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SPORT | Page 2

Team QMMF posts fourth consecutive victory in endurance races this year



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Amir visits Canada today

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will pay an official visit to friendly Canada today, during which the Amir will meet with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau to discuss strengthening bilateral relations and several regional and international issues of common concern.

His Highness the Amir will be accompanied by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and an official delegation. (QNA)

Canada will be marked as a milestone in the history of Qatar-Canada relations.

The visit, the first of its kind, is expected to further beef up bilateral relations and elevate collaboration across areas of economy, education, politics, and trade. It will push joint co-ordination on global political and security issues.

Marked by a long history of strong friendship, the Qatar-Canada relations are based on mutual respect and common interests, with both sides showing further commitment to bolstering multi-field co-operation.

Since 1974, the two countries have made great strides in building trust, and exchanging benefits across various fields, leading to mutual understanding and producing exemplary contributions to the whole world.

The visit highlights the two countries' keenness to boost strategic partnership across various fields, from energy to education, trade and natural resources. These relations reflect a high level of understanding and co-ordination and streamline further investment opportunities and fruitful co-operation. **Page 11**

Amir meets speaker of British House of Commons



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at his office at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with Speaker of the House of Commons of the British Parliament Lindsay Hoyle, and the accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting touched on the friendly relations and strategic co-operation between Qatar and the United Kingdom, and ways to enhance and promote them, in addition to the most prominent regional and international developments. HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem attended the meeting. (QNA)

ConteQ Expo24 opens

Three-day exhibition at QNCC spotlights Qatar's progress in technology and innovation

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Highlighting the strides Qatar has been making in technology in the construction and services sectors, the ConteQ Expo24 started yesterday at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

Held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the three-day expo is an important event promoting innovation, digitisation and sustainable development in the two sectors.

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah delivered the opening address in the presence of HE the Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif al-Sulaiti, HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai, president of Ashghal Engineer Dr Saad bin Ahmad al-Muhammad, ambassadors and dignitaries from various government and private entities.

HE the Municipality Minister said Qatar is moving towards a comprehensive digital transformation through numerous initiatives and investments in technology, innovation, and artificial intelligence, with the aim of achieving comprehensive economic development, a key pillar of the Qatar National Vision 2030,



HE the ministers and dignitaries listen to a briefing at the exhibition venue. **PICTURE:** Shajji Kayamkulam

striving to build a more productive, diversified and competitive national economy while maintaining the highest quality standards and sustainability.

HE the Minister added that digital transformation is a strategic axis for supporting global Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing innovation, achieving resource efficiency, and improving the quality of life in various communities.

"ConteQ Expo 2024 is the first of its kind in Qatar, attracting major global entities and marking the beginning of a new era of innovation initiatives in construc-

tion technology, the services sector, and digital transformation. It aims to enhance partnerships in these important sectors, explore promising investment opportunities and attract them to Qatar," HE the Minister noted adding that Qatar's hosting of this important event will contribute significantly to achieving the desired digital transformation in the construction sector, harnessing the latest construction technology and services to improve performance efficiency, reduce human errors, unskilled labour, save energy, and achieve environmentally sustainable development. **To Page 9**

US working on revised Gaza truce proposal

Reuters
Washington

The United States is still working with mediators Egypt and Qatar to present a revised proposal for a ceasefire in the war in Gaza, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said yesterday.

Miller told reporters Washington was working with the mediators on what the proposal will contain and ensuring that "it's a proposal that can get the parties to an ultimate agreement."

Talks over months have so far failed to reach a deal to end war, now in its twelfth month.

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said last week it is ready to implement a ceasefire based on the previous proposal without any new conditions from any party.

Negotiations have been ongoing to clear two main obstacles: Israel's demand to keep its forces in the Philadelphia corridor to maintain a buffer between Gaza and Egypt, and the specifics of an exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Miller confirmed those remained the main sticking points.

AFP adds from Geneva: United Nations rights experts warned yesterday that Israel risked be-



A woman walks with an infant past the rubble of a collapsed building in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

coming an international "pariah" over its "genocide" in Gaza, suggesting that the country's UN membership should be called into question.

Several independent UN experts decried what they said was Israel's escalating violence and rights violations in Gaza and the West Bank, its disregard for international court rulings and verbal attacks on the UN itself.

PM, Guterres discuss Gaza mediation

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres. They discussed the developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the joint mediation efforts to end the war on the Strip, release the prisoners and hostages, and provide sustainable humanitarian aid to all areas of the Strip. In addition, they discussed the latest developments in the region. (QNA)

New number for PHCC calls from abroad

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has announced a change to the call centre's landline number for visitors from outside the country. The new number, +974-44066466, will replace the previous +974-44069917. Updating the landline number will not affect patients and visitors inside Qatar, as they can continue to communicate with the call centre as usual via the number 107, while patients and visitors from outside the country should use the new number for all inquiries. (QNA)

Europe braces for further flooding

Residents of several areas of Poland and the Czech Republic rushed to evacuate yesterday as others in central Europe began cleaning up after the worst flooding in over two decades left a trail of destruction and a rising number of deaths. Border areas between the Czech Republic and Poland were hit hard over the weekend.

Russia agency boosts German AfD: media

A Russian propaganda agency is working to frighten German voters and boost the far-right AfD party, a media group reported yesterday, citing leaked documents from the Moscow-based firm. The Social Design Agency (SDA) had been spreading disinformation in order to increase voters' "fear of the future" and actively strengthen the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD), the media consortium said.

Trump suspect, staunch Ukraine backer, charged with gun crimes

AFP
West Palm Beach, US

A man suspected of plotting to assassinate former US president Donald Trump was charged with federal gun crimes yesterday.

Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, was charged with possession of a firearm as a convicted felon and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number at his initial court appearance.

Routh, who was arrested on Sunday after an alleged abortive bid to shoot the Republican presidential candidate at his West Palm Beach golf course, is expected to face further charges at a later date.

Routh appeared calm during the brief court hearing before Magistrate Judge Ryon McCabe of the Southern District of Florida, an-



Routh is seen during a rally demanding China's leader's assistance for Ukrainian service members in Mariupol, in Kyiv, Ukraine on May 17, 2022.

swering "yes" to several questions.

A detention hearing was scheduled for September 23 and an arraignment on further potential charges was set for September 30.



Routh following his arrest in Martin County, Florida on September 15.

Routh was arrested on Sunday after a Secret Service agent on the former president's security detail saw what appeared to be the barrel of a rifle pointing out of a tree line

on the perimeter of the Trump International Golf Course, according to a criminal complaint filed by an FBI special agent.

"The Agent fired his/her service weapon in the direction of the rifle," the complaint said.

Routh was arrested by local police about 45 minutes later on I-95, a major north-south highway, and replied in the "affirmative" when asked if he knew why he was being stopped, it said.

According to the complaint, a "loaded SKS-style, 7.62x39 calibre rifle with a scope," a digital camera, a backpack and a black plastic bag containing food were recovered from the tree line.

Gunman spent nearly 12 hrs near golf course

Routh appears to have spent nearly 12 hours on the perimeter of

the Trump golf course. "Routh's mobile phone was located in the vicinity of the area along the tree line... from approximately 1:59am until approximately 1:31pm on September 15," the complaint said.

He was convicted in 2010 in the same state of multiple counts of possession of stolen goods, it said.

Ukraine denies links

Kyiv yesterday denied links to a man accused of trying to assassinate former US President Donald Trump, after it emerged that the suspect was a supporter of Ukraine who had said he wanted to recruit foreign volunteers to fight there. Media interviews and social media posts showed that the reported suspect was a staunch supporter of Ukraine who had travelled there after Russia's 2022 invasion.

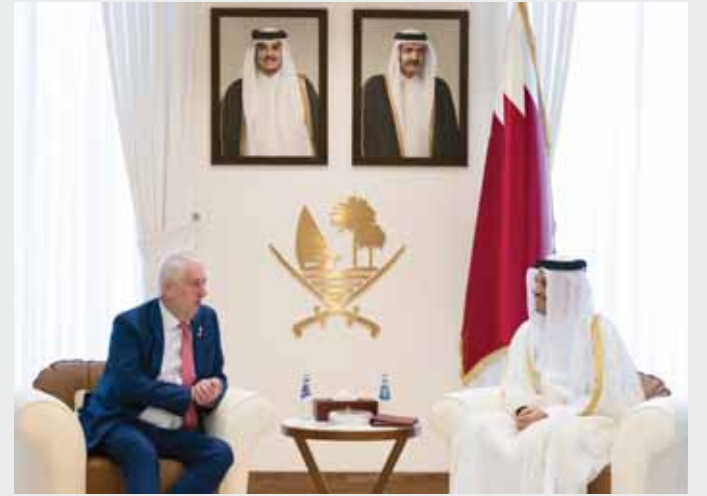
King of Spain receives credentials of Qatar's envoy

Spanish King Felipe VI received in Madrid the credentials of Salem bin Mubarak al-Shafi as Qatar's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Spain. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the king, and his wishes to His Majesty of the best of health and happiness, and the government and people of Spain further progress and prosperity. For his part, the Spanish king entrusted the ambassador to convey his greetings to the Amir, wishing His Highness the best of health and happiness, and Qatar more progress and prosperity. (QNA)



PM meets speaker of UK House of Commons

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Speaker of the House of Commons of the British Parliament Lindsay Hoyle. The meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. (QNA)



Djibouti PM meets QFFD official



Djibouti's Prime Minister Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed met with Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) Acting Director General, Sultan bin Ahmed al-Aseeri, during his visit to the country. The meeting discussed topics of common interest within the scope of future projects and ways to support and develop them. (QNA)

Al Meera highlights AI, automation at ConteQ Expo 2024



Al Meera Consumer Goods is participating in ConteQ Expo 2024 by highlighting the importance of innovation in advancing Qatar's economic diversification goals and fostering innovation within the retail sector, a statement said. As a leader in integrating AI and automation into retail operations, Al Meera has introduced pioneering technological initiatives, providing customers with a convenient shopping experience supported by a wide

variety of exclusive offers and discounts. These initiatives include the Smart Cart, a revolutionary technology that allows customers to log in, scan items, add them to the cart, and pay while accessing exclusive deals and promotions. Another milestone is Al Meera's Smart Store, the first unmanned store in Qatar and the region, providing customers with advanced cashier-less shopping experience powered by AI.

"Al Meera continues to set benchmarks in consumer data analysis through its mobile app, enhancing store efficiency by tracking and analysing user preferences. The national retailer will also showcase its latest cutting-edge technology at the Expo, including its self-checkout systems that streamline the shopping process while providing customers with faster and more convenient ways to complete their purchases," the statement added.

Egypt to continue efforts with Qatar to reach Gaza ceasefire: foreign minister

QNA
Moscow

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said Cairo would press on joint efforts with Qatar to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, stressing the need for the Security Council to assume its responsibilities to stop the systematic killing of the Palestinian people.

In a joint press conference yesterday with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, Abdelatty said that their bilat-

eral talks earlier in the day addressed the joint efforts made by Egypt, Qatar and the US to reach an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Egypt will continue tireless efforts with partners to reach a deal that guarantees the exchange of prisoners and the cessation of aggression, he said, stressing that the establishment of a Palestinian state is mandatory for regional stability.

The Middle East is going through extremely dangerous developments that increase the stakes of a large-scale war, he added, stressing the rejection of

any violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and stressing the need to avoid dragging the region into a regional war.

Meanwhile, Lavrov stressed the need to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and provide more humanitarian aid, and the importance of continuing efforts to reach diplomatic solutions based on UN resolutions and the two-state solution.

Abdelatty landed in Moscow on Sunday, on his first visit to Russia since assuming the office in Egypt's new government.

Education Above All launches new visual identity

Education Above All Foundation (EAA) has launched its new visual identity, affirming its ongoing dedication to promoting the right to quality education around the world, reflecting the foundation's evolution and strong international influence, and enhancing its mission to provide high-quality education within reach of disadvantaged and marginalised children and youth around the world. This step comes at a time when the

foundation seeks to redefine its identity and position in education and development in response to changing global dynamics and its institutional growth, enhance its image in line with its new strategy, and strengthen its position as a leading institution in innovation and sustainable development through education.

In regards to the rebranding, the CEO of EAA, Fahad al-Sulaiti, said: "The new visual identity is an important milestone in the

journey of the foundation, it symbolises maturity and continued commitment to our mission. The foundation continues to collaborate with a network of more than 100 partners in more than 65 countries, supporting more than 19mn children and youth. This new identity will contribute to advancing the efforts and commitment to protecting and supporting education as a fundamental right that contributes to a decent life for all." (QNA)

QU scientists in precision medicine breakthrough

Qatar University (QU) scientists have made a major breakthrough in the field of precision medicine, offering new hope for the treatment of chronic diseases. In a recent study published in *Pharmacology and Translational Science* by the American Chemical Society, researchers from QU Health revealed the potential of Apabetalone (RVX-208).

The innovative epigenetic therapy, which targets the way genes are turned on or off in human bodies without changing the DNA sequence, is poised to transform the treatment of cardiovascular, renal, neurological, viral, and cancer disorders by addressing their underlying causes. Epigenetic treatments like Apabetalone block specific harmful proteins, reduc-

ing their production. Apabetalone is the only such inhibitor that has been granted a breakthrough therapy designation from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) outside the area of oncology.

Dr Zaid al-Ma'ayah, assistant professor Pharmacology and Toxicology at QU, leading the study, said: "This work represents a new era in medicine, focusing on using epigenetics to regulate the transcription of genes involved in cardiovascular, infectious, and cancer disorders. In addition to this work, we have made numerous intriguing experimental discoveries regarding the new applications of this epigenetic therapy, which we will soon share with the scientific community. We are sincerely thankful to the College of Pharmacy and QU



Dr Zaid al-Ma'ayah and his team.

Health Sector for their support of our work."

Unlike traditional treatments that target just one part of a disease, Apabetalone takes a revolutionary approach by working

earlier in the process and affecting many biological functions. It blocks proteins that play a role in disease development, creating a new way to treat chronic illnesses. This method improves how cells

communicate locally and throughout the body, leading to better overall health and wellness. This marks a major advancement in medical science.

Because of the high impact of changes in how genes work, especially when certain proteins are modified, the researchers wanted to see how Apabetalone could help in early tests with animals. They plan to look into using Apabetalone with other treatments to make it even better at protecting health. As Apabetalone moves through clinical trials (tests in people), continued preclinical research is essential to fully understand its potential across various diseases.

This cutting-edge study was enriched by the dedicated efforts of Hevna Dhulkifle, a QU Health

graduate student, whose contributions were integral to the study's findings. Dhulkifle remarked: "The state-of-the-art research facilities and the fostering environment in QU have greatly enriched my academic journey. The recent review is a testament to the university's commitment to stay at the forefront of scientific advancements. I am truly grateful to learn from and work with some of the brightest minds in the field."

The study, funded by an internal grant from QU, highlights the university's commitment to staying at the forefront of scientific research. The support of the university has allowed researchers to explore new frontiers in epigenetic therapies, offering hope for the future of precision medicine.

MSDF, MoPH hold workshop to enhance food safety

The Ministry of Social Development and Family, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, organised a training workshop entitled "Food Safety" at the Social Development Center in the Pearl, with the aim of training owners of productive projects (from the homeland) as well as providing knowledge about the general health conditions in the primary food facility.

A number of owners of productive projects (from the homeland) who specialise in cooking and food projects participated in the workshop.

The workshop participants learned about modern scientific methods for preserving and storing food, the correct methods and mechanisms for preserving

food for a longer period without exposing it to spoilage, and the correct method for transporting, displaying and selling ready-made foods.

In this regard, Director of the Family Empowerment Department Fatima al-Nuaimi stressed that the department continues its ongoing support for development projects aimed at economically empowering individuals and families in co-ordination with relevant authorities, and directing and encouraging the efforts of the private sector and civil society organisations with the aim of establishing or financing the development projects, in addition to developing and implementing schemes to support and develop national productive projects through train-

ing and providing support services and providing appropriate areas and opportunities to market products by participating in various marketing exhibitions.

For her part, Health Inspection Supervisor at the Food Safety Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Haifa Abdullah, said that this awareness workshop highlighted the importance of food safety for food production workers, explained how to prevent foodborne diseases, and learn about the basics of food safety according to the specifications and standards in effect in the country and international organisations, to provide the highest possible level of food safety for the consumer.

The workshop is one of a series of awareness lectures organised by

MSDF in co-operation with MoPH throughout the year, which is in line with its vision towards directing the efforts of institutions concerned with women and the family economically for self-reliance and developing the implementation of projects to support and develop productive families through training and provision of assistance services, in addition to providing areas for marketing their products.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family is making strenuous efforts to support productive families, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, by providing a variety of programmes and initiatives that aim to enhance innovation and increase production efficiency to achieve sustainable development. (QNA)

Qatar's diplomat to EU participates in workshop on Palestinian recovery



Ambassador of Qatar to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato), Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Malki, participated in the comprehensive workshop on "Palestinian Recovery and Resilience" organised by the European Commission. The workshop was chaired on the European side by Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations at the European Commission Jan Koopman and on the Palestinian side by Palestinian Minister of Planning and International Co-operation Wael Zakout with the participation of representatives of the EU Member States, the G7 and Arab States, in addition to the European Investment Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. During the workshop, they discussed the Palestinian Authority's reform matrix, joint efforts to address financial challenges, and paving the way for a long-term plan for recovery and resilience. (QNA)



Awqaf ministry opens educational expo on Prophetic Sunnah

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, represented by the Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance, inaugurated an educational exhibition on the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him), which will run for two weeks at the headquarters of the women's activities division of the Department of Da'wah in Al Waab area.

The launch was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Mohammed bin Ghanem al-Thani.

The exhibition includes a large number of pictures, brief educational and illustrative tools about the Prophet's biography, illustrative maps and the most prominent hadiths of the Prophet that contain advice for the individual and society.

Director of the Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance, Malallah Abdul Rahman al-Jaber, said the exhibition aims to increase awareness of the importance of the Sunnah of the Prophet and its position in Islamic legislation, and to glorify the status of the Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace) and defend his Sunnah, explaining that during the exhibition period, the focus will be on motivating young people to memorise the hadiths of the Prophet and to familiarise them with his biography and the following of his Sunnah.



Al-Jaber pointed out that along with the exhibition, an educational and advocacy campaign will be launched that will continue until Nov 5. This will include a number of events, competitions and various seminars to introduce the Prophetic Sunnah. It aims to glorify the status and Sunnah of the Prophet, instil love for him, clarify the authority of the Sunnah and its position in Islamic legislation, and the importance of acting upon it, preserving the Sunnah and spreading it among people. (QNA)

The project allows users to communicate directly with a scholar for their religious queries. Users can submit their questions directly through the Islamweb page on Telegram, where scholars will respond directly on the same page or refer to over 300,000 existing fatwas.

Head of the Islamic network division at the Department of Religious Call and Guidance, Abdul Salam Mohamed al-Rajhi, noted that the live fatwa chat service was initially launched on WhatsApp in early June this year. He added that the project expands to a new social media platform, Telegram, through the following link: <http://t.me/Islamwebchatbot> (QNA)



Ministry of Awqaf launches live fatwa service on Telegram

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, through its Islamic network (Islamweb) division in the Department of Religious Call and Guidance, has launched a new service offering live fatwas via the Telegram app.

This service aims to provide users with easy-to-use platforms and applications, allowing them to access answers and information swiftly and conveniently.

This initiative is part of the ministry's vision to establish the Islamweb site as the primary online reference for reliable Islamic knowledge.

On this occasion, Director of the Department of Religious Call and Guidance at the Ministry, Malallah Abdul Rahman al-Jaber, explained that the department is keen to utilise modern electronic tools to deliver its religious and advocacy messages to the

community. The new service facilitates users' access to Islamic rulings and diverse knowledge, contributing to a better quality of life.

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QC delivers food aid in Bangladesh

Qatar Charity (QC), with the support of philanthropists in Qatar, has provided food aid to approximately 20,000 individuals belonging to the families of sponsored orphans in Bangladesh.

Community leaders have praised the initiative, highlighting the significant impact it has had on the ground. Mahin Siddique, a local community leader in the Kishoregonj district, said: "Qatar Charity's support is a beacon of hope for these families. Their generosity not only provides immediate relief but also fosters a sense of security and stability for the children and their families."

Rahela Khatun, a mother of two orphans, said: "The food we received from Qatar Charity has been a great help. It will ease our burden and allow us to focus on other essential needs without constantly worrying about our next meal."

Sharmin, a 6th grader from the Norsindi district, also expressed her appreciation, "The aid from Qatar Charity means that we



don't have to go hungry, and I can concentrate on my studies without distraction. This support has made a big difference in my life."

The food distribution is part of QC's broader commitment to meeting the needs of orphaned students and their families in Bangladesh. Its Social Welfare Project encompasses various

forms of support, including educational aid, healthcare services and emergency relief, all aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those in need.

In Bangladesh, QC sponsors 5,013 orphaned students and operates 13 orphanages. A dedicated team of 157 teachers provides education to these orphaned children.

LG launches WashTower

LG Electronics has launched in Qatar its latest innovation in home appliances, the LG WashTower, a groundbreaking laundry solution that integrates both a washer and dryer into one sleek, space-saving unit.

The LG WashTower is a vertical laundry system that combines the washer and dryer in one unified appliance, offering faster laundry cycles, energy savings and an intuitive user experience, a statement said.

The LG WashTower is available with either a 27-inch or 24-inch drum, offering a washing load of up to 19kg and a drying load of up to 16kg. The more compact WashTower model comes with 12kg of washing and 10kg of drying.

Unlike traditional stacked washer-dryer sets, the LG WashTower features a central control panel that's easy to access, eliminating the need to reach up for dryer controls.

Equipped with LG's Artificial Intelligence Direct Drive (AI DD), the washer detects fabric texture and load size, automatically adjusting the wash motions for optimal care. The built-in AI also helps reduce cycle times and energy consumption, ensuring



a smarter and more efficient laundry process.

The LG WashTower is designed to handle large loads quickly, thanks to TurboWash 360° technology that sprays jets of water in multiple directions, cutting wash time to just 30 minutes. TurboSteam technology in the dryer helps reduce wrinkles and odours, delivering fresh clothes faster.

The LG WashTower integrates seamlessly with LG's ThinQ app, enabling users to control and monitor their laundry from anywhere. Smart Pairing technology even recommends the optimal drying cycle based on the washer's

load, ensuring perfect results every time.

"The goal with the LG WashTower is to redefine what a laundry appliance can be by combining cutting-edge technology with a design that fits seamlessly into any home," said C V Rappai, director & CEO of Video Home & Electronic Center. "The WashTower is a complete laundry solution that prioritises convenience, efficiency and innovation for today's consumers."

The LG WashTower is available at leading retailers, Jumbo Electronics, and LG Brand Shops across Qatar, or online at www.jumbosouq.com

MoECC marks International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) yesterday marked the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, which falls on September 16, under the theme 'Advancing Climate Action'.

The event was attended by undersecretary Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Mahmoud, Ministry of Education and Higher Education undersecretary Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, University of Doha for Science and Technology's (UDST) Chemical Engineering Technology Department head Dr Mohannad al-Jarrah.

Khaled al-Kilali, representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delivered a recorded video message. During the event, officials honoured the winners of the

'Ozone Shield of the Blue Planet' competition.

During the celebration, school students who won the 'Ozone Shield of the Blue Planet' competition were honoured. The competition was organised by the MoECC in collaboration with UDST and UNEP.

The competition aimed to raise awareness among students about their social responsibility to protect the ozone layer by engaging them in creating videos and publications that reflect their understanding and vision of environmental solutions related to the protection of the ozone layer.

There was also a video presentation introducing the agreement, the competition and a display of the winners' contributions, as well as others that

highlighted academic and community initiatives contributing to environmental protection.

Qatar is a member of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its amendments. In addition, Qatar has implemented several projects and activities to protect the ozone layer in co-operation with various sectors of the country and promoted environmentally friendly solutions and technologies.

The MoECC is making significant efforts to promote sustainable development through various effective environmental initiatives and innovative solutions to protect the environment and natural resources in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Francophone Film Festival ends at MIA



Ambassadors Florence Tinguely Mattli (left) and Fuad Morina address the audience.

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The embassy of Kosovo, in co-operation with the embassy of Switzerland in Doha, participated in the Francophone Film Festival.

The festival concluded its activities at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) with two films in French. The first, a documentary titled *Without Kosovo* and the second, a Swiss production titled *Columbine*. The closing ceremony was attended by Fuad Morina, Kosovo ambassador and Florence Tinguely Mattli, Switzerland ambassador in Doha.

Ambassador Fuad Morina welcomed the attendees during a speech on the occasion, and stressed that the cultural festival celebrates Francophonie, praising the role that culture plays in uniting people and creating spaces of solidarity and mutual understanding.

Ambassador Florence Tinguely Mattli, welcomed the participants during the cultural evening of the Doha Francophone Film Festival and all friends of Francophonie.

She also thanked the MIA in Doha for providing everyone with the opportunity to host the festival for a whole week, which allowed for the presentation of a rich and diverse collection of Francophone cinematic productions. She also stressed that each work takes the viewer on a tragic and heroic path, but it is always an emotionally touching film that calls for progress and reflection. The film *Without Kosovo* by director Dea Djenovici, produced in 2017, tells the story of the young Aslan Djenovici. It is about a physics student at the University of Pristina, who participated in organising student demonstrations demanding the independence of Kosovo in 1968, and which forces him to flee his country due to repression of ac-

tivists by the Serbian authorities at the time. The film also tells the story of the young man's escape journey through Balkan countries and Italy, where he was detained at refugee camps for more than three years, before he finally settled in Switzerland. The young man had been away from his family for more than thirty years before deciding to return to his homeland in 2016.

The second film, *Columbine*, directed by Dominique Othenin-Girard was produced in 2022. It tells the story of a 13-year-old girl who runs away from home due to a troublesome relationship and quarrels with her mother, in order to search for her father she has never met. Her search takes her through time and she finds herself in the middle of a huge live show during a winegrowers' festival, and is dazzled by the surreal setting and is trapped in a strange world where she can rely only on her intelligence and her heart to find her way.

Media City Qatar in AJD event in Sarajevo

Media City Qatar (MCQ) participated in the Al Jazeera Documentary (AJD) Industry Days event, which concluded in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, yesterday. Organised by Al Jazeera Balkans in co-operation with Al Jazeera Media Network (AJMN), MCQ was a key partner at the three-day event, promoting Qatar as a hub for content creation.

The event was dedicated to broadening the global presence of documentaries, encouraging international co-productions, and linking key decision-makers with promising projects, a MCQ statement said.

MCQ was represented by business development director Thair Khaled al-Anani and strategy and business planning manager Tefik Ergun, along with a senior delegation who participated



in discussions throughout the event.

MCQ seized the spotlight at a dedicated session, attended by documentary filmmakers, investors, and leading industry pro-

fessionals, showcasing its pivotal role in advancing Qatar's media industry. By outlining strategic initiatives, MCQ reaffirmed its commitment to supporting diverse creative talents, driving

economic diversification and positioning Qatar as a destination for global media. Al-Anani said: "Media City Qatar's presence at AJD Industry Days solidifies our commitment to global media collaboration. Documentaries are powerful tools for storytelling, and we're dedicated to empowering content creators, media entrepreneurs, and filmmakers worldwide. Qatar is becoming the epicentre for creative talent, and we're proud to be part of it."

MCQ, an emerging global media hub, offers a favourable regulatory environment, cutting-edge business facilities, and compelling incentive schemes to ensure the success of emerging media ventures in Qatar. This comprehensive strategy is vital for the ongoing growth and development of the nation's diverse creative industries, in-

cluding broadcasting, traditional and digital news, gaming, user-generated content, AI, and other advanced technologies.

AJD Industry Days served as a crucial gathering for documentary projects from Southeast Europe, the Caucasus, the Middle East, and North Africa. The event showcased numerous projects and included initial presentations followed by one-on-one meetings. The setup provided documentary filmmakers from these regions the chance to network with decision-makers and leading professionals from both regional and international documentary and TV industries.

The aim was to help secure funding for documentary production, facilitating broadcast, distribution, screening, and sales on a global scale, the statement added.

Official

Amir congratulates presidents of Mexico and Nicaragua; and Papua New Guinea governor-general

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Deputy Amir and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Governor-General of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea Sir Bob Dadae on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister James Marabe. (QNA)

Qatar to take part in Riyadh book fair

The Ministry of Culture announced its participation in Riyadh International Book Fair, which will take place from September 26 to October 5 at King Saud University. Qatar will be the guest of honour of this year's edition of the fair. Qatar's participation aims to showcase Qatari intellectual output, promote the Ministry of Culture's electronic library, and strengthen cultural and intellectual exchange. A number of Qatari publishing houses will participate in the upcoming edition of the book fair, including Qatar University Press, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press, as well as the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Qatar Reads, and a collection of publications from the Ministry of Culture. (QNA)

ASCO conference discusses latest research, treatment

Hosted by Hamad Medical Corp (HMC) in partnership with the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), the Best of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2024 Annual Meeting brought together leading cancer professionals to discuss the latest research and treatment practices.

The annual meeting was an occasion for 300 healthcare professionals, academics, students, and industry representatives to explore advancements in emerging therapeutics, including immunotherapy, molecular precision medicine, tumour biology, and new symptom management and survivorship approaches.

Focusing on "Shaping Cancer Care Together," the conference provided a platform for participants to explore various topics, including the management of common cancers such as breast, colon, lung, and prostate, as well as rare conditions like neurological, head and neck, urological, gynaecological cancers, and sarcomas.

Commenting on the event, Deputy Medical Director for Education, Research, and Quality at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research and Chairman of the Best of ASCO 2024 in Qatar Dr Mohammed Ussama al-Homsi said, "The Best of ASCO 2024 has once again proven to be an invaluable prospect for healthcare profes-

sionals to engage with the latest global research and treatment practices. This event has reinforced our commitment to advancing cancer care in Qatar," Dr al-Homsi added, "This conference has successfully facilitated the exchange of cutting-edge knowledge, enhancing our collective understanding of cancer care."

"By addressing both prevalent and rare cancers, we are making significant strides in improving patient outcomes and advancing the field."

In turn, Director of the Pharmacy Department at the National Center for Cancer Care and Research and Chairman of the Organising Committee for Best of ASCO 2024 in Qatar Dr

Anas Hamad emphasised the significance of collaboration and teamwork: "We had 41 lectures in the scientific program provided by regional and local experts, and 38 scientific posters presented by cancer researchers in Qatar, which covered several topics related to practice and science."

Dr Hamad also highlighted the role of innovation in the event: "The conference underscored our commitment to integrating innovative research into clinical practice. Our focus on emerging therapies and precision medicine ensures that Qatar remains at the forefront of cancer care, offering our patients the most effective treatments available." (QNA)

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Umm Al Quwain ruler meets Qatar diplomat



Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Umm Al Qaiwain in the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Saud bin Rashid al-Mu'alla met with Qatar's Consul General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates Saeed bin Ali al-Hajri. The meeting discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries. (QNA)



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QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/MNT/6733/24 PROVISION OF SCAFFOLDING SERVICES ON CALL OFF BASIS	15/09/2024 to 19/09/2024	0	500,000	30/09/2024

Scope of Work:
Contractor shall provide comprehensive scaffolding services on a call-off basis to Company for its Onshore facilities. The scope of work includes the erection and dismantling of scaffolding, design, inspection and certification to ensure compliance with standards. Contractor is also responsible for ensuring all activities adhere to relevant safety regulations and providing immediate response on services according to emergencies and priorities. The Contract duration shall be for a period of five (05) years starting from Q1 2025 tentatively with a sole option for Company to extend the Contract duration further for up to two (02) years.

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


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

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

In Brief

Kia models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Al-Attiya Motors and Trading Company, has announced the recall of Kia Niro Plus HEV, 2023-2024 models, as the printed circuit board (PCB) in the Hydraulic Clutch Actuator may become contaminated with fluid, causing electrical short circuit and thereby increasing the risk of an engine compartment fire while driving. 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, inquires and suggestions through the following channels: Call Center: 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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SN	TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	TENDER FEE (USD)	TENDER BOND (USD)	CLOSING DATE
1	QFFD/PPP-0/PDS/0073/09-2024	PROVISION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING & REPORTING SERVICES ON CALL OF BASIS FOR (3) YEARS	\$ 1,000	\$ 90,000	31 October 2024

- ❖ Tender Document of the above Tender is available for collection via email from **17 September 2024 until Bid closing date.**
- ❖ Interested parties shall first deposit the appropriate Tender Fee (non-refundable) as mentioned above; payable to:
Bank Name: Masraf Al-Rayan Bank
Account Name: Qatar Fund for Development
Account Number: 0003-102031-202
IBAN: QA14MAFR00000000003102031202
(Company Name, Tender Name & Tender Number must be mentioned in the deposit slip)
- ❖ The Tender document will be issued upon receiving a copy of the Commercial Registration, Classification Certificate (if any) and proof of payment via email: overseas.tender@qatarfund.org.qa.
- ❖ Tender document submitted should be accompanied with a Tender Bond in accordance with the tender document issued in a form of a Bank Guarantee from one of the local Banks registered in Qatar valid for 180 days from date of closing date.
- ❖ The Closing time will be no later than 12:00 noon, on the closing date mentioned above; any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- ❖ Tender document to be submitted at:
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Workforce Diversity in Healthcare Industry



Devi Aiswarya Arun
Senior HR Officer
Micro Health Laboratories
Qatar

Healthcare is one of the most important elements of society. To truly serve the community, the healthcare workforce should reflect the diversity of the population it serves. This includes differences in age, gender, ethnicity, culture, and socioeconomic backgrounds. By embracing this diversity, healthcare systems can better address the specific needs of various communities and improve the overall quality of care.

The Importance of Workforce Diversity in Healthcare

A diverse workforce in healthcare is essential for several reasons. It helps healthcare providers understand the unique needs of different populations, improves health outcomes, and reduces disparities in care. By ensuring that healthcare workers come from a variety of backgrounds, we can better connect with patients and provide care that is more personalized and effective.

Enriched Communication

One of the biggest benefits of diversity in healthcare is improved communication. When healthcare teams include people who speak different languages and come from different cultural backgrounds, they can better understand the needs of a broader range of patients. This creates a more welcoming environment for patients and helps them feel understood and respected. As a result, patients are more likely to express their concerns clearly, leading to better diagnosis and treatment outcomes.

Good communication is at the heart

of effective healthcare. It affects how well doctors can diagnose patients, how successful treatments are, and how satisfied patients feel with their care. Diversity helps foster these better outcomes by creating stronger, clearer, and more compassionate connections between healthcare providers and patients.

Fostering Social Harmony

Cultural understanding in healthcare is vital for delivering patient-centered care. By recognizing and respecting different cultural norms and beliefs, healthcare providers can offer services that are more responsive and respectful. This reduces healthcare disparities and ensures that care is tailored to each patient's individual needs.

A diverse workforce also enhances cultural expertise. By having a team that represents various cultural backgrounds, healthcare providers can adapt their approach to care in ways that align with patients' traditions and values. This not only improves the quality of care but also builds trust and reduces misunderstandings between healthcare providers and patients.

Addressing Healthcare Inequalities

One of the major challenges in healthcare is inequality. Not everyone has equal access to high-quality medical services, treatments, or preventive care. These disparities are often linked to socioeconomic, cultural, and geographical factors. This can lead to poorer health outcomes and a lower quality of life for certain groups.

Diversity in healthcare plays an important role in addressing these inequalities. When healthcare teams include people from different backgrounds, they bring a variety of perspectives and experiences to the table. This leads to more innovative solutions that can help close the gap in healthcare access and quality. A diverse team is better equipped to tackle unique challenges from multiple angles, pushing forward medical research and advancements in care.

Promoting Workforce Diversity in Healthcare

Promoting diversity in healthcare requires a collective effort. It starts

with recognizing the value of diversity and taking proactive steps to build a more inclusive workforce. Here are some strategies that healthcare organizations can implement:

- **Inclusive Hiring Practices:** Develop and enforce hiring policies that actively recruit candidates from diverse backgrounds. This ensures a more representative and inclusive workforce.

- **Diversity Training:** Regular training programs can help employees understand the importance of diversity and teach them how to respect and appreciate differences. This not only creates a better work environment but also makes the organization more attractive to potential hires.

- **Fostering an Inclusive Culture:** It's essential to cultivate a workplace where every employee feels valued, respected, and heard. This means encouraging open communication, active listening, and teamwork.

By fostering workforce diversity, healthcare organizations can make significant progress in providing better care for all. A diverse team is more likely to be creative, innovative, and responsive to the needs of different patient populations. This helps healthcare systems fulfill their mission to deliver high-quality care to everyone.

In addition, a diverse workplace creates an inclusive culture where everyone feels appreciated, and their contributions are recognized. With a blend of varied cultural backgrounds, teamwork, and open discussion, real change happens. Diversity not only enhances care—it also strengthens the healthcare industry as a whole.

Moreover, diversity improves problem-solving by bringing different perspectives to complex issues. When healthcare professionals from various backgrounds work together, they can develop more effective treatment approaches, ensure culturally competent care, and reduce disparities in patient outcomes. This collective strength leads to better patient satisfaction and overall community health. Diversity isn't just a goal—it's a necessity for a thriving healthcare system.



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Qatar Airways announces extra flights to Amsterdam

Qatar Airways will operate four additional flights on the Doha-Amsterdam route from November 12, 2024 to March 29, 2025, a statement said.

The national carrier's 14 weekly flights will enable 40,000 additional passengers to travel between Amsterdam and Doha through its award-winning hub, Hamad International Airport.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer Thierry Antinori



said, "Qatar Airways is delighted to witness and serve the growing travel demand in the Dutch capital, which is an integral destina-

tion in our European network.

"We look forward to offering our world-class product and seamless service to travellers from Amsterdam seeking to experience the world through Qatar Airways' extensive network of more than 170 global destinations."

Amsterdam, also known as the city of historic canals, is one of the leading destinations for passengers travelling from Asia and Australia, the statement added.

Mannai Travel opens new office



Mannai Travel, founded in 1978, has opened its new office at Al Nuaimi Building in Matar Kadeem in Doha, a statement said.

Expanding its horizons in 1995 with the establishment of Mannai Holidays, the agency has continuously offered unparalleled travel solutions in partnerships with BCD Travel, Lufthansa City Centre and many more global suppliers, it was explained.

Officials from airlines, hotels, tourism boards and Mannai Travel's suppliers and partners attended the opening ceremony along

with Qatar Airways senior vice-president Ehab Amin, who was the chief guest along with Mannai Corporation vice-chairman Khalid Mannai, CEO Michael Deeter, and CFO Santosh Krishnamoorthy among others.

Mannai Travel Group general manager N M Shafiq, said he is excited to present Mannai Travel's new face to its customers and suppliers.

"Mannai Travel Group will keep on striving to offer innovative bespoke travel experiences to its leisure and corporate customers and professional service standards that Mannai Travel is

renowned for. The aim is to deliver exceptional and personalised experiences that inspire and delight clients worldwide.

"As a general sales representative for Europe Rail and partners with renowned travel brands like SOTC and Thomas Cook, Mannai Travel is equipped to offer outstanding travel experiences, particularly for those journeying to Europe.

"Having received over 100 awards from various airlines, hotels, tourism boards, and corporate clients, Mannai Travel's reputation for excellence is firmly established."




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Ashghal signs slew of agreements

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) yesterday signed several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with various entities at ConteQ Expo 24, including Huawei, Empa, Siemens and Veolia.

The memorandum of understanding with Huawei, which aims to achieve co-operation in smart transportation, smart building, safer construction practices and talent development, was signed by Ashghal president engineer Dr Saad bin Ahmed al-Muhannadi and Huawei Gulf North, Middle East and Central Asia Region CEO Rico Lin.

The memorandum of understanding with Empa, which aims to develop co-operation in the fields of construction technology and materials science and technology, had Dr al-Muhannadi and Empa director Dr Tanja Zimmermann as signatories.

The MoU with Siemens, which aims to promote the concepts of digital twin and smart building, was signed by Ashghal's Project Affairs director Yousef A Rahman H H al-Emadi and Siemens general manager Hakan Ozdemir.

The MoU with Veolia aims to develop the usage of modular solutions aimed at polishing Treatment Sewage Effluent or treating brackish groundwater in the view of preserving the existing sources of fresh water. Ashghal's Drainage Networks Operation manager engineer Khalid al-Obaidli and Veolia NME vice-president Johnny Obeid signed the agreement.

An Ashghal statement said that more than 14 co-operation agreements will be signed during the exhibition with prominent international companies including Google, Honeywell, Microsoft, and IBM among others.



CRA showcases Qatar's technological future

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) is participating in the Advanced Technology for Construction and Services Expo (ConteQ Expo 2024), being held at the Qatar National Convention Centre until tomorrow.

The exhibition highlights CRA's commitment to providing advanced infrastructure that supports Qatar's digital transformation goals. At its booth, CRA showcases its pivotal role in developing Qatar's infrastructure, with a focus on the Standard on Inbuilding Wiring it has previously issued.

This standard aims to urge property developers, consultants, and building owners to work with licensed telecom service providers, and follow the specifications stipulated in the document's framework at an early stage, each according to its responsibilities.

Commenting on the event, Ali



Ali al-Suwaidi

al-Suwaidi, Technical Affairs Department Director at CRA, stated: "Our participation in ConteQ Expo 2024 is a significant opportunity to highlight the central role technology plays in advancing the construction and services sectors. The reliance on advanced technologies, such as the Internet of Things and AI, has become essential for improving project efficiency, reducing

costs, and enhancing the sustainability of infrastructure.

"In this regard, we have issued Standard on Inbuilding Wiring to ensure alignment of technological infrastructure with international standards. These guidelines improve the end-user experience and enhance the overall quality of services in real estate projects."

He added: "Promoting innovation and sustainability in this vital sector aligns with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030.

"Through this exhibition, we aim to strengthen collaboration with our partners in the construction sector to ensure the application of best practices that contribute to developing a more connected and efficient environment, supporting the country's digital transformation and establishing smart and sustainable infrastructure."

international companies to take advantage of the country's investment opportunities.

The exhibition is a collaborative effort between four governmental entities - namely the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI), the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), the Ministry of Labour (MoL), and the Public Works Authority 'Ashghal', with NeXTfairs for conferences & Exhibitions as the organiser. It features more than 60 speakers and 250 exhibitors and partners.

ConteQ Expo24 opens

From Page 1

HE the Municipality Minister exuded confidence that this exhibition will be a cornerstone and the beginning of a fruitful journey of new partnerships and investments that will enhance the country's economy and benefit all participating entities.

HE al-Attiyah underlined that Qatar has substantial investments in digital infrastructure and business incubator programmes and called on investors and in-

Registration for 14th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival begins

Cultural Village Foundation - Katara announced yesterday the opening of registration for participation in the 14th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival, which will continue until October 30.

Katara explained that the participations should express the maritime heritage, in addition to taking part in the competitions held within the festival's activities, which are: the pearl diving competition,

which is available to participants from Qatar and the GCC countries, and the Senyar family fishing competition.

The festival reflects the continuous efforts of Katara to care for maritime heritage and culture with all its arts and traditions, and embodies its tireless efforts to consolidate this heritage in the souls of generations and youth. (QNA)



Ministers and other dignitaries visit Ashghal's pavilion at ConteQ Expo 24 yesterday. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Ashghal highlights digital transformation at ConteQ Expo 24

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) pavilion at ConteQ Expo24 saw a great turnout on the inaugural day. Visitors were keen to learn about the latest technologies and services adopted by Ashghal in its projects, a statement said.

"We are certain that the exhibition will create a positive shift in the journey of digital and technological transformation in the field of construction and services in Qatar," said Ashghal president engineer Dr Saad bin Ahmed al-Muhannadi.

Advanced technical solutions will be adopted in Ashghal's current and future projects, starting next October with the aim of reducing reliance on unskilled labour in building construction.

Ashghal's public relations and communications manager and ConteQ Expo24 vice-chairman Abdulla Saad al-Saad said Ashghal is not just a participant, but rather a host of this major event in co-operation with government entities.

"The exhibition is an important platform to attract investments and promote digitalisation and



Engineer Badr Darwish participates in a panel discussion on the transformative potential of modular construction at ConteQ Expo 24 (supplied picture).

innovation initiatives in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy."

Regarding the new initiatives adopted by Ashghal, he said digital transformation is at the forefront of the authority's priorities, as part of its commitment to achieving Qatar's vision to create an integrated digital government.

"Ashghal is constantly seeking to develop its operations and benefit from modern technologies to improve the management of its

projects and assets, as it has been able to automate more than 90% of its operations, which forms the basis for the next phase of comprehensive digital transformation," he noted.

Ashghal has also begun to implement several digital initiatives, such as modelling construction information, modular construction, and 3D printing aimed at saving time and effort and reducing costs.

Ashghal's highway projects department manager engineer Badr Darwish participated in a panel discussion on the transformative potential of modular construction. He highlighted the importance of modular construction and its significant benefits for the construction sector, emphasizing its positive impact on project performance in terms of enhancing safety and quality standards, as well as reducing execution time.

The official also addressed the potential advantages and disadvantages of this approach, stressing the importance of taking necessary measures to avoid challenges that may arise when implementing modular construction techniques.

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K T Chacko

- 📍 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- ✉ editor@gulf-times.com
- ☎ 44350478 (News),
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GULF TIMES

Stagflation threat looms for Russia as growth slows

Prices for bread have jumped so much over the last few years that Russian pensioner Oleg Ivanovich sometimes has to go without. But the 67-year-old says he doesn't mind having to make sacrifices for the sake of Russia's military offensive on Ukraine.

"We'll bear with it. When the special military operation ends, prices will return to normal," he told AFP in Moscow, using the official Russian term for the offensive.

Surging prices — annual inflation came in at a little over 9% in August — is just one of the economic headaches Russia is grappling with as it has increasingly militarised its economy since ordering troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

Moscow has funnelled billions of dollars to its army, soldiers, their families and weapons makers to sustain its military campaign — a spending splurge that helped it defy Western hopes that sanctions would push it into economic collapse.

But after warning for months that the economy was overheating, the country's Central Bank has lately started mentioning the possibility of another, possibly more challenging development: stagflation.

"The shortage of (labour) resources may lead to a situation where economic growth slows down, despite all the efforts to stimulate demand, with all that stimulus accelerating inflation," Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina said over the summer.

"In essence, this is a stagflation scenario, which can only be stopped at the cost of a deep recession," she warned.

"De-modernising? Stagflation — a period of low or stagnant growth accompanied by high inflation — would present a fresh headache for the Kremlin, which has until now navigated the economic fallout of its offensive on Ukraine better than most believed possible.

Many experts say the system is unsustainable over the long-term

Unemployment is at a record low and consumer confidence is its highest in 15 years. But an exodus of both skilled and unskilled workers — who fled mobilisation or joined the army — has created millions of unfilled vacancies. Sanctions on Western technology have also hit productivity and damaged supply chains.

"In the long-term these demographic factors and technological issues will result in very low economic growth," Ruben Enikolopov, a Russian professor at the Barcelona School of Economics, told AFP.

"There is a high probability of a stagflation scenario in 2025 and the years after. It's not a certainty, but high likelihood," he added.

That could leave the central bank — which said last week it saw "signs of slowing economic activity," and that inflation had "reached its peak" — with few options.

It has already raised interest rates to 18 percent. Some analysts expect they could reach a record 20 percent before the end of the year. That cost of borrowing hamstringing many private businesses, further thwarting growth in parts of the economy not connected to the army.

Maxim Bouev, a professor at Moscow's New Economic School, said Russia is trapped in a "vicious circle of inflation and military Keynesianism. The stimulus goes to war, the rest of the economy gets rising prices," he said. Russian President Vladimir Putin has hailed military spending — which he puts at "above eight percent of GDP" — as a great resource that can drive growth. But many have doubts about whether the positive spillovers are enough to offset the costs.

"The economy is degrading, it is de-modernising," said Vladislav Inozemtsev, co-founder of the Center for Analysis and Strategies in Europe, a Russia-focused think tank.

"They are switching to Soviet models, Soviet standards, Soviet approaches. Technological advances are non-existent ... and development is very restrained," he added.

Many experts say the system is unsustainable over the long-term — but see no short-term economic pressure that could hamper Russia's military capacity. Sergey Aleksashenko, a former deputy finance minister and now dissident living in exile, said it will take a decade before the results of Western sanctions on technology exports to Russia become "visible."

In the meantime, Moscow has the resources for a long fight. It commands around \$300bn in reserves that have not been frozen by the West, a low debt-to-GDP ratio of around 15% and has announced major tax rises to collect billions more revenue over the coming years.

"There's still a lot of room for redistributing resources. They will not stop the war because they run out of materials any time soon," Enikolopov said.

"Maybe not indefinitely," said Inozemtsev when asked how long Russia could fight.

"But for several years, they definitely have the money and resources to keep it going with the same intensity as now" — AFP



World Patient Safety Day

Arizona's battle over copper mine may sway US election

By Ernest Scheyder

Native American opposition to Rio Tinto and BHP's Resolution Copper mine could prove crucial for the 2024 US presidential vote in the battleground state of Arizona, underscoring the high tension over where best to extract critical minerals for the energy transition.

The mine would, if built, supply more than a quarter of America's appetite for copper and be a key part of Washington's efforts to eat into China's role as the world's largest copper processor and consumer.

The US imports nearly half of its copper needs, according to the US Geological Survey, and its copper mine production has dipped 11% since 2021. There are only two domestic copper smelters.

Yet the underground Resolution mine would cause a massive crater that would swallow a religious site where Arizona's San Carlos Apache worship. That has fuelled strong opposition from all but one of the state's 22 Native American tribes, as well as the National Congress of American Indians.

An appeal was filed on Wednesday asking the US Supreme Court to block Rio and BHP's access to the land, which Congress and President Barack Obama approved in 2014 after it was added at the last minute to a must-pass military funding bill with the condition that an environmental report be published. President Donald Trump published that report in 2021, days before leaving office, a move that was reversed two months later by his successor, Joe Biden.

It is unclear whether the Supreme Court will take the case and, if it does, how or when it could rule.

Whoever wins the November 5 US election will be able to either approve the mine or keep its development essentially frozen, the step that Biden took after Arizona's 400,000 Native Americans — nearly 5% of the state's population — helped deliver him and then-running mate Kamala Harris the state and thus helped him win the White House in 2020, according to exit polling that year.

In the 2024 presidential race, Republican Trump narrowly leads Harris, the Democratic nominee, among registered Arizona voters in a Reuters/Ipsos poll published on August 29. Arizona is one of a handful of states likely to decide the election.

Native Americans have tended to vote Democratic in the past, but many tribes in the US Southwest have cited climate change and the economy as key issues for them this year.

The San Carlos Apache and others are now flexing their electoral muscle once again, pushing Harris to block the mine if elected.

"We definitely expect Native votes to be the determining factor in Arizona," said Wendler Nosie, head of the Apache Stronghold, a nonprofit group comprising of the San Carlos Apache and conservationists. "All Native people are watching this issue, because this sacred space is the heart of who we are."

The Harris campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

Harris in 2020 told Arizona's Native American tribes they would have a "seat at the table" if she and Biden were elected. The San Carlos Apache then made a successful appeal to Harris in 2021 to block Resolution, tribal officials told Reuters.

It is unclear whether the Supreme Court will take the case and, if it does, how or when it could rule.

campaign trail, and her aides have told Reuters she intends to be strategically ambiguous on energy-related issues.

In a statement to Reuters, Hallee Dobbins, the Republican National Committee's Arizona communications director, said Trump sees energy independence as a key concern for Native Americans and believes "Democrats have been hard at work destroying our energy supply," although she did not directly address the Resolution project.

"Team Trump in Arizona has been dedicated to uplifting the Native American people and addressing the unique challenges facing their communities," said Dobbins.

Trump has been supportive of most mining projects and said he would take steps that would support Antofagasta's controversial Twin Metals project in Minnesota "within minutes" of a second inauguration. Biden and Harris killed that project in 2022.

Some members of Trump's campaign have spoken in favour of Resolution, although he has not yet spoken about it publicly in this election cycle.

That largely pro-mining stance from Trump — and Harris' support for the Inflation Reduction Act and other climate-linked policies — has not gone unnoticed in the state, tribal activists say.

"Mobilising the Native vote is so important in Arizona," said Gunes Murat Tezcür, a political scientist at Arizona State University. The Resolution project "is going to be a big issue for the San Carlos Apache."

Dialogue

Rio Tinto, which plans to keep Resolution's copper in the US if the mine is built, said it has been trying to expand ties with the state's

tribes, including by supporting food banks after recent deadly wildfires. Fifty of Resolution's employees are San Carlos Apache.

"We continue the dialogue and agreement-making with tribes," said Vicky Peacy, who runs Resolution for Rio. The company declined to comment on the US election.

BHP, which owns 45% of the project to Rio Tinto's 55%, declined to comment.

Steve Trussell, head of the Arizona Mining Association trade group, said he worries US imports of copper will increase if Resolution is not developed and noted that China has already begun blocking exports of other critical minerals used in the climate fight.

"We'll fall further behind on clean energy and addressing climate change, which would disproportionately hurt Arizona's small towns and Native American communities more than most," he said.

It is that tension that is front of mind for Mila Besich, the Democratic mayor of Superior, Arizona, the town closest to the Resolution project. Besich, who has endorsed Harris but also supports Resolution, has been lobbying Harris' team to support the mine.

The same 2014 law that approved the federal land swap with Resolution also gives Superior access to land for economic-development projects, a key appeal for Besich in a town with a 45% unemployment rate. Besich said she has not received any commitments from the Harris campaign yet, but plans to keep pressing the issue in the coming weeks.

"I'm very hopeful that as we ramp up this campaign, that the Resolution project gets the attention it deserves," said Besich. "It's starting to resonate just how important it is" — Reuters



Members of the Native American group Apache Stronghold hold protest cards ahead of formally asking the US Supreme Court to overturn an earlier ruling allowing Rio Tinto to develop the Resolution Copper mine in Arizona, outside the court in Washington, last week. (Reuters)

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Amir's visit a milestone in Qatar-Canada ties

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's visit to Canada serves as a milestone in the history of Qatar-Canada relations.

The visit, the first of its kind, is expected to further beef up bilateral relations and elevate collaboration across areas of economy, education, politics, and trade.

It will push co-ordination on global political and security issues.

Marked by a long history of strong friendship, the Qatar-Canada relations are based on mutual respect and common interests, with both sides showing further commitment to bolstering multi-field co-operation.

Since 1974, the two countries have made great strides in building trust, and exchanging benefits across various fields, leading to mutual understandings and producing exemplary contributions to the whole world.

His Highness the Amir's upcoming visit highlights the two countries' adherence to boosting strategic partnership across various fields, from energy to education, trade and natural resources.

These relations reflect a high level of understanding and co-ordination between Qatar and Canada, and streamline further investment opportunities and fruitful co-operation.

In May, His Highness the Amir received a phone call from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with the two sides discussing bilateral friendship and co-operation and ways to boost them.

The deliberations covered the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, in addition to several regional and international issues of common interest.

Another phone call His Highness the Amir received from Trudeau in January discussed the latest developments in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Trudeau extended his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir for Qatar's regional and international diplomatic and humanitarian efforts, especially in Gaza.

In a phone conversation in November last year, His Highness the Amir and Trudeau took stock of the latest developments in the Palestinian territories, several regional and international issues of common interest and bilateral co-operation relations and prospects for enhancing them.

The Canadian prime minister also extended his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir for Qatar's diplomatic efforts regarding the situation in Gaza.

To further elevate bilateral relations, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign

Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received Canadian Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen and Premier of Alberta Danielle Smith, in December last year on the sidelines of the Doha Forum.

The meetings discussed bilateral relations and ways to boost them.

In October 2022, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammed al-Atiyah met then-Canadian minister of na-

Marked by a long history of strong friendship, the Qatar-Canada relations are based on mutual respect and common interests

tional defence Anita Anand in Ottawa and discussed bilateral co-operation.

On the economic front, Canada is one of the world's biggest and diverse economies and a member of many international organisations, such as the G8 (Group of Eight Industrialised Nations) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Trade exchange between Qatar and Canada has recently surged to QRI.358bn in 2023 from QR620mn in 2021.

Canada's exports to Qatar include aircraft and spare parts, machinery and elec-

trical equipment, and paper products, while its imports include mineral fuels, aluminium, and fertilisers.

Leveraging on the increased bilateral co-operation, both countries are continuously developing investment co-operation especially in energy, technology, health, and defence, with Canadian companies playing a vital role in developing Qatar's infrastructure.

QatarEnergy placed a successful bid for Parcel 8 of the Orphan Basin, offshore the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Parcel 8 winning bid by QatarEnergy (30% working interest) and ExxonMobil (operator, with a 70% working interest) was announced by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) as part of the 2022 Newfoundland and Labrador Call For Bids NL22-CFB01.

Also part of expanding trade and investment co-operation was a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in June sealed by the Qatar Financial Centre and the Canada Arab Business Council, a non-profit organisation that aims to enhance trade and investment relations between Canada and the Arab world.

The MoU aims to establish an integrated framework for co-operation and co-ordi-

nation in specific sectors through joint initiatives and the exchange of information and expertise, with a focus on stimulating growth and promoting innovation in areas such as financial services and professional business services.

In the field of education, the University of Calgary - Qatar (UCQ) offers a Bachelor of Nursing, and there are several Doha-based schools that offer Canadian curricula.

Furthermore, Canada has great natural and climatic diversity, and is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of agricultural products, especially wheat and grains.

It also has tremendous natural resources reserves, including forest products in British Columbia, oil and gas in Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador, in addition to minerals such as coal, copper, iron, gold and nickel.

These resources constitute important opportunities for bilateral trade co-operation, especially in energy, gas drilling and production, water treatment, and agricultural security issues.

Consultations between Qatari and Canadian investors have shown a common interest in exploring co-operation across these areas in addition to artificial intelligence and advanced technology. - **QNA**

Promising prospects in cultural relations for Qatar, Canada

Qatar and Canada have close relations based on understanding and upholding values from humanitarian perspectives in various fields, especially cultural ones.

The leadership of the two countries has been keen to enhance cultural co-operation since the beginning of diplomatic relations, which expanded with the opening of the Canadian embassy in Doha in 2012.

Qatar and Canada attach great importance to cultural affairs, which pushes them to constantly enhance cultural co-operation and openness, especially since both share a common denominator, which is cultural diversity, paving the way for rapprochement at various levels.

Both Qatar and Canada attach great importance to cultural affairs

Although only 12 years have passed since the opening of the Canadian embassy in Doha, the process of joint cultural co-operation continues significantly, the most recent of which was in August through Canada's participation in the activities of the third edition of the Katara Space Science Programme, which hosted Dr Rene Doyon, a scientist at the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and a professor at the University of Montreal.

Katara - the Cultural Village also hosted many cultural and artistic events that highlighted the richness and diversity of Canadian culture.

These included the participation of Canada in the work of the Sixth General Assembly of the Global Public Diplomacy Network, a concert by the Canadian band Les Portageux in March 2017, and the participation of the Canadian embassy in multiple editions of the Qatar International Art Festival.

Since 2014, the Ministry of Culture and the Canadian embassy has co-operated in the cultural days of La Francophonie, as the two countries meet under the umbrella of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

Through this co-operation, the embassy presented various aspects of Canada's arts and literature, which contributed to introducing the public in Qatar to Canadian culture.

Doha also hosted Canadian art and cultural festivals and exhibitions that highlight the works of Canadian artists, displaying paintings and contemporary arts that reflect Canadian heritage, culture, and food.

Qatar's Ministry of Culture and the Canadian embassy have worked together on events

There is also a partnership in academic programmes, with the University of Calgary (UCQ) having been in Doha since 2006, along with the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), which transformed into the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST).

Furthermore, the Qatar Canadian School was established with permission and a grant from Qatar in 2006, opening one year later.

On the other hand, Qatar's embassy strengthened the country's cultural presence in Canada by organising events that conveyed the diversity of Qatari culture to the Canadian public and screened documen-

tary films about the founding of Qatar, and music and songs that showed the heritage and folklore in Qatar throughout history.

By reviewing the ongoing cultural relations between Qatar and Canada, while highlighting the support of the political leadership in both countries, it is clear that there are promising prospects for strengthening this cultural co-operation.

The cultural co-operation between the two countries can be further developed through ways such as joint events, cultural festivals that combine Qatari and Canadian cultures, like musical performances, art exhibitions, film screenings, and participation in book fairs to introduce the writers and thinkers of each country.

Additionally, promoting the exchange of educational programmes to enhance mutual understanding, building strategic partnerships with cultural institutions in both countries to implement joint programmes and workshops, promoting cultural tourism through exchange programmes that review cultural and historical monuments, and working to invest in cultural projects and co-ordinating positions in various cultural forums, all contribute to creating a rich cultural environment and strengthening bilateral relations between Qatar and Canada.

Canadian culture is a unique blend of traditions and practices shaped through the ages as Canada combines the Indigenous influences of early societies with European heritage and the multiculturalism resulting from global immigration.

This cultural diversity is reflected in the arts, music, literature, and national celebrations, creating a rich and vibrant environment.

In the 1970s, Canada adopted an official policy of multiculturalism that recognises and celebrates cultural diversity as an essential component of Canadian identity, which reflects acceptance and respect for different cultures and promotes democratic values and human rights, enabling Canada to become a home to many writers and artists who reflect the country's cultural and historical diversity in their works.

Canada's visual arts are distinguished by the works of the Group of Seven painters, famous for their stunning depictions of the Canadian landscape in the early 20th century.

The arts of Canada's Indigenous peoples are highly regarded, expressing stories, legends, and history of Indigenous peoples across generations, and home to many world-class artists in a variety of musical genres.

Canadian literature reflects the country's cultural and linguistic diversity and explores themes of identity, immigration, and history.

Canada has 22 Unesco World Heritage Sites, comprising 11 cultural sites, 10 natural ones, and one site that combines natural and cultural attributes. - **QNA**

Qatar University holds 2023-24 annual convocation

Qatar University (QU) has organised its annual convocation for the academic year 2024-25.

The event included a speech by QU president Dr Omar al-Ansari and a panel discussion by the university's vice-presidents.

A number of awards were granted to outstanding individuals in academic and administrative fields, as well as the distinguished "Young Alumnus of the Year" award.

In his opening remarks, Dr al-Ansari expressed his pleasure at meeting with the university community during the annual convocation.

He welcomed the new vice-presidents who recently joined the university's senior administration, emphasising their role in advancing the institution towards broader horizons in line with its vision, mission, and strategic goals.

Dr al-Ansari also commended the efforts of the previous vice-presidents who had made significant contributions to the QU's achievements.

Vice-President for Academic Affairs Prof Ibrahim al-Kaabi em-



Snapshots from the convocation.

phasised that the QU developed a harmonious and integrated plan among academic programmes, ensuring academic quality through good academic planning that aligns with the needs of the job market.

Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies Dr Aiman Erbad focused in his speech on the efforts of the Research and Graduate Studies Sector in promoting scientific research, through various grants such as internal grants, involving students in research grants and projects, and supporting research in all colleges.

Vice-President for Medical and Health Sciences Prof Asma al-Thani said explained that the

Medical and Health Sciences sector includes five colleges operating under one umbrella with the aim of co-ordinating and co-operating with various health sectors in the country and facilitating operational processes in the colleges.

Vice-President of Student Affairs Dr Mohammad Diab outlined the Student Affairs sector's plans to enhance the student experience.

This initiative, he said, supports the QU's strategy to help students succeed and build their character, equipping them with essential attributes for the labour market, in collaboration with all university sectors.

Chief Strategy and Development Officer Dr Muna al-Mar-

zuqi commented on the sector's role in employing data-informed research to achieve institutional excellence and the university's strategic goals, while simultaneously upholding the core values of excellence, which is the key to institutional excellence; social responsibility, which encourages the provision of high-quality services and creating a participatory environment that, stimulates creativity and challenges; and integrity, which reflects credibility and commitment to ethical standards.

The annual convocation included the distribution of awards to honour the distinguished faculty, staff, and graduates across multiple categories. - **QNA**



Maryam Saif al-Suwaidi

Qatar prioritises protecting the rights of people with disabilities: Shafallah

The executive director of Al Shafallah Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Maryam Saif al-Suwaidi, has said that enhancing and protecting the rights of people with disabilities is a top priority for Qatar.

In a speech during Al Shafallah Centre's 2024 batch graduation ceremony on Sunday, she said that Qatar spares no effort in integrating the issues and needs of people with disabilities into all its policies and programmes.

The country is continuously monitoring and ensuring the implementation of these policies, al-Suwaidi said, as supporting and empowering these individuals is a fundamental pillar of the Qatar National Vision 2030, reflecting the country's commitment to

protecting human rights in general and the rights of people with disabilities in particular.

Al-Suwaidi praised the efforts of the Ministry of Social Development and Family in adopting policies and programmes that support people with disabilities in the country, under the directives of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, in accordance with the government's interest in and support for these individuals, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The official also extended her congratulations to the parents of the graduates, expressing pride in their children's achievements.

Al-Suwaidi commended their determination, perseverance, and

boundless ambitions, as well as the parents' support and co-operation with the centre to successfully rehabilitate and socially integrate their children.

She also noted the *Infinity Love* stainless steel sculpture, inaugurated by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, presented by Qatar Museums (QM) to Al Shafallah Centre in honour of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, the Chairperson of the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, in recognition of 25 years of Her Highness's commitment and support for the children, parents, and employees of Al Shafallah Centre.

Al-Suwaidi expressed her thanks to HE the Chairperson of

Qatar Museums Sheikhha Al Maryam bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani for her support in executing this artwork.

One of the centre's members gave a speech on behalf of the graduates, affirming that he and his fellow graduates underwent intensive training and rehabilitation by experienced instructors and specialists.

He added that they acquired social and vocational skills that enabled them to integrate into society and serve the country. - **QNA**

MoI participates in oral, dental health drive

The Medical Services Department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) is participating in the National Oral and Dental Health Campaign, which falls in September of each year.

The 2024 campaign comes under the theme *Your teeth are the gateway to your health*.

The campaign is organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and related entities under the umbrella of the National Committee for Oral and Dental Health.

The MoI said in a statement on Sunday that the campaign includes an awareness exhibition and a mobile dental clinic at the MoI's Wadi Al Sail building, running from September 15-19,

aimed at raising awareness about oral and dental health precautions and conducting medical check-ups for ministry staff at the mobile clinic, along with providing treatments.

Medical Services director Brigadier Salem Saeed al-Rashidi emphasised his department's keenness to participate in national health campaigns and events as it is part of the health system in the country and provides medical care to the MoI's employees and their families.

Orthodontist consultant, head of Dental Clinics at the Medical Services Department and representative of the MoI in the National Committee for Oral and Dental Health, Major Dr Shaikha

Jassim Abdul Jabbar said that the participation comes within the Medical Services Department's plan to contribute to community activities and events to raise awareness among the public and improve oral and dental health.

The Medical Services Department is participating in the national survey on oral and dental health for adolescents aged 12-16, organised by the MoPH in collaboration with partners from the Primary Health Care Corporation, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar University and QatarEnergy.

The participation includes disseminating educational messages and awareness content on oral and dental health. - **QNA**

QFFD lays foundation stone for rebuilding Lebanon's Karantina Hospital

The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has announced its continued support for Lebanon's reconstruction efforts by laying the foundation stone for the rebuilding of Karantina Hospital in Beirut, in collaboration with Lebanon's ministry of health.

This project is part of the necessary rehabilitation following the catastrophic explosion that struck the Beirut port on August 4, 2020.

The foundation stone ceremony yesterday was

attended by Qatar's ambassador to Lebanon Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, acting QFFD director-general Sultan bin Ahmed al-Asiri, Lebanese Minister of Public Health Dr Firas Abiad, and Karantina Hospital board chairman Dr Michel Matar.

This project is a significant step toward rebuilding and equipping Building "B" of the old hospital and is part of Qatar's commitment to supporting Lebanon - **QNA**

Historic house at Education City to nurture traditional crafts



Al Khater House at Education City.

The opportunity to learn about – and play a part in preserving – the heritage of Qatari and Islamic crafts is being opened up to the nation's community, through a new programme launched by Qatar Foundation (QF) at a historic house within its Education City home.

Reflecting the cultural legacy of traditional crafts in the Arab and Islamic world, the Herfati programme at Al Khater House is being delivered through a partnership with The King's Foundation School of Traditional Arts to nurture these timeless traditions and foster appreciation for heritage and cultural identity.

Through the programme, which runs from October 2024 to June 2025 at the heritage site in the heart of Education City, participants will learn about core areas of traditional crafts such as geometry, nabati ornamentation, and drawing for designers. Alongside these core courses, partici-

pants will have the chance to choose from a selection of specialisations, allowing them to deepen their knowledge and application of traditional design principles in crafts including ceramics, woodworking, textiles, gypsum carving, and decorative painting.

The programme will be delivered by experts from The King's Foundation School of Traditional Arts, who have established skills in teaching and preserving these crafts.

Those who join the programme will learn about elements such as the principles and language of geometry in traditional crafts, constructing patterns and composition, observational and analytical drawing, and how raw materials like earth, stones, plants, and resins can be transformed into paint, instilling in participants a respect for the nature of their materials.

Elective courses will focus on areas including traditional painting techniques

found in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region and its surrounding areas, ceramic skills such as painted vessels and geometric tiles, how textiles blend materials from the natural world with practical craft skills, geometric and biomorphic designs using wood, and the use of gypsum as a decorative element.

In line with its commitment to preserving Qatari culture, heritage, and identity – including through buildings at Education City that have a central place in the story of Qatar – the QF is restoring Al Khater House as a location for sustainable, inclusive cultural heritage activities and experiences for people of all ages, while ensuring the house's authenticity and historical value are retained.

For more details about the Herfati programme at Al Khater House, and to register by September 28, visit www.educationcity.qa/herfati-al-khater-house



D/C pic - An array of fresh foods from Italy on display at LuLu Hypermarket's Pearl Island branch.



The event showcases the finest authentic Italian products, offering consumers in Qatar an opportunity to explore Italy's rich culinary heritage.

The festival was inaugurated at LuLu Hypermarket's Pearl Island branch by Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi, alongside Lulu Group International - Global Operations director Dr Mohamed Althaf and Italian Trade commissioner Paola Lisi. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen and supplied

Lulu Hypermarket launches 4th edition of 'Let's Eatalian Festival'



LuLu Hypermarket's Pearl Island branch is decorated in Qatari and Italian colours for the festival.



Italy produces some of the highest-quality foods at reasonable prices.

LuLu Hypermarket Qatar, in collaboration with the Italian Trade Agency (ITA), has unveiled the fourth edition of the "Let's Eatalian Festival", running across all LuLu outlets until September 21.

The event showcases the finest authentic Italian products, offering consumers in Qatar an opportunity to explore Italy's rich culinary heritage, a statement said.

The festival was inaugurated at LuLu Hypermarket's Pearl Island branch by Italian ambassador Paolo Toschi, alongside LuLu Group International-Global Operations director Dr Mohamed Althaf and Italian trade commissioner Paola Lisi, in the presence of guests.

The event is designed to promote

Italian cuisine and enhance the visibility of Italian suppliers in LuLu Hypermarkets, enriching the shopping experience for consumers in Qatar with high-quality Italian food products.

Toschi expressed his enthusiasm for the growing popularity of Italian products in the Qatari market.

"The market in Qatar is expanding for Italian products, particularly foods and beverages," he said. "People here are well aware of the premium quality of Italian goods, which adhere to the highest health and safety standards."

"LuLu Hypermarket has been an exceptional partner, sourcing products directly from Italian producers," the envoy added. "We are keen to see this partnership continue to flourish."

Dr Althaf highlighted the festival's

role in enhancing the trade relationship between Qatar and Italy.

"This Italian food festival, organised in collaboration with the Italian Trade Agency, aims to introduce a variety of new Italian products to the Qatari market," he stated.

"Our goal is to increase Italian food exports to Qatar by 40%," Dr Althaf added. "Italy produces some of the highest-quality foods at reasonable prices, and it leads the way in food safety standards."

The festival emphasises a range of Italian products, including dry groceries, canned goods, fresh produce, cheeses, and traditional ingredients.

During the event, Toschi provided insight into the variety and quality of Italian goods available at LuLu Hypermarket, giving consumers a deeper understanding of the products offered in Qatar.

LuLu Group's commitment to promoting Italian products is further demonstrated by its sourcing, processing, and export hub based in Milan, which has significantly bolstered the export of Italian goods to Qatar.

This strategic investment underscores LuLu's dedication to fostering strong trade relations with Italy and ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality Italian products to the Qatar market.

The "Let's Eatalian Festival" not

only promotes Italian exports to Qatar but also strengthens cultural and economic ties between the two nations.

By bringing authentic Italian flavours to consumers in Qatar, LuLu Hypermarket caters to the growing demand for international cuisine while fostering cross-cultural appreciation and understanding.

This festival opens opportunities for Italian suppliers to expand their reach in Qatar, contributing to the growth of both economies.

Additionally, the festival plays a pivotal role in cultural exchange.

When consumers in Qatar experience Italian cuisine, they gain insight into the history and traditions behind the food, deepening their appreciation of Italian culture and enhancing the bond between Italy and Qatar.

The inaugural ceremony was enlivened by live musical performances from students of King's College Doha, adding to the festive atmosphere.

The performances were led by Italian professor Corinna Mologni, with the ensemble performing a string quartet downstairs featuring *Bourrée* by Handel and *O mio Babbino caro* from the opera *Gianni Schicchi* by Puccini.

This was followed by the Qatar National Anthem, and the Crescendo Opera Ensemble's rendition of the Italian national anthem and *Saria Possibile?* from *Elisir d'amore* by Donizetti.



The inaugural ceremony was enlivened by live musical performances by students of King's College Doha.

9th 'Fire Station: Artist in Residence' programme announced

The Fire Station: Artist in Residence (AIR) has announced the launch of the 9th edition of the "Artist in Residence (AIR)" programme, accompanied by the unveiling of the selected artists.

This year's programme will run until June 15, 2025.

The AIR programme at Fire Station is designed to foster and promote Qatar's artistic talents.

It is a nine-month commitment where artists are offered a transformative platform to sharpen their creative skills through expert mentorship, production support, and curatorial guidance.

It includes access to studio space to foster talent development.

At the end of their residency, artists will have the opportunity to showcase their artworks in an exhibition held in the Garage Gallery of Fire Station that covers approximately 700sq feet.

In a press statement, Fire Station director Khalifa al-Obaidly said: "This special initiative

has a legacy of nurturing and empowering Qatar's emerging artistic talents."

"As the new cohort of artists begin exploring their creativity, we look forward to witnessing the development of their work and the evolution of their ideas," he said. "I am excited to see the impact these artists will make within our artistic community and beyond."

With more than 140 applications during the open call that took place between February 11-April 14, 15 artists have been selected.

Participating artists for the ninth edition are Alaa Albarazy (Syria), Alexandrine Guerin (France), Salha al-Subaiei (Qatar), Reem al-Shamari (Qatar), Sara al-Naimi (Qatar), Surabhi Gaikwad (India), Galyiah al-Mohannadi (Qatar), Lolwa al-Meghaiseeb (Qatar), Khalid Alarabi (Sudan), Reham Mohamed (Sudan), Naima al-Majdabah (Jordan), John Vendetti (Canada), Fae Siddiqui (Pakistan), Natalia Mejia (Colombia), and Nada Elkharrashni (Egypt).

Saida al-Khulaifi, head of Programmes and

Exhibitions of Fire Station, said: "Artist in Residence" has always produced mesmerising displays of artistic talent."

"The nine-month residency is for the artists to refine their practice across disciplines such as visual arts, photography, film, sound art and design," she said. "Guided by our commitment to fostering creative talent in Qatar, we will continue to support artists and give them an opportunity to forge meaningful connections and learn from other experts in the field."

The AIR programme has achieved remarkable success, extending its influence to include a three-month residency at the esteemed Cite Internationale des Art in Paris and Studio 209 NY, a part of the renowned International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York City.

Collaborating with local entities and organisations, Fire Station further enriches the programme's offerings through workshops and collaborative projects, fostering engagement within the artistic community and beyond.



Fifteen artists have been selected for the 9th edition of the 'Artist in Residence' programme.