystanders after suffering an economic loss, according to the sparse details released by police.

The killings touched off a rare and heavily censored online discussion over mental health in China, deeper stresses as the world's second-largest economy slows and whether young people will find themselves worse off than generations before

them that benefited from China's rapid development. At least six other high-profile knife attacks have been recorded this year across China.

Police in Wuxi said the stabbing suspect was angry over not getting his graduation certificate, failing an exam and his pay.

"According to preliminary investigations, the suspect...attacked others after failing an exam and not receiving his graduation certificate, as well as being dissatisfied with his internship compensation," the Yixing Public Security Bureau said.

At the school yesterday, a witness watched students leaving with suitcases, although one student, who did not want to give her name, said

classes were still going on. "They were just 18, 19-year-old kids. It's such a pity and so sad," said a man who arrived to lay a bouquet of chrysanthemums near to one of the school gates. "We really have to give young people better psychological guidance," he added. Security swiftly removed the bouquet. The Zhuhai suspect was reportedly angry at the terms of a divorce settlement, police there said. Qu Weiguo, a Fudan University professor, said the recent cases of "indiscriminate revenge against society" in China had some common features: disadvantaged suspects, many with mental health issues, who believed that they had been treated unfairly and who felt

they had no other way to be heard.

"It is important to establish a social safety net and a psychological counselling mechanism, but in order to minimise such cases, the most effective way is to open public channels that can monitor and expose the use of power," Qu posted on the Chinese social media platform Weibo.

The short essay had been removed by the censors yesterday afternoon.

Wuxi Vocational College offers courses to prepare students to work in industries including wire and cable manufacturing, interior design, marketing and other fields, its website says. The junior college and others like it are part of a drive to direct more young people into job-specific

training instead of oversubscribed universities as youth unemployment balloons. Trending online discussion topics over the past year have put a focus on the diminished optimism in China about a turnaround for jobs, income and opportunity.

One of those - "the garbage time of history" - took off in the summer as a shorthand for economic despair.

In recent weeks, Chinese officials have rolled out a raft of stimulus measures to revive the economy. Monday's car attack also prompted an intervention by President Xi Jinping, who urged local police to "strengthen their control of risks" by identifying people at risk of lashing out.

CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

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

GULF TIMES

Conservation
urgency grows
amid 77% elephant
decline in 50 years

A huge drop in the population of African elephants in a half century, as revealed by researchers recently, should worry not only conservationists but also anyone with a passion for nature. African elephants are Earth's largest land animals, remarkable mammals that are very intelligent and highly social. Fresh evidence of the peril they are facing has come in a study that documents alarming population declines at numerous sites across the continent, Reuters reported.

Researchers unveiled last week what they called the most comprehensive assessment of the status of the two African elephant species - the savanna elephant and forest elephant - using data on population surveys conducted at 475 sites in 37 countries from 1964 through 2016. The savanna elephant populations fell by about 70% on average at the surveyed sites and the forest elephant populations dropped by about 90% on average at the surveyed sites, with poaching and habitat loss the main drivers. All told, there was a 77% population decrease on average at the various surveyed sites, spanning both species.

Elephants vanished at some sites while their populations increased in other places thanks to conservation efforts. "A lot of the lost populations won't come back, and many low-density populations face continued pressures. We likely will lose more populations going forward," said George Wittemyer, a Colorado State University professor of wildlife conservation and chair of the scientific board of the conservation group Save the Elephants, who helped lead the study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The loss of large
mammals is
a significant
ecological issue
for Africa and
the planet

Poaching and habitat loss due to agricultural expansion are among the main threats. The forest elephant population is estimated to be about a third that of savanna elephants. Poaching has affected forest elephants disproportionately and has ravaged populations of both species in northern and eastern Africa.

"We have lost a number of elephant populations across many countries, but the northern Sahel region of Africa - for example in Mali, Chad and Nigeria - has been particularly hard hit. High pressure and limited protection have culminated in populations being extirpated," Wittemyer said.

But in southern Africa, elephant populations rose at 42% of the surveyed sites, with strong growth in populations in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia. "For populations showing positive trends, we have had active stewardship and management by the governments or outside groups that have taken on a management role," Wittemyer said.

The study did not track a continent-wide population tally because the various surveys employed different methodologies over different time frames to estimate local elephant population density, making a unified head count impossible. Instead, it assessed population trends at each of the surveyed sites. A population estimate by conservationists conducted separately from this study put the two species combined at between 415,000 and 540,000 elephants as of 2016, the last year of the study period. It remains the most recent comprehensive continent-wide estimate.

"The loss of large mammals is a significant ecological issue for Africa and the planet," said conservation ecologist and study co-author Dave Balfour, a research associate in the Centre for African Conservation Ecology at Nelson Mandela University in South Africa. The world's third extant elephant species, the slightly smaller Asian elephant, faces its own population crisis, with similar factors at play as in Africa.

Of African elephants, Wittemyer said: "While the trends are not good, it is important to recognise the successes we have had and continue to have. Learning how and where we can be successful in conserving elephants is as important as recognising the severity of the decline they have experienced. Not only one of the most sentient and intelligent species we share the planet with, but also an incredibly important part of ecosystems in Africa that structures the balance between forest and grasslands, serves as a critical disperser of seeds, and is a species on which a multitude of other species depend on for survival."

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621 📠 44418811

Classified

☎ 44466609 📠 44418811

✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2024 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



How Democrats lost
the plot this year

The real story is that one side voted at peak strength, and the other did not

By James K Galbraith
Austin

As of this writing, Donald Trump has received about 75.1mn votes in the US presidential election, and Kamala Harris about 71.8mn. Though the numbers will continue to rise as absentee and mail-in ballots are counted, Trump's final tally will be only slightly higher than his 2020 total of 74.2mn votes. For Harris, though, we will see a disastrous decline from the 81.2mn votes that Joe Biden received, and this despite the fact that the voting-eligible population has increased by four million.

In other words, Trump gained almost no support in his four-year campaign for redemption. If all the voters were the same, one could even say that he merely got his 2020 supporters to vote for him again. In fact, about 13mn people (most of them eligible voters) have died, and about 17mn have become voter-eligible, implying that Trump replaced his losses about one-for-one, while a decline in turnout cost the Democrats nearly 10mn votes.

These numbers cast grave doubt on explanations of the result that focus on economic conditions, and still more on the impact of advertising and get-out-the-vote campaigns. Advertising, rallies, and the "ground game" were heavily concentrated in the swing states, yet the results there mirrored those across the whole country - including in states such as Massachusetts and Texas, where the outcome was never in doubt. The biggest proportional shifts toward Trump were in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and California. So much for the billion dollars that the Democrats spent on campaigning. Four years ago, Biden did better from his basement.

The results also deflate analyses based on the "American voter". Racism, sexism, and anger over the economy, migration, or reproductive rights (the Democratic "hope" issue this year) no doubt exist. But they do not appear to have affected the results any more (or less) than in past years. Those who went to

the polls appear to have voted as they did last time. There are always a few "swing voters," but there is a reason reporters seek them out in the way that anthropologists once sought out cannibals: they are rare.

The real story is that one side voted at peak strength, and the other did not.

There are no reliable data on the ideological motives of non-voters. But exit polls do indicate that the shift in the mix of voters was greater at lower income levels; the share of voters with annual incomes below \$50,000 who voted for Biden was greater than for Harris. Among Hispanics, notably relatively low-income voters along the Texas border (in very small counties, to be sure), the shift toward Trump was dramatic.

After we have ruled out the implausible, at least three reasonable conjectures remain. The first concerns the conditions of voting. In 2020, owing to the pandemic, voting was more accessible than ever before. Millions cast their ballots through early voting, vote-by-mail, drive-through collection points, 24-hour voting, and other convenient methods, and turnout (as a proportion of the eligible electorate) was the highest it had been since 1900 - long before the civil-rights era, and two decades before the enfranchisement of women.

In 2024, some - though not all - of these expedients no longer existed, after already declining in 2022. It is standard in America to use the structure of voting to help determine the outcome: long lines at the polls discourage turnout, especially among working people with limited time.

A second plausible explanation concerns voter registration. Students and low-income minority citizens move more frequently and usually must re-register every time their address changes. It is highly probable that this burden falls more heavily on Democrats.

The third hypothesis turns on the long-standing divisions within the Democratic Party, which is about 70-80% centrist and 20-30% "left", but completely controlled by its centrist majority. This has been the case ever since George McGovern's defeat in 1972,

but the control now extends to the point of candidate selection for congressional seats and national-party funding for federal campaigns.

The Clintons and Obamas are currently the de facto heads of the centrist faction, and Biden and Harris were their appointees. Bernie Sanders carried the torch of the left in 2016 and 2020 but threw his support behind Biden in exchange for concessions on policy.

In 2024, there was no Democratic left, because there was no real primary or contest of any kind, only a last-minute closed-door candidate replacement. Some of the left's remnants - Robert F Kennedy, Jr (denied access to the Democratic primary ballot) and Tulsi Gabbard - went over to Trump's camp. The actual left in 2024 was a movement called "Palestine". It had no home in either party.

The Democratic leadership engineered this situation and must therefore desire it. Win or lose, it remains in control of a vast shadow apparatus: consultants, pollsters, lobbyists, fundraisers, key positions on Capitol Hill. Any concessions to new forces within the party would undermine this control, whereas losses to Republicans do not. The Democratic leadership would far rather lose an election or two - or even become a permanent minority party - than open the party to people it cannot control.

The 2024 election was, therefore, a suicide. The Democratic leadership was, at best, indifferent to the erosion of voting access, negligent in retaining 2020's new voters, and proactive in ensuring the abstention of what little remains of its "left" wing. It tried to cover this up, as usual, with celebrity endorsements and identity politics. As usual, it did not work. But the party's mandarins and their apparatchiks will be around next time to try again. - Project Syndicate

●James K Galbraith, Chair in Government/Business Relations and Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, is the co-author (with Jing Chen) of the forthcoming *Entropy Economics: The Living Basis of Value and Production*.



CONTRASTING FORTUNES: US President-elect Donald Trump during a meeting with House Republicans at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Washington, DC. **Right:** Democratic presidential nominee US Vice-President Kamala Harris reacts as she delivers remarks, conceding 2024 presidential election to Trump, at Howard University in Washington. (Reuters)



US President Joe Biden (left) shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Lima, Peru. (AFP)

Xi ready for ‘smooth transition’ to Trump

AFP
Lima

Chinese President Xi Jinping said he was ready to work with Donald Trump's new administration for a “smooth transition” in bilateral ties, as he met outgoing President Joe Biden for the last time.

The leaders of the world's two largest economies met on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific summit in Lima overshadowed by concerns of new trade wars and diplomatic tensions when Trump returns to the White House in January.

After shaking hands to begin their meeting at the Chinese leader's hotel in the Peruvian capital, Xi noted that Beijing's goals for stable ties with Washington remained unchanged.

“China is ready to work with the new US administration to maintain communication, expand co-operation and manage differences, so as to strive for a smooth transition of the China-US relationship,” he said in translated comments.

Xi and Biden have led efforts to ease tensions over issues from trade to Taiwan, and Saturday's face-to-face was their second meeting since a landmark ice-breaking summit in California last year — their third overall.

Biden said he was “very proud

of the progress we both made together.”

“Our two countries cannot let any of this competition veer into conflict. That's our responsibility and over the last four years I think we've proven it's possible to have this relationship,” Biden said.

Trump's impending return to the Oval Office, with several China hawks in his top team, has stirred fears that tensions could return.

In his first White House term, Trump engaged in a bruising trade war with China, imposing tariffs on imports that saw retaliation from Beijing.

Trump has once again signalled a confrontational approach, threatening during the campaign against Democrat Kamala Harris to impose tariffs of up to 60% on imports of Chinese goods.

But in pointed comments, Xi said that China and the United States should “inject more certainty and positive energy into the turbulent world.” The White House said Biden had raised several key points of tension, including self-governed Taiwan — which China claims as part of its territory and has repeatedly threatened.

Biden expressed “deep concern” over Beijing's support of Russia's defence industry as Moscow invades Ukraine, and condemned the deployment of thousands of troops to Russia by China's ally North Korea, the

White House said in a readout of the meeting.

But it was the transfer of power in Washington that hung heaviest over the meeting, with Biden and Xi both seeking to calm potentially choppy waters.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters Biden had reinforced that it was a “time of transition” where “stability in the US-China relationship is essential.”

Sullivan added however that Biden was “not a conduit” for any backchannel messages from Xi to Trump about the shape of future relations. With Biden making his swan song on the international stage, Sullivan said the president had also taken time for some informal chat with Xi.

The highly anticipated meeting came after a two-day summit of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping that Xi and Biden had both attended. Before their encounter, the men had taken part in a closed-door “retreat” with other APEC leaders from countries including Canada, Chile, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and Japan.

Russia was represented by a deputy prime minister.

Billionaire Trump's comeback cast a cloud of uncertainty over the meeting — and will do the same over a meeting of G20 leaders in Rio de Janeiro next week.

trajectory, the decision could help Ukraine at a moment when Russian forces are making gains and possibly put Kyiv in a better negotiating position when and if ceasefire talks happen. It is not clear if Trump will reverse Biden's decision when he takes office. Trump has long criticised the scale of US financial and military aid to Ukraine and has vowed to end the war quickly, without explaining how. Still, some congressional Republicans have urged Biden to loosen the rules on how Ukraine can use US-provided weapons. Russia has warned that it would see a move to loosen the limits on Ukraine's use of US weapons as a major escalation.

Biden in historic Amazon trip to cement legacy

US President Joe Biden began an historic trip to the Amazon rainforest yesterday to promote his record on fighting climate change amid fears Donald Trump will tear up his environmental policies.

Biden landed in the Brazilian city of Manaus, in the heart of the world's largest jungle, on the penultimate leg of a valedictory South American tour before handing the keys of the White House to Trump in January. The 81-year-old is the first sitting US president to visit the Amazon. Dressed casually in a blue shirt and pants, Biden chatted on the tarmac with local dignitaries, including Brazilian Nobel-winning climate scientist Carlos Nobre before boarding a helicopter to fly over the rainforest. Biden, who was accompanied by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his daughter Ashley and granddaughter Natalie, will also visit a museum and meet Indigenous and local leaders working to protect the Amazon. Ahead of his visit, part of the Democrat's attempt to cement his legacy in his last weeks in office, the White House announced that the US had hit its target of increasing bilateral climate financing to \$11bn a year. It said that the figure reached this year was six times what the US was providing at the start of Biden's term in 2021.

The money, which helps developing countries adapt to climate change, has made “the United States the largest bilateral provider of climate finance in the world,” the White House said. “The fight against climate change has been a defining cause of President Biden's leadership and presidency,” it added. Biden arrived in Brazil from Peru, where he attended his last summit with Asia-Pacific leaders. He has cut a diminished figure on his tour. All eyes in Lima were on Chinese President Xi Jinping who was received with greater fanfare. At a meeting with Biden, the Chinese leader was already looking to the new Trump era, saying he was ready to work with the “America First” leader and hoped for a “smooth transition” in relations. Trump has pledged to reverse Biden's climate policies



US President Joe Biden and his daughter, Ashley Biden, arrive at Manaus-Eduardo Gomez International Airport in Manaus, Brazil, yesterday. Below: Marine One flies Biden on an aerial tour of the Amazon in Manaus. (AFP, Reuters)



and could again pull the United States, the world's second-biggest polluter, out of the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement on combatting carbon emissions, as he did during his first term. On Saturday, he nominated a fracking magnate and noted climate change sceptic, Chris Wright, as his energy secretary. Trump's return to power looms large over a G20 meeting of the world's biggest economies starting today in Rio as well as over stalled UN climate talks in Azerbaijan. The Amazon, spanning nine countries, is crucial to the fight against climate change due to its ability to absorb planet-warming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. But it is also one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation. This year it experienced the worst

wildfires in nearly two decades, fuelled by a severe drought blamed in part by climate experts on global warming. A recent study showed that the Amazon rainforest had lost an area about the size of Germany and France combined to deforestation in four decades. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has pledged to put a stop to illegal Amazon deforestation by 2030. Experts have warned that a second Trump presidency could undo progress on the transition to green energy made under Biden, giving heavy polluters like China and India an excuse to scale back their own efforts. During his campaign, Trump pledged to “drill, baby, drill” and increase fossil fuel extraction. He even brushed off climate change just days before the vote.

Russia pounds Ukraine power grid

Reuters
Kyiv

Russia unleashed its largest air strike on Ukraine in almost three months yesterday, launching 120 missiles and 90 drones that killed at least seven people and caused severe damage to the power system, officials said. Ukrainians had been bracing for weeks for a renewed Russian attack on an already hobbled energy system, fearing long winter blackouts and mounting psychological pressure almost 1,000 days after Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

The strikes, which caused numerous power cuts, came at a time when the impending US presidency of Donald Trump, who has pledged to end the war without saying how, has raised the prospect of a push for negotiations.

Air defences could be heard engaging drones over the capital Kyiv in the night, and a series of powerful blasts boomed across the city centre during the missile attack. Residents huddled in underground metro stations, wrapped in winter coats.

“Severe damage to Ukraine's energy system, including to DTEK power stations. These attacks



People look at the remains of a downed Russian hypersonic missile Zircon, after it struck a five-storey residential building in Kyiv during a massive aerial barrage yesterday. (AFP)

again highlight Ukraine's need for additional air defence systems from our allies,” said Maxim Timchenko, CEO of DTEK, Ukraine's largest private power company.

The extent of the damage was hard to assess. After repeated Russian attacks on the power grid, officials reveal little detailed information about the outcome of strikes and the state of the network.

Officials confirmed damage to “critical infrastructure” or power cuts in regions from Volyn, Rivne,

Lviv in the west to Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia in the southeast. DTEK imposed emergency power cuts in the southern Odesa region, but had lifted them in three other regions by late morning. Emergency work was ongoing in the Odesa, Rivne and Volyn regions, national grid operator Ukrenergo said.

Russia's defence ministry said it had launched a massive strike on energy facilities that supply Ukraine's military-industrial complex.

Biden lifts ban on Ukraine using US arms to strike inside Russia

President Joe Biden's administration has lifted restrictions that had blocked Ukraine from using US-provided weapons to strike deep into Russian territory, said three sources familiar with the matter, in a significant change to US policy in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Ukraine plans to conduct its first long-range attacks in the coming days, the sources said, without revealing details due to operational security concerns. The White House declined to comment. The move by the United States, which comes just over two months before President-elect Donald Trump takes office

on January 20, comes after months of requests by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to allow Ukraine's military to use US weapons to hit Russian military targets far from its border. The change follows Russia's deployment of North Korean ground troops to supplement its own forces, a development that has caused alarm in Washington and Kyiv. The first deep strikes are likely to be carried out using ATACMS rockets, which have a range of up to 190 miles, according to the sources. While some US officials have expressed scepticism that allowing long-range strikes will change the war's overall

trajectory, the decision could help Ukraine at a moment when Russian forces are making gains and possibly put Kyiv in a better negotiating position when and if ceasefire talks happen. It is not clear if Trump will reverse Biden's decision when he takes office. Trump has long criticised the scale of US financial and military aid to Ukraine and has vowed to end the war quickly, without explaining how. Still, some congressional Republicans have urged Biden to loosen the rules on how Ukraine can use US-provided weapons. Russia has warned that it would see a move to loosen the limits on Ukraine's use of US weapons as a major escalation.

Navalny widow leads opposition march against Putin in Berlin

Around 1,500 supporters of Russia's exiled opposition marched yesterday through central Berlin — led by Yulia Navalnaya and chanting “No to war!” and “No to Putin” — in a demonstration against Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Organisers had called on supporters to take to the streets of the German capital to denounce the war, as well as show solidarity with political prisoners in Russia. The war in Ukraine has turned Berlin into a refuge for many anti-Kremlin Russians and Ukrainian refugees. The march saw a smaller turnout than expected and was seen as a credibility test for the movement — weakened by years of repression and thrown into disarray since the death of its main leader Alexei Navalny in prison earlier this year.

Unable to protest at home, the opposition wants to mobilise some of the hundreds of thousands of Russians who left their country since the Kremlin launched the 2022 invasion. President Vladimir Putin has been in power for almost 25 years in Russia, and all of his significant political opponents are now dead, jailed or in exile. “Putin is a murderer,” Yulia Navalnaya, who has taken the helm of the movement since the death of her husband, told crowds. She organised the march with two other oppositionists: long-time anti-Putin campaigner and former Moscow city councillor Ilya Yashin and activist Vladimir Kara-Murza — both recently freed from prison. Organisers said they wanted to show that not all Russians support the Kremlin's invasion.



Yulia Navalnaya, widow of late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, speaks during a demonstration of supporters of Russia's exiled opposition in Berlin yesterday. (AFP)

Organisers estimated the turnout to be at 2,000 people. “I am very happy that everyone saw that there are many

Russians that do not support Putin's politics,” Yashin told AFP, adding: “It is an act of solidarity with those who stayed in Russia.

We want to tell them: ‘Guys, don't give up, we will continue the fight.’” Both Yashin and Kara-Murza were freed from prison — where they served sentences for denouncing the Ukraine invasion — after a prisoner swap with the West this summer. The opposition says it has three main demands: the “immediate withdrawal” of troops from Ukraine, the trial of Putin as a “war criminal” and the liberation of all political prisoners in Russia. Russian student Polina Zelenskaya travelled to Berlin from Estonia for the march to show that “not all Russians are for Putin, like the world may think.” She dreams of a Russia where people are “not afraid to speak their minds” and where “power is not in (the hands) of one person.” There were some well known

activists and campaigners in the crowd. Oleg Orlov, a veteran dissident who was freed in the same swap as Yashin and Kara-Murza, said Kremlin opponents currently have two reasons for “pain”: “The war and political prisoners. It is constant pain.” The event is also seen as a check-up for the movement, weakened by years of repression and suffering a huge blow with the death of Navalny. Since his death, various factions have been tearing each other apart in bitter conflicts. Navalny's team has accused the camp led by ex-oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky of ordering a hammer attack on one of its members. Another faction accused Navalny's anti-corruption fund of covering up the machinations of a shady banker.



MSC Euribia docks at Doha Port

Doha Port welcomes maiden voyage of MSC Euribia

Doha Port welcomed yesterday the maiden voyage of the cruise ship MSC Euribia with 4,576 passengers and 1,665 crew members on board.

Measuring over 331m long and 43m wide, the Maltese-flagged MSC Euribia is the largest ship to visit the terminal this season, which will continue until April 2025 with 20 scheduled visits.

The 22nd ship in the MSC Cruises fleet, the MSC Euribia can accommodate up to 6,327 passengers. It features state-of-the-art marine technology and is the second ship in MSC Cruises' fleet powered by liquefied natural gas or LNG.

"The growth of Qatar's cruise sector is pivotal to achieving our National Tourism Strategy 2030, which aims to welcome six million visitors annually. The 2024/25 season is expected to see a 30% increase in cruise calls and 24.5% increase in visitors compared to the previous season, reflecting the growing demand for cruise vacations in the region.

"With new partnerships and an increasing number of high-profile cruise lines visiting our shores, Qatar continues to position itself as a leading destination for cruise travellers worldwide," Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, chairman of Qatar Tourism, said earlier announcing this year's season.

Doha Port's cruise terminal is strategically located just minutes away from key attractions such as the National Museum of Qatar and Souq Waqif, optimising the visitor experience by allowing cruise passengers to make the most of their time in the city.

Looking ahead, Qatar Tourism plans to strengthen its collaborations with more international cruise lines, which is vital for driving further growth in Qatar's tourism sector and contributing to Qatar's economic diversification efforts.



Tourists alight MSC Euribia

Powerful lineup at Ajyal today



Brief History of a Family

The 12th Ajyal Film Festival presented by the Doha Film Institute (DFI) brings a powerful lineup of films to audiences today, including family dramas and visually striking animations that explore themes of adaptation and survival in changing times.

Among the highlights is the screening of *Brief History of a Family* (China, France, Denmark, Qatar/2024), directed by Jianjie Lin. The winner of the Best Artistic Contribution Award at the Beijing

International Film Festival 2024, the film will be screened at 8pm at VOX Cinemas, Doha Festival City.

Flow (Latvia, France, Belgium/2024), directed by Gints Zilbalodis, will be shown at 7.30pm at VOX Cinemas. Nominated for the Un Certain Regard Award at Cannes 2024, the animation follows a solitary cat seeking refuge on a boat with other animals. A powerful tribute to Gaza, audiences can watch *From Ground Zero* (Palestine,

France, Qatar, Jordan, UAE/2024) at 7.30pm at the Katara Drama Theatre. Curated by Rashid Masharawi, the collection of 22 short films by filmmakers from Gaza provides an intimate glimpse into the daily lives, struggles, and hopes of people living under siege. Each film, ranging from 3 to 6 minutes, offers a unique perspective on survival, resilience, and the human spirit in the face of ongoing conflict. Entry is free, but tickets need to be reserved.



From Ground Zero

Ministry of Culture wins Best Pavilion Award at Algiers International Book Fair



The 27th edition of the Algiers International Book Fair, held under the theme "We Read to Win," concluded on Saturday, with Qatar being the guest of honour this year.

The Ministry of Culture won the award for best pavilion at the fair, receiving special recognition from Algeria's Minister of Culture, Dr Soraya Mouloudji, who praised the pavilion for its unique features and the valuable addition it brought to the exhibition.

The Ministry's pavilion stood out for attracting a large number of visitors, with a distinctive design that reflected the interaction between contemporary culture, cultural developments, and creative innovation, while also embodying Qatar's rich cultural heritage.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Abdel Karim Saad al-Hamidi, supervisor of the Ministry of Culture's pavilion, said that the visitors to the fair, particularly the Algerian public, expressed great admiration and interacted enthusiastically with the seminars and lectures led by Qatari writers, authors, and academics. These covered a wide range of topics, showcasing the richness of Qatari culture.

Al-Hamidi added: "We were deeply impressed by the overwhelming reception from the Algerian audience, who welcomed us warmly. We could feel their significant interest in Qatari culture through the hundreds of questions asked daily, as well as the positive feedback we continually received about the lectures and seminars we organised."

In addition, the closing ceremony of the fair honoured the winners of the "My First Book" award, a new initiative aimed exclusively at children this year, encouraging them to develop a love for reading, research, and discovery, and to nurture future writers and authors.

This year's edition of the fair featured nearly 1,007 participants from 40 Arab and foreign countries, including 290 local exhibitors. The event also welcomed 350 guests from 24 countries as part of a comprehensive cultural programme that included seminars, dialogues, and meetings. A dedicated children's programme was also organised, offering educational, artistic, and recreational activities such as theatre, painting workshops, and competitions. (QNA)

61 countries to compete in 8th Katara Award for Reciting Holy Qur'an

The Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) revealed that a total of 1,348 participants will compete in its 8th Award for Reciting the Holy Qur'an held under the slogan "Beautify the Qur'an with Your Voices", representing 61 Arab and non-Arab countries.

About 653 from 17 Arab countries are participating in the award, while 695 are from 44 non-Arab countries.

Countries from the Arab Maghreb have the highest number of participants (294), followed by Egypt, Sudan, and Somalia (218).

Participants from countries of the Arab Mashriq reached 98, while from the Gulf countries, there are 43 competing for the award.

A total of 100 participants will be selected by a judging committee to compete in the qualifying stage in Doha through 20 episodes aired on TV.

Each episode will see five contestants facing off for only one to then qualify for the semi-final



stage which will include 20 contestants in total.

Five backup competitors will be determined through five other episodes.

Only five will remain in the final stage in which the top three winners will be announced.

The 8th Katara Award for Reciting the Holy Qur'an aims to encourage distinguished talents in reciting the Holy Qur'an, discover and support new talents

and introduce them to the world, honour distinguished and creative reciters, as well as motivate the young generation to adhere to their religion and understand their duties towards their Islamic faith and message. The first-place winner will receive a cash prize worth QR500,000, while the second-place winner will receive QR300,000, and the third-place winner will receive QR100,000. (QNA)



Flow

Through Rocks and Clouds (Peru, Chile/2024), directed by Franco Garcia Becerra, at 6pm, VOX Cinemas. The film won a Special Mention of the Generation Kplus International Jury at the Berlin International Film Festival 2024. Tickets to *Brief History of a Family*, *Flow* and *Through Rocks and Clouds* can be purchased online at www.dohafilminstitute.com/filmfestival or in person from the Ajyal Katara Box Office (Katara Building 16) or Ajyal Box Office -

VOX Cinemas, Doha Festival City. The 12th edition of Ajyal features 66 films from 42 countries and includes several special programmes such as *Voices from Palestine* and the *Intaj: From Ground Zero Experience* exhibition. Ajyal 2024 continues through November 23 with screenings and events across various locations including Katara Cultural Village, Sikkat Wadi Msheireb, Lusail, and VOX Cinemas Doha Festival City.