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Musk details mass cuts to US spending

Elon Musk outlined plans yesterday for his new role as “efficiency” czar - signalling an assault on federal spending and staffing that would be backed by President-elect Donald Trump’s executive powers and a conservative Supreme Court.

US embassy in Kyiv to reopen today

The United States embassy in Kyiv will reopen today after closing due to the threat of an air attack, the State Department said. Spokesman Matthew Miller declined to say what kind of threat had forced the embassy to shut down yesterday as a safety precaution.

Qatar, Costa Rica to widen ties

QNA
San Jose

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the Republic of Costa Rica Rodrigo Chaves Robles held an official session of talks in San Jose yesterday.

At the beginning of the session at the Presidential House, Robles welcomed the Amir and the accompanying delegation, wishing him a pleasant stay and hoping that his visit would contribute to boosting co-operation and relations between the two friendly countries across various areas.

Amir attends 8th ACE Award ceremony

QNA
San Jose

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the ceremony honouring the winners of the eighth edition of the HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, organised in co-operation with the UN, at the National Conference and Convention Center in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The ceremony was held on Novem-



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of Costa Rica Rodrigo Chaves Robles held an official session of talks in San Jose yesterday.



ber 19 in the presence of First Vice-President of the Republic of Costa Rica Stephan Brunner Neibig.

During the ceremony, His Highness the Amir and the First vice-president of Costa Rica watched a documentary film about the history of the HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Cor-

ruption Excellence Award (ACE Award). They also watched a film about the competitors and winners, highlighting their achievements in their respective fields. Additionally, several videos were shown showcasing efforts to promote and enhance transparency and combat corruption.

Following this, His Highness the Amir and Neibig honoured

the award winners. They presented the Lifetime or Outstanding Achievement Award for Excellence in Anti-Corruption to Dr Muna Buchahin. The Academic Research and Education in Anti-Corruption Award was jointly awarded to Professor Robert Klitgaard and Professor Alberto Vannucci.

The award for Safeguard-

ing Sports from Corruption was given to Dr Rodrigo Arias Grillo and Professor Elias Bantekas. The Innovation or Investigative Journalism in Anti-Corruption Award was presented to Khadija Sharife. The Youth Creativity and Engagement in Anti-Corruption Award was jointly awarded to Gayo James Mpuya and the Mejor Mexico organisation. **To Page 11**

PM patronises groundbreaking of ‘Land of Legends Qatar’ project

● ‘Land of Legends Qatar’ is set to become one of the largest theme parks in Middle East, and first state-of-the-art entertainment destination within Simaisma Project

By Pratap John
Business Editor

The groundbreaking for ‘Land of Legends Qatar’, which is set to become one of the largest theme parks in the Middle East, and the first state-of-the-art entertainment destination within Simaisma Project, was held under the patronage and presence of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani last night.

The milestone project at Simaisma, born of a dynamic partnership between the Türkiye - headquartered FTG Development and Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company, is set to transform tourism and entertainment in the region.

The ceremony was attended by HE the Minister of Municipality and Chairman of Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, other ministers, Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company CEO Ali Mohamed al-Ali, Founder of FTG Development and President of Land of Legends in Antalya, Türkiye, Fethah Tamince, CEO of Accor Group, Sebastien Bazil, among other dignitaries.



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and other dignitaries at the groundbreaking event for ‘Land of Legends Qatar’, yesterday.

‘Land of Legends Qatar’ is a “foreign investment project” in Qatar’s tourism sector, and a first major development within Simaisma Project, which spans over 8mn square meters and stretches along a stunning 7km beach.

This expansive project emphasises sustainability, integrates smart systems, and leverages advanced construction technologies to create an environmentally responsible development with

world-class features. Alongside the theme park, Simaisma will feature an 18-hole golf course, a luxury yacht marina, high-end residential villas, and a variety of dining and retail options, establishing it as a premier leisure destination.

Expected to attract 2mn visitors annually, Land of Legends Qatar will play a central role in advancing Qatar’s tourism landscape and supporting the nation’s goals for economic diversification. **To Page 12**

Iranian president, PM discuss ties, Gaza

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, met in Tehran yesterday, with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. At the outset of the meeting, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the Iranian president and continued progress and prosperity to the government and people of Iran. The Iranian president entrusted HE the Prime Minister to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness and for the people of Qatar further development and growth. During



the meeting, they discussed co-operation ties between the two countries and ways to enhance them, and the latest developments in the Gaza Strip

and the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as means of de-escalation in Lebanon and a range of topics of common interest. **(QNA)**

Israeli forces massacre 33 in Gaza

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli forces killed at least 33 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip yesterday, health officials said, as troops deepened an incursion along the territory’s northern edge, bombarding a hospital and blowing up homes.

Medics said at least 12 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a house in the area of Jabalia in northern Gaza earlier yesterday, and at least 10 people remained

missing as rescue operations continued. Another man was killed in tank shelling nearby, they said.

Later yesterday, an Israeli air strike killed seven Palestinians, including a girl, in Al-Mawasi, in western Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, Gaza medics said. Another air strike on a house in Remal neighbourhood in Gaza City killed four people, while a strike killed three Palestinians and wounded at least 20 others at a school sheltering displaced families in central Gaza Strip, medics said.

Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, one of three medical facilities barely operational in the besieged northern area, said the hospital “was bombed across all its departments without warning.”

Residents in the three towns - Jabalia, Beit Lahia, and Beit Hanoun - said forces had blown up dozens of houses. Israel’s 13-month campaign in Gaza has killed nearly 44,000 people and displaced nearly all the enclave’s population at least once.



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GCC ministers welcomed in Doha



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met with the GCC interior ministers who are participating in their 41st meeting in Doha. HE the Minister of Interior met with Oman's Hamoud bin Faisal al-Busaidi; Bahrain's Lt Gen Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah al-Khalifah; Kuwait's Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud al-Sabah; Saudi Arabia's Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud; and the UAE's Lt Gen Sheikh Saif bin Zayed al-Nahyan. **(QNA)**



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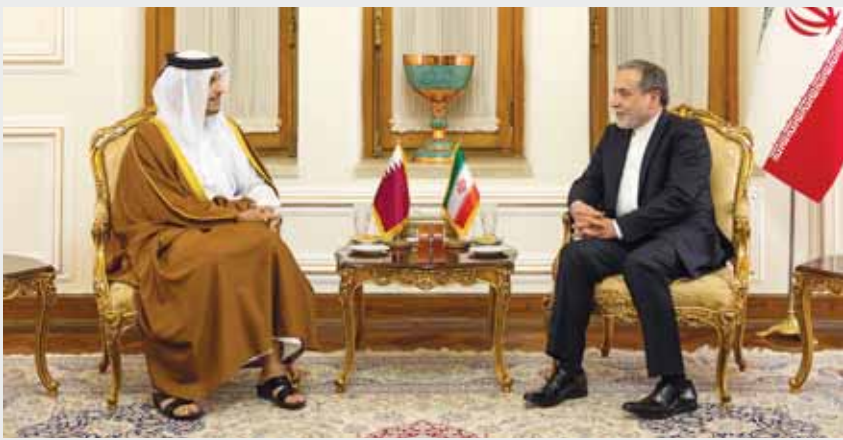
The building should ideally have:

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The building should fulfil all requirements from relevant government departments/agencies and should be certified by the Civil Defense Department (QCD).

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PM meets Iranian FM in Tehran



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday in Tehran with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. During the meeting, the two sides discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them. They also discussed the latest developments in the region, especially in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, in addition to several topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

GCC ministers review security challenges in Doha conference

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, chaired the 41st meeting of the GCC ministers of interior in Doha yesterday.

In his opening remarks, HE Sheikh Khalifa welcomed the GCC ministers and conveyed to them the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness's wishes for the success of the meeting.

HE the Minister of Interior hailed the GCC ministers' co-operation throughout his presidency of this session, which underscored the spirit of the Gulf action and the shared responsibility they shoulder, along with their aspiration to unity to achieve the security and stability for the GCC states and peoples. For their part, the GCC interior ministers expressed their thanks and appreciation to Qatar, its leadership, government, and people, for the warm reception, hospitality, and excellent organisation of this meeting.

Addressing the session, Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz al-Saud highlighted that the security apparatuses in the GCC states encounter myriad challenges such as emerging crimes, the evolution of narcotics trafficking methods, organised crimes, and arms smuggling, all of which precipitate stepping up joint



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, chairs 41st meeting of GCC ministers in Doha.

efforts and capacity building to bolster the Gulf security co-operation in surmounting security challenges to meet the aspirations of leaders and peoples to achieve further accomplishments.

Bahraini Minister of Interior Lt Gen Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah al-Khalifah pointed out that many lessons can be elicited from the incidents that have unfolded in the Middle East during the recent period, including the importance of reviewing the security challenges and anticipated actions, and accordingly take

further action to prevent the occurrence of unanticipated surprises, expressing his hope to achieve further success in the journey of the joint Gulf action.

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud al-Sabah, said the meeting comes in the wake of unprecedented regional and global developments that prompt co-ordinating multiple efforts, enhancing collective capabilities, combating terrorism, extremism, organised crime and narcotics to boost the security of the region in general.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi affirmed that the meeting is complementary to the ongoing fraternal meetings between the GCC interior ministers, expressing his sincerest thanks and appreciation for the extraordinary efforts made by Qatar to prepare and convene this meeting, which unequivocally reflects the spirit of collaboration, in pursuit of enhancing the joint security action among the GCC states.

He added that since the inception of the GCC system in 1981, Their Majesties and Highnesses have demonstrated an insightful vision and a strategic prudence in acknowledging the significance of fostering the joint security action as a core pillar to ensure security and stability of the region. **(QNA)**



MIA to unveil cultural event

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) will unveil a community cultural event in collaboration with Hour & Hour Program, on Friday, to mark the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, titled: from Morocco to Qatar: Navigating Through Heritage. The event intends to spotlight the Moroccan cultural heritage and its close bonds with the Qatari traditions through a programme full of musical, art and poetry shows, as well as attractive conversations. The event is poised to feature a slew of shows and activities, as well as a duet performance by Qatari musician Ahmed Abdulrahim and Moroccan artist Abdelhafid Hajjaji, as well as national anthems performed by students from Al Khor Model School for Boys, alongside students from the Moroccan Charlemagne international school. Additionally, the event features a poetry recital by the Qatari poetess Moza bint Abdulrahman al-Missned, and the Moroccan poetess Amal al-Yahyaoui, along with a theatrical performance about the origins of hospitality presented by Qatari and Moroccan students. Several activities will be offered, along with a Moroccan and Qatari photography corner that include antique cameras, art shows, such as paintings by Hassan Bougsoum, and an artwork by Warda Shkhat, along with Arabic calligraphy by Ibrahim Ali and Mustafa Lashkar, in addition to traditional fashion shows from Morocco and Qatar by Qatari and Moroccan female designers, as well as Qatari Ardha show, football and a cultural contest. **(QNA)**



Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

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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.

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- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender **(Very Important)**, during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to purchase@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at 'purchase@qafco.com.qa' or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 09:30 – 11 :00 hours during the Holy month of Ramadan and 09:30 – 11:30 hours and 12:30 – 14:00 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".

Qatar Museums, Aga Khan Trust join forces to advance cultural heritage conservation

QNA
Doha

Qatar Museums (QM) has entered into a landmark co-operation agreement with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), the cultural agency of the Aga Khan Development Network, to mutually advance heritage conservation, arts education, vocational training, and urban regeneration initiatives.

The agreement was signed at the National Museum of Qatar by Chief Executive Officer of QM Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi, and General Manager of AKTC Luis Monreal, in the presence of HE Chairperson of

QM Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. It marked the beginning of a collaborative journey to protect, preserve, and celebrate cultural heritage both in Qatar and internationally.

Commenting on the occasion, Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi, CEO of Qatar Museums, stated: "This agreement embodies our shared vision of cultural heritage as a source of inspiration and unity. By working together with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, we can create sustainable programmes that not only preserve our cultural identity but also empower future generations with skills and knowledge. We look forward to bringing Qatar's unique heritage to



the global stage and contributing to a worldwide appreciation of its lasting value." Under this agreement

QM and AKTC will bring together their resources and expertise to engage architects, conservation spe-

cialists, museum professionals, and other cultural experts.

Their work will focus on conserving cultural sites, restoring urban spaces, and creating arts and crafts training programmes that contribute to socio-economic development. Planned projects include establishing a heritage conservation centre, developing training programmes for young professionals, and curating exhibitions that showcase the richness of Qatari and Islamic culture.

Luis Monreal, General Manager of AKTC, stated: "This agreement will allow both institutions to harness their collective experience and know-how to develop innovative

programmes both in Qatar and internationally. Building technical capacity in heritage conservation, urban planning for historic quarters, and providing vocational training, will be areas of priority for QM and AKTC, in their common strategy to catalyse social and cultural development."

This agreement emphasises the transformative impact of cultural heritage on community building and social progress. Through joint initiatives, the two institutions aim to inspire pride in cultural identity, cultivate a deeper connection to heritage, and underscore the value of cultural preservation in an increasingly globalised world.

Umm Salal Winter Festival to kick off today to support local products

QNA
Doha

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Municipality represented by the Agricultural Affairs Department, and in co-operation with Hassad Food Company, Umm Salal Winter Festival is set to be inaugurated in its first edition today at Umm Salal Central Market.

The festival will host several important events and exhibitions from Nov 21 until Feb 19, 2025, with the aim of supporting local products, by providing a suitable marketing platform for local producers throughout the winter season.

On this occasion, Director of the Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipality Yousef Khalid al-Khulaifi said: "The launch of Umm Salal Winter Festival aims to support local farm owners and provide guidance to farmers to enhance the quality of local products as well as achieve efficiency in production, in addition to increase the economic return to farm owners."

For his part, Chief Executive Officer of Hassad Food engineer Ali Hilal al-Kuwari emphasised the importance of co-operation and roles integration between state institutions to support local products. Hassad Food's CEO also indicated that holding Umm Salal Winter Festival is in line with Hassad strategy, which aims to support achieving food security for the State of Qatar.

Moreover, al-Kuwari welcomed the participation of the "Families of Home-Grown Projects" in the festival. The



The ministry has also prepared a training plan in co-operation with Hassad Food, through which farmers are trained on the best agricultural practices

Ministry of Municipality has introduced plans and programs to support farmers, such as providing early services with improved quality, while ensuring they reach the farms in a timely manner. The ministry has also prepared a training plan in co-operation with Hassad Food, through which farmers are trained on the best agricultural practices, using training courses, field visits, and on-field workshops.

Umm Salal Winter Festival schedule starts with the Dates Exhibition, which takes place between November 21-30, followed by the Traditional Market exhibition during the period Dec 5-14, then the Flowers Exhibition from Dec 19-26, 2024.

The exhibitions will continue in 2025, which will start with the Honey Exhibition, from Jan 9-18, followed by the Strawberry & Figs Exhibition from Jan 30-Feb 8, and finally the festival concludes its exhibition with Kanar Exhibition from Feb 13-19, 2025. Moreover, in collaboration with the Family Empowerment Department at



the Ministry of Social Development and Family, Hassad Food dedicated a prominent space for the Families of Home-Grown Projects to showcase their products to the festival visitors throughout the festivals full duration, with the aim of supporting them and advancing their efforts.

Umm Salal Central Market is one of six integrated markets managed by Aswaq for Food Facilities Management Company (a subsidiary of Hassad Food). The central market spans over 60,000sq m, and is located at the intersection of integral highways (Al Majd and Al Shamal), which links the market directly to the main ports of Al Wakra, Al Ruwais, Al Khor, and Doha.

The central market includes fish market, auction hall, 'Al Mazrouaa' yard (a space for fresh produce), private slaughterhouse, shaded barns, vegetables, fruits and dates shops. It also includes meat shops, ice factory, supermarket, mosque and administrative offices.

Judicial Enforcement Law qualitative shift in the field of justice: al-Harami

On the sidelines of the participation of West Bay International Consultants and Lawyers in the Qatar Business Law Forum, Counsellor Khalid al-Harami confirmed that, the new Judicial Enforcement Law No. 4 of 2024 represents a qualitative shift in the field of justice, and stated: "The new law aims to accelerate litigation procedures and consolidate the concept of prompt justice by developing innovative legal mechanisms that keep pace with the development of commercial transactions and reflect the best global legislative experiences."

He added: "One of the most prominent challenges addressed by the new law is the phenomenon of issuing stumer cheques, as the law stipulates that a stumer cheque shall be granted the force of an executive instrument directly, which contributes to alleviating the burden on litigants and limits malicious lawsuits."

He stated that the new law includes mechanisms to expand the



"The new law aims to accelerate litigation procedures and consolidate the concept of prompt justice by developing innovative legal mechanisms"


concept of executive instruments to include judicial rulings, authenticated contracts, and cheques, which enhances investor confidence in the Qatari legal environment.

He also indicated that "establishing a specialised court for enforcement and granting the enforcement judge comprehensive powers, such as seizing the funds of the Enforcee, enhances the speed of recovering rights and achieving justice."

He continued: "Digitalisation" is one of the most important aspects of the new law, as it allows

electronic linking between the concerned parties, which helps in tracking the funds owned by the enforced against them inside and outside the country in accordance with judicial co-operation agreements.

He said that the new law reflects a clear trend towards enhancing the efficiency of the judicial system and supporting the national economy, by eliminating negative phenomena that hinder implementation, such as real estate disputes and money smuggling, which establishes a safe legal environment for society and businesses.



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- The Cranes for auction are on an "as-is-where-is" basis.
- Location For Submission of Bids: QEWC Head Office Qatar Navigation Tower in Al-Dafna Area, Floor No.48, Zone 63, Doha – state of Qatar
- Auction Bids to be deposited in the Auction Box situated at the Procurement Section of QEWC, and should consists of two sealed envelopes (Bid Bond + Auction Bid) addressed to the Head of Tender and Purchase committee. Auction Bid without Bid Bond will be rejected.

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Cabinet commends Amir’s participation in G20 Summit

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani chaired the Cabinet’s regular meeting at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

After the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stated the following: The Cabinet applauded the outcome of the 10th session of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee which was co-chaired by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Nov 14. The session discussed the strategic relations between the two countries, as well as the latest regional, international developments, mainly the situation in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon.

The Cabinet emphasised that the fruitful talks at the committee’s session, the agreements and memorandums of understanding signed, and the joint statement issued at the conclusion of its work manifested robust relations between the two countries.

The Cabinet also commended the participation of His Highness the Amir in the G20 Summit held on Monday in Brazil. It stressed that the invitation sent by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to the Amir to participate in the summit

reflects the status of Qatar and the appreciation for its effective positive role on the regional and international arenas and its continuous contribution to peace, development and serving causes of peoples around the globe.

The Cabinet also acknowledged His Highness the Amir’s honouring of the winners of the 8th edition of the HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (ACE Award) during the ceremony held on Tuesday in San Jose, Costa Rica, with the attendance of Costa Rica’s First Vice-President Stephan Brunner Neibig.

The Cabinet highlighted the wide global interest in this distinguished award, which aims to spread the culture of combating corruption around the globe, work to eradicate this dangerous scourge, and to consolidate the principles of good governance and transparency.

The Cabinet then considered the topics listed on its agenda, as it approved a draft law on extending the concession granted to Qatar Ports Management Company (Mwani), and referred it to the Shura Council.

It approved – in principle – a draft Amiri decision to establish an office for organising conferences. The draft decision was prepared so that the office would replace the Permanent Committee for Organising Conferences, stipulated in Ar-



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani.

ticle No. 2 and Article No. 32 of the Amiri Decision No. 33 of 2022 on the organisational structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Cabinet also approved – in principle – the proposal of HE the Minister of Labour to establish the Qatar award for localisation in the private sector. The proposal comes within the framework of Law No. 12 of 2024 regarding the localisation of jobs in the private sector, and in implementation of the objectives and initiatives

set by the comprehensive vision for development – Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030.

These objectives and initiatives include a workforce ready for the future and empowering citizens and qualifying them to compete in the labour market.

The Cabinet decided to approve the Ministry of Transport’s proposal to exempt Qatari students studying at the Qatar Aeronautical Academy from tuition fees, with the aim of attracting distinguished students to work in the aviation industry, in line with the state’s directives, as well as to provide the labour market with national cadres in aviation. The Cabinet also decided to approve taking the necessary measures to ratify a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) and the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) regarding co-operation in central banking work.

The Cabinet decided to approve a draft agreement between the governments of Qatar and Nigeria on economic, trade and technical co-operation, and a draft MoU on enhancing security co-operation between Qatar’s Ministry of Interior and the Home Office of the UK and Northern Ireland.

The Cabinet also approved a draft MoU on co-operation in the cultural

field between the governments of Qatar and Somalia, and a draft MoU on co-operation in the field of youth between the governments of Qatar and Rwanda.

The Cabinet decided to approve the draft MoU for co-operation in the field of preventing and combating corruption between the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) in Qatar and the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission in Jordan, and the draft executive programme in the fields of sports and youth between the Government of Qatar and the Government of El Salvador for the years 2024, 2025.

The Cabinet concluded its meeting by reviewing four reports and taking the appropriate decisions in their regard. The reports included report No 59 on the results of the work of the National Committee for Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW) during the period from 5/1 to 31/8/2024, and the national report on the results of the work of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking for 2023.

The reports also included a report on the results of the participation of Qatar’s delegation headed by HE the Minister of Labour in the ‘Yerevan Dialogue’ conference in Armenia, and a report on the results of the participation of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry’s delegation in the Second Gulf-Azerbaijani Economic Forum. (QNA)



Education ministry honours winners in Digital Creativity Olympiad

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education concluded its Digital Creativity Olympiad, which was organised by the IT Department of the ministry’s Educational Guidance Department.

Director of the Educational Guidance Department Maryam Noman al-Emadi honoured the winning students from government primary schools for boys and girls. Certificates and 18 prizes were distributed to the winning teams.

A total of 130 teams from 95 primary schools for girls and boys participated in this edition of the Digital Creativity Olympiad. 260 students competed to showcase their abilities and skills in the fields of programming, designing miniature robots, and professional printing.

The Olympiad included three competitions: the first edition of the Logo Programming Language Competition, the third edition of the Tomorrows Programmers

The aim of the Olympiad, in light of digital developments and artificial intelligence, is to encourage students to acquire programming skills, creative and critical thinking in a fun and interactive way

Competition, and the fourth edition of the Professional Typing Competition.

IT Guidance Consultant at the Educational Guidance Department Sheikha al-Hail delivered a speech at the beginning of the ceremony in which she stressed that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education always seeks to enhance students’ digital capabilities in their young age through various competitions implemented in the annual activities calendar.

While addressing the honoured students, al-Hail explained that participating in such competi-

tions qualifies them to participate in competitions designated for higher classes, such as the National Robotics Olympiad, in addition to Programming, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity Olympiads, as their way to excel in the various fields of technology.

The aim of the Olympiad, in light of digital developments and artificial intelligence, is to encourage students to acquire programming skills, creative and critical thinking in a fun and interactive way, as well as to develop the ability to type quickly on both Arabic and English keyboards. (QNA)

Key role of scout movement in education stressed



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Scouts and Guides Association, Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, emphasised the vital role of the scout movement as an essential contributor to the educational process.

Speaking at the inaugural gathering of Scout and Guide teams for individuals with special needs held yesterday at Al Hidaya Schools for Boys and Girls with Special Needs, Dr al-Nuaimi lauded the scout movement for its activities aimed at empowering individuals with disabilities. He noted its contributions to developing their personalities, enhancing moral

values, encouraging participation in volunteer work, fostering national unity, and promoting mutual respect within the movement.

Dr al-Nuaimi also highlighted the movement’s role in enabling individuals with disabilities, enhancing their capabilities, and cultivating life skills and personal growth.

The event featured a range of activities, including a military parade, displays of Qatari flags, and scout workshops. Participants engaged in sessions on scout promises, laws, salutes, mottos, hand signals, handshakes, and scout chants. Additionally, competitions and sports games were organised, with contributions from the Qatar Soci-



ety for Rehabilitation of People with Special Needs, alongside schools, educational complexes, and centres. (QNA)

Ministry holds creative writing contest

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education organised a creative writing competition for fifth and sixth grade primary school students, with the participation of 79 schools, which included 27 boys and 52 girls schools.

The competition aimed to enhance students’ linguistic and writing skills, abilities, develop a spirit of fair competition among them, consolidate educational and ethical principles, support excellence and distinction, and to enhance the love of the Arabic language and its skills among students. The competitions included dictation and writing branches, where the winners of the first three places in each were honoured.

The Creative Writing Skills competition was



organised within the framework of the ministry’s keenness to highlight the historical and civilisational role of the Arabic language, as well as its value in terms of building character and its intellectual, cultural formation, in addition to developing students’ writing and dictation skills. (QNA)

Hyundai, Dodge, Porsche models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Skyline Automotive, has announced the recall of Hyundai Elantra, 2008-2009 models, as in some vehicles the driver airbags may not operate as intended.

The MoCI, in co-operation with United Cars Almana, announced the recall of Dodge Ram 1500, 2025 model, over a possible defect in the gears of the front wheel bearing, which may lead to irregular signal from the Wheel Speed Sensor, which in turn may lead to a malfunction of the Electronic Stability Control system.

The MoCI, in co-operation with Porsche Centre Doha, Al Boraq Automobiles Co., also announced the recall of Porsche Carrera, 2024-2025 models, as the wheel fastening using central locking does not meet the specifications, leading to damage or even breakage of the central locking nut and loosen the wheel. This

can result in the loss of the wheel and the loss of control over the vehicle.

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

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

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

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Ministry observes World Children’s Day with range of cultural shows

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) held a celebration marking the World Children’s Day yesterday, through holding an exhibition of the most salient works of students, showcasing their innovations on this occasion.

The celebration was intended to enhance a secure and enduring atmosphere where child rights are respected and their aspirations are achieved, in addition to fostering social responsibility through elevating the awareness of initiatives that squarely support their welfare and protection.

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater attended the event and was briefed, in detail, on student activities and school participations by a group of participating children.

The event was organised by MoEHE’s School and Student Affairs Department in collaboration with Aman Center and National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), alongside primary schools for girls, where NCSA distributed cultural brochures to student parents working at MoEHE, along with models of cybersecurity educational curricula, interactive toys, and awareness-raising stories that targeted all school classes, with Aman Center participating with cultural brochures.

The participating schools had



great contributions to the event, as they showcased exhibits of artistic sculptures depicting children’s rights, awareness-raising paintings, video clips and interactive toys with the participation of student parents. The event intended to shine spotlight on the rights of the Palestinian children through expressive paintings, in addition to demonstrating Qatar’s milestones in protecting child rights.

The World Children’s Day is annually observed with the aim of enhancing international cohesion and awareness among children of the world of their rights and improving their welfare. (QNA)

Qatari heritage in spotlight at festival to mark World Children’s Day at QU



Prof Maryam Majid al-Falasi

The Early Childhood Center at Qatar University (QU)’s College of Education hosted its annual festival to celebrate World Children’s Day under the theme “Qatar, My Home: History, Culture, and Arts”.

The event highlighted the importance of childhood as a cornerstone for building society and fostering cultural and social connections among children, parents, and the community.

The event aimed to create an environment that enhances children’s awareness of Qatar’s rich history, culture, and heritage, instilling a sense of belonging and patriotism.

It witnessed enthusiastic participation and meaningful engagement from various government entities as well as cultural and educational institutions.

These entities contributed in-



teractive activities that introduced children to different aspects of Qatari heritage through engaging events covering Qatar’s history, natural environments, arts, crafts, traditional dances, songs, games, and cuisine, all tailored to suit the developmental stage of the young attendees.

In her welcoming address, Prof Maryam Majid al-Falasi, acting director of the Early Childhood Center at QU, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the participating and supporting entities. She emphasised the significance of community collaboration in embedding Qatar’s cultural identity in children’s minds.

Participants and guests echoed the festival’s importance, emphasising the need for concerted community efforts to support

childhood development. Parents expressed their delight in involving their children in this cultural event, which offered a creative and educational glimpse into Qatar’s past and present.

The festival opened with a well-organised parade led by the Qatar Armed Forces Music Battalion, joined by all attendees, setting an uplifting and distinguished tone for the event. Trainer Shaeel al-Kuwari, along with children from the Center and students from Al-Noor Language School, presented a heritage-inspired operetta sponsored by Tarsheed, Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa). The performance celebrated Qatar’s environment and strengthened children’s connection to national traditions. (QNA)



QU celebrates 13th cohort graduation of Generations Empowerment Consortium

Qatar University (QU) celebrated the graduation of the 13th cohort of the Generations Empowerment Consortium.

This initiative aimed to invest in national talent in health and medical sciences.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Omar bin Mohammed al-Ansari, president of QU, emphasised that this national initiative bridges education and healthcare, paving new pathways for students toward a promising future. He highlighted the consortium’s embodiment of QU’s commitment to nurturing the scientific and practical capabilities of students in diverse fields such as healthcare, biodiversity research, genomics, precision medicine, and other disciplines that enhance human well-being and to balance societal ecosystems.

Dr al-Ansari further remarked that QU firmly believes in the abilities of its students. Through this initiative, the university provided an integrated environment that combines education with practical training in collaboration with its health and education sector partners. He noted that this unique opportunity allows students to engage with a network of experts, scientists, and healthcare providers, equipping them with skills to lead future advancements in health and medical sciences.

Prof Asma al-Thani, vice-president for Health and Medical Sciences at QU, shared that the latest round of applications received 926 submissions, out of which 230 students were selected to participate in training programmes such as Health, Qatari Scientists in Biodiversity, and Genomics and Precision Medicine. The training spanned two consecutive weeks, with a new addition this year focusing on empowering children.



Dr Omar bin Mohammed al-Ansari, president of QU.



Prof al-Thani added: “The Generations Empowerment Consortium reflects a national unity that integrates education and healthcare, elevating the ambitions of young people. The consortium seeks to create an inclusive environment fostering collaboration between students and healthcare providers through structured training programmes at the university campus. This approach supports young generations from an early stage, enabling them to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the flourishing health sector.” Highlighting key achievements, Prof al-Thani noted that the proportion of Qatari students in the healthcare sector has risen significantly, from 6% in 2013 to 42% in 2024. The consortium has contributed approximately 40-45 % of these figures. Furthermore, this initiative has been documented in internationally published scientific research and officially accredited by the Ministry of Education as a community service training entity for public and private schools. The consortium has also signed several co-operation agreements with health sector partners and has won more than five international awards.

Established in 2013 to support Qatar National Vision 2030, the Generations Empowerment Consortium is the only initiative of its kind in Qatar. It unites 13 partners from the health, research, and education sectors, operating on a data-driven approach that underscores its effectiveness. (QNA)

Participation of Al-Ijarah Driving Academy in the Global Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims



Al-Ijarah Driving Academy took part in the Global Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims under the theme “Remember - Support - Act” by hosting an awareness workshop at the main headquarters of the General Directorate of Traffic. The event featured a presentation on safe driving practices and distributed a special story highlighting the lessons to be learned from unlawful driving behaviors and reckless speeding. The academy’s team also organized children’s competitions and distributed gifts to commemorate the day.

Mr. Ibrahim Lafi, Director of Affairs at Al-Ijarah Driving Academy, extended his sincere gratitude to the General Directorate of Traffic, particularly the Traffic Awareness Department, for providing the opportunity to participate in this global event. He emphasized the academy’s commitment to community awareness efforts, highlighting the importance of road safety and raising awareness to reduce road accidents.

Mr. Lafi stated, “Al-Ijarah is keen to participate in such events as they aim to honor the memory of thousands of individuals who lose their lives or are injured in road

accidents every day. This day also pays tribute to the efforts of all parties involved in addressing the aftermath of accidents, including firefighters, police, paramedics, doctors, nurses, and counselors.”

He further noted that Al-Ijarah Driving Academy is dedicated to playing a significant educational role through its specialized Traffic Awareness and Safety Department. This department focuses on enhancing public awareness about adhering to traffic rules, reducing accidents, and ensuring a safer traffic environment. The academy actively collaborates with relevant organizations to develop educational programs that emphasize proper traffic behavior and the importance of shared responsibility between individuals and society.

The academy also seeks to establish partnerships with governmental and private entities to implement large-scale awareness campaigns and provide specialized training courses for various groups, including beginner drivers, school students, and corporate employees. These efforts contribute to fostering a sustainable traffic culture and achieving road safety objectives.

Qatar plane carrying medical equipment lands in Port Sudan

A Qatari aircraft carrying the second batch of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) Scan devices landed in Port Sudan in response to the needs of the Sudanese federal ministry of health. The humanitarian aid was received by Acting Federal Minister of Health of Sudan, Dr Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim, and Qatar's ambassador to Sudan, Mohamed bin Ibrahim al-Sada. The first batch of Qatari medical aid had arrived in Port Sudan earlier this year. Additionally, this support is part of Qatar's solidarity with the people of Sudan and their resilience in enduring the difficult conditions they currently face due to the ongoing conflict. **(QNA)**



FBQ Museum hosts Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture exhibition

Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani (FBQ) Museum, in collaboration with the Years of Culture initiative, hosted the official opening of Morocco: The Land of Travellers, an exhibition celebrating Morocco's rich cultural heritage and historical significance. The exhibition is a key event in the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, an ongoing cultural exchange that deepens understanding between nations and people through a series of programmes related to all aspects of culture in Qatar and partner countries. Featuring more than 70 artefacts from the museum's extensive collection, the exhibition will be on view through February, 2025. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, Sheikh Mohammed bin Faisal al-Thani, and Sheikh Turki bin Faisal al-Thani, along with the Moroccan ambassador Mohamed Setri, Unesco Office in Doha for the Gulf States and Yemen director Salah Khalid, ARIES Group general manager Mona El Helbawi, directors and senior management from Qatar Museums, representatives from ICOM, and other dignitaries. Sheikh Faisal said: "We were pleased to participate in the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture, as part of Qatar's pioneering Years of Culture initiative. Through the Morocco: The Land of Travellers exhibition, we renewed a valuable opportunity to enhance awareness of ancient Moroccan heritage and its deep-rooted history. "Morocco is a country rich in history and culture that transcends borders and inspires every lover of civilisation. We hope that the diverse collection of Moroccan heritage pieces in the museum will contribute to enriching knowledge and promoting a deeper understanding of the history and culture of Morocco." Ambassador Setri stated: "First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani



for his generous patronage and invaluable efforts. I am delighted to accept his invitation to attend the exhibition Morocco: Land of Travellers, which reflects his prominent role in supporting culture, art, and heritage both locally and internationally." "This year, we have seen an extraordinary commitment from partners, public and private organisations alike, eager to join in celebrating the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture. The collaboration with the Sheikh

Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum has been an exciting addition to the programme," said Sara al-Mohammadi, secretary of the National Committee for the Years of Culture. The exhibition, Morocco: The Land of Travellers, is structured into three key sections: Morocco, the Multicoloured House of Generosity, Morocco Writes History, and Lions of the Atlas. Each section offers a unique perspective on Morocco's cultural legacy and historical significance.

Ashghal president receives Brazil delegation



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) president engineer Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Meer along with senior officials has received a delegation from Paraná, Brazil. The delegation was led by Sandro Alex de Oliveira, Federal Congressman and State Secretary of Infrastructure. The meeting discussed areas of mutual interest for ways of co-operation and exchange of experiences on various topics related to infrastructure and highway projects. Ashghal provided a presentation on its projects, achievements and future plans. The delegation visited project sites, such as Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor and Doha South Sewage Treatment Plant.

Sheikh Jassim Qur'an competition first round to conclude today

The first round of tests for male residents in the categories of special memorisers and general memorisers in the general category of Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohamed Bin Thani Holy Qur'an Competition will conclude today. According to a statement from the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, 1,192 contestants from 49 nationalities registered to compete in the entire Holy Qur'an category. This included 774 in the general memorisers category and 418 in the category of special memorisers. The second category includes teachers, reciters, well-known reciters, imams, muezzins, and those who have previously won the competition or any



international Holy Qur'an competition. Participants are of American, European, Asian, African, and Arab nationalities.

Acclaimed authors discuss warnings, hope about future at GU-Q event

Acclaimed authors Omar El Akkad and Kamila Shamsie engaged the Qatar public in a dialogue on human-made catastrophes and the art of storytelling at a special event at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q). Organised by the Programme in Energy Humanities at GU-Q, the discussion explored how narratives emerging from catastrophic events, such as El Akkad's post-apocalyptic novel American War – which details a world shattered by a poorly managed energy transition – can bridge perspectives and inspire change. Dr Victoria Googasian, co-coordinator of the Programme in Energy Humanities, and assistant professor of American Literature, introduced the author, highlighting how El Akkad's novels challenge comforting narratives of progress. "His work is a warning about what happens when we fail to question our preferences for 'pleasant fantasy'" she said. She went on to tie the book to the initiative, which aims to illuminate the human costs of energy systems and the political will sustaining them, to foster deeper understanding and advocacy for change. GU-Q dean Safwan Masri welcomed El Akkad, emphasising the importance of the event's themes. Addressing students, he urged



them to embrace the challenge presented by the authors to "think more deeply, care more profoundly, and act more responsibly." Moderated by GU-Q Writer-in-Residence Kamila Shamsie, the conversation delved into the role of authentic storytelling in reflecting the human condition. Shamsie, an award-winning author of eight books including *Home Fire*, drew on her literary expertise to guide the discussion. El Akkad shared insights from his journalism career, which informed his fiction by capturing the lived experiences of those impacted by violence, catastrophes, and global systems contributing to war and climate collapse. Speaking about the central theme of American War, El Akkad noted: "Climate change is about stubbornness, which I think of as fundamental to the human condition." He described how this stubbornness often stems from avoid-

ing the discomfort of confronting uncomfortable truths. His forthcoming non-fiction book on Gaza, *One Day Everyone Would Have Always Been Against This*, also grapples with these themes. "I write overwhelmingly about systems that I think are inherently unjust, and about the collective cowardice, including my own cowardice, in holding up those systems" said El Akkad. "You're doing the optimistic thing about anguish and despair," commented Shamsie, adding: "something in that seems to sum up the way we are as people and how we're living – we hold this knowledge about what we're doing and the horrific potential effects of it." In a time of scepticism about the value of literature and investigative reporting, the event underscored the power of evocative storytelling to reveal the consequences of our actions and influence individual and collective decisions.

QF signs pact to enhance cultural, religious education

Qatar Foundation (QF) has signed a co-operation agreement with the Sheikh Abdunah Al-Ansari Complex for the Holy Qur'an and Sciences to enrich the Rasekh initiative, designed to link curriculum with local knowledge, language, culture, heritage, and values. Through this agreement, the initiative will provide religious and Islamic studies content, as it will introduce additional resources, discussions, and learning materials into schools across Qatar. "This agreement marks a pivotal step in our effort to enhance educational content with resources that uphold Islamic values," said Maryam al-Hajri, director of Partnerships at the QF's Pre-University Education Rasekh initiative. "Our collaboration aims to provide content that educates students while strengthening their connection to cultural and religious values.



"Within the Rasekh initiative, we are committed to enriching the school ecosystem through various programmes, curricula, and exhibitions that support sustainable learning and meet the needs of future generations. "This collaboration reflects a shared vision with the Sheikh Abdunah Al-Ansari Complex Holy

Qur'an and Sciences to serve the Qatari community by providing high-quality educational resources that align with its aspirations and values, helping to build an informed society rooted in its authentic values." Al-Hajri emphasised that through this partnership, they aim to fos-

ter an environment of knowledge sharing and understanding among students of all backgrounds, saying: "In educational settings, knowledge sharing empowers learners to build on each other's strengths, nurturing a culture of continuous learning and mutual support that benefits both individuals and society.

"We provide these educational resources to schools within and beyond Qatar Foundation, as well as to the broader community. These resources are developed with the expertise of our partners and come in various forms, including teaching tools, videos, and interactive materials, offering teach-

ers a range of engaging resources." The platform, launched by QF in 2022 in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, aims to share the depth and breadth of the local knowledge, innovation, and research with learners of all ages and educators in Qatar and beyond.

Yamaha Music School's Global 70th anniversary celebrated in Qatar

Yamaha Music School's Global 70th anniversary was celebrated under the patronage of Qatar National Library (QNL) president and Minister of State HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari. The ceremony at QNL was hosted by Fifty One East and Yamaha Music School Doha. Japanese embassy counsellor Maki Yamaguchi, Yamaha Music Gulf FZE managing director Jin Sakamoto, Yamaha Corporation's Music School Business Planning Group manager Yasuaki Inomoto, Fifty One East chairman and managing director Bader al-Darwish, and Yama Music School Doha students, their families, and teachers were present. Sakamoto stated that the event in Qatar not only commemorates Yamaha Music School's 70-year legacy but also acknowledges Yamaha Music School Doha as a leading institution within the GCC. "This school exemplifies our philosophy of spreading the joy of music and nurturing natural talent. Thanks to Fifty One East's dedicated partnership, Yamaha Music School Doha has become



a beacon for music education in the region, reflecting our shared vision of promoting musical education and cultural enrichment." Al-Darwish added: "At Fifty One East, we are honoured to celebrate this incredible milestone with Yamaha Music School, an institution that shares our passion for enriching communities through music and the arts. Over the past 30 years, our collaboration with

Yamaha has nurtured a thriving music scene here in Qatar, culminating in the recognition of Fifty One East as the 'Best Yamaha Music School Operator in the Middle East and Africa'. We believe in fostering creativity that inspires people and we're committed to this mission throughout our remarkable journey." The anniversary event began with the National Anthem of Qatar, performed by acclaimed

pianist Hala Alemadi and then the National Anthem of Japan, performed by Tomoki Kirit. Following welcome remarks, select students from Yamaha Music School Doha - Julien Torfeh, Santiago Banales, Vadim Morin and Valentina Rami - showcased their talents, along with performances by school instructors Cynthia Bousnadiago, Emanuel Travios, Gabriel Martinez, Germán Faig, and Oidel Cruz.

The event concluded with a Brass Quintet performance by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. Since its founding in 1954, Yamaha Music School has grown into a global institution with over 750,000 students and 20,000 teachers in 6,400 locations worldwide. The school has cultivated countless musical talents, with alumni who have gone on to become award-winning musicians, composers,

and performers. Since its establishment in 2013, the Doha branch has expanded its curriculum from group classes to personalised music courses, further establishing itself as the leading music school in the region. As one of the longest-standing Yamaha partners in the Gulf region, Fifty One East has played a pivotal role in enhancing Qatar's arts and culture scene, a statement added.

LuLu Hypermarket unveils 'Super Deals' Promotion

LuLu Hypermarket, Qatar's leading retailer, has launched its 'Super Deals' Promotion, offering 'incredible discounts across a wide range of categories'. "This promotion coincides with the global Black Friday shopping season, providing shoppers with unparalleled savings and an exceptional shopping experience until December 5," a statement said yesterday. The 'Super Deals' Promotion features significant discounts on a variety of products, including electronics, mobile phones, wearables, beauty items, fashion, groceries, fresh food, and more, across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Qatar and online. "With remarkable discounts across multiple categories, we aim to make this season of

savings truly special. Additionally, we've enhanced our e-commerce platform, introducing exclusive online deals to cater to the needs of our tech-savvy shoppers." Adding to the excitement, the 'LuLu on Sale' offer, featuring 25% to 50% discounts, provides 'fantastic deals' on ready-made garments, sarees, churidars, footwear, handbags, baby accessories, and selected sunglasses. Customers can shop from a wide range of international brands across menswear, womenswear, children's clothing, footwear, and accessories, until December 11. Happiness Loyalty Members can enjoy an extra bonus by earning 10% loyalty points on selected supermarket categories, the statement added.



Podar Pearl School receives 'United We Can' Award

Podar Pearl School has been honoured with the 'United We Can' Award for 2024 during the recent Charity Week celebrations under the guidance of Education Above All in recognition of the institution's commitment to community service and philanthropy. Podar Pearl School has also been recognised as the second-largest institution in Qatar for its fundraising efforts, standing out among 23 participating international schools and universities, a statement explained yesterday. "Over the past three years, Podar Pearl School has successfully hosted Charity Week, distinguishing itself as the only Indian school in Qatar to do so. This initiative has not only raised substantial funds for charitable causes but has also fostered a profound sense of community and teamwork among students, faculty, and parents alike. "The board of directors at Podar Pearl School has played an instrumental role in shaping the school's vision and values, nurturing a culture of compassion, generosity, and service. Their strategic leadership and unwavering support have been vital in spearheading the school's philanthropic efforts, including the highly impactful Charity Week campaigns. "The dedication and vision of



the board have driven the seamless execution of these initiatives and have inspired the entire school community to strive toward making a significant difference. Their commitment to upholding the school's mission of nurturing responsible global citizens is foundational to Podar Pearl School's outstanding achievements. "The school's efforts dur-

ing Charity Week have demonstrated the power of collective action, exemplifying how impactful change can be achieved through unity. Through a range of events, activities, and fundraising drives, Podar Pearl School has shown that together, we can make meaningful contributions to society. "This award reflects the incredible dedication and spirit

of our students and staff. It is a symbol of our commitment to fostering compassion and social responsibility," said C Muhamed Nizar, president of Podar Pearl School. Principal Dr Maneesh Mangal added: "Receiving the 'United We Can' Award is not just an achievement but a testament to our collective efforts to build a better, more caring society."

Zulal Wellness Resort garners acclaim

Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som, the Middle East's first and largest immersive wellness destination, announced the outstanding achievements of its chefs in various categories at the Salon Culinaire Competition at Hospitality Qatar 2024. Ammar Samad, general manager of Zulal Wellness Resort, said: "We are thrilled to share the exceptional achievements of our culinary team, which secured wins eight medals in six categories. This success highlights our chefs' commitment to delivering nutritious, flavourful, and health-focused cuisine. "Our chefs masterfully balance taste and presentation with health and wellbeing, ensuring every dish delights the palate while nourishing the body." Chef Dhristi bagged a gold medal in the Signature Healthy Dish category, with Chef Chin-nawat earning a silver medal. This marks the second consecutive year Zulal Wellness Resort team has won medals in this category. Chef Abdull won a gold medal in the Talented Signature Dish - Live Demonstration category. Chef Kavindu received a silver medal in Gastronominical Qatari Dish - Live Demonstration. Chef Sutasinee won a silver medal in the Four Plates of Des-



sert category. Chef Jindarat won a silver medal in the Global Ethnic Flavours Challenge category. Chef Ritesh secured a bronze medal in A Tiny Treats Cake category. Additionally, Chef Eka-sit (Eaky) and Chef Kanokwan (Gina) showcased their expertise in Thai cuisine during a master-class cooking demonstration, alongside Chef Hassan, who presented French and Mediterranean cuisine. Executive wellness chef, Mayssam Abdulkhalek, said: "We thank Qatar Hospitality for providing us with this remarkable opportunity. Special apprecia-

tion goes to our dedicated chefs for their passionate commitment to crafting healthy gastronomic delights, aligning seamlessly with our resort's sustainability goals and wellness ethos". The award winning dining outlets at Zulal Wellness Resort - Aizoon, Al Sidra, Acacia, Casuarina, and Malbu - are all unique. Their menus feature purposeful ingredients which are anti-inflammatory, high in fibre, low in fat; contain heart healthy antioxidants; promote heart health; support digestion; offer a source of high energy; and an elevated sense of satiety, a statement added.

Ahlibank partners with DHL to reduce carbon emissions

Ahlibank has announced a partnership with DHL Express to implement the GoGreen Plus service, which will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 50% for all future air express shipments. The initiative not only supports the bank's sustainability goals but also enables it to offer climate-neutral shipping options to its clients, with precise calculation of carbon emissions, a statement said. "We are proud to collaborate with DHL Express Qatar in adopting the GoGreen Plus service," said Meshal al-Malek, head of Administration Department at Ahlibank.



"Incorporating Sustainable Aviation Fuel into our logistics demonstrates our proactive approach to environmental stewardship and our dedication to

building a sustainable future for Qatar. This initiative reflects our broader vision of integrating sustainability into all aspects of our business." Ahmed Elfangary, country manager, DHL Express Qatar, said: "Ahlibank's commitment to sustainability through our GoGreen Plus service highlights the crucial role that businesses can play in supporting the Qatar National Vision 2030. By switching to SAF, Ahlibank is setting a powerful example for other institutions. Together, we aim to make a lasting positive impact on the environment and contribute to Qatar's sustainable growth."

Closure of tunnel from Corniche



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a temporary closure of the tunnel from Corniche towards Ras Abu Abboud Expressway and three lanes in one direction from Sharq Intersection towards Hamad International Airport from 2am tomorrow until 5am on Sunday. The closure in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic is for road maintenance. Road users can use adjacent alternative roads to reach their destinations as shown on the map. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and has requested all to follow and abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.

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GULF TIMES

Can COP29 deal clean up tainted carbon offsets?

A deal at the COP29 climate talks on trading carbon credits could see billions of dollars move into emissions-reduction projects this decade but after a string of scandals, the market will first need to win over wary countries and communities.

Carbon trading is seen as one way for richer countries to meet their emissions reduction targets at the same time as helping poorer countries move to greener energy and to improve their resilience against climate change.

A UN-backed global market for creating and trading carbon credits has been discussed for at least 10 years. In its absence, a patchwork of voluntary standards has led to a number of situations where credits were found to not be delivering the climate benefits they claimed.

While an early deal last week saw nations agree on some quality standards, points still to be hammered out include what a global registry to track trades and label carbon credits would look like, and what information projects will need to disclose.

If a deal can be reached this week in Baku, Azerbaijan, “the main impact would be a confidence boost”, said Andrea Bonzanni, international policy director at the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA).

“It would provide both countries and the private sector with the signal that there is consensus on the rules of the game. And that would mean that companies would invest with more confidence,” he added.

IETA has said a UN-backed market could be worth \$250bn a year by 2030, and count towards offsetting an extra 5bn metric tons of carbon emissions annually. Governments including Bolivia, Singapore and Switzerland have struck dozens of agreements already to do carbon credit trades under the impending UN rules, backing investments in clean cookstoves and solar power. Others are expected to join in as they face pressure to show progress towards their national emissions-cutting targets.

Private sector buyers could include airlines, under a UN-backed plan to scale up their purchases launching in 2027, as well as companies looking to burnish their green credentials with customers and investors.

The boss of carbon project backer Key Carbon, Luke Leslie, said his firm would look to expand its investments in countries that quickly get their local market up and running.

IETA has said a UN-backed market could be worth \$250bn a year by 2030

Eriel Deranger, executive director of campaign group Indigenous Climate Action, and a member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in northern Alberta, Canada, said carbon credits distracted from calls for more public funds for climate action, and for companies to simply cut their own emissions.

“It’s going to do substantively nothing to actually reduce our emissions,” she said.

For those countries which do opt to sell credits, African Development Bank Chief Executive Akinwumi Adesina warned against doing so too quickly or too cheaply, to avoid being “short changed”.

Uganda’s energy minister, Ruth Nankabirwa, said her country was seeking to attract investment in clean cookstove projects, but had yet to use credits.

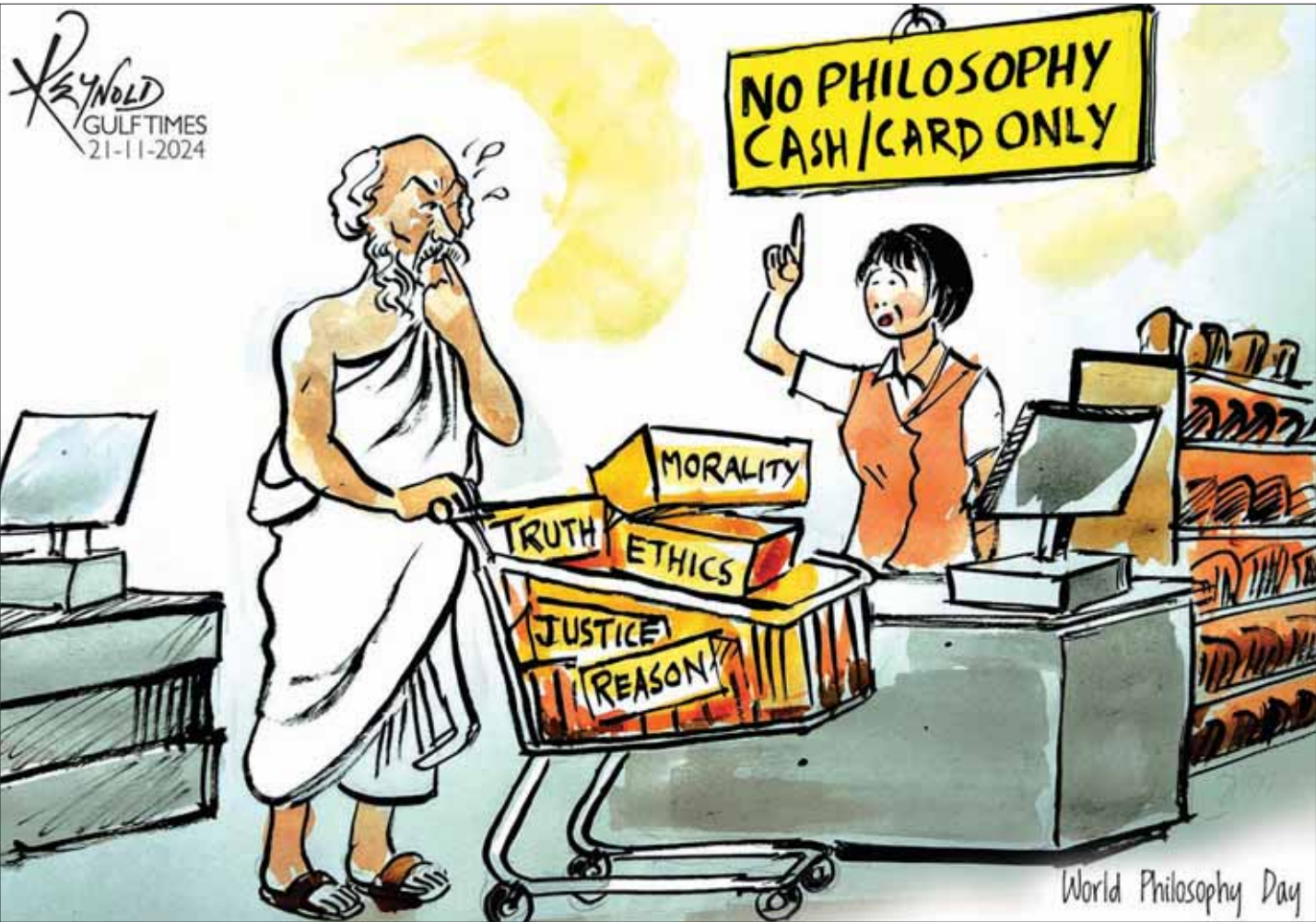
“It isn’t clear how one can benefit, how the auditing is done of carbon credits,” she said.

Nkiruka Maduekwe, director general of Nigeria’s national council on climate change, agreed, describing high integrity carbon credits as “the key”. The rules of the registry being addressed at the COP talks will be central to answering those concerns, but governments are struggling to agree. The European Union – which has ruled out using credits to meet its domestic climate goals – wants a registry that can issue and manage credit trades, to help poorer countries access the market, people familiar with the negotiations told Reuters.

The United States, however, is advocating for a registry that only tracks credit trading, arguing that empowering it to execute trades could risk giving a UN seal of approval to credits with weak environmental credentials, the sources said.

Even if a deal is reached between countries, companies may still need government incentives to buy in, given their pledges so far have been voluntary and boards are concerned about reputational risk, said Sheri Hickok, chief executive at carbon project developer Climate Impact Partners. Flooring company Interface and Australian telco Telstra Group, previously big buyers of credits, both told Reuters a UN deal would not change their decisions to exit the carbon markets, as they focus on cutting their emissions directly.

While the prospect of selling credits could offer a boost to cash-strapped governments, some remain wary - or outright opposed. Environmental group Greenpeace has called offsets a “smokescreen” while the WWF opposes their use. Some local communities are also against using them.



Long-range strikes against Russia: too late for Ukraine?



Impact will depend on missile numbers available



But it will have ‘positive tactical’ impact - analyst

By Tom Balmforth, Max Hunder and Lili Bayer
Kyiv

The US decision to authorise long-range Ukrainian strikes could help Kyiv defend the foothold in Russia’s Kursk region that it seized as leverage in any war talks, but may come too late to change the course of the war, analysts said.

Two months before leaving office, President Joe Biden lifted some restrictions that have blocked Kyiv from using US-supplied weapons for strikes deeper into Russian territory, in a major policy change, Reuters reported on Sunday.

Military analysts said the impact on the battlefield, where Ukraine has been on the back foot for months, would depend on what limits remained. But while the shift may shore up the Kursk operation, it was unlikely to be a game-changer overall.

“The decision comes late, and like other decisions in this vein, it may be too late to substantially change the course of the fighting,” said Michael Kofman, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

“Long-range strikes were always one piece of the puzzle, and had been overly freighted with expectations in this war.”

There also is no way to know how long the new policy will last. It was criticised by Richard Grenell, one of the closest foreign policy advisors of returning president Donald Trump, who replaces Biden on January 20. Trump has long criticised the scale of US aid to Kyiv and has vowed to end the war quickly, without saying how. A Trump spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ukraine has lobbied for the

KREMLIN VOWS RESPONSE

Russia has accused US President Joe Biden of escalating the war in Ukraine, promising to respond to his decision to allow Kyiv to use long-range missiles supplied by Washington to strike targets inside Russia.

Biden, who in January hands over the White House to Donald Trump, a sceptic of US support for Ukraine, urged a gathering of world leaders at the G20 Summit – attended by Russia’s foreign minister – to follow the US lead in backing Ukraine. Ukraine says strikes in Russia will help it prevent aerial bombardments that have levelled entire districts of towns near the front line and decimated energy facilities across the country.

“It’s obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends... to continue fuelling the fire and provoke a further escalation of tensions,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Speaking at the G20 summit in Brazil, Biden urged other leaders to support Ukraine’s “sovereignty”.

change for months, arguing its inability to hit areas inside Russia, and in particular military airbases and hosting warplanes involved in strikes on Ukraine, was a major handicap.

Russian forces, which have been on the offensive for more than a year, have been advancing at their fastest rate since 2022 in eastern Ukraine and exerting pressure in the northeast and southeast.

Russia says Ukraine cannot fire the missiles at targets inside Russia without direct help from Nato allies, calling this a major escalation. On Monday, the Kremlin said any such decision would mean the United States was directly involved in the conflict.

The first Ukrainian strikes could

“The United States strongly supports Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Everyone around this table in my view should as well,” Biden told the meeting. A US official told AFP the major policy shift was in response to Russia’s deployment of thousands of North Korean troops to aid its war effort. Peskov said President Vladimir Putin had clearly expressed Moscow’s position in September when he declared that using the missiles would put Nato “at war” with Russia. Putin said then that if Ukraine attacked Russia with long-range missiles, Moscow would “take the appropriate decisions” – a point the foreign ministry echoed on Monday. “Kyiv’s use of long-range missiles to attack our territory would represent the direct involvement of the United States and its satellites in hostilities against Russia,” the ministry said in a statement, vowing an “appropriate and palpable” response. - AFP

happen in the coming days and are likely to be carried out using ATACMS rockets, which have a range of up to 190 miles (306km), Reuters reported.

A central European defence official told Reuters the strikes would give Kyiv a greater chance to defend itself from aerial attacks, but would not decisively swing the conflict in Ukraine’s favour.

Russia had already moved many of its air assets beyond the reach of Western weapons in Ukraine, the official said, although the range would cover beyond the area of Kursk occupied by Ukraine.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said he was not celebrating just yet as it was unknown how many rockets

the Ukrainians had and whether they had enough to impact the battlefield. The decision to authorise the strikes only after months of Ukrainian lobbying follows a pattern repeated throughout the war as the Biden administration tried to balance its support for Ukraine with concern about escalation.

Previously, Washington vacillated for months before approving giving Ukraine long-range missiles, tanks and planes.

Some military analysts say such delays gave Moscow time to recover from early failures and reinforce defences of occupied territory, contributing to the failure of a major Ukrainian counteroffensive last year.

Being able to attack Russian territory with missiles could have its most direct impact in Kursk, where Ukraine aims to hold a salient it captured after its first major cross-border assault in August. The Russian land could be a bargaining chip in any negotiations after Trump enters the White House.

Kyiv says Russia has massed 50,000 troops to try to retake the territory in Kursk, and that it has deployed 11,000 North Koreans, some of whom it says have joined the fight. Russia has neither confirmed nor denied the deployment.

“ATACMS missiles can hold at risk high value Russian and North Korean targets. This would help Ukrainian forces defend the Kursk salient, which is under pressure,” said Kofman.

Rob Lee, a senior fellow at the Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute, said it would be difficult for Ukraine to hold its ground in Kursk in the long term, but its fortunes there would depend on resources.

“Ukraine has committed some of its best units there, so they may be able to hold for some time if they continue to receive enough ammunition and combat replacements,” he said.

Kyiv-based military analyst Serhii Kuzan said there were an array of targets in Russia at a depth of up to 500km from Ukraine that Kyiv’s forces saw as priorities, but many of which would still be out of range of ATACMS.

France and Britain have not spelled out whether they would follow the Americans by allowing Ukraine to use Storm Shadow/SCALP cruise missiles, which have a range of 250km (155 miles).

“Russia can shoot down Storm Shadow and ATACMS, so the salvo size that can be launched is also an important consideration,” Lee added.

On the streets of Kyiv on Monday, the general feeling was that the decision would help, but that it had come far too late.

“This should have been used either as a preventative measure, or as a sharp reaction in February or March 2022. Now it does not play a big role,” said Olga Korovyachuk, 21. - Reuters

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US President Joe Biden whispers into the ears of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington last year. (Reuters)

Amir attends 8th ACE Award ceremony

From Page 1

The First Vice-President of Costa Rica delivered a speech on this occasion, congratulating the winners of the Anti-Corruption Excellence Award. He praised their efforts and achievements, as well as the organisers of the award.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions Alexander Zouev, and UN Special Advocate for the Prevention of Corruption Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri each delivered speeches during the event.

The ceremony was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir, several ministers from Costa Rica, members of the High-Level Award Committee and the award's Assessment Advisory Board, previous winners of the award, senior officials, and other distinguished guests.



Qatar, Costa Rica to widen ties

From Page 1

The session was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani al-Thani, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi along with senior officials from the delegation accompanying the Amir.

On the Costa Rican side, it was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship Arnoldo Andre, Minister of Economy, Industry and Trade Francisco Gamboa, Minister of Foreign Trade Manuel Tovar, and Minister of Communications Arnold Zamora.

His Highness the Amir and the Costa Rican President held a bilateral meeting in which they discussed a number of issues of common concern.

His Highness the Amir was accorded an official reception ceremony upon his arrival at the Presidential House.

Qatar, Costa Rica sign several MoUs

On the sidelines of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Costa Rica, several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed, yesterday, to further reinforce bilateral co-operation.

An agreement on mutual exemption from entry visas for holders of diplomatic, special, and service passports between the governments of Qatar and Costa Rica was signed, in addition to an MoU for co-operation in the area of health between the two governments, as well as an MoU on sports co-operation between Qatar's Ministry of Sports and Youth and Costa Rica's Ministry of Sports and Recreation.

Additionally, an MoU was signed for co-operation in sharing news between Qatar News Agency (QNA) and National System of Radio and Television (SINART) in Costa Rica, along with an MoU for co-operation in diplomatic training between the Diplomatic Institute at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar and the Manuel Maria de Peralta Diplomatic Academy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica.

The first executive programme of the cultural co-operation agreement between the governments of Qatar and Costa Rica for 2025, 2026, and 2027 was signed, in addition to an MoU for bilateral co-operation to establish the Joint ministerial committee for trade co-operation between the two governments. (QNA)

Qatar's role in enhancing integrity and transparency wins praise

QNA
San Jose

Costa Rica's First Vice-President Stephan Brunner Neibig has praised Qatar's pioneering role in promoting the values of integrity and transparency at local, regional, and international levels, commending its outstanding efforts in supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing transparency and combating corruption, which contributes to achieving sustainable development and strengthening international partnerships in this field.

Brunner explained, in a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), that Qatar's efforts to combat corruption reflect a positive image globally, especially with the launch of an international award in this field.

He pointed out the UN must be a stronger partner in these efforts, adding that it is a mistake to believe that confronting corruption is impossible.

"Many people think that there is nothing to do against corruption and we have to fight that idea," through international co-operation and support for effective initiatives to tackle this phenomenon, he said.

On Qatar-Costa Rica bilateral relations, Brunner noted the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the two countries. He emphasised that the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani represents a turning point in these relations, as he said "we're very honoured that His Highness the Amir is coming to Costa Rica. We are also trying to have even stronger relationships with Qatar, which I think is a very strong, developed and forward-looking country."

Brunner expressed his happiness with Costa Rica's selection to host the eighth edition of the HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, stressing that



Costa Rica's First Vice-President Stephan Brunner Neibig

this event holds great significance for his country. He explained that they have made tangible progress, as they have risen three ranks in the Latin American Index of Anti-Corruption, adding that they are seriously working to become the leading country in this field in the region. Costa Rica's selection to host the award reflects international recognition of our ongoing efforts to promote integrity and combat corruption, he said.

In his speech during the ceremony honouring the award winners, he noted that the visit of His Highness the Amir and his attendance at the award ceremony reflect the strong and longstanding relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship Arnoldo Andre Tinoco praised the bilateral relations with Qatar, noting that they extend to 20 years of fruitful co-operation, and stressed that the visit of the Amir will be an important turning point in strengthening these relations.

He said that Costa Rica was the first country in Central America to open an embassy in Doha, adding that bilateral relations between the two countries are witnessing remarkable development through the exchange of ambassadors and high-level visits between the two countries, which reflects the strength of the partnership between the two sides.

Chairman of the Costa Rica-Qatar Parliamentary Friendship Group Gilberto Campos empha-

sised that the visit of the Amir represents a great opportunity for the country and places it in a significant international context.

In special remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that the visit of the Amir contributes to strengthening bilateral relations, especially since the two countries share a special relationship across various fields.

In a related context, he pointed out that this group aims to strengthen parliamentary, diplomatic, and economic relations between the two countries, and to strengthen the bonds of co-operation between them, in addition to striving to achieve cultural rapprochement and friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

He noted that Costa Rica is distinguished by its openness to various countries of the world, and has several free trade agreements with them, saying in this regard that the relationship with the State of Qatar is not new, and there are various points that Costa Rica aspires to strengthen with Qatar on the economic and political levels.

He added that Costa Rica's strategic location allows for increased Qatari investments in this important geographical area.

Campos indicated that the ways to enhance the mechanisms of co-operation between Costa Rica and Qatar lie in achieving great rapprochement between the two countries and working to enhance joint parliamentary co-operation between the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and the Shura Council, in addition to exchanging information and ideas and determining the parliamentary mechanisms necessary to enhance and develop bilateral relations between the two countries.

He noted Costa Rica's efforts to enhance parliamentary co-operation relations and increase the volume of joint working visits between them, in the interest of the peoples of the two friendly countries.

Amir leaves for Colombia



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani left San Jose yesterday after an official visit to Costa Rica, heading to Bogota on an official visit to Colombia. His Highness was seen off at Juan Santamaria International Airport by First Vice-President of Costa Rica Stephan Brunner Neibig, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship Arnoldo Andre Tinoco, Qatar's ambassador Abdulrahman bin Mohammed al-Dosari and members of the Qatari embassy. (QNA)

Al-Marri: ACE Award a global platform for recognising distinguished efforts

QNA
San Jose

UN Special Advocate for the Prevention of Corruption HE Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri, emphasised that the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (ACE Award) serves as a global platform to honour exceptional efforts and highlight successful models that bring positive change to their communities.

In his speech during the ceremony honouring the winners of the eighth edition of the award, hosted by Costa Rica, HE Dr al-Marri praised the joint efforts of Qatar and Costa Rica in hosting and organising this prestigious event. He noted that such initiatives contribute to fostering international co-operation and solidifying principles of integrity and justice worldwide.

He explained that the selection of Costa Rica to host the eighth edition of the award reflects international recognition of its pioneering efforts in promoting integrity, transparency, and combating corruption, as well as



HE Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri

its inspirational role in this field. He remarked that the presence in Costa Rica reaffirms that combating corruption is not merely a dream but a realistic goal that can be achieved when dedicated individuals work sincerely and with a firm belief in a better future.

HE Dr al-Marri called for a clear and comprehensive declaration of war against corruption, emphasising the urgent need to focus on this critical issue in Latin America and other regions of the world.

He stressed that international collaboration between governments, civil society, and academic institutions is a fundamental pillar for successfully addressing this phenomenon, which hinders development and stability.

●UN Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions Alexander Zouev has praised Qatar's dedication to honouring global efforts in combating corruption through the HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award.

In his speech during the ceremony honouring the award winners, Zouev emphasised that Qatar's initiative significantly contributes to raising global awareness and fostering international co-operation to combat corruption. He noted that such efforts support justice, peace, and sustainable development. He also expressed his gratitude to Qatar, Costa Rica, and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre for organising and hosting this timely global event.

The UN official highlighted the close connection between corruption and organised crime, illicit exploitation of resources, human trafficking, and smuggling of goods. He stressed that corruption undermines human rights, particularly affecting women and youth, especially in fragile and conflict-prone areas. Corruption, he added, poses a threat to global peace and security and hampers economic growth and human development.

PM patronises groundbreaking project

From Page 1

The project, which spans over 650,000sq m, offers an unforgettable experience, taking visitors on an enchanting journey inspired by Ibn Battuta, across seven themed zones with multi unique themed attractions.

Land of Legends Qatar unfolds as a modern 'Rihlah', inviting guests to explore diverse landscapes, immersive experiences, and cultural marvels.

This destination is packed with delights for all ages, including the family-friendly Kingdom Hotel with conference facilities and beachside activities, and Music Hotel, a multicultural destination which hosts a futuristic celebration of the world's music and its forward evolution with a total of 1,000 hotel rooms, from an impressive 80-metre-high mountain to boat parades along scenic canals and thrilling water adventures, every corner promises something extraordinary.

A first 'Moving Theater' of the region, equipped with state-of-the-art interactive technology, promises a fully immersive cinematic experience. 'Flying Theater', a soaring adventure ride flying over the 'Natural Marvels of the Arabic World Today', which transforms into the fantastical myths and legends of the region. Visitors can also enjoy luxurious villas and a world-class dining selection, making each moment truly special.

On the occasion of the groundbreaking for the first major entertainment destination within the Simaisma Project, HE al-Attiyah said, "This event marks an important step toward realising an ambitious vision aimed at enhancing Qatar's position regionally and internationally, establishing it as a leading tourist destination. The 'Land of Legends' project is a key component of Qatar's strategy to diversify its national economy, offering an exceptional experience that will contribute to attracting investments and advancing the tourism sector."

The minister noted that the Ministry of Municipality plays a pivotal role in supporting the project through strategies aimed



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani at the groundbreaking event for 'Land of Legends Qatar' yesterday.



Dignitaries at the event yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen

at improving the quality of life, promoting sustainability, fostering innovation, and providing advanced infrastructure.

He also pointed out the Ministry's commitment to careful planning and ensuring the project's integration with the master plan for the Simaisma area, which guarantees the project's sustainability and supports the development of a sustainable and long-term community.

He added: "This project not only enhances tourism but also contributes to creating promising investment opportunities and strengthening the partnership be-

tween the public and private sectors, which supports long-term economic development and lays the foundation for an integrated community that aligns with Qatar's future vision."

Al-Ali said the groundbreaking event marked a significant milestone in enhancing Qatar's position as a leading tourism destination on both regional and global levels.

"The Simaisma Project embodies an inspiring vision that reflects our commitment to delivering a world-class entertainment experience with a distinctive Qatari touch. It also aims to attract in-



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and other dignitaries at the groundbreaking event for 'Land of Legends Qatar' yesterday.



A view of the fireworks marking the groundbreaking for 'Land of Legends Qatar' yesterday. PICTURE: Thajudheen

vestments in the tourism sector and create new job opportunities, all the while adhering to the highest standards of sustainability, which are integral to Qatar's future vision."

He highlighted that Qatari Diar possesses extensive expertise and advanced resources in real estate development, spanning over two decades across 20 cities in four continents. These projects cover diverse sectors, including entertainment, commercial, resi-

dential, and mixed-use developments, as well as smart cities, infrastructure, and their associated services.

The Qatari Diar CEO added: "This wealth of experience ensures that our partnership in developing the largest entertainment city in the region is both robust and pioneering, capable of achieving exceptional outcomes."

Tamine said, "We are delighted to bring the unique Land of Legends experience to Qatar with

our partner Qatari Diar, creating a destination that is more than just a theme park or hotel. It is a lively world of entertainment and leisure that will add a new dimension to Qatar's attractions and become a top choice for holidays and fun for millions in the region."

Qatari Diar has a rich portfolio of developments within and outside Qatar, having 50 investment projects under development in some 20 countries, combining an investment value of around \$35bn.

Promotion available at all Safari outlets on: 21-11-2024 at all Safari Outlets في جميع منافذ سفاري

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 <p>Qatar Riyal 21.50 روزانا ارز بسمتي ٥ كجم x ١ حبة Rozana Basmati Rice 5kg x 1pc</p>	 <p>Qatar Riyal 8.75 امين سونير زيت عباد الشمس ١.٨ لتر x ١ حبة Emin Suner Sunflower Oil 1.8Ltr x 1pc</p>	 <p>Qatar Riyal 22.75 البادية حليب كامل الدسم ١ لتر x ٤ حبة Al Badia Full Cream Milk 1ltr x 4pcs</p>	 <p>Qatar Riyal 11.00 ساديا دجاج شواية ١٢٠٠ جم x ١ حبة Sadia Chicken Griller 1200gm x 1pc</p>

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