



Insure your visitors
in 2 mins





*Regulated by QCB






0 668039 136499

WEDNESDAY Vol. XXXXV No. 13200

November 20, 2024
Jumada I 18, 1446 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals


published in
QATAR
since 1978



T&Cs apply

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 8086, 15, FLOOR BUILDING # 11, STREET 852, ZONE 74, AL KHOR, QATAR





Brand New Camp
UMM BIRKA
(47 ROOMS)



Brand New Camp
UMM BIRKA
(36 ROOMS)



HALF PAY BACK

PROMOTION PERIOD: 12/10/2024 - 14/10/2024

Spend **Q100** GET FREE SHOPPING VOUCHER Worth **Q50**

Offer on selected range of Fashion & Footwear



ROBLUX BY ROBSON
PAINTS is the first high performance washable paints

The first product that obtained Qatar Quality Mark

www.npqatar.com, Tel: 44601602



to school with
talabat
up to **60% off**



Amwaj
BOTTLED DRINKING WATER

**PURE HYDRATION
STRAIGHT FROM
NATURE**

Find us at more outlets

Available in
1500ml | 900ml | 330ml | 200ml

Call Now!
7794 9967
7061 5604
+974 3045 4443

Qatar to resume Gaza mediation when both parties show seriousness

Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs HE Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari reaffirmed that Qatar's suspension of mediation efforts between the Israeli occupation and Hamas was due to the lack of seriousness of the parties involved in the negotiations. He clarified that this does not mean the closure of Hamas' office in Doha. During the ministry's weekly briefing, Dr al-Ansari emphasised that Hamas' office in Doha remains open. He added that representatives of the movement were welcome in Qatar or in the case they choose to leave. He noted that if Qatar observes seriousness in reaching an agreement, it will not hesitate to play a pivotal role in alleviating the suffering in Gaza. He attributed the suspension of mediation efforts to the lack of genuine commitment from the parties involved and stressed that Qatar would not allow itself to be blackmailed during the mediation process. **Page 3**

HMC opens 'centre' for transplantation

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) inaugurated the Doha International Center for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation through a special ceremony specifically held to honour organ donors and family members of diseased donors, in recognition of their post-mortem donations. **Page 12**

Amir, president of Costa Rica unveil ACE Award monument

QNA
San Jose

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the Republic of Costa Rica Rodrigo Chavez Robles yesterday unveiled the eighth edition of the HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award monument, which is organised in co-operation with the UN, in Parque Espana in the capital San Jose.

The occasion was attended by a number of members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir, a number of members of the High-Level Award Committee and the award's Assessment Advisory Board.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani arrived yesterday in the capital San Jose on an official visit to the friendly Republic of Costa Rica.

His Highness the Amir was received upon his arrival at Juan Santamaria International Airport by First Vice-President of the Republic of Costa Rica Stephan Brunner Neibig, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica Arnoldo Andre Tinoco, ambassador of Qatar to Costa Rica Abdulrahman bin Mohammed al-Dosari and members of the Qatari embassy.

His Highness the Amir is accompanied by an official delegation.

Award supports fight against corruption

The HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (ACE Award) sends a message of support to anti-corruption fighters worldwide.

HE the United Nations Special Advocate for the Prevention of Corruption Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri has said.

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Dr al-Marri said corrupt individuals cause significant harm to the society, which necessitates efforts to combat them and stand against their actions. The United Nations presents this award which is supported by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to provide substantial moral support to anti-corruption fighters by recognising their names on



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the Republic of Costa Rica Rodrigo Chavez Robles yesterday unveiled the eighth edition of the HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award monument, in Parque Espana in San Jose.



the United Nations list of anti-corruption champions.

He noted that the ACE Award sends a message to anti-corruption fighters that they are not alone, as there are leaders, such as His Highness the Amir, who stand in solidarity with them, alongside international organisations committed to combating corruption to protect the society and safeguard the rights of others.

The HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani ACE Award has accomplished a significant global impact. Many anti-corruption laws around the world have been established and are now in the implementation stages, positively affecting societies, he stressed.

"Qatar does not interfere in selecting the individuals eligible for the award or the countries hosting the ceremony. This process is carried out by a dedicated UN committee through the Experts Committee and the Board of Trustees, which thoroughly review the nominees through multiple sub-committees."

His Highness the Amir had supported the idea of the award from the moment the United Nations decided to launch an anti-corruption award. In recognition of His Highness the Amir's efforts, the United Nations named the award after him, HE Dr al-Marri noted.



His Highness the Amir was received upon his arrival at Juan Santamaria International Airport by First Vice-President of the Republic of Costa Rica Stephan Brunner Neibig.

He said the award has reached a country in the heart of Latin America, such as Costa Rica which hosts the 8th edition of the ACE Award this year.

Costa Rica ranks as the third-leading country in combating corruption in Latin America, making

its efforts worthy of recognition and support. Hosting the 8th edition of the award is a testament to these efforts.

Regarding the award monument, he revealed that the selection of its location is co-ordinated between the United Nations and

the host country, which typically decides on the most suitable site.

HE the UN Special Advocate for the Prevention of Corruption said the award highlighted the issue of corruption as an international affair rather than a domestic concern. **Page 6**

Gaza genocide toll rises to 43,972

QNA/AFP
Gaza City

Four Palestinians were martyred, and several others were injured yesterday, in an Israeli bombardment on buildings in the central and northern Gaza Strip.

Local sources reported that two Palestinians were martyred, and several others were injured, some of them in critical condition, following an Israeli bombardment on the vicinity of Al-Iman Mosque in the Al-Sabra neighbourhood in Gaza City, in the central part of the Gaza Strip.

The sources indicated that several others were injured in an Israeli air strike on a house in Zeitoun district south of Gaza City, adding that a Palestinian was martyred in an Israeli assault on Taba Al-Nuwairi, west of Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 43,972 people have been killed in more than 13 months of war between Israel and the Palestinian resistance movement.

End to Lebanon war within grasp: US

US special envoy Amos Hochstein said during a visit to Beirut yesterday that an end to the Israel-Hezbollah war was "now within our grasp" as he met with officials to discuss a truce plan largely endorsed by Lebanon.

The United States and France have spearheaded efforts for a ceasefire in the war, which escalated in late September after nearly a year of deadly exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israeli troops.

Israel expanded the focus of its operations from Gaza to Lebanon, vowing to secure its northern border to allow tens of thousands of people displaced by the cross-



US special envoy Amos Hochstein speaks to the media in Beirut, yesterday.

border fire to return home.

Since the clashes began with Hezbollah's attacks on Israel, more than 3,544 people in Lebanon have been killed, authorities have said.

Most of the deaths have been recorded since late September, among them more than 200 chil-

dren, according to the United Nations.

Following a meeting yesterday with Hezbollah-allied parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who has led mediation on behalf of the group, Hochstein told reporters he saw "a real opportunity" to end the fighting.

"I'm here in Beirut to facilitate that decision, but it's ultimately the decision of the parties... It is now within our grasp."

Berri told pan-Arab daily *Asharq Al-Awsat* after the meeting that "the situation is good, in principle", adding his team and representatives of the United States still had "some technical details" to settle. **(AFP)**



Speaker, IPU president discuss parliamentary co-operation



UAE president meets PM



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan welcomed HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, in Abu Dhabi yesterday. At the beginning of the meeting at Qasr Al Shati, 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 the UAE president and continued progress and prosperity to the UAE people. Meanwhile, the UAE president entrusted HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 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, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to boost them. They also exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues, stressing the importance of intensifying ceasefire efforts to achieve a comprehensive calm and avert a wider Middle East conflagration to safeguard regional security and stability. **(QNA)**

Qatar suspends Gaza mediation due to parties' lack of serious talks

Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs HE Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari reaffirmed that Qatar's suspension of mediation efforts between the Israeli occupation and Hamas was due to the lack of seriousness of the parties involved in the negotiations. He clarified that this does not mean the closure of Hamas' office in Doha. During the ministry's weekly briefing, Dr al-Ansari emphasised that Hamas' office in Doha remains open, adding that there be an official statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if such a decision were to be taken. He added that representatives of the movement were welcome in Qatar or in the case they choose to leave. He noted that the negotiations are currently suspended until a decision

to resume them is made, adding that if Qatar observes seriousness in reaching an agreement, it will not hesitate to play a pivotal role in alleviating the suffering in Gaza. He attributed the suspension of mediation efforts to the lack of genuine commitment from the parties involved and stressed that Qatar would not allow itself to be blackmailed during the mediation process. He highlighted that Qatar, since day one, has been ready to do whatever is necessary to de-escalate tensions, alleviate Palestinian suffering in Gaza, and secure the return of prisoners and hostages, a role it has consistently upheld. Dr al-Ansari highlighted that the parties were informed 10 days in advance that Qatar would suspend

its effort if no agreement was reached or if the country Qatar did not sense a serious commitment. He emphasised that Qatar is now fully focused on intensifying the delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians and is co-ordinating with Egypt and other Arab countries on this matter. He reiterated that Qatar remains ready to resume its mediation efforts once favourable conditions are present, emphasising that suspending negotiations does not signify a withdrawal from efforts to de-escalate the situation or a shift in Qatar's position on the need to end the war. He stressed the clarity of Qatar's position of wanting an immediate end to the war and the delivery of humanitarian aid, which it considers non-negotiable. Regarding the decision by some

European countries to ban arms sales to Israel, Dr al-Ansari welcomed the move, saying that supplying any party in a conflict with weapons prolongs wars. He added that Qatar is unequivocal in supporting decisions that de-escalate tensions and conflicts worldwide. On Russia and Ukraine, the Spokesperson highlighted Qatar's consistent position since the onset of the war, emphasising the importance of preserving Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and reaching a peaceful resolution. He said that Qatar has supported all efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement and has actively worked to reunite children affected by the war and promote peace in the region. **(QNA)**



Qatar calls for reforming climate-related financing systems

QNA
Baku

Qatar called yesterday on developed countries to fulfil their commitments regarding climate change, including reforming international financing systems and building on the achievements of previous COP summits. The country reaffirmed its efforts to protect the environment and combat climate change, highlighting sustainability as one of the pillars of its Qatar National Vision 2030.

In Qatar's address to the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from Nov 11-22, HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie emphasised that climate change remains one of the most significant challenges facing the world, particularly developing nations. He noted Qatar's submission of its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2021, which detailed its achievements and future plans to address climate change.

He highlighted the launch of the 2024-2030 Strategy by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, aimed at achieving a sustainable and balanced environment in line with development goals, fostering institutional and community collaboration, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030. The strategy also focuses on raising environmental awareness. HE Dr al-Subaie noted that Qatar has launched its National Climate Change Action Plan, comprising hundreds of measures aimed at mitigating emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. This plan is underpinned by strict

governance standards to monitor progress and address future challenges through 2030 and beyond. Additionally, HE Dr al-Subaie stressed that Qatar is bolstering investments in renewable energy projects.

He said that one of the more significant initiatives was the Qatar National Renewable Energy Strategy, in addition to major solar energy projects aimed at reducing the nation's carbon footprint. That's on top of the Tarsheed programme, which has been instrumental in enhancing energy efficiency across various sectors.

Internationally, Qatar continues its role as a reliable supplier of clean energy by producing highly efficient liquefied natural gas (LNG), a low-carbon energy source. HE the minister also highlighted Qatar's tangible progress in sectors such as electricity, water, infrastructure, and transportation. Key achievements include the operation of the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram as part of a sustainable public transport system and the replacement of over 70% of public transport buses with electric buses.

Qatar also set a milestone by hosting the first carbon-neutral FIFA World Cup in 2022, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability across all levels. Furthermore, Qatar operates a sophisticated national air quality monitoring network, ensuring compliance with the highest environmental protection standards.

HE Dr al-Subaie reiterated Qatar's consistent emphasis on the importance of international co-operation to address the climate crisis. Qatar reaffirms its commitment to the Paris Agreement and pledges to continue its active role in supporting international efforts to combat climate change, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

Uzbekistan to host next edition of M360 conference

QNA
Doha

The closing day of the M360 Mena 2024 conference, organised by Ooredoo Qatar in partnership with the GSMA, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and the Media City Qatar, saw the announcement that the next edition of the conference, M360 Eurasia, will be hosted by Uzbekistan in May 2025.

HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai emphasised the pivotal role of regional partnerships in promoting digital economic growth during the ceremonial handover of the digital torch to Uzbekistan's Minister of Digital Technologies Sherzod Shermatov.

Over two days, the M360 Middle East and North Africa 2024 conference featured discussions on the future of mobile technology in the region. The event saw



extensive participation from industry leaders, policymakers, and innovative technology companies who provided in-depth insights, shared analyses, and engaged in inspiring discussions. These sessions highlighted the latest trends and initiatives driving digital transformation efforts across the region. Discussions throughout M360 Mena 2024 centred around the vital role of mobile technologies in advancing the digital economy of the Mena region, emphasising the need for robust digital infra-



structure and investment in innovation hubs.

The event further solidified the region's growing reputation as a global hub for digital innovation, demonstrating how mobile technology is not only transforming economies in the Mena region but also driving global advancements in connectivity, AI, and 5G.

Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Qatar Sheikh Ali bin Jabor al-Thani said that "M360 Mena 2024 has been an excellent platform for Ooredoo to show-

ing digital transformation through collaboration and innovation. As a key enabler in the region's digital economy, Ooredoo is focused on bringing cutting-edge technologies to life, creating tailored solutions that empower businesses, enhance customer experiences, and drive social progress. We are proud to be at the forefront, working alongside the ministry and our partners to build a future where our digital solutions connect people, advance industries, and create new opportunities across the Mena."

Qatar's mediation efforts, diplomacy to achieve regional stability highlighted in QU conference

The Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with the Qatar Chair for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University in Japan, concluded the 9th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference.

Themed The Gulf Between Stability and Chaos in the Emerging Regional Order, the conference brought together leading experts and researchers from various disciplines.

The presentations show that Qatar provides an important and interesting case study for stabilising regional order through its mediation efforts and hybrid diplomacy via the use of non-state actors and soft power instruments. The status-seeking of small states can bring those powers to the fore in conflict resolution and regional stability.

They indicated that the Gulf region has emerged as a unit of analysis in regional studies and it has distinctive characteristics, including identity, history, and state formation. These features not only shape intra-GCC dynamics but also influence the Gulf's interactions with the broader region and the world.

The closing day witnessed a speech by HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, in



which she noted the topics under discussion in the 9th session of this annual event, pointing to the accelerating wars and humanitarian crises in the region and the world that require joint efforts to address them.

In her speech, HE AlKhater stressed Qatar's keenness and commitment to international co-operation to address challenges. She said that Qatar views co-operation with its neighbours and the international community as essential to addressing common challenges, from security to economic resilience to adaptation to climate change and sustainability.

HE the Minister of Education added that Qatar has a constant and renewed commitment to effective mediation to end existing



conflicts and upcoming challenges, and to support humanitarian efforts with the participation of multilateral educational institutions. In this context, she considered the 9th Gulf Studies Center conference, organised in co-operation between Qatar University and Waseda University, an example of co-operation and emphasized the importance of promoting effective dialogues that go beyond academic and diplomatic corridors and positively impact international efforts to achieve peace, growth, and prosperity.

Concluding her speech, HE AlKhater pointed out that the ideas exchanged at the conference will not only contribute to shaping the understanding of the current reality but will also contribute to

clarifying the features of the regional and international future. For her part, Director of the Gulf Studies Center at QU Dr Maryam al-Kuwari said that this conference brings together an elite group of experts and researchers from various disciplines to discuss current transformations and challenges and their repercussions on the region.

In turn, Chair of Qatar for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University and a member of the Gulf Studies Center Dr Abdullah Baabood considered the conference a significant opportunity to bring together an elite group of experts to study how these variables and transformations affect the Gulf and the Middle East, given the region's presence at the heart of the world as a link between the East and the West.

For his part, Professor of Constitutional Law at QU's College of Law Dr Hassan al-Sayed said that the topic of this conference was extremely important, especially in light of the current circumstances, as the researchers shed light on the current challenges in light of the successive events that the region has witnessed over a short period of time and which had a major impact, not only on the Arab world but also globally. **(QNA)**

Ooredoo set to flag off Digital Ecosystem Conference today

Ooredoo Group's landmark Digital Ecosystem Conference will kick off today, at the Ritz-Carlton, Doha. This first-of-its-kind event will bring together prominent policymakers, legal experts, industry leaders, academics and innovators.

Keynote speakers include HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai and ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin. The event will address the essential policies and regulations needed to drive the growth of digital platforms and services in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Under the theme "Legislation and Regulation to Drive a Successful Digital Economy", the event will cover vital topics such as policy frameworks for digital platforms, cross-border data protection, and the regulatory challenges presented by emerging technologies like AI and 5G. Ooredoo Group CEO Aziz Aluthman Fakhroo said: "Ooredoo has embraced its role as a digital enabler — not just as a

telco but as a tech company — and we are committed to creating a sustainable, inclusive digital ecosystem. Through this conference, we aim to position Ooredoo as a thought leader in the digital space, advocating for regulatory models that enable our digital infrastructure to reach its full potential in supporting the economy. Balanced policies are critical; while innovation is essential, so too is security, and this balance will drive opportunities for growth and investor confidence."

This conference is expected to yield substantial insights and deliver tangible action points for investors and stakeholders, underscoring Ooredoo's commitment to aligning with best practices that foster long-term growth. The presence of legal experts from government departments at the conference provides a unique opportunity to enhance regulatory knowledge, enabling them to improve legal frameworks that support digital transformation and economic development. **(QNA)**



QC’s winter relief drive aids displaced people in Yemen

Qatar Charity (QC) with the support of donors in the country, has been running winter relief campaigns for internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable families, and the families of orphans in Yemen.

Temperatures drop significantly, especially in the mountainous and northern regions, adding to the suffering of people already impacted by the ongoing conflict for over eight years, as well as those affected by floods, a statement said yesterday.

Projects implemented over the past two years include the distribution of shelter kits and winter clothing in several governorates, benefitting more than 11,300 people (1,616 families).

The shelter kits, sufficient for a family of seven, included blankets, mattresses, mats,



stoves, solar lamps, and kitchen utensils. The winter kits included blankets, mats, winter clothing, and other essential items.

The mother of orphan Nayef al-Qulay-si, 10, thanked donors for providing winter clothes to protect her children from the cold. Aziz Saleh Nasher, grandfather of two orphans, shared his grandchildren’s joy at receiving the clothes that brought them warmth, happiness and also expressed his gratitude.

QFFD allocates \$5mn to assist Syrian people

As part of its ongoing humanitarian efforts to support communities affected by crises worldwide, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), has announced a financial support of \$5mn for the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

This support aims to assist the Syrian people and provide their essential humanitarian needs, amid the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in many parts of the country due to the ongoing conflict.

Commenting on this collaboration, Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri, Deputy Director General of Development Projects at QFFD, said: “Qatar Fund for Development is committed to providing sustainable humanitarian support for communities affected by crises. This assistance for the Syrian people is driven by our deep commitment to supporting vulnerable groups worldwide and alleviating their suffering. We understand the challenges faced by the Syrian people, and we are proud to strengthen our partnership with Qatar Red Crescent Society and the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure outreach to areas that are critically lacking basic services”.

Al-Aseeri added: “This grant reflects the Fund’s approach to humanitarian work, based on the principles of transparency and effective co-ordination with international partners. We will continue to support humanitarian and relief activities that can improve the lives of individuals and communities in Syria, creating a resilient environment against the harsh conditions they face”.

Lisa Doughten, UNOCHA Director of Financing and Partnerships Division, said: “We are grateful to Qatar Fund for Development for its timely and generous contribution to the Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF). At a time of dwindling resources, this funding will enable humanitarian NGOs and UN agencies in Syria to assist the most vulnerable people with food, water, durable shelter, and other essential aid”.

Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi, secretary-general of QRCS, thanked QFFD for their endless support to its ongoing relief and development efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in disaster and conflict-affected countries/territories, mainly northern Syria. He described this strategic partnership as a “representation of the mutual trust and understanding among the three organisations, towards successful and large-scale interventions that helped improve the world’s disastrous humanitarian scene”. (QNA)

CGB’s training initiative for local jobseekers launched

The Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB) has announced launch of a training initiative aimed at jobseekers holding secondary school certificates or higher qualifications. The initiative, a collaboration between the Institute of Public Administration and the Nomination and Replacement Department, will be implemented through the Kafaa platform. This initiative is part of efforts to enhance the skills of jobseekers and to improve their employment prospects via the national employment co-ordination platform, Kawader. The programme offers free, internationally accredited training opportunities. Supervised by the Nomination and Replacement Department, the nomination process is conducted periodically, with jobseekers receiving SMS notifications detailing how to access the programmes through the platform. To maximise impact, the list of beneficiaries will be updated regularly to include new candidates. The registration process requires participants to use a unique link provided by the Nomination and Replacement Department through SMS. (QNA)

**Qatar Fund for Development**
Financially Supports Syrian People in
Cooperation with Qatar Red Crescent Society

**Sultan bin Ahmed Al Aseeri**
Deputy Director General of
Development Projects at QFFD

**Lisa Doughten**
UNOCHA Director of Financing &
Partnerships Division

**Faisal Mohamed Al Emadi**
QRCS Secretary-General

Assistance for Syrian People is Driven by QFFD Deep Commitment to Supporting Vulnerable Groups Worldwide & Alleviating Suffering

**QATAR FUND**
FOR DEVELOPMENT
مؤسسة قطر للتنمية

UNOCHA is Grateful to QFFD for Timely & Generous Contribution to Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF)

QRCS Appreciate QFFD Support for Relief & Development Efforts in Areas Affected by Disasters & Conflicts

**الهلال الأحمر القطري**
Qatar Red Crescent

Funding Will Enable Humanitarian NGOs & UN Agencies in Syria to Assist Most Vulnerable People

Grant Reflects Fund’s Approach to Humanitarian Work Based on Principles of Transparency & Effective Coordination with International Partners

5 USD Million

Support Provided by QFFD to UNOCHA



الهلال الأحمر القطري Qatar Red Crescent

Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tenders Announcement: -

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/13-2024	Supply of medicines for workers health centers according to the conditions and specifications	200,000 Q.R	2000 Q.R	11/12/2024

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 07:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date.

Required Documents:

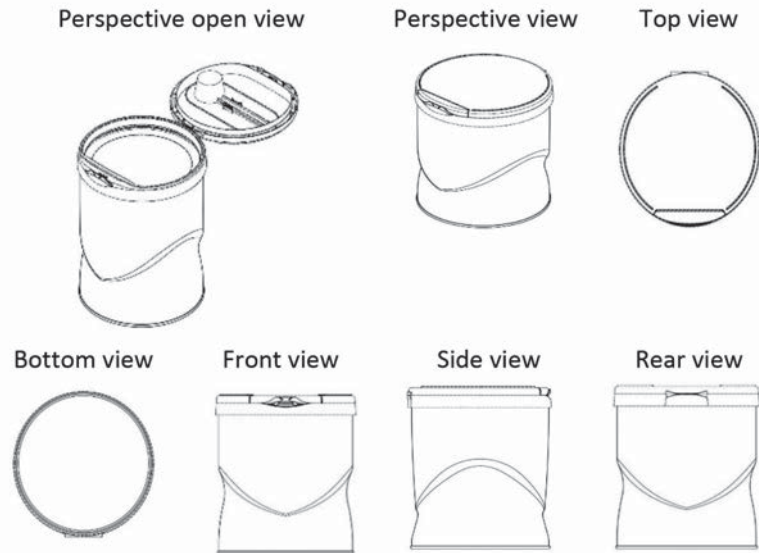
- Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
- Company’s Commercial registration copy.
- Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents (2000 Q.R) not refunded & account details:
- Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
- Bank: Al Rayan.
- Account Number: 11199970201
- IBAN Number: QA56MAFR000000000011199970201

For more information: please call: (50044554), or
Email: whc.tenders@qrccs.org.qa

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ownership of the industrial design shown in the drawings below, titled:

2UP Food Container



has been formally assigned by the assignor, **Clairfort Zeist B.V.**, a Netherlands company, of Zusterplein 22, 3703 CB Zeist, The Netherlands, to the assignee, **N.V. Nutricia**, a Netherlands company, of Eerste Stationsstraat 186, 2712 HM Zoetermeer, The Netherlands.

This design claims priority of the European Union Design Application No. 015006345-0003 filed on 15 December 2022.

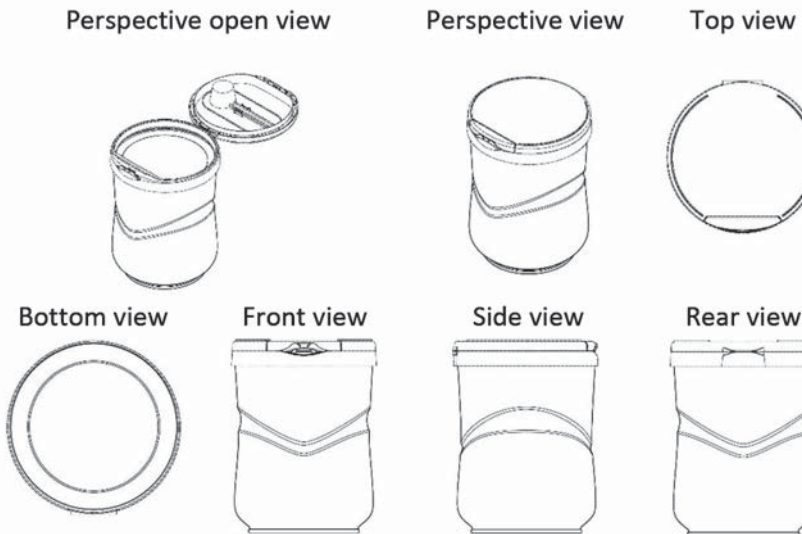
It is hereby declared that **N.V. Nutricia**, claims for itself, its agents and licensees the full, sole and exclusive rights to make, use and sell the aforesaid design in Qatar, and that it will take all appropriate legal actions against any person, company or organization that infringes in any way such rights of the aforesaid design in Qatar.

This Notice is republished specifically to document and protect the rights of **N.V. Nutricia** in and to the aforementioned design in Qatar, following the formal assignment process from **Clairfort Zeist B.V.** to **N.V. Nutricia**.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ownership of the industrial design shown in the drawings below, titled:

ELSA Food Container



has been formally assigned by the assignor, **Clairfort Zeist B.V.**, a Netherlands company, of Zusterplein 22, 3703 CB Zeist, The Netherlands, to the assignee, **N.V. Nutricia**, a Netherlands company, of Eerste Stationsstraat 186, 2712 HM Zoetermeer, The Netherlands.

This design claims priority of the European Union Design Application No. 015006345-0001 filed on 15 December 2022.

It is hereby declared that **N.V. Nutricia**, claims for itself, its agents and licensees the full, sole and exclusive rights to make, use and sell the aforesaid design in Qatar, and that it will take all appropriate legal actions against any person, company or organization that infringes in any way such rights of the aforesaid design in Qatar.

This Notice is republished specifically to document and protect the rights of **N.V. Nutricia** in and to the aforementioned design in Qatar, following the formal assignment process from **Clairfort Zeist B.V.** to **N.V. Nutricia**.

Katara falcons competition begins



The first edition of Katara Championship for Falcons and Hunting started yesterday morning at the arena of Al Gannas Qatari Society at Ras Lafan, and will go on until November 30. The competitions started with the pre-finals of Al Da'aw (falcons speeding) competitions, where the participating falcons have shown exceptional power and skill. The difference among the winning falcons was measured in fractions of a second. Today, the competition will go on with another round of pre-finals in different categories.

US embassy launches Int'l Education Week

The US embassy has announced the start of International Education Week (IEW) 2024, taking place until November 22.

This annual celebration, led by the US Department of State and the Department of Education, highlights the mutual benefits of international education, supporting exchange programmes that foster cultural understanding and inspire global leaders.

This year's theme, 'Explore', invites Qatari students to discover the range of opportunities US higher education offers, a statement from the embassy said.

"With nearly 4,000 accredited institutions, flexible degree options, and diverse cultural experiences, studying in the US provides students with a transformative experience and a world-class education. Qatari students currently studying in the US serve as bridges between our cultures, bringing back skills and knowledge that enrich both Qatar and their local



US ambassador Timmy Davis and US embassy diplomats are attired to represent their American universities.

communities. "The US embassy encourages Qatari students and families to explore study programmes, access guidance from

EducationUSA, and join IEW to learn more about the unique benefits of US education," the statement added.

Doha Debates seeks applications for Ambassador Programme

Young people in Qatar and across the globe are encouraged to apply for the sixth cohort of the Doha Debates Ambassador Programme, offered by Qatar Foundation's Doha Debates.

The programme equips participants with critical intercultural discussion, communication and consensus-building skills to address global problems and find collaborative solutions for a healthy, equitable future.

The programme is open to fluent English speakers between the age 18-26 who have consistent access to an Internet-enabled computer for video conferencing. The deadline for applications is December 31, and interested candidates can apply at



DohaDebates.com/Ambassador.

The sixth cohort will be conducted in two parts to accommodate Ramadan 2025. Successful applicants will be invited to join a community of practice from January 21 to February 25, 2025, where they will explore Majlis-style debate, systems thinking and consensus building.

Participants will engage in weekly virtual learning sessions

guided by facilitation and intercultural communication expert Dr Brandon Ferderer and systems-thinking specialist Jennifer Geist, along with various international guest speakers. They will hone their skills through the lens of Doha Debates' video series Better Conversations. Upon successful completion of the community of practice, cohort members will be invited to engage in five additional weeks of the programme from April 1 to May 6, 2025.

Amjad Atallah, Doha Debates' managing director, said: "We're proud to play a role in developing their capacity for thoughtful, brave and compassionate leadership."

Women filmmakers explore universal themes

Women filmmakers at 2024 Ajyal, presented by Doha Film Institute, are pushing the envelope in filmmaking through compelling stories that explore themes of universal resonance.

Three important voices from the region, supported by the institute, shared their creative journeys at the festival.

Among the women filmmakers at 2024 Ajyal, Hind Meddeb, who helmed this year's open-



ing film, *Sudan, Remember Us* (France, Tunisia, Qatar), says it is a tribute to the poetic soul of the

Sudanese revolution. "I witnessed the Sudanese movement from its beginning, and I wasn't afraid because I found myself in the midst of it," said Meddeb, during a media briefing at 2024 Ajyal.

"The most beautiful revolution was the Sudanese revolution." Meddeb said the idea for *Sudan, Remember Us*, started when she was working on her earlier documentary, *Paris Stalingrad* which featured a young Sudanese poet who came to Paris as a refugee.

"The refugee centre was under my house in Paris. I was shocked at the French racism towards them, and I got to be close friends with them. They encouraged me to go to Sudan and bring back images of the revolution since they couldn't go back." She said the film's title references 'Azza', a powerful symbol in Sudanese poetry representing the nation itself

through a woman who used to recite poetry to her imprisoned nationalist husband through his prison window – a testament to the long-standing relationship between poetry and resistance in Sudanese culture.

Director Marjan Khosrav, whose film *Requiem for a Tribe* (Iran, Spain, Qatar) depicts the story of a woman in Iran who is pressured to settle in a city, said the film's story was inspired from real life. "I met a woman crying for her children who moved from their hometown in the mountains to the city. This woman loved her heritage, culture and arts and was upset that technology hindered nomad people from practising their arts."

Meryam Joobeur, the director of *Who Do I Belong To* (Tunisia, France, Canada, Norway, KSA, Qatar), said it is important to take out the geo-political aspect of violence that is happening to dissect the cycle. Nominated for a Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival 2024, her film, set in a remote Tunisian village, is about Aicha, whose quiet life with her husband and youngest son is shattered when her eldest son, Mehdi, returns home from war. (QNA)

Diverse events lined up for Qatar-UK Cultural Festival from Nov 25



The British Council, the British embassy, and Katara – the Cultural Village have announced the programme for the ninth annual Qatar-UK Cultural Festival, from November 25 to December 6 across various venues including Katara and Doha Design District at Msheireb Downtown Doha.

With themes of community and collaboration at its core, the festival will showcase a lineup of performances by leading UK and Qatari artists. This year's festival also marks the British Council's 90th anniversary, emphasising its presence in Qatar since 1972.

Key events from the programme include Up to Us, a project exploring identity through clothing, featuring an exhibition, schools' workshops, a film followed by a panel discussion on people from different communities living in Qatar.

A live DJ set at Katara will feature Mo Ayoub from the Selector Radio show. A European Jazz Festival is to have Welsh band Huw Warren: Cowbois and Shepherds perform in partnership with European Union National Institute for Culture, Katara, and Welsh Government.

In partnership with Tasweer Photo Festival, GREAT and Msheireb, the British Council launched 'Great Stories Photography Competition' - celebrating creativity and connection with big focus on people-to-people links.

A series of podcast interviews with 90 influential stakeholders, celebrating the contributions that have shaped British Council's success over the past 90 years, is also part of the itinerary.

Katara general manager Prof Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, told a press conference yesterday:

"This event celebrates the enduring friendship and cultural partnership between our nations, reinforcing Qatar's role as a global cultural hub."

British ambassador Neerav Patel said: "This is a Festival for everyone. It showcases the power of art, music, photography and shared stories to link people of all ages and backgrounds. As we prepare for the first ever state visit by His Highness the Amir to the UK, I am delighted that we can all experience these vibrant connections between our two countries in particular. I also congratulate the British Council on 90 years of creativity and connection."

British Council Qatar director Dr Waseem Kotoub said: "As the UK's cultural relations organisation, the British Council is dedicated to fostering mutual understanding and collaboration between nations."

Katara to host World Children's Day celebration


The Cultural Village Foundation – Katara will launch Children's Festival today in celebration of World Children's Day.

The four-day festival offers a variety of activities and events targeting children aged 4-14. It will take place daily from 3pm-9pm along Ibn Rayb Street.

The event features a blend of cultural, artistic, heritage and recreational activities, alongside competitions. Heritage-related highlights include oyster splitting and traditional games and workshops. There will also be workshops to teach traditional crafts.

Cultural and artistic events include Arabic calligraphy workshops on cups, stamp painting workshops, and planetarium shows. Entertainment activities range from street performances, video screenings, face painting, puppet shows, and religious quizzes organised by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs. A special Moroccan children's activity will also take place as part of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture.

Katara Publishing House will participate by showcasing a collection of books and special games for children during the festival. (QNA)



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 : QA04BRWA00000000200000008022

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



Liquidation Announcement

Further to the decision of the extraordinary general assembly and the approval of all partners of **Sadafco – Qatar CR No. 17278**, the company will be voluntary liquidated. The liquidator, Hana Hakam S Alzurgi hereby declares commencement of liquidation procedures.

Any creditor should present its claim for payment together with the supporting documentation to the company within 75 days of this announcement either by registered mail to PO Box No. 9639, Doha – Qatar, or by email to the addresses: sultan.alghamdi@sadafco.com, Hana.alzurgi@sadafco.com.

For any inquiries, please contact the legal representative on **31110654**.

ACE Award a cornerstone of global anti-graft efforts: ACTA president

Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) president Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad said that the “HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award” (ACE Award) is a cornerstone of global anti-corruption efforts for its significant impact at the international and regional levels.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Misnad said that the ACE Award is presented annually on International Anti-Corruption Day, which falls on November 19, in recognition and appreciation of those who have contributed to the global campaign to combat corruption.

He said that the ACE Award aims



to highlight exemplary and noteworthy actions and good practices at the global level, as well as to appreciate, promote, collect and disseminate anti-corruption models

from all over the world, increase awareness, support and solidarity in the fight against corruption, and encouraging similar and new initiatives in order to establish a corruption-free society.

Noting the international impact of the award, al-Misnad said it contributes to highlighting living examples of successful practices in combating corruption, inspiring governments and institutions around the world to adopt similar strategies, contributing significantly to strengthening global efforts in addressing this phenomenon.

He underlined that the Award has become a prestigious international platform to honour individuals and institutions that make

tangible contributions in this field of combating corruption.

In addition, al-Misnad said, the award encourages countries to adhere to the UN Convention against Corruption, by focusing on successful practices that can be replicated and developed.

On the award’s regional impact, he said that it contributes to raising regional standards and creating a constructive dialogue among Arab countries to exchange experiences and best practices.

Through the Youth Creativity and Engagement category, the Award also encourages youth in the Arab region to innovate and participate effectively in the fight against corruption, creating a generation aware of the importance of

transparency and integrity.

The award, al-Misnad said, also highlights the challenges specific to the region, such as promoting good governance in the public and private sectors, and encourages the adoption of strategies that are appropriate to regional contexts.

Thanks to the Award, he continued, the fight against corruption has become a central topic in regional discourse, enhancing co-operation among governments and regional organisations, such as the Gulf Co-operation Council and the Arab League, to support joint efforts aimed at eliminating corruption and promoting sustainable development.

Al-Misnad said that he expects the Award to see developments

that would enhance its impact and spread, including focusing on specific areas such as digital technology and its role in combating corruption, in addition to enhancing youth participation by engaging youth through initiatives and programmes to provide innovative solutions to combat corruption, which would enhance their role as a major driver of change.

In a related context, he noted that the ACTA has signed a number of several memorandums of understanding recently, in which the most important of which are the ones signed in the fields of combating and preventing corruption with France, Egypt, Palestine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Rwanda. – QNA

ACE Award a Qatari initiative with global dimensions

The “H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award” (ACE Award) is a global initiative launched by Qatar to battle corruption and boost good governance and transparency.

Reflecting Qatar’s local, regional and international anti-corruption efforts, the ACE Award is held annually in collaboration with the United Nations to convey His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s appreciation for advocates manifesting leading roles in fighting corruption and crime.

A brainchild of Qatar, the ACE Award supports development worldwide, highlighting exemplary anti-corruption practices globally, and elevating awareness of establishing corruption-free communities.

His Highness the Amir leads the ACE Award annual ceremony, reflecting his constant keenness to affirm Qatar’s full commitment to joint international efforts to confront corruption.

Winners are awarded in five categories: Lifetime/Outstanding Achievement, the Academic Research and Education, Youth Creativity and Engagement, Innovation/Investigative Journalism, and Safeguarding Sports from Corruption.

The Lifetime/Outstanding Achievement category recognises and supports individuals who dedicated a life of service to anti-corruption or who have produced outstanding local or international contributions to thwarting corruption.

Winners in the Academic Research and

Education category are recognised for fighting corruption via research and education mediums that effectively scrutinise and analyse the phenomenon and significantly elevate knowledge and academic awareness about its eradication.

The Youth Creativity and Engagement category focuses on involving younger generations, primarily university students and young employees, in the fight against corruption.

Winners in this category are receive recognition for youth-designed and non-governmental organisation (NGO)-backed projects.

Those who have produced exceptional journalistic projects, particularly investigative ones that uncover corruption locally, regionally or globally will be awarded in the Innovation or Investigative Journalism category.

The fifth category, Safeguarding Sports from Corruption, celebrates individuals and entities with tangible efforts to thwart corruption in sport, both locally and regionally.


The first round of the ACE Award was held in 2016 in Vienna.

Subsequent rounds were held respectively in the UN Office in Geneva (2017), Malaysia (2018), Rwanda (2019), Tunisia (2020), Qatar (2022), and Uzbekistan (2023).


A total of 51 activists claimed the award since its inception.

In 2016, His Highness the Amir honoured seven winners in a ceremony held at Vienna’s Hofburg Palace.

In the 2017 edition, on behalf of His



Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani
ACE Award:
Qatari Initiative with Global Dimensions



51 winners: 7 winners In 2016	HH the Amir leads the ACE Award annual ceremony, reflecting His Highness’s constant keenness to affirm the State of Qatar’s full commitment to joint international efforts to confront corruption.	Countries that hosted the award ceremony: 2016 first round in Vienna
6 winners In 2017	The award establishes transparency and unleashes justice to eradicate the scourge of corruption, which poses a grave threat to the future of nations.	2017 Second round in Switzerland
8 winners In 2018	The award is a tribute der Werte des Staates Katar und eine Krönung seiner Bemühungen um die Förderung von Transparenz, Integrität und Rechenschaftspflicht	2018 Third round in Malaysia
7 winners In 2019, 2020, and 2022	ACE Award supports development worldwide, highlights exemplary anti-corruption practices globally and elevate awareness of establishing corruption-free communities.	2019 Fourth round in Rwanda
9 winners In 2023		2020 Fifth round in Tunisia
		2022 Sixth round in Qatar
		2023 Seventh round in Uzbekistan

Highness the Amir, His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, honoured six winners at the UN Office in Geneva.

His Highness the Amir, along with then-prime minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and late UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) executive director Yury Fedotov, honoured the eight recipients of the 2018 Award at a ceremony held at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre.

In 2019, His Highness the Amir, along

with Rwanda President Paul Kagame, honoured the winners of the fourth edition at a ceremony held at the Kigali Convention Centre.

Seven winners were recognised at the 2020 edition at a ceremony in Tunis.

In 2022, His Highness the Amir honoured seven winners at a ceremony held at the Sheraton Doha Hotel.

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev honoured nine in the 2023 edition at a ceremony at the Tashkent Congress Centre.

The ACE Award has cemented Qatar’s ongoing local, regional and international efforts and initiatives aimed at backing international organisations concerned with battling corruption.

With a keen eye for eliminating corruption and establishing the rule of law as preconditions for sustainable development, the ACE Award has been striving for the implementation of decisive measures stipulated in the UN Convention against Corruption, by honouring exceptional anti-corruption efforts. – QNA

Amir’s visit to strengthen and raise bilateral ties to new levels, says Costa Rica minister



Costa Rican Vice Minister of Bilateral Affairs, International Cooperation:



Distinguished relations between Qatar and Costa Rica

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA)

The visit of HH the Amir to the Republic of Costa Rica will contribute to strengthening bilateral relations and advancing them to new levels.



HE Lydia Maria Peralta Cordero
Vice Minister of Bilateral Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Costa Rica

Costa Rica looks forward to benefiting from Qatari experiences to complete several important projects, such as:

- Tower of Hope at the National Children’s Hospital.
- Renovation and expansion of the Caldera Port in northern Costa Rica
- Establishment of a cruise ships dock at the Puerto Limon cruise port
- Renovation and modernization of the Daniel Oduber Quirós International Airport facilities

Costa Rica is proud to host HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award

Hosting the ACE Award is a recognition of Costa Rica’s ongoing efforts to combat corruption over the years.

Bilateral relations with the State of Qatar have played a prominent role in enhancing mutual interests and trade exchange.

Costa Rican Vice-Minister for Bilateral Affairs and International Co-operation Lydia Maria Peralta Cordero has emphasised the distinguished bilateral relations between Costa Rica and Qatar.

She noted that the two countries are now celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and the 14th anniversary of opening the first Costa Rican embassy in the region in Qatar.

In an interview with the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Cordero affirmed that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Costa Rica will contribute to strengthening bilateral relations and advancing them to new levels.

The visit will witness the signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding in areas including trade, culture, sports and health, as well as exchange of news in Spanish and preparation of diplomats, in addition to an agreement to cancel visas on diplomatic and

service passports, the minister noted.

Cordero pointed out that her country has long sought to establish relations with Arab countries, indicating that bilateral relations with Qatar have played a prominent role in achieving this goal as well as enhancing mutual interests and trade exchange.

Costa Rica sent its first diplomatic mission to an Arab country in 2010, specifically to Qatar, she added, stressing that bilateral relations have seen remarkable development since the visit of His Highness the Father Amir, which has strengthened co-operation between the two countries at various international levels.

She also addressed the possibility of benefiting from Qatar’s expertise in the fields of sustainable development and investment, highlighting several projects in Costa Rica, such as the Tower of Hope (Torre de la Esperanza) at the National Children’s Hospital, the renovation and expansion of the Caldera Port (Puerto Caldera) in northern Costa Rica, the establish-

ment of a cruise ships dock at the Puerto Limon cruise port, in addition to the renovation and modernisation of the Daniel Oduber Quirós International Airport facilities and other projects.

The minister said that these projects are of a high priority for Costa Rica, and added that she is looking forward to benefiting from Qatari experiences.

In regard to hosting the “HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award” (ACE Award), Cordero expressed her country’s pride in hosting this event, saying out that hosting the ACE Award is a recognition of Costa Rica’s ongoing efforts to combat corruption over the years.

She said that choosing the location of the award memorial in the capital San Jose symbolises youth and vitality, as the spot represents a space dedicated to sports activities, which contributes to promoting positive values as well as combating crime and negative habits.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SHANJIDA AKTAR YEAMIN MIAH

holder of
BANGLADESH Passport No.EA0263704
QID No. 29105000588

hereby change my name

from
SHANJIDA AKTAR YEAMIN MIAH

to
SANJIDA AKTER YEAMIN MIAH

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

Award ‘recognises Costa Rica’s battle against corruption’

Costa Rica’s Prosecutor-General Ivan Vincenti Rojas has affirmed that his country’s hosting of the “HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award” is a significant recognition of the efforts made by the Costa Rican government, represented by the Public Prosecutor’s Office.

In an interview with the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Rojas said that fighting corruption is one of Costa Rica’s main goals, noting that this recognition reflects the positive image that the country has built internationally.

He added that hosting the Award carries two key messages: that corruption is a global phenomenon that cannot be fought individually but requires comprehensive international co-operation, and that corruption is not limited to those who grab headlines but is an obstacle to sustainable development.

Rojas said that addressing corruption must be incorporated into national strategies alongside issues of economic development and healthcare to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

The official underscored the importance of international co-operation in combating corruption, stressing that the exchange of experiences and knowledge contributes to improving governmental responses.

Corruption, he said, can manifest in various sectors and is not limited to local concerns but extends to different regions around the world, such as South America, Europe, and Africa.

Rojas also spoke about the role of the Public Prosecutor’s Office, which was established in 1949 to serve as the country’s legal representative and adviser to the public administration.

He said that in 2002, a specialised office was created within the Public Prosecution to handle corruption cases, following a decision by the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly, a decision that he added reflects the Assembly’s confidence in the office’s ability to effectively manage these issues.

Rojas affirmed that prevention is the most effective way to combat corruption and underlined the importance of having a shared national definition of



Costa Rica’s hosting of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award highlights the importance of international cooperation in combating corruption and its impact on sustainable development.



HE
Ivan Vincenti Rojas
Prosecutor General of the Republic of Costa Rica

Addressing corruption must be incorporated into national strategies alongside issues of economic development and healthcare.

International cooperation and exchange of experiences and knowledge between countries contributes to improving governmental responses to this phenomenon.



Meetings with Qatari officials helped facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences, showing the importance of establishing direct communication channels between anti-corruption bodies in both countries.



HE expressed optimism that this cooperation will yield positive long-term results and enhance international efforts to achieve common goals.



This cooperation highlights the common ground between Qatar and Costa Rica in this field and opens the door to broader future collaboration.

corruption in order to build a unified strategy that includes all sectors of society.

Regarding co-operation with Qatar, the official said that this is the first time the Costa Rican Public Prosecution Office has directly collaborated with another country in the fight against corruption.

The official expressed appreciation for Qatar’s efforts and its role in en-

hancing this co-operation.

He said that recent meetings with officials from Qatar helped facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences, showing the importance of establishing direct communication channels between anti-corruption bodies in both countries.

The official emphasised the importance of continuing international efforts to combat corruption.

Symphony of Elegance: Dana Alfardan, Mouawad unveil new jewellery collection

Mouawad will today unveil the ‘Symphony Collection’, a stunning new jewellery line created in collaboration with Dana Alfardan, Qatar’s first female composer and singer-songwriter.

This collection embodies the essence of personal expression, transformation, and emotional resonance, inspired by piano keys, this line offers striking adornments designed for contemporary jewellery lovers.

Dana Alfardan, a trailblazer for a new generation of creatives, brings her artistic vision to life with Mouawad through pieces inspired by the transformative power of music.

With a shared dedication to excellence and legacy, this partnership celebrates meaningful connections, profound beauty, and artistic expression.

The layering of jewellery is multifaceted, similar to Dana Alfardan’s latest exclusive composition ‘Lux Aeterna’ that commemorates this auspicious occasion.

“This collection is meant to bring together all the various components of ourselves, creating a unified whole. It’s where we can shine in our everlasting fullest light, this is the inner strength and sanctuary that is Lux Aeterna (Eternal Light),” said Dana Alfardan.

The design concept of the ‘Symphony Collection’ draws inspiration from the iconic elements of music. Pieces incorporate the graphic symbolism of vertical music bars and the timeless black-and-white keys of a piano.

Black jade and white diamonds — signature elements in the collection — reflect a refined yet luxurious aesthetic. The black jade symbolises courage and strength, encouraging resilience and confidence when facing life’s challenges.

In contrast, the brilliance of white diamonds symbolises clarity of thought and enlightenment, representing the wisdom to see clearly and make insightful decisions.

The collection includes earrings with gems that ripple with movement, mirroring the rhythm of music, and a sliding diamond rail in a bangle that reflects the dynamism inherent in every composition.

The ‘Symphony Collection’ offers a sophisticated fusion of innovation and timeless artistry, making each piece a celebration of musical and personal expression.

Fred Mouawad, co-guardian of Moua-



Dana Alfardan

wad, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration: “Working with Dana Alfardan on the Symphony Collection has been an inspiring journey. Her creativity and vision align beautifully with Mouawad’s mission of crafting extraordinary pieces. This collection perfectly bridges the worlds of music and jewellery, offering a modern yet timeless celebration of individuality and elegance.”

Speaking of her excitement for the partnership, Dana Alfardan stated: “Collaborating with Mouawad on the Symphony Collection has been a truly rewarding experience. To me, music constitutes the building blocks of everything. In my mind, everything concrete has a corresponding musical expression that gives it a lasting form.

“And to see its essence, translated into exquisite jewellery is incredibly meaningful. The jewellery design is embedded in the framework of the orchestra and its principal underlying feature that is built upon harmony”

The ‘Symphony Collection’, launched to-

day in Doha, reflects Mouawad’s ongoing commitment to crafting exceptional pieces that resonate with meaning and elegance. This collaboration showcases a harmonious blend of craftsmanship, artistry, and emotional connection, leaving a lasting legacy for those who wear and cherish it.

In recent years, Dana Alfardan has delved into musical theatre, garnering international acclaim for her musical compositions for *Broken Wings* – the first Middle East musical to debut in London’s Prestigious West End in August 2018.

This was followed by ‘Rumi The Musical’, based on the story of the 13th century philosopher and poet Rumi, which debuted at London Coliseum in November 2021, before touring Doha during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Dana Alfardan has also contributed to international film scores such as *The Necromancer* and *Orca*, and collaborated with multi-award-winning German musician, DJ and music producer Robin Schulz on his critically acclaimed 2015 album *Sugar*, with her song *This is Your Life* and performed her signature blend of Qatari textures, woven into a western-style orchestration.

Her latest album *INDIGO*, released in 2021, offers a multi-sensory audio-visual experience aimed at cultivating connectivity and consciousness through light, colour, and sound.

Mouawad is a renowned luxury jewellery brand recognised for its timeless elegance, exceptional craftsmanship, and rich heritage. With a legacy spanning over a century, Mouawad has epitomised excellence in jewellery, crafting the extraordinary with artistic mastery and trusted expertise.

From its exquisite diamond creations to its iconic world records, Mouawad continues to captivate discerning individuals worldwide, embodying the pinnacle of luxury and artistry.

Guided by the endeavours and visions of five generations, Mouawad’s heritage spans more than a century of creations and traditions in masterful jewellery design and watchmaking.

Since its inception in Lebanon in 1890, the revered values of the brand have been revived over the years to offer true luxury and refinement to a discerning clientele, penetrating continents across the world.

NCSA organises 11th edition of National Cyber Drill

The National Cyber Security Agency’s (NCSA) 11th edition of the National Cyber Drill, titled “Zero-Day Survival”, began on November 17. The event ends November 28. More than 170 critical entities from across the nation are taking part in the drill.

The cyber drill aims to assess the readiness of participating entities in responding to zero-day vulnerabilities, which are considered unknown security gaps that attackers exploit before they are identified or patched.

In addition, it will test preparedness across three core pillars of cybersecurity readiness: the human element, technological resilience, and operational capability.

Khaled al-Hashimi, Director of National Cyber Enablement and Excellence Affairs at the NCSA, said at a press conference: “Since its inception as a pioneering initiative in 2013, the National Cyber Drills have become an essential annual exercise. It plays a vital role in identifying vulnerabilities, enhancing response and recovery strategies, and ultimately safeguarding national stability.”

Al-Hashemi emphasised that the drills are a key measure of institutional and individual readiness to combat cyber security risks. It contributes to strengthening economic and organisational growth while enhancing human capabilities, aligning with the pil-

lars of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Mohammed al-Mannai, Director of National Cyber Program Delivery Department, highlighted that this year’s drill involves more than 1,600 participants from 12 different sectors. For the first time, entities from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) joined alongside local cyber security service providers and students competing in the “Capture the Flag” exercise.

Al-Mannai elaborated on four tailored scenarios crafted for this year’s drill. Each scenario aligns with the unique roles and responsibilities of the entities involved.

The first scenario targets local entities, the second engages student participants, the third provides a highly advanced scenario to test cyber security service providers who offer services that organisations rely on, while the fourth is specifically designed for GCC participants.

Through the National Cyber Drill, the NCSA aims to strengthen the cyber capabilities of critical entities, enhancing their cyber efficiency by identifying vulnerabilities and fortifying defences.

The agency’s teams will conduct in-depth assessments of all participants, analyse results, and deliver comprehensive support to strengthen resilience, contributing to the development of the national cybersecurity system. (QNA)



Tombolini marks 60 years of Italian excellence with global expansion



Silvio Calvigioni Tombolini
Marketing Director And
Third-Generation Family Representative

Marking its 60th anniversary, the Italian fashion brand Tombolini celebrates a legacy steeped in passion, impeccable craftsmanship, and authentic Made in Italy artistry. Established in 1964, the brand has long embodied the essence of contemporary men’s style, defined by exclusivity, quality materials, and attention to detail. Six decades of innovation and tradition blend seamlessly as Tombolini continues to thrive, propelled by a skilled management team committed to realizing the vision set forth by founder Eugenio Tombolini.

Each Tombolini garment is a testament to Italian heritage, crafted with premium materials and meticulous finishes. The brand has earned international acclaim, extending its presence through high-end multi-brand boutiques and a growing network of mono-brand stores. In Qatar, Tombolini’s expansion resonates with the region’s affinity for premium products, a sentiment echoed by Silvio Calvigioni Tombolini, marketing director and third-generation family representative, who recently shared insights with Gulf Times.

Reflecting on the brand’s legacy, Silvio highlighted that the true strength of Tombolini lies in its people. “The family extends to those who have worked

alongside us over the years, sharing in our experience and know-how,” he emphasized.

“Our brand’s recognition worldwide is a collective achievement, and Doha’s store signifies a major milestone in the Middle East, where demand for high-quality, elegant, yet comfortable attire aligns with our product offerings.”

Silvio expressed the importance of the Middle Eastern market, observing that customers in this region deeply value quality and luxury—a perfect match for Tombolini’s meticulously crafted garments. “The region has incredible potential,” he noted, underscoring the appeal of Tombolini’s lightweight, comfortable designs that allow elegance to meet practicality, ideal for the Middle Eastern climate.

To cater to cultural distinctions, Tombolini adapts designs to resonate with the traditions and preferences of each market. “We understand how to introduce our products globally with respect for local roots and needs,” Silvio explained.

The brand’s collections for diverse markets, from Asia to Eastern Europe, maintain a unifying emphasis on lightness, meeting high-level demands while embodying elegance.

On Tombolini’s approach to engaging younger generations, Silvio described a unique marketing strategy: fostering a connection with local elementary schools, inviting students to the company to see firsthand the craftsmanship involved. “This experience allows children to grasp our industry’s value beyond digital screens,” he said, calling it a meaningful investment in future generations.

Sportswear, too, is a significant focus, with Tombolini dressing notable athletes, including Cristiano Ronaldo and FC Dynamo Moscow. This initiative, Silvio noted, reflects the brand’s commitment to promoting a lifestyle of elegance and performance, bridging the appeal of sports and high fashion.

Sustainability remains a cornerstone of Tombolini’s production practices. The brand’s facility, situated in Italy’s scenic Marche region, features solar



panels and employs sustainable materials like wool, silk, and cashmere. Even the minimal synthetic components used, like polyamide, are recycled. Tombolini’s dedication to sustainability extends to initiatives like sending premium olive oil from their agricultural company in Urbisaglia to clients—a personal touch that underscores their commitment to Italian heritage.

For its 60th anniversary, Tombolini has launched a special “Gold 60” collection, featuring a blue capsule line crafted from a single premium material for the complete male wardrobe—suits, ties, shirts, and more—all in a striking gold packaging. Silvio envisions this collection as a celebration of Tombolini’s journey, adding, “I hope to introduce this collection to Qatar soon.”

Looking ahead, Tombolini sees promising growth opportunities across Europe, Russia, India, Turkey, and the Middle East. “The future lies in respecting local roots while being contemporary,” Silvio remarked. Tombolini’s next steps will continue to honour its heritage while embracing global trends and the discerning tastes of modern men.

Tombolini is exclusively available at the Mall of Qatar

For its 60th anniversary, Tombolini has launched a special “Gold 60” collection, featuring a blue capsule line crafted from a single premium material for the complete male wardrobe—suits, ties, shirts, and more—all in a striking gold packaging.





Chaumet & Nature

Nature-Inspired Jewellery Since 1780



From 1 November to 19 December 2024, at M7 located in Msheireb Downtown Doha, Maison Chaumet presents Chaumet & Nature: Nature-Inspired Jewellery Since 1780, in collaboration with Qatar Museums, M7 and Qatar Creates. This unprecedented and immersive exhibition takes visitors on a unique journey to discover and celebrate the wonders of nature in all its variety.

The Maison started the project by looking to its vast heritage, which is among Europe's most significant in jewellery history. It also drew inspiration from its modern designs. The ambition was to highlight its unique identity and vision of botany within the pieces. At the same time, this approach echoes with the Chaumet collection at Qatar Museums. These pieces tell stories of wild and lively nature, connecting with the Maison's theme.

A naturalist jeweller at heart, as workshop head has succeeded workshop head, Chaumet has put its savoir-faire and creativity at the service of nature to transpose its preciousness into jewellery. At the heart of Place Vendôme in Paris, from 1780 to today, it appropriates masterpieces of fauna and flora, portrays the immensity of the sky, its stars and birds, and interprets the infinite nuances of the sea and the treasures hidden there, to create jewels imbued with emotion and symbolism. Between earth and sky, between sky and sea, the exhibition takes one on a sensory journey where the true nature of Chaumet is revealed, captured in the moment. Nearly 107 pieces of jewellery and 111 visual works — including glass plates and drawings — transport the public on a stroll through 240 years of naturalism. Within its distinct chapters, the exhibition invites visitors to appreciate the Maison's aesthetic approach, proposing in turn to preserve, draw, observe, live and immerse themselves in nature. Merging the French Maison's collections with those of Qatar Museums, the exhibition Chaumet & Nature also honours the links they have shared since the 1970s. Chaumet & Nature is a legacy project of the Qatar–France 2020 Year of Culture, a year-long programme of collaborations between institutions across both countries.

The exhibition Chaumet & Nature: Nature-Inspired Jewellery Since 1780 continues the Maison's tradition of showcasing nature-themed retrospectives and events. This began with exhibitions *Dessein de nature* in Paris' Saint-Germain, continued at Paris' Palais des Beaux-Arts with *Végétal* — L'École de la beauté, and was followed by the *Jewels of Nature* events in Shanghai and Tokyo. These exhibitions and events all honour the beauty of nature through various forms of artistic expression. Each also provided a platform to display Chaumet's High Jewellery collections that capture the essence of an abundant, ever-changing natural world. Notable collections include *La Nature* de Chaumet from 2016, *Les Ciel*s de Chaumet from 2019, *Ondes et Merveilles* de Chaumet from 2022, and *Le Jardin* de Chaumet from 2023.

Chaumet and M7: A Creative Collaboration
The exhibition Chaumet & Nature marks a new stage in the collaboration that has united Chaumet and M7 for several months. The story started in 2023 with



a venture to create the Maison's logo in Arabic, in partnership with M7. Together, they chose a designer from Qatar to carry out the project, representing a milestone in connecting homegrown talent with global brands. Conceived by Zainab AlShibani, a graphic designer and artist specializing in printing and lettering, the logo translates the Chaumet spirit and reflects both its jewellery heritage and its commitment to excellence. Evoking harmony and balance, it symbolises the fusion of tradition with innovation, and captures the essence of the Maison's elegance and sophistication. The exhibition actively engages local creatives, featuring a poem called “Treasures of the Earth” written by Qatari poet Salman Bin Khalid. The poem was created for Chaumet to celebrate the significant role of poetry in Arabic literature. Surrounded by words, visitors experience a virtuoso dialogue that connects nature, beauty and jewellery. Chaumet also commissioned the Qatari artist Shouq Al-Mana to design an exclusive piece for the exhibition. Inspired by the underwater nature that Chaumet cherishes as a source of themes and motifs, Altawash pays tribute to the Qatari tradition of pearl diving and commerce.

Map of Qatar
Gifted by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani.

Preserving Nature
Remaining faithful to its botanist vision, Chaumet has been drawing inspiration

from nature for more than 240 years, creating uniquely naturalistic jewellery that realistically represents nature. Proud of this jewellery tradition and heritage, its stylistic repertoire is a source for motifs that are as symbolic as they are ephemeral, with a savoir-faire ingenuity that enables time to stand still. From Nitot to now, the Maison's existence has been an ode to nature and a desire to preserve it.

Nitot, Father and Son
The story starts with Marie-Etienne Nitot, the founder of the Maison, and his son, whose evocative hallmark was an ear of wheat. “Jeweller by appointment” to Emperor Napoléon and Empress Joséphine, he signed his documents with the title “naturalist jeweller”, infusing Chaumet with a vision true to nature. Together, they formed the first generation of workshop leaders and directors of the Maison, until the end of the First Empire.

Fossin, Father and Son
The story continues with the second generation of workshop heads and directors, Fossin father and son, considered the most pioneering and virtuosic jewellers of the Romantic period. The Maison carried on celebrating nature in its creations, providing delicate and poetic portrayals magnified by movement.

Morel, Father and Son
Trained under the Fossins, Morel father and son were the Maison's third generation of workshop heads and directors to perpetuate the tradition and offer jewellery creations in which nature appeared to come to life.

Combining creativity and savoir-faire, they evoked its many facets through an innovative use of precious metals and ornamental stones.

Joseph Chaumet
Joseph Chaumet took over and headed the Maison from the Belle Époque up until the late 1920s, in the process giving it its definitive name. As inspired by the beauty of nature as his predecessors, he presented a figurative and refined version, with iterations of emblematic motifs derived from the archives.

Marcel Chaumet
Next it was the turn of Marcel Chaumet, who succeeded his father in 1928. Respecting the naturalist tradition inscribed in the Maison's identity since its earliest days, he revisited nature in a more stylised, sometimes even abstract way.

The Chaumet Brothers in the 1970s

During the 1970s, Chaumet embarked on a period of unprecedented creative exploration. With a sense of daring freedom, nature took an even more avant-garde turn. Rewriting the codes of jewellery, the artisans pushed the limits of working with gold and precious materials to reach new heights of realism.

The Present Day
Chaumet savoir-faire and creativity continue to thrive today, since its acquisition by LVMH in 1999. Indelible elements of the Maison's DNA, nature and its corresponding emblematic motifs are reinterpreted across the creations, perpetuating this unique botanist vision. From *Ondes et Merveilles* de Chaumet and *L'Épi de Blé* to *Le Jardin* de Chaumet and beyond, the Maison's contemporary collections bear witness to this.

Drawing Nature
The first step in the creative process, the jewellery sketch embodies its creator's original impulse. The physical gesture, the emotion, precision and quest for realism shine through in the pencil strokes: this is the art of the line. Among the 66,000 drawings held by Chaumet, a multitude of sketches and illustrations testify to the Maison's long-standing and enduring devotion to the beauty of nature. Uncover how it is revisiting yesterday's botanical motifs today.

Observing Nature
At Chaumet, nature is not only represented in a manner reflective of reality, but also instilled with meaning and emotion. Throughout its history, the Maison has interpreted and continues to reinterpret highly symbolic



motifs sublimating individual species, in order to transpose feelings, virtues and other universal values into jewellery. In creation after creation, wheat, oak and laurel disclose their hidden meanings while flora proclaim a language of love.

Wheat
Associated with Ceres, wheat symbolises life, opulence and fertility. Echoing the creations produced by the Maison for the empresses Joséphine and Marie-Louise, ears of wheat swept by the wind suggest the unfettered and vibrant nature prized by Chaumet. Enhanced with diamonds, they highlight its preciousness in historical and contemporary pieces alike.

Oak
A sacred tree, the oak stands apart for its strength and quiet longevity. A timeless symbol of wisdom, it connects the earth and the sky. Its foliage and fruits have inspired many of the Maison's creations over the years, imparting its aura to all who wear them.

Laurel
An emblem of glory and mercy, the laurel also speaks of immortality. Combining suppleness and movement, it has infused its symbolism into Chaumet creations since the start – Napoléon in his time wore laurel as a statement of victory. Continuing today, laurel comes adorned with white gold and diamonds to form jewels whose design straddles classicism and modernity.

Meaningful flowers
Rich in multiple meanings, flowers compose a symbolic language of their own, in poetic

suggestions of feelings and emotions. From the rose to the daisy and the pansy, they have appeared as jewellery creations across eras and fashions, each conveying their secret messages to those who know how to decipher them.

Living in Nature
From the earth to the sky and sea, animals populate the natural world, contributing to its richness and beauty. Whether real or fantastical, domestic or wild, animals are a favourite jewellery inspiration. In its symbolic creations, Chaumet offers a rich bestiary featuring a variety of figures, from birds to exotic animals such as the giraffe and the lion, as well as insects including the bee, originally chosen as a symbol by Napoléon himself. Among plants and flowers, in the water or in the air, they are rendered from life, testifying to the Maison's esteemed art of the line.

Diving in Nature
Chaumet plunges into a mesmerising marine world in its desire to uncover the wonders of the deep. Captured in motion, it suffuses creations with its vast allegorical repertoire. Among these treasures, the pearl holds a special place. The history of Qatar and the Chaumet collections are filled with them, united in the same expertise and savoir-faire. Around 1890, Joseph Chaumet established a laboratory to determine the origine of natural pearls and what distinguishes them

from cultured pearls. His expertise was unanimously acclaimed, and the Maison became the reference in Place Vendôme for natural pearls, known as the main pearl trader in the early 20th century. Today, Chaumet continues to perpetuate this pearl tradition, mounting the most beautiful pearls, selected for their captivating orient, on its contemporary creations.

Pearls of Qatar: A Rich History
Qatar's legacy is deeply rooted in the age-old art of pearl trading, an integral thread woven through the fabric of its cultural and economic narrative for centuries. Skilful divers and astute merchants propelled the nation into a gilded age of pearl commerce from the 19th century up to the mid-20th century. The advent of oil heralded a new era, transitioning from time-honoured pearling to modern industry. Yet, venerable merchant houses have preserved their pearl bonds, flourishing into eminent jewellery empires, ensuring that pearls remain enshrined in Qatar's soul. Among those, the Al Fardan family were pearl merchants, tawawish, as far back as family history records. The pearl lore of generations of traditional Gulf pearl merchants lives on today in the person of Hussain Al Fardan, whose passion for pearls has survived the diversification of the Al Fardan business empire. Today, the extraordinary collection of Hussain Al Fardan is thought to be the largest and most splendid assemblage of natural Gulf pearls in the world.

QNB, Qatari Autism Society sign partnership agreement

QNB Group has signed a partnership agreement with the Qatari Autism Society to support and empower people with autism disorder, supporting Qatar's efforts to become an autism-friendly nation and pave the way for greater social awareness of the support autistic individuals, in line with QNV 2030.

The agreement was signed by Heba al-Tamimi, Senior Executive Vice-President (Group Communication) at QNB and Sheikhha Jawaher bint Fahad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, Chairperson, Qatari Autism Society.

This partnership comes within QNB Group's role in supporting people with autism and their families to break down barriers and overcome challenges, in line with the national initiatives that culminated in the unanimous adoption by the UN General Assembly of Qatar's proposal to declare April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day and the launch of



The agreement was signed by Heba al-Tamimi, Senior Executive Vice-President (Group Communication) at QNB and Sheikhha Jawaher bint Fahad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, Chairperson, Qatari Autism Society.

the National Autism Plan. It also reflects QNB's firm commitment to empowering all segments of society and promoting the values of understanding and integration in all the countries in which it operates, thus enhancing its position as a leading financial

institution that takes it upon itself to develop segments with particular need for the added value they represent in society. Commenting on the partnership, Heba al-Tamimi said, "At QNB, we are committed to fostering an inclusive society where

everyone can thrive. This partnership with the Qatari Autism Society reflects our dedication to empowering individuals with autism, providing them with the opportunities they need to succeed.

"It also stresses our values to make a positive impact on society by building strategic partnerships with leading organisations and institutions in Qatar and around the world that have made QNB more than a bank, but rather a socially responsible financial institution."

Sheikha Jawaher said, "This partnership with a leading financial institution is a unique opportunity to achieve our aim to build inclusive communities for individuals with autism.

"We look forward to further this co-operation to implement our programmes and initiatives which aim to increase understanding and acceptance and foster support for individuals living with autism in Qatar."

Dr Easa al-Musleh named EMRQ research director

ExxonMobil has appointed Dr Easa al-Musleh as the research director of ExxonMobil Research Qatar (EMRQ), succeeding Dr David Palandro, a statement said yesterday.

Dr al-Musleh, who joined ExxonMobil Qatar in 2020 after five years of academic research, has held several key roles within the company's Joint Venture Technical group and EMRQ.

His most recent position focused on Facility and Carbon Management.

Dr al-Musleh has led numerous work streams, providing technical and operational support to partners in the LNG operating business, while also contributing to strategic planning for ExxonMobil's business in Qatar.

Prior to joining ExxonMobil Qatar, Dr al-Musleh was a faculty member in the Chemical Engineering department at Qatar University (QU), where he actively engaged in both teaching and research. His research, largely conducted in collaboration with local industry partners, focused on process optimisation.

"We're excited to welcome Dr Easa al-Musleh as he steps into the role of research director at ExxonMobil Research Qatar. As we deepen our focus on Nature-Based Solutions at the centre, we look forward to making impactful contributions in this critical field under his leadership," said Taher Hamid, president and general manager for ExxonMobil Qatar.

"I feel truly honoured to take on this position at such a significant time for the centre. I'm excited to team up with our skilled staff and community partners to further



Dr Easa al-Musleh

our research in Nature-Based Solutions and create a positive impact on the environment.

"By applying innovative and sustainable practices, we can address environmental challenges together with our partners," said Dr al-Musleh.

He holds a PhD and a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University, US, and a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from QU.

EMRQ, established at Qatar Science and Technology Park in 2009, is one of its first anchor tenants.

The centre was created to support Qatar's research in water reuse, geoscience and environmental efforts and help fulfil the objectives of its National Vision 2030.

In 2023, EMRQ transitioned into a centre for Nature-Based Solutions, highlighting ExxonMobil Qatar's commitment to advancing research and leading projects that support Qatar's efforts to protect and restore ecosystems, the statement added.

HBKU's College of Law holds roundtable on autism and law

Legal aspects of Qatar's approach to diagnosing and treating autism was the subject of a recent roundtable discussion organised by Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) College of Law.

Autism and the Law: A Path for Qatar brought together legal, scientific, medical, and policy experts to consider the country's existing landscape for supporting individuals with autism.

An interdisciplinary and comparative analysis enabled participants to identify shortcomings in Qatar's autism approaches and propose legal and other reforms to help fill the gaps.

Consideration was also given to the increasingly important role artificial intelligence and other technologies play in the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.

Opening remarks were delivered by Susan L Karamanian, dean, College of Law, who also moderated the panel discussion featuring Lorri Unumb, CEO, The Council of Autism Service Providers; Dr Dena al-Thani, as-



sociate professor, HBKU's College of Science and Engineering; Dr Barry Solaiman, assistant professor, HBKU's College of Law; and Dr Hira F Amin, assistant professor, HBKU's College of Public Policy.

The proceedings concluded with questions and answers and

further contributions from the audience.

"Our discussion was local in scope yet informed by insights from jurisdictions outside Qatar," remarked Karamanian.

"Unumb is a leading legal expert on autism in the US; the audience and other panellists were

moved by her inspiring journey of how she ensured that each state in the US enacted legislation, Ryan's Law named after her son, to have autism diagnosis and treatment covered by health insurance. Her journey resonated with the audience as many have family members and friends with autism."

QDA holds first forum for diabetic children's parents

The Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA), a member of Qatar Foundation, held its inaugural forum for over 200 parents of children with type 1 diabetes. The event brought together a group of paediatric diabetes specialists, educational consultants, and QDA executive director Dr Abdulla al-Hamaq, with the goal of fostering dialogue and discussing the challenges faced by parents and their children living with diabetes. There were a series of medical and psychological discussion sessions designed to provide parents with comprehensive support. Experts addressed the challenges parents face, both at home and in school, and sought to explore innovative and practical solutions for managing them. One of the key highlights of the



forum was a lecture titled 'Inner Peace' presented by educational consultant Dr Abdulrahman al-Harmi, which focused on how to achieve psychological balance and cope with the pressures parents may face in their journey of supporting



their children with type 1 diabetes. Dr al-Hamaq thanked all participants and supporters, including representatives from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Hamad Medical Corporation, Sidra Medicine, and

Primary Health Care Corporation. He emphasised QDA's commitment to collaborating with partners to ensure the health and safety of students diagnosed with diabetes, both inside and outside the school environment.

Sidra Medicine to host first Gulf Paediatric Critical Care Conference



Dr Patricia Abboud and Dr Ikram Haque.

Sidra Medicine, part of Qatar Foundation, will host the first-ever Gulf Paediatric Critical Care Conference "Forging Connections: Enhancing Care for Critically Ill Children" from January 23-26, 2025.

The landmark conference is the first-of-its-kind to be held in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and will feature local and international speakers and experts to discuss the latest advancements and best practices in paediatric critical care and intensive care (PICU).

Dr Ricardo Munoz, chief of Cardiac Critical Care Medicine at Children's National Hospital, Washington, US; Dr Vinay Nadkarni of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Dr Barney Scholefield from SickKids Hos-

pital in Toronto are to speak.

Sidra Medicine's Paediatric Critical Care division chief Dr Ikram Haque is the conference chair.

The organising committee includes members from renowned institutions in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman. International experts include members from Canada, Spain, Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, the UK and the US.

Dr Patricia Abboud, senior attending physician and medical director in the PICU at Sidra Medicine, said: "We encourage our peers and colleagues from the GCC and abroad, to join us as we shape the future of paediatric critical care through collaboration, innovation, and shared expertise."

Nando's Qatar, QCS breast cancer awareness campaign concludes

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month during October, Nando's Qatar partnered with the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) to raise awareness and support breast cancer initiatives. The highlight of the campaign was the 'Pinky Promise' designer drink, introduced through a 'Pink Drink Competition' in which all 12 Nando's cafes in Qatar participated, a statement said yesterday. Nando's kicked off the campaign with an awareness activity for its staff, called Nandocas, to educate them about the importance of

breast cancer education and early detection. Each restaurant took part in the competition, creating unique, pink-themed drinks with Nando's ingredients. The winning drink, 'Pinky Promise,' crafted by Sangam Bahadur Thapa Magar from Nando's Avenue Mall at Steigenberger Hotel, became the featured drink at all locations throughout October. To further support the cause, Nando's pledged 10% of designer drink sales, including 'Pinky Promise,' to QCS, contributing to their ongoing efforts in breast cancer prevention and education.

"Partnering with QCS each year allows us to make a positive impact in the community," said Vyanktesh Jaiswal, COO of Nando's Qatar. Zakiya al-Mudhahka, head of Resource Development at QCS, said: "We are deeply grateful to Nando's Qatar for their ongoing support of breast cancer awareness. The campaign launched by Nando's in October is not just a marketing initiative; it is a powerful humanitarian effort that helps raise awareness about the importance of early detection and the need to adopt a healthy lifestyle."



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

AI struggles: Bumpy road to more advanced models

The Big Tech is betting big on artificial intelligence (AI) and spending billions as leading players look to avoid falling behind in the race. At the same time, doubts are rising if it's all worth the hype. There is now a growing narrative in the Silicon Valley and Wall Street: The breakthroughs from large AI models may be slowing down. Since the frenzied launch of ChatGPT two years ago, AI believers have maintained that improvements in generative AI would accelerate exponentially. The reasoning was that delivering on the technology's promise was simply a matter of resources; pour in enough computing power and data, and artificial general intelligence (AGI) would emerge. AGI typically refers to hypothetical AI systems that would match or exceed humans on many intellectual tasks. The capital expenditures of the four largest internet and software companies — Amazon.com, Microsoft, Meta Platforms and Alphabet — are set to total well over \$200bn this year, according to a recent Bloomberg report. Executives from each company have also warned investors that their plunge will continue next year, or even ramp up. The spree underscores the extreme costs and resources consumed from the worldwide boom in AI ignited by the arrival of ChatGPT. However, there appears to be problems on the road to AGI. Industry insiders are beginning to acknowledge that large language models (LLMs) aren't scaling endlessly higher at breakneck speed when pumped with more power and data. One fundamental challenge is the finite amount of language-based data available for AI training.

The recent setbacks raise doubts about the heavy investment in AI and the feasibility of reaching the overarching goal: AGI

toward human-level AI is unpredictable. "There is no wall," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman posted recently on X, without elaboration. Nevertheless, OpenAI has delayed the release of the awaited successor to GPT-4, the model that powers ChatGPT, because its increase in capability is below expectations, according to sources quoted by The Information. Now, the company is focusing on using its existing capabilities more efficiently. After years of pushing out increasingly sophisticated AI products at a breakneck pace, three of the leading AI companies are now seeing diminishing returns from their costly efforts to build newer models, according to Bloomberg. At Alphabet's Google, an upcoming iteration of its Gemini software is not living up to internal expectations, according to three people with knowledge of the matter. US-based Anthropic, meanwhile, has seen the timetable slip for the release of its long-awaited Claude model called 3.5 Opus. The companies are facing several challenges. It's become increasingly difficult to find new, untapped sources of high-quality, human-made training data that can be used to build more advanced AI systems. The recent setbacks also raise doubts about the heavy investment in AI and the feasibility of reaching an overarching goal these companies are aggressively pursuing: AGI. The chief executives of OpenAI and Anthropic have previously said AGI may be only several years away. Still, AI companies continue to pursue a more-is-better playbook. In their quest to build products that approach the level of human intelligence, tech firms are increasing the amount of computing power, data and time they use to train new models — and driving up costs in the process. As costs rise, so do the stakes and expectations for each new model under development. Noah Giansiracusa, an associate professor of mathematics at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts, said AI models will keep improving, but the rate at which that will happen is questionable.

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



Why nuclear weapons will be on Trump's agenda

By Jonathan Landay
Washington

When he takes office in January, President-elect Donald Trump will inherit a raft of national security challenges, including major wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Less discussed are the growing nuclear threats facing the United States, including from Russia, China and Iran. Here are the five most pressing nuclear arms challenges confronting Trump:

Russia

Trump will have to manage the gravest tensions with Moscow in more than 60 years, in part fuelled by Russian President Vladimir Putin's threats to use nuclear weapons in his war against Ukraine and his development of exotic new weapons systems. Overseer of the world's biggest nuclear arsenal, Putin has been modernising his nuclear forces and has rejected talks with Washington on replacing New START, the last US-Russia arms limitation pact, when it expires on February 5, 2026. US officials say Putin remains within the limits set by the treaty despite his 2023 "suspension" of the pact that holds Russia and the United States to deploying 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads on 700 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarines and bombers. President Joe Biden and Putin agreed to an extension in 2021 but, as written, the pact can't be extended further. Trump opposed an extension in his first term, calling instead for a new treaty that included China, which spurned the proposal. Putin cited Washington's support for Ukraine in rejecting Biden's invitations for unconditional talks on replacing New START. But both sides say they will adhere to the treaty's limits as long as the other does.



President-elect Donald Trump will have to manage the gravest tensions with Moscow in more than 60 years, in part fuelled by Russian President Vladimir Putin's threats to use nuclear weapons in his war against Ukraine and his development of exotic new weapons systems. (Reuters)

China

China - which long had a smaller nuclear arsenal - is building up its strategic nuclear forces. The Pentagon in 2020 estimated that Beijing's operational nuclear warhead stockpile numbered in the low 200s and was expected to double by 2030. That estimate was revised two years later, with the Pentagon saying China likely would have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035 if the pace of its buildup continued. Beijing and Washington held their first nuclear risk reduction talks in nearly five years in November 2023. But China, which has a "no-first-use" doctrine, in July formally halted further bilateral arms control discussions in protest against U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan, the democratically ruled island claimed by Beijing.



United States

Trump will have to craft a policy on deterring nuclear threats from Russia and China even as he confronts the expiration of New START. The Biden administration says the United States might have to deploy more strategic nuclear weapons in the future and Trump could do just that. In his first term, Trump's nuclear weapons policy called for new capabilities, reversing decades of US arms reduction efforts, and he opposed extending New START. But he will confront the soaring costs of America's own modernisation of each leg of the US nuclear "triad" - ICBMs, bombers and submarines - major parts of which are behind schedule and far over budget. The costs of the effort, which has grown to include new warhead designs, missiles, a bomber and a submarine, are projected by the Arms Control Association advocacy group to exceed \$1.5 trillion over the next 30 years. Experts say that amount is certain to rise, threatening to divert funds needed for conventional US military forces or for non-defence programmes. "At a certain point, we will hit a constrained budgetary environment," warned a congressional aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iran

Iran may decide to build nuclear weapons following tit-for-tat strikes with arch-foe Israel and Biden's failure to revive major power talks with Iran on restoring curbs on its nuclear programme. Washington and its European allies will lose leverage over Tehran when a UN Security Council resolution allowing a "snapback" of international sanctions on Iran expires next October. The sanctions were lifted in return for Iran accepting strict limits on its programme under a 2015 deal designed to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons. Trump withdrew the United States from the pact in 2018, leading Iran to breach its limits. The time Iran would need to make enough highly enriched uranium for a warhead has now been cut from a year to just weeks or days, US officials say, although Tehran would need some more time to build an actual bomb. Iran denies US and UN nuclear watchdog assessments that it shuttered an effort to build a nuclear warhead in 2003 and has offered to reopen nuclear talks. But the Israeli strikes could prompt Tehran to resuscitate that effort. Following the strikes, a top Iranian official said Tehran possibly could review its self-imposed ban nuclear weapons development.

North Korea

Tensions with North Korea have grown over Pyongyang's co-operation in Moscow's war against Ukraine and an October 31 test of a new ICBM that underscored the country's ability to hit most of the United States with nuclear weapons. A recent US Defence Intelligence Agency report said Pyongyang continues expanding stockpiles of materials for its nuclear weapons program. It also noted that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un set out a defence plan in 2021 calling for producing tactical warheads, "lighter nuclear weapons" and "ultra-large nuclear warheads". The Federation of American Scientists estimates that North Korea, which has conducted six underground nuclear test blasts since 2006 and more than 100 missile launches since 2022, has enough fissile material for up to 90 warheads, but "potentially" has assembled just 50. Biden's administration has been unsuccessful in persuading Kim to revive denuclearisation talks that collapsed after Trump failed in 2019 in the last of three meetings to convince the North Korean leader to abandon his nuclear weapons.

Russia vows response after Ukraine fires long-range US missiles

AFP
Kyiv

Russia warned yesterday that it would respond after Ukraine fired longer-range US missiles at its territory for the first time, as President Vladimir Putin issued a nuclear threat on the 1,000th day of the war.

A senior official told AFP that a strike on Russia's Bryansk region earlier yesterday "was carried out by ATACMS missiles" — a reference to the US-supplied Army Tactical Missile System.

Speaking 1,000 days after Russia invaded Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the attack showed Western countries wanted to "escalate" the conflict.

"We will be taking this as a qualitatively new phase of the Western war against Russia. And we will react accordingly," Lavrov told a press conference at the G20 summit in Brazil.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree yesterday lowering the threshold for using nuclear weapons, a move that the

White House, UK and European Union condemned as "irresponsible".

Putin has used nuclear rhetoric throughout the conflict but has grown increasingly belligerent since last year, pulling out of a nuclear test ban treaty and a key arms reduction agreement with the US.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky accused G20 leaders at a summit in Brazil of failing to act over Putin's nuclear threats, saying the Russian leader had no interest in peace.

A Russian strike in the eastern Ukrainian region of Sumy late Monday gutted a Soviet-era residential building and killed at least 12 people, including a child, according to officials.

Washington this week said it had cleared Ukraine to use ATACMS against military targets inside Russia — a long-standing Ukrainian request.

Russia said yesterday that Ukraine had used the missiles against a facility in the Bryansk region close to the border overnight.

"At 03:25am, the enemy struck a site in the Bryansk region with six ballistic missiles. According to

confirmed data, US-made ATACMS tactical missiles were used," said a defence ministry statement.

Lavrov said the 300-kilometre range missiles could not have been fired without US technical assistance.

Moscow has said the use of Western weapons against its internationally recognised territory would make the US a direct participant in the conflict.

Confirmation of the strike came shortly after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree that enables Moscow to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states such as Ukraine if they are supported by nuclear powers.

The new nuclear doctrine also allows Moscow to unleash a nuclear response in the event of a "massive" air attack, even if it is only with conventional weapons.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said this was "necessary to bring our principles in line with the current situation."

The 1,000th day of Russia's invasion — launched on February 24, 2022 — comes at a perilous time for Ukrainian forces across the front, particularly near the war-



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky takes a selfie with a soldier as he presents medals to soldiers during his visit to a military hospital in Kyiv yesterday. (AFP)

battered cities of Kupiansk and Pokrovsk.

Russia has also intensified strikes on Ukrainian cities in recent days, with attacks on city centres and residential buildings that have killed dozens of civilians.

Ukrainian forces have steadily lost ground in Russia's Kursk region where they seized territory in August, and have warned that Russia has massed some 50,000 troops, including North Korean forces, to wrest back the region.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Chinese President Xi Jinping

yesterday that the alleged deployment of North Korean soldiers by Russia in its war against Ukraine risked worsening the conflict.

Both sides have steered their economies to help the war effort.

Ukrainian lawmakers voted yesterday to approve the 2025 budget with more than \$50bn — or 60% of all expenditure — allocated to defence and security.

Russia's parliament last month approved a budget that will see a defence spending surge of almost 30% next year.

Nato chief Mark Rutte warned yesterday that Putin must not be

allowed to prevail. "Why is this so crucial that Putin will not get his way? Because you will have an emboldened Russia on our border... and I'm absolutely convinced it will not stop there," Rutte told reporters in Brussels.

"It is then posing a direct threat to all of us in the West," he said.

The EU's outgoing top diplomat Josep Borrell also pressed member states to align with Washington in allowing Kyiv to strike inside Russia using donated long-range missiles.

"It is fully in accordance with international law," he said.



Elsa, the foster mother of one of the defendants, social worker Hendrick Lui, is taken away by police after she was seen holding a banner reading "The righteous shall live; the wicked shall perish" outside the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts building following the sentencing of 45 convicted pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong. (Reuters)

45 Hong Kong democracy campaigners jailed

Under grey skies outside the court where 45 Hong Kong democracy campaigners were jailed for subversion yesterday, supporters were both despondent and defiant as a trial encapsulating the city's erosion of political freedoms finally came to a close.

The case was the largest prosecuted under the city's 2020 national security law, imposed by Beijing after massive, sometimes violent pro-democracy protests the previous year. The group — made up of some of the city's best-known political opposition figures — was arrested in early 2021, and many have been detained ever since.

"Hong Kong has fallen for three years and eight months, how can I feel?" said businessman Jerome Lau, who was among people queuing for public seating in the morning. "Not even just three years and eight months, this has been going on from 2019 till now." At dawn, more than 200 people were in line, umbrellas held up against the cold morning drizzle and surrounded by a heavy police presence. "There are many sad moments for me, and I feel people are risking their lives for democracy here," said Sophie Gan, 34, a healthcare worker who

lives in Germany.

"It's quite difficult" to have hope about Hong Kong's democratic future, she said. The vice-chair of Hong Kong's last standing opposition party was outside court yesterday too.

Dickson Chau said that jailing the campaigners en masse would be "depressing" and would give "a clear political signal" that dissent from Beijing incurs a heavy price.

"I wonder if this would prompt more people to emigrate, or those who left wouldn't dare to come back to visit friends," he said.

Law student Jack said he believed already "people's passion for political participation has dissipated" in Hong Kong's increasingly restrictive environment.

The 45 defendants were charged after they held an informal primary election in 2020 to better their chances of winning a pro-democracy legislative majority.

Yesterday, only five spectators were allowed in the courtroom's public gallery as most spots were taken up by defendants, their family members and lawyers.

Judge Andrew Chan repeatedly asked for quiet as people in the courtroom reacted to the jail terms, ranging from four years and two months to 10 years.

Toxic smog persists over India's north, schools reopen in Pakistan

Residents in India's northern states woke up to another day of poor air quality yesterday, as a layer of dense fog shrouded most of the region and pollution in the capital Delhi remained severe.

India battles air pollution every winter as cold, heavy air traps dust, emissions, and smoke from farm fires started illegally in the farming states of Punjab and Haryana.

The air quality index (AQI) touched a peak of 491 in Delhi on Monday, forcing the government to restrict vehicle movement and construction activities, and urge schools to conduct classes online.

In contrast, air quality improved in the Punjab province of neighbouring Pakistan, prompting authorities in the worst-affected Lahore and Multan cities to reopen schools from today, after more than a week of being closed due to hazardous pollution levels.

Students would have to wear face masks and there would be a complete ban on outdoor sports, a government order said yesterday.

Lahore's air quality index (AQI) fell to 158 late yesterday, which Swedish group AQair categorises as unhealthy, after crossing 2,000 in some locations last week.

Yesterday, Delhi's 24-hour air quality index (AQI) reading was at 488 on a scale of 500, India's Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said, and at least five stations in the capital reported an AQI of 500.

CPCB defines an AQI reading of 0-50 as "good" and above 401 as "severe", which it says is a risk to healthy people and "seriously impacts" those with existing diseases.

'Sabotage' suspected after two Baltic Sea cables cut

AFP
Stockholm

Two telecommunications cables cut in the Baltic Sea in 48 hours prompted European officials to say yesterday that they suspect "sabotage" and "hybrid warfare" linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The four countries affected by the cuts — Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden — have all launched investigations, with Berlin and Swedish police saying they suspected "sabotage".

Finnish telecoms operator Cinia reported Monday that the "C-Lion1 submarine cable" connecting Helsinki and the German port of Rostock had been cut south of Oland island in Swedish waters, some 700km from Helsinki.

"These kinds of breaks don't happen in these waters without an outside impact," a Cinia spokesperson said.

The foreign ministers of Germany, Annalena Baerbock, and Finland, Elina Valtonen, said it hinted at foul play.

"The fact that such an incident immediately raises suspicions of intentional damage speaks volumes about the volatility of our times," they said in a joint statement late Monday.

"Our European security is not only under threat from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, but also from hybrid warfare by malicious actors."

The "Arelion" submarine cable between the Swedish island of Gotland and Lithuania has also been damaged since Sunday, a spokesman for the Lithuanian branch of the operator Telia, Audrius Stasiulaitis, said yesterday.

"We can confirm that the interruption to internet traffic was not caused by an equipment fault but



This file photo shows C-Lion1 submarine telecommunications cable being laid to the bottom of the Baltic Sea by cable ship Ile de Brehat on the shore of Helsinki. (Reuters)

by material damage to the fibre optic cable," he said.

The Swedish and Lithuanian defence ministers said they were "deeply concerned" by the incident.

"Situations like these must be assessed with the growing threat posed by Russia in our neighbourhood as a backdrop," they said in a joint statement.

Lithuanian Defence Minister Laurynas Kasciunas said the EU "must make best use of its newest sanctions regime for such sabotage of critical infrastructure."

Customers have not been affected as internet traffic has been redirected to other international links, Telia said.

European countries are increasingly using the term "hybrid warfare" to describe actions that they believe are linked to Russia.

Sweden's Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin told AFP in a written statement it was "crucial to clarify why we currently have two cables in the Baltic Sea that are not working".

German Defence Minister Boris

Pistorius also said the two severed cables were a "clear sign that something is going on".

"Nobody believes that these cables were accidentally severed," Pistorius said on the sidelines of a meeting of EU ministers in Brussels.

"We have to say, without knowing exactly who it came from, that this is a hybrid action. We also have to assume, without knowing it yet, that it was sabotage," he said.

Bohlin said Swedish authorities were looking into ships sailing in the area at the time.

"The Swedish armed forces and coast guard have picked up ship movements that coincide in time and space with the interruptions that occurred," he told television TV4.

Swedish public broadcaster SVT and several Finnish media meanwhile reported that two Danish navy ships shadowed a Chinese cargo vessel, the Yi Peng 3, as it sailed out of the Baltic Sea early yesterday after the cables were severed.

COP29 negotiators strive for a deal after G20 'marching orders'

Negotiators toiled yesterday to break a deadlock at UN climate talks after G20 leaders acknowledged the need for trillions of dollars for poorer nations but left key sticking points unresolved.

With three days left in the COP29 conference, ministers haggling in Azerbaijan had been waiting for the G20 meeting in Rio de Janeiro to issue a declaration that might jump-start the stalled negotiations.

Activists and diplomats gave the text a mixed verdict, saying the statement lacked enough direction on climate finance and failed to explicitly mention the need to transition away from fossil fuels.

The lead negotiator of COP29 hosts Azerbaijan, Yalchin Rafiyev, said the G20 statement sent "positive signals" to the efforts in Baku. "G20 delegations now have their marching orders for here in Baku," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said in a statement.



Environmental activists protest during the COP29 UN climate change conference in Baku yesterday. (Reuters)

"We urgently need all nations to bypass the posturing and move swiftly towards common ground, across all issues," he said.

Brazil is host of next year's climate

talks in the Amazonian gateway of Belem, and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva urged good progress in Baku.

"We cannot leave the task of Baku

France summons Azerbaijani envoy over remarks

France summoned the Azerbaijani ambassador to France yesterday, following what the French foreign ministry called "unacceptable remarks made against France and Europeans by the Azerbaijani authorities" in the context of COP29, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Azerbaijan's hostile actions must stop," it added.

The ministry did not specify which remarks it was referring to, but French Climate Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher cancelled her trip to COP29 after Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev accused France of "crimes" in its overseas territories in the Caribbean.

until Belem," Lula told the G20 summit. Rich nations are being urged to significantly raise their pledge of \$100bn a year to help developing countries adapt to climate change and transition to clean energy.

But efforts to finalise the deal in Baku are hampered by disputes over how much the deal should entail, who should pay for it, and what types of financing should be included. Those key questions were not answered in the G20 statement.

"We were waiting for a boost. Our expectations were maybe too high," a European negotiator told AFP.

The declaration, however, recognises "the need for rapidly and substantially scaling up climate finance from billions to trillions from all sources". It also states the need to increase international collaboration "with a view to scaling up public and private climate finance and investment for developing

countries". Michai Robertson, a negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States, said the G20 paragraph on climate finance "is not saying much".

Adonia Ayebare, the Ugandan chairman of the G77+China grouping of developing nations, told AFP the Rio statement was a "good building block" for the climate talks.

But Ayebare said he was "not comfortable" with the wording saying the money should come from "all sources".

"We have been insisting that this has to be from public sources. Grants, not loans," Ayebare said.

Harsen Nyambe, head of the 55-nation African Union delegation at COP29, said the G20 "had a statement of goodwill".

"But it's up to the countries who are negotiating here at the end of the day to decide what they want to put forward for the globe," he told reporters.

A new draft deal on climate finance is expected by tonight.



Snapshots from the ceremony.

UDST honours top performing students

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) celebrated the achievements of its students at the annual Academic Awards Ceremony. A total of 54 outstanding undergraduates and graduates across various academic disciplines were recognised. The event was attended by UDST president Dr Salem Al-Naemi, and featured as guest speaker alumnus Dr Mohammed al-Jefairi, chief executive of Sidra Holding and innovator highlighted on *Stars of Science*.

Students were honoured in eight categories: Academic Excellence Award, Academic Merit Award, Academic Distinction Award, Foundation Programme Award, Industrial Trades Dean Award, Achievement Award, Applied Research Award, and Innovation Award. The Academic Excellence Awards were presented to students with the highest weighted averages in their respective programmes: Master's Degree – Ahmed Abdalla Abdelazim (College of Business), Bachelor's Degree – Madhavi Anilkumar

(College of Business), Advanced Diploma – Jassim Mohammed al-Maraghi (College of Engineering and Technology), and Two-Year Diploma – Mohamed Mostafa Elgamel (College of Computing and IT). “Each award represents a commitment to excellence that goes beyond academic boundaries and reflects the UDST’s role in preparing leaders who will make a positive impact on our society,” said Dr Al-Naemi. “This ceremony is not only a celebration of individual achievements but also a reminder of our collective pursuit

of knowledge, innovation, and sustainable development.” The Innovation Award in the College of Computing and IT was awarded to Mohamed Fathi Ali, recognised for his AI-driven cybersecurity innovations. His top 1% ranking in the US Department of Defense’s Cyber Sentinel Challenge earned him prestigious internships. Ali is the co-leader of UDST’s Cybersecurity Club. His startup, “BeMySense”, an artificial intelligence (AI) solution for the visually impaired, also won the 3rd Place in the Startup Track at the Arab AI & IoT challenge in GITEX, Dubai. In the College of Engineering and Technology, Farah Yaser Khattab also re-

ceived the Innovation Award for her work in sustainable solutions like decentralised solar charging and waste-to-compost facilities. Her projects, presented at national and international forums, highlight her leadership in environmental research. The Applied Research Award went to Hind Saleh al-Mohannadi of the College of Health Sciences, and recognised for her research on brain structure changes in obese patients, and study on radiation safety in healthcare. All recipients of the Academic Excellence and Academic Merit Awards received monetary awards, as well as university certificates, with distinctions noted on their official transcripts.



Duhail’s Al Rayhan Park inaugurated

Doha Municipality officially inaugurated Al Rayhan Park in South Duhail on Monday. The park falls within the administrative boundaries of the municipality and serves as a lasting legacy of Expo 2023 Doha. Built using recycled materials from international gardens exhibited during Expo 2023, the park embodies principles of sustainability and innovation in garden design. This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Municipality’s commitment to promoting sustainable development and environmentally conscious urban planning. Speaking at the inauguration, Doha Municipality director-general Mansour Ajran al-Buainain highlighted the park’s significance as a community-focused project that aligns with the Ministry of Municipality’s 2024-2030 strategy and Qatar’s Third National Development Strategy, derived from Qatar National Vision 2030. “The opening of Al Rayhan Park is a testament to our dedication to sustainable development and our responsiveness to the needs of residents in the Duhail area,” he said. “This park is designed to enhance the well-being of citizens and residents by providing a dedicated space for walking, jogging, and outdoor recreation.” Al-Buainain praised the collaboration between various sectors and community members in expanding green spaces across Doha. He noted that the ministry is keen to develop new public parks and neighbourhood parks that adhere to international standards. Constructed in a record time of six months, Al Rayhan Park incorporates materials repurposed from the FIFA World Cup, such as chairs and lighting, as well as elements from other rehabilitated parks. This approach underscores the park’s sustainability, with its design centred on reusing and recycling. Key features of Al Rayhan Park include a 400m rubber-surfaced sports walkway, a 2,600sq m green area featuring approximately 1,300sq m of natural grass and landscaping, and a diverse selection of greenery, including 2,583 palm trees, various shrubs, and ground covers, irrigated using state-of-the-art methods. There are also facilities for families, including eight children’s play areas, six informational signboards, 24 lighting poles, and 18 public benches. In a symbolic gesture during the inauguration, ministry officials joined scout students to plant trees native to Qatar, contributing to the Ten Million Trees Initiative, which aims to expand Qatar’s green cover and combat environmental challenges. – QNA

Doha Municipality launches garden competition for schools

The Ministry of Municipality, represented by Doha Municipality, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, has launched a competition for the best sustainable practices at school gardens. The competition aims to encourage the students to adopt agriculture and take care for plants, in addition to enhancing environmental awareness among school students. Accordingly, every participating school would allocate a part of the school garden to establish a mini garden model. The competition is open to all the preparatory and secondary schools within Doha Municipality. Each participating school should have a space of at least 30sq m allocated for agriculture. The participating work team should include 10 students. In addition, schools should not hire private companies to undertake such works related to the competition, except for the construction works and installing irrigation networks. The duration of the competition is 75 days. Application to the competition can be submitted through the related post of the Ministry of Municipality on the X platform, with only the first 30 schools submitting application accepted to take part. The allocated prizes are QR10,000 for the first place, QR7,000 for the second, and QR5,000 for the third place. There will be consolation prizes for five schools. All the participants will receive appreciation certificates.



Snapshots from the event.



HMC inaugurates Doha International Centre for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) inaugurated yesterday the Doha International Centre for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation. The ceremony also honoured 139 organ donors and patients, including the families of 18 deceased donors. HMC chief medical officer Dr Abdulla al-Ansari said that Qatar’s organ donation and transplantation programmes have changed the lives of thousands. “We are proud to be adding another milestone to our programmes,” he said. “We are establishing the Doha International Centre for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation.” “Through this body we will be supporting the development of transplant programmes globally – sharing our knowledge and our experience in Qatar with other countries,” the official added. “The centre is guided by our principles of equity and fairness and an eminent international advisory board of experts has also



Officials at the launch ceremony of Doha International Centre for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation.

been engaged to support its work.” HMC’s deputy chief medical officer for clinical affairs and director of Qatar Centre for Organ Transplantation, Dr Yousef al-Maslamani, said that Qatar’s Organ Transplant Programme offers kidney, liver and lung transplant surgeries. “The HMC is one of the most comprehensive transplant centres in the re-

gion, and Qatar is recognised as a regional leader in both organ donation and transplantation,” he said. “Respect for human rights, autonomy and equity made Qatar a model of ethical and best clinical practice that is much-admired by the international transplant community.” “We have been able to build this on the sustained success of the Doha Donation

accord that was achieved through innovative thinking, ethical values, widespread community acceptance and robust governmental support,” Dr al-Maslamani added. “Now it is our turn to help other countries through the Doha International Centre for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation.” The director of the Qatar Organ Dona-

tion Centre and Transplantation Society Councillor for the Middle east, West and Central Asia, Dr Riadh Fadhil, said that the Doha International Centre for Strategy and Leadership in Transplantation was established to develop a plan of action to address global challenges collaborative efforts with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and key international stakeholders. The Medal of Altruism was presented to living donors and the families of deceased donors. The event also saw acknowledgement of Qatari kidney transplant recipients who chose to have their transplant surgery in Qatar rather than going abroad for treatment. As of 2024, around one-quarter of Qatar’s adult population, from 131 nationalities, are registered organ donors on a single organ transplant waiting list that ensures fair access to transplant services for all nationalities.