



Together we can **vodafone** 5G UNLIMITED Enjoy unlimited data and incredible speed

ACS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL DOHA READY TO EXCEL AS PEOPLE AND THRIVE ACADEMICALLY. BOOK TOUR

NEW PRESIDENTIAL TERM

Amir congratulates Erdogan on winning election

QNA/AGENCIES — DOHA

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani congratulated President of the Republic of Türkiye H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan on winning a new presidential term.

In a tweet, H H the Amir congratulated H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his victory, wishing him success in the new term to achieve the aspiration of the Turkish people in progress and prosperity and for the strong relations of the two countries further development and growth.

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to the Turkish President on the occasion of winning a new presidential term, wishing him success and the strategic relations between the two countries further development and growth.

Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani also sent cables of congratulations to the President on the occasion of winning a new term.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced his victory in the run-off for the Turkish presidential elections before a crowd of his supporters in Istanbul.

Addressing his supporters in



Istanbul, Erdogan has thanked “each and every member of the nation who once again conveyed to us responsibility for governing Türkiye for the next five years.”

“We have completed the second round of the presidential elections with the favor of our people,” Erdogan said. He stressed that his elections’ victory consolidates democracy in Türkiye.

He thanked the Turkish public for the “democracy festival” the country experienced during the election. “God willing, we will be worthy of your trust as we have been for the last 21 years,” the president said.



Many world leaders including Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Sweden Ulf Kristersson, French President Emmanuel Macron, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic among many other congratulated President Erdogan on winning elections.

The head of Turkey’s election commission declared President Recep Tayyip Erdogan the winner of a historic runoff vote.



تميم بن حمد

@TamimBinHamad

My dear brother Recep Tayyip Erdogan, congratulations on your victory, and I wish you success in your new term, and that you achieve in it what the brotherly Turkish people aspire to in terms of progress and prosperity, and for the strong relations of our two countries to further development and growth.



“Based on provisional results, it has been determined that Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been elected president,” Supreme Election Council chairman Ahmet Yener said.

Ahmet Yener said that Erdogan had received 52.1 percent of votes and Kemal Kilicdaroglu scored 47.9 percent with almost all ballots counted. ➔ See also page 7

Presidential elections were fair; Erdogan is President of all Turks: Ambassador

QNA — DOHA

Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Qatar H E Dr. Mustafa Goksu, underlined that the run-off of the Turkish presidential elections did not witness any negatives, adding that all parties will accept the result, which confirmed the victory of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for a new presidential term.

Goksu added that the elections were held with integrity and transparency in light of the strength of the competing parties, especially since Türkiye is accustomed to democracy

and elections, adding that these elections will open the future for the Turkish people and bring with it more goodness for Türkiye and the entire region.

He stressed that all Turkish citizens are equal to President Erdogan and that he is the president of all Turkish people, regardless of their party affiliation.

The Turkish ambassador stated that Türkiye is now establishing a more institutional state, pointing out that the Turkish government will consider whether there are matters that need to be addressed in the future to serve the Turkish people more.

80% infrastructure work of Expo 2023 Doha completed: Municipality Minister

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH THE PENINSULA

Minister of Municipality H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie has said that about 80 percent of work on the development of the infrastructure for hosting the International Horticultural Exhibition Expo 2023 Doha has been completed.

The Minister, who is also Chairman of the Expo 2023 Doha Committee, said that the remaining 20 percent of works include some pavilions and temporary facilities which are being developed and are expected to be ready on time before October.

He said, so far, 70 countries have confirmed to participate in the Expo, a six-month long event, scheduled to be held from October 2, 2023, to March 28, 2024, in Al Bidda Park, which is expecting over 3 million visitors.

Al Subaie was speaking to the media persons on the sidelines of a signing ceremony held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Municipality.

The GCC General Secretariat yesterday signed an agreement to participate in a big way in the International Horticultural Exhibition Expo 2023 Doha.

The agreement was signed by Ambassador H E Badr bin Omar Al Dafa, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Climate Change and Sustainability, and Expo 2023 Doha Commissioner-General and Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Al Sheikh, Director General of the Office of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority and Commissioner General of the GCC Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha.

Speaking about the importance of GCC General

EXPO 2023 إكسبو 2023 DOHA QATAR الدوحة قطر

- Remaining 20 percent of works include some pavilions and temporary facilities which are being developed and are expected to be ready on time before October.
- 70 countries have confirmed to participate in the Expo, a six-month long event, scheduled to be held from October 2, 2023, to March 28, 2024, in Al Bidda Park, which is expecting over 3 million visitors.

Secretariat’s participation, the Minister of Municipality said: “It is very important to support the Expo 2023 Doha. The participation will be added value in the efforts of GCC for promoting sustainability, tree plantation and greenery.”

Speaking at the event, GCC Secretary-General H E Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi, said that following the agreement, a huge GCC pavilion entitled ‘Towards A Green Gulf. For A Sustainable Environment’ will be set up at the Expo.

He said that the pavilion will showcase the most important issues of joint GCC work, plans and strategies in the field of environment and agriculture. ➔ P3

Meet calls for protection of children in conflicts

QNA — DOHA

The regional conference on preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts kicked off virtually yesterday, in coordination with the League of Arab States and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The State of Qatar hosts the event as president of the 42nd meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs.

Bringing together Their Excellencies Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, the conference will discuss the best regional practices for preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts and highlight ways to boost regional cooperation.

Addressing the conference, Minister of Social Development and Family H E Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad said the conference aims to discuss



Minister of Social Development and Family H E Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad speaking at the conference.

governments’ views and ideas that help crystallise a unified international and Arab position on the issue of preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts.

She added that the world is facing a complex and deep crisis that threatens the future of childhood amid the rising

intensity of armed conflicts, and the absence of peaceful solutions to them, prompting those in charge of humanitarian and development work to harness further efforts and accelerate their coordination to limit the exacerbating humanitarian situation in countries suffering from the scourge of

armed conflict, to impose peaceful dialogue and to define guarantees for the protection of children and human rights during conflicts.

Children remain the group most affected by the absence of clear mechanisms to protect them during wars and conflicts, specifically those from poverty-stricken spots, including refugees and displaced persons, as the groups that suffer the greatest share of gross violations and exploitation, she said.

Al Misnad highlighted that the Middle East showed 79 percent of violations against children due to armed conflict, with 93,000 children having been recruited in armed conflicts and more than 25,000 children kidnapped by armed men between 2005 and 2020. The same period also documented 14,000 cases of child rape or forced marriage at the hands of the parties to the conflict, Her Excellency highlighted. ➔ P3

Submitting appeals, grievances on candidates registration for CMC elections begins: Mol

QNA — DOHA

The Ministry of the Interior (Mol) announced the start of submitting appeals and grievances stage regarding the registration of candidates for the 7th Central Municipal Council (CMC) elections starting Sunday and ending on June 6.

The ministry said that the period for submitting appeals and grievances began yesterday at all electoral district headquarters, from 4 to 7pm.

The statement referred to the appeal and grievance procedures, which include the right of the candidate to complain about not being included in the lists of candidates. The voter or candidate in his constituency has also the right to challenge the registration of a candidate because he/she does not meet the requirements.

An appeal or grievance request shall be submitted in writing on the designated form provided that it shall include the basis of the request. The appeal or



grievance request shall be submitted then to the chairman of the Appeals and Grievances Examination Committee with a receipt, the statement added.

The Committee for the Examination of Appeals and Grievances regarding the registration of candidates will decide on them within seven days from the date of their submission, provided that the final lists of candidates will be announced on Sunday, June 11.

On Thursday, the stage of receiving applications for registration of candidates for the Central Municipal Council (CMC), which lasted for five days in 29 electoral locations, concluded.

EDITORIAL 09

Turks renew confidence in Erdogan

WHEN people resort to the law, justice is the victor, and when people resort to the ballot boxes and citizens express their will, the nation is the winner. This was President Tayyip Erdogan’s message to his people in his first remark on the election result yesterday.

BUSINESS 13

Project Qatar offers an array of opportunities in construction sector

QATAR’S construction market is growing and the country is an international global hub for events be it sports, cultural, fashion or construction.

SPORT 17

Verstappen extends lead with dominant victory in Monaco

FORMULA ONE champion Max Verstappen’s lights-to-flag victory at the Monaco Grand gave the Red Bull driver his fourth victory of the season and extended his championship lead to 39 points over teammate Sergio Perez yesterday.

QNCECS to hold workshop on reporting, monitoring SDG4

QNA — DOHA

Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (QNCECS) will organise a training workshop on preparing reports and monitoring indicators of the sustainable development goals' fourth goal on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

To be held today, in cooperation with the Unesco regional office in Doha, the workshop aims at building national capacities in the field of preparing reports and how

to monitor the progress made in national and global commitments related to the quality of education by reviewing the indicators of the fourth goal of the sustainable development goals.

To be presented by an expert from Unesco, the two-day workshop also aims at providing technical advice for the monitoring process for the trainees.

More than 35 experts and researchers in the field of education, policies, statistics and planning along with a number of officials from authorities concerned in the country will participate in the training workshop.



Qatar, Indonesia discuss boosting parliamentary cooperation

Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council H E Dr. Hamda bint Hassan Al Sulaiti met Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, Nono Sampono, in Doha yesterday. They discussed topics related to parliamentary cooperation between the two sides, as well as ways to enhance and develop it.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Hungary wants to build strategic ties with Qatar: PM

QNA — DOHA

Prime Minister of Hungary H E Viktor Orban affirmed his country's keenness on building a strategic partnership with Qatar in different fields in light of the growing relations between the two countries.

In an interview with QNA, Orban said that Qatar-Hungary relations are steadily growing, with several strategic aspects of cooperation that are of high priority to both the countries, including energy, agriculture and infrastructure, especially with relation to air transport in addition to the collaboration in the security and military fields. These fields have been set and agreed upon, he added.

Orban noted that energy cooperation is of utmost importance to Hungary, which seeks to purchase Qatari LNG after 2026, adding that cooperation in agriculture will be a valuable opportunity for the

Viktor Orban said energy cooperation is of utmost importance to Hungary, which seeks to purchase Qatari LNG after 2026, adding that cooperation in agriculture will be a valuable opportunity for the two friendly countries and will also boost Qatar's food security efforts.

two friendly countries and will also boost Qatar's food security efforts.

He said the air transport sector would be the priority on infrastructure, with discussions about the possibility of attracting Qatari investments to this sector, especially airports.

On the round of political consultations between the two countries held in March, he explained that they dealt with two issues — the preparation for his (current) visit to Qatar and the issue of exempting Qataris from the Schengen visa, which, Hungary — as a member of the European Union, — strongly supports.

Orban noted that

Qatari-Hungarian relations are based on mutual respect, and political and economic cooperation. He said that since his first time in office in 1999, he has shown keenness to strengthen relations with Qatar and established strong ties with its leadership.

As for political cooperation between the two countries, there is a common belief in the importance of preserving sovereignty and playing an active and influential role at the regional and international levels, he stressed.

He emphasised that cooperation between the two countries is moving

forward to build collaboration and a strategic partnership, especially since Qatar has made great strides in economic and social development, indicating that this enhances Hungary's aspirations for cooperating in a way that serves the country, which is dynamically developing in parallel with the countries of Central Europe.

Relatedly, Orban praised Qatar for supporting Europe's energy security, saying that such support reflects the extent of economic interdependence and interrelation in common economic and strategic interests.

He added that he has significantly benefited from the advice and expertise of the wise leadership in Qatar on many issues and matters of concern to his country. "We also benefit from the Qatari legislative system, and we intend to transfer the experience to Hungary, including, for example, the management of expatriate

workers, especially as we are going to study this issue in the parliament," he added.

He also praised Qatar's pivotal political and humanitarian role in building peace through mediation and assisting governments in development efforts, stressing that Qatar has succeeded in mediating in many crises, reflecting its political weight and effective diplomacy.

According to Orban, the humanitarian assistance provided by Qatar to countries in need reflects on global security and stability and reduces illegal immigration and the associated human tragedies.

He called on countries to open up and cooperate to solve crises, consolidate economic, trade and investment relations, and encourage cooperation between universities so that all regions would have equal opportunities for development, progress and modernisation.

OFFICIAL NEWS

Amir sends congratulations to President of Azerbaijan

QNA — DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Azerbaijan H E Ilham Aliyev on the occasion of his country's Republic Day. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Azerbaijan H E Ali Asadov on the occasion of his country's Republic Day.

Amir sends congratulations to President of Ethiopia

QNA — DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Ethiopia H E Sahle-Work Zewde on the occasion of her country's National Day. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Ethiopia H E Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Qatar hosts meeting on GCC joint security cooperation

QNA — DOHA

The first meeting of the Supreme Committee of the joint tactical exercise for the security services of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Arab Gulf Security 4) was held yesterday at the National Command Centre (NCC).

The meeting was chaired by Director of Public Security, Major General Abdullah bin Muhammad Al Suwaidi. Delegations from the GCC countries participated in the meeting, to discuss mechanisms for developing the Gulf security system, strengthen joint Gulf security cooperation, exchange experiences and coordinate to meet the challenges facing security services.

Major General Al Suwaidi commended the efforts made in the previous Gulf exercises, and the level of performance of the forces who participated in them, stressing the continuation of those efforts in Arab Gulf Security 4, hosted by Qatar. Assistant Commander of Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and head of Qatar's delegation in tactical exercise, Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Mesfer Al Shahwani said that the meeting addressed several topics, including the scenarios that will be held in the next exercise.

The digital economy is at the forefront of Qatar national development plans

BY ALEX ZHANG CEO HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES LLC

Digital technologies have transformed society on an unprecedented scale over the last two decades. They have changed the ways we live, work, play, commute, and interact. Today, it is the digital technology that has the potential to bring in widespread social changes and economic advancement.

The emergence of a digital first world requires countries to prepare for a digital first economy. Leading economies are developing digital plans and policies, investing in key digital technology sectors and ICT infrastructure to rebuild and realize a new enlarged GDP.

The government of Qatar already leading based on "the future is digital" direction, prioritizing digitalization as a cornerstone of national development. Qatar has all the right ingredients to become a globally renowned leader in technology and innovation. Qatar National Vision 2030, a blueprint for economic and social development.

ICT helped Qatar to record one of the highest GDP per capita figures in the world. Through open and close collaboration between private and public sectors, the Qatari digital economy can be more inclusive, more competitive, more convenient, and well-positioned for continued growth. Thanks to Qatar 2030 National vision that emphasize digital transformation as a key pillar for growth. The positive results already gained in various industries such as Energy sector, telecom, education, healthcare, ...

The strong commitment to ICT infrastructure development

in the past enabled Qatar to lead in the digital era. Key projects and achievements include national Fixed Broadband (FBB) of 99% national penetration, 5G of 96% nationwide coverage, fastest network in the world, building local datacenter & cloud infrastructure and much more. Huawei is committed to continue playing an active role to support Qatar building advanced ICT infrastructure through leadership in FBB and 5G technologies through long-standing partnerships partnership ties with local telecom service providers and government entities.

Huawei works with Qatar telecom operators and other enterprises to add new dimensions to Qatar's ICT development through 5.5G network evolution and technological innovation, maintaining Qatar's leading networks capabilities, and enhancing its global positioning and influence in telecom industry. Huawei is dedicated to use advanced technologies such as data mining analysis and AI to help local partners realize their digital transformation.

Through digital platforms and tools, we fully cooperate with telecom operators in MBB, FBB, and service digitalization to truly improve efficiency, experience, and revenue.

In-Line with Qatar National Vision 2030, Huawei is keen to actively cooperate with all ecosystem partners to drive Qatar digital transformation to new milestones. As AI (Artificial Intelligence) is a key pillar for the new world, building a national artificial intelligence center will help forming a new model for industrial development with inclusive computing power, promoting the



Alex Zhang CEO Huawei technologies LLC

implementation of the national artificial intelligence strategy, including supporting policies, major scientific research, industry agglomeration, industry-university-research collaboration, industry applications, talent cultivation, and new national business card of AI. Achieving this key target will requires having the right policies and

funds in place to ensure all is set for relevant players to contribute to this goal.

As digital transformation accelerate, new cybersecurity challenges emerges. We must continuously improve cyber security to safeguard the development of digital economy, which entails both challenges and opportunities. That means building digital

Together with our partners in Qatar, we join forces to cultivate an ecosystem that is conducive to healthy and coordinated cross-sector development, driving the digital economy forward, accelerating digital transformation, and helping to speed up the arrival of an intelligent world.

The government of Qatar already leading based on "the future is digital" direction, prioritizing digitalization as a cornerstone of national development. Qatar has all the right ingredients to become a globally renowned leader in technology and innovation. Qatar National Vision 2030, a blueprint for economic and social development.

trust and making critical infrastructure both more secure and more resilient.

A true demonstration of this capability was during the Qatar FIFA world cup, through our World cup network Assurance project, Huawei achieved along with its partners outstanding standards of operation quality and ensured security of the network infrastructure during the Global event.

Looking into the future, Huawei Qatar strategy is fully aligned with 2030 vision, focusing on supporting Qatar to maintain its leadership in connectivity through leveraging leadership in MBB where we are jointly developing plans with our partners for 5.5G technology deployment, enabling 10Gbps speed, massive IoT and much more, paving the way for the next generation, 6G.

on the FBB domain, we are enhancing fiber technologies through F5.5 evolution. To accelerate cloud adoption in Qatar, Huawei developed an extensive cloud offering to support large enterprises as well as SMEs in Qatar to embrace digital transformation and migrate to cloud native applications, accelerating investment in AI technology, and providing applications and use cases that benefit the Qatari market to boost productivity, reduce workforce skills gap, and achieve full

automation.

A sustainable digital economy will require more than connectivity. Green ICT solutions must also be prioritized. Huawei can help Qatar achieve reduction in carbon emission through intelligence and smart operation.

A sustainable digital economy demands a large pool of local talents that is proficient in the latest technologies and able to adapt to new developments quickly. Governments and businesses must continue to invest in training and education programs to ensure that workers have the skills they need to succeed in the digital economy. Huawei is highly committed to support one of Qatar's key priorities, nurturing ICT local talent and building the ICT talent pool ecosystem. This is crucial to mold all-rounded graduates prepared for a dynamic digital-led workplace. Huawei will continue doing its part to advance the country's ICT skills with flagship initiatives and programs such as the ICT Competition, Seeds for the Future and Huawei ICT Academy.

Together with our partners in Qatar, we join forces to cultivate an ecosystem that is conducive to healthy and coordinated cross-sector development, driving the digital economy forward, accelerating digital transformation, and helping to speed up the arrival of an intelligent world.

80% infrastructure work of Expo 2023 Doha completed: Municipality Minister

FROM PAGE 1

Al Budaiwi said that the GCC pavilion will present initiatives in the areas of climate change, combating desertification, increasing vegetation cover and food security, in addition to other initiatives aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises and investing in the areas of the exhibition. He said that Qatar's hosting of Expo 2023 Doha indicates the confidence of the international community in its ability and great distinction in hosting international events.

Al Budaiwi said that this expo comes at a very important time when the international community is discussing the best ways to preserve the earth's environment and to ensure sustainability.

He said that following the decision of the esteemed Ministerial Council at its 154th, the

Al Budaiwi said that this expo comes at a very important time when the international community is discussing the best ways to preserve the earth's environment and to ensure sustainability.

GCC General Secretariat will be participating in Expo 2023Doha with its pavilion.

Eng Muhammad Ali Al Khouri, Secretary-General of Expo 2023 Doha, said that the partnership agreement of GCC General Secretariat is added to the list of partnerships in Expo 2023 Doha.

He noted that this partnership is an affirmation that this exhibition discusses extremely important topics

related to the entire GCC, as reducing desertification and finding effective ways to achieve sustainability is a necessary requirement for all GCC countries.

Al Khouri said that the participation of GCC General Secretariat is an embodiment of solidarity among all GCC countries and a qualitative addition to this global exhibition.

He said that GCC pavilion will give an integrated picture of the joint Gulf action and highlight the contributions of the GCC countries to the efforts of global solidarity to achieve the goals of sustainable development. Al Khouri said the pavilion will demonstrate Gulf competencies and their successes in employing technology and innovation in modernizing and developing agriculture and directing Gulf capital towards profitable investments.



Minister of Municipality H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie (centre), GCC Secretary-General H E Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi (second left) with other officials during a signing ceremony at the headquarters of the Ministry of Municipality yesterday.



Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs meets UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Dr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi met yesterday with Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Safety and Security H E Gilles Michaud, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation relations between the State of Qatar and the United Nations.

Meet calls for protection of children in conflicts

FROM PAGE 1

This complex situation requires doubled efforts and cooperation among all countries of the world, including the Arab countries, to protect children from being exploited, especially in armed conflicts, she said, warning that distorted childhood, poverty and ignorance make appropriate incubators for extremism, terrorism and urge to revenge.

Moreover, the Minister added that childhood in areas of armed conflict generates major future psychological and physical disabilities that exhaust societies and establish the inheritance of poverty and ignorance.

She stressed that Qatar is always ready to coordinate and cooperate with Arab countries and the world to support people suffering from armed conflicts, including the Sudanese people, and stop the deterioration of social and humanitarian conditions and end the crisis that threatens the future

of childhood and the world.

In a similar statement, H E Arab League's Assistant Secretary General and head of social affairs sector Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh said the Arab League prioritises the issue of preventing heinous violations against children in the armed conflict to achieve the best interest of children, adding that the Arab Childhood Committee periodically follows up on this issue.

She underscored the Arab League's keenness to develop joint work mechanisms to curb the challenges facing children since they are among vulnerable segments affected by wars and economic and social crises, as well as providing full protection to them. Dr. Ghazaleh pointed out the steps taken by the Arab League in this respect in the implementation of the recommendations of the 18th meeting of the follow-up committee to stop violence against children which had issued recommendations.

Among the recommendations,

H E Arab League's Assistant Secretary General and head of social affairs sector Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh said the Arab League prioritises the issue of preventing heinous violations against children in armed conflict to achieve the best interest of children.

she said, is to explore ways to support Palestinian children and reduce the consequences of violence being committed by the Israeli occupation forces, adding that the Palestinian children are facing major threats against their fundamental rights, in addition to grave violations, such as killing, arbitrary detention and forced displacement.

Qatar Vision Production Company “QVISION” Shatters Records with 60 Awards at Eventex Awards 2023

Qatar Vision Production Company, known as QVISION, has achieved an unprecedented feat by securing a remarkable 60 awards at the prestigious 13th edition of Eventex Awards - The World's #1 Awards for Events & Experience Marketing.

This remarkable achievement sets a new record in the history of this esteemed accolade, solidifying QVISION's position as a leader in the world of events and experiential marketing. The United States is the country with the most trophies – 86. Qatar is this edition's runner-up, boasting a total of 77 trophies, followed by the Netherlands with 37.

The US is the gold awards champion with 26, while Qatar and the Netherlands have 23 and 15, respectively.

Among the 60 awards, QVISION claimed an astounding 10 Gold, 16 Silver, and 34 Bronze accolades. These awards were earned across a diverse range of categories including Celebration Events, Live Show, Musical Event, Outdoor Event, Corporate Event, Ceremony, Concert, Summit, Public Event, Sporting Event, Conference, Customer Engagement Event,



Gala, Use of Event Technology, Brand Experience, Immersive Experience, Kick-A Experience, Best Supplier in the World, and Middle Eastern Event.

Qvision's exceptional production of the Qatar Airways 25th anniversary event was particularly noteworthy, garnering 4 Gold Awards. Additionally, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Infotainment Program, Barazan Gas Project Inauguration Ceremony, and Doha Torch Tower Screen Launching Event each secured

a prestigious Gold award.

The top 3 brands, which received the most recognition at 13th edition of Eventex Awards are:

1. Qatar Airways (17 awards),
2. Budweiser (15 awards), and
3. Porsche China Motors Limited (9 awards).

The top agencies with the most trophies are:

1. Qatar Vision Production Company (60),
2. WINK Creative Experiential



Sharif Hashisho, CEO & Executive Producer at QVISION.

Agency (26),

3. Media.Monks (21), and
4. VOK DAMS (19).

Eventex Awards 2023 attracted an unprecedented number of entries, with a record-breaking 761 submissions from 49 countries. QVISION's success amidst such fierce competition is a testament to their unparalleled creativity, expertise, and dedication to delivering

outstanding events and experiences. At Eventex Awards 2023 QVISION was recognized as the top agency with the most trophies (60).

"We are incredibly honored and proud to have received this extraordinary recognition at Eventex Awards," said Sharif Hashisho, CEO & Executive Producer at QVISION. "These awards reflect our team's unwavering commitment to excellence and our ability to push boundaries in event production and experiential marketing. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on such incredible projects and to be recognized among the best in the industry."

QVISION's consistent track record of delivering exceptional events has positioned them as a trailblazer in the industry, setting new standards for innovation, creativity, and excellence.

Eventex Awards 2023 Announcement:

<https://eventex.co/blog/eventex-awards-2023-winners-see-who-gets-into-this-years-eventex-hall-of-fame>

Eventex Awards 2023 Winners: <https://eventex.co/winners>



REGIONAL MEET

Qatar’s steps to protect children in armed conflicts highlighted

QNA — DOHA

Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater presented Qatar's initiatives to protect children in armed conflicts during a regional meeting on preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts. It was hosted by Doha yesterday via videoconferencing

technology. In a speech during the meeting's second session titled "Regional best practices on preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts," Al Khater said Qatar is proud of its experience in mediation to resolve armed conflicts by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of justice and international law. Qatar was able to end many armed conflicts and achieve peace, and it continues this role

in other armed conflicts, she added. Qatar, she said, is also proud that it initiated the submission of a draft resolution to the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "International Day to Protect Educational Institutions from Attacks." The draft resolution stipulates that September 9 of each year be considered a global day to protect education from attacks, and urges the

international community to alleviate the ordeal of students affected by armed conflict. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously and the day was marked on September 9, 2022 for the third year. She referred to Qatar's partnerships with regional organisations and many international partners to enhance the protection of children affected by conflict. In this context, she noted the Qatar Fund for Development's provision of permanent support to the Office of UN Special Representative of Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, in addition to Qatar's support to establish and finance the Analysis and Communication Center of the Office of the Special Representative in Doha in order to support mediation and capacity-building to end and prevent grave violations against children in armed conflict.



Minister of State for International Cooperation H E Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater

social support were given to them, she said. In a related context, Al Khater referred to the Education Above All Foundation initiative Educate a Child which provided education to ten million children in developing countries affected by armed conflict, and the Women in Conflict Zones Initiative 2022 launched by the Qatar Fund for Development with the aim of supporting and empowering women and girls in the regions that witness conflicts and wars around the world. Currently, Qatar chairs the main group of the support platform dedicated to the solutions strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR), she said, noting that there are many other initiatives and efforts, all of which stem from Qatar's strategic vision in supporting international and regional peace and security and achieving lasting peace and development for all peoples.

We are Hiring

Draftsman (Fit-out)

- Knowledgeable in Interior Designing/ Fit Out and Joinery Industry
- Proficient in the following software: AutoCAD, Sketch-up, 3D Max Vray, MS Office, Revit
- Must have the knowledge to produce Full Architectural & Interior Detail Drawings
- Creative in designing interior space, 2D and 3D designing;
- Full knowledge of producing full set of drawings in CAD along with shop drawings & detailing

Please send your CV to:
qatarjobs328@gmail.com

HUMANITARIAN AID

Qatar affirms its continued support for Horn of Africa

QNA — NEW YORK

The State of Qatar affirmed that it will continue its humanitarian support for the Horn of Africa, calling on the international community to learn from previous experiences in facing major challenges and crises around the world, and to unify multilateral action, in order to face international challenges and crises. This came in a statement delivered by Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations H E Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani during the High-level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Response in the Horn of Africa, specifically in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, at the UN headquarters. She renewed the State of Qatar's firm commitment to solidarity with the peoples of the Horn of Africa, and urged all member states to respond to the unprecedented drought hitting the Horn of Africa, as part of the commitment to address the urgent humanitarian needs in this region. She said Qatar was honoured to participate in the high-level event with the United Nations, Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom, in cooperation with the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, in order to respond to

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations H E Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani said Qatar pledged \$12m in humanitarian aid for the Horn of Africa facing unprecedented drought.

an urgent appeal for humanitarian assistance from the peoples of the Horn of Africa, who are facing unprecedented drought, due to deep crises. Sheikha Alya said that according to UN agencies, more than 32 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are acutely food insecure, and that more than 43 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance this year, including more than eight million children and pregnant woman facing acute malnutrition. She underlined that unfortunately, the funding of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 so far is insufficient, and therefore, it is necessary for the international community to take decisive action to address this crisis. In this context, she said that at the High Level Side Event: Responding to the Urgent Humanitarian Needs in the Horn of Africa, the State of Qatar pledged \$12m in humanitarian aid. In implementation of this pledge, Qatar Fund for

Development (QFFD) and Qatar Charity launched an urgent response project to help those affected by the drought in Somalia, she added. Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN noted that QFFD is funding the second phase of the "Building Resilient Communities in Somalia" project (BRCIS) in cooperation with the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in Somalia. Sheikha Alya explained that the project aims to enhance the delivery of humanitarian aid to rural communities in the Republic of Somalia, especially those most vulnerable to disasters, pointing out that this was achieved by providing multi-sectoral assistance to 594,618 beneficiaries over a period of six months. She also said that the Qatar Fund for Development is finalising a joint project with USAID and Unicef in Somalia, with a total value of \$12m, in which QFFD and USAID contributed \$6m, adding that this joint effort aims to meet the urgent needs arising from the outbreak of measles and cholera in Somalia. In the same context, she indicated that the Education Above All Foundation (EAA) is implementing joint projects to provide quality education for 7.5 million out-of-school children and youth in Africa, with the total budget for these projects amounting to \$1.2bn.

Qatari-Uzbek parliamentary ties discussed

QNA — DOHA

The Qatari-Uzbek Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Shura Council held a virtual meeting yesterday with its counterpart in the Uzbek parliament. The meeting was co-chaired by Chairman of Qatari-Uzbek Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Shura Council H E Eng. Ahmed bin Hitmi Al Hitmi and head of the Uzbek-Qatari parliamentary friendship group in the Uzbek parliament H E Nodir Jumaev. The meeting discussed ways to enhance coordination and the exchange of visits.

QATARGAS OPERATING COMPANY LTD

Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (USD)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/OOS/6086/23 For the Provision of Road Tanker for MEG Logistics and Manpower Support Services on Call-Off Basis	28/05/2023 to 08/06/2023	0	NIL	18/06/2023

Scope of Work:
Company requires experienced, competent, and qualified Contractor, who can provide road tankers services for MEG Logistics on full time basis (24 hours continuous) of approximate capacity of 20 cubic meters each with drivers, helpers, integral transfer pumps, hoses and fittings to transport MEG (Mono Ethylene Glycol) from OSPL / RLIC Port Area to Company's South, North and Barzan Plant Sites primarily during winter /hydrate seasons on call off basis.

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

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

The World's Premier LNG Company
www.qatargas.com.qa

QATARGAS OPERATING COMPANY LTD

Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (USD)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/SAD/6195/23 Provision of Independent Surveyor Services	28/05/2023 to 05/06/2023	0	120,000	12/06/2023

Scope of Work:
The scope involves inspection and related activities of LNG tanker loadings and discharges associated with Company LNG sales agreements (Sales Agreement) utilizing LNG Terminals located globally. The Independent Surveyors are able to provide the quality, expertise and global geographical access required by Company.

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

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

The World's Premier LNG Company
www.qatargas.com.qa

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Qatar Airways, Google Cloud collaborate on data and AI

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Google Cloud and Qatar Airways have agreed to collaborate to set out the airline's intention to explore leveraging Google Cloud's data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to create superior customer experiences for its passengers.

In 2022, Qatar Airways carried 18.5 million passengers across 150 destinations worldwide. This large volume of passengers drives an abundance of structured and unstructured data to the airline's digital transformation unit.

The proposed collaboration with Google Cloud is intended to help bring deeper meaning to Qatar Airways' customer data through the power of Google's data analytics, AI and machine learning (ML) solutions, including BigQuery and Vertex AI. This, in turn, will enable the airline to enhance the travel experience for passengers, providing them with offerings personalised to their individual needs, travel trends, and past travel history.

Qatar Airways Chief Information Officer, A.T. Srinivasan said: "Qatar Airways is a highly respected aviation leader which has always set benchmarks with its globally recognised and award-winning customer service. Google Cloud brings us the opportunity to build elasticity and scalability on demand, as we increasingly look to leverage both structured and unstructured data to personalise customer and employee experience.

"We will also leverage Google's highly secure and diverse set of Cloud service offerings for optimising our airline and airport operations particularly in the areas of aircraft inventory, flight operations both on ground and in the air, as well as airport operations.

"We also look forward to collaborating with Google Cloud to try out some of their cutting-edge technology through this long-term partnership. The presence of a Cloud in Qatar gives us the assurance that our data stays in country and we can focus on data and AI/ML led innovation without having to



Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive H E Akbar Al Baker (third left), along with other officials from Qatar Airways and Google Cloud.

worry about data residency."

Ghassan Kosta, Qatar Country Manager, Google Cloud, added: "Businesses today can make smart decisions in real time and provide personalised experiences to their customers

through AI and machine learning tools. Qatar Airways is not only an airline that takes passengers from point A to point B, but also it is a manifestation of Qatari hospitality. Through use of Google Cloud, Qatar Airways can

The proposed collaboration with Google Cloud is intended to help bring deeper meaning to Qatar Airways' customer data through the power of Google's data analytics, AI and machine learning solutions, including BigQuery and Vertex AI.

requirements."

Additionally, Qatar Airways and Google Cloud will explore further areas of collaboration, including using cloud tools to drive cost optimization, increase streamlined operations, and more. Sustainability is also a top priority in the airline's digital transformation roadmap, and Qatar Airlines will explore using Google Cloud, the cleanest cloud in the industry, to implement new programs that will support Qatar Airways in fulfilling its sustainability goals by 2030.



Qatar, Venezuela mark 50th anniversary of relations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Embassy of the State of Qatar to Venezuela celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela H E Yvan Gil, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Venezuela H E Rashid bin Mohsen Fetais and a number of officials.

EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

Five-day regional training on international human rights mechanisms launched

QNA – DOHA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) yesterday launched a regional training course on the interaction with international human rights mechanisms, in cooperation with the UN Training and Documentation Center for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region, and the GCC General Secretariat.

The five-day course includes a series of basic themes related to international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), UN Treaty Bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and Special Procedures of the HRC and the subsequent national plans to implement the recommendations of these mechanisms.

Director of MoFA's Human Rights Department, Dr. Turki bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud affirmed that this course reflects the State of Qatar's commitment to raising awareness and building human capacities for human rights activists, and to the Gulf strategy on human rights, which mainly focuses on raising awareness and building human capacities for the benefit of citizens and residents by promoting and protecting it in the GCC countries.

He added that the event

brought together 26 participants from all GCC countries and government agencies with the aim of raising their capacities regarding international human rights, the international agreements that fall under international human rights law, and the human rights-related bilateral relations of countries and strategic dialogues.

Dr. Al Mahmoud said that the course is an opportunity to exchange experiences and positive practices among countries, leading to the creation of a healthy environment for the exchange of positive practices and practical solutions to some of the challenges to establish and protect human rights in various countries and various government agencies. He appreciated the role of the UN Training and Documentation Center for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region and its staff in organising the course, voicing hopes that the maximum benefit from it will be achieved for the benefit of all.

Director of UN Training and Documentation Centre for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region, Dr. Abeer Al Khraisha said the course was part of the mandate of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to provide technical support to countries to fulfil



Director of MoFA's Human Rights Department Dr. Turki bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud and Director of UN Training and Documentation Centre for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region, Dr. Abeer Al Khraisha during the opening of the training.

their obligations in this aspect. She added that the Centre's new vision was adopted effective 2022 in a bid to bolster the main training programmes that target specific groups, including Arab diplomats, workers and those concerned with human rights in the relevant official bodies such as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice and others, in addition to other training programmes targeting other groups such as Arab journalists and media professionals, national institutions and NGOs in the Arab region for their important role in the promotion and protection of human rights.

She added that the course is also part of the Centre's continuous cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar and comes within the framework of adopting the GCC human rights strategy (2023-2026), and enhancing the knowledge of those concerned in the GCC countries and the GCC General Secretariat representatives regarding the UN mechanisms, international instruments and the interaction of member states with international mechanisms.

QPWN holds mid-year gathering, focuses on empowering women

JOELYN BALUYUT
THE PENINSULA

The Qatar Professional Women's Network (QPWN) Mentoring Programme recently held its mid-year gathering, which featured an empowering talk by former Ambassador of Mexico to Qatar, Graciela Gomez.

The event took place at the Dusit Doha Hotel in West Bay on Saturday and was attended by current mentors, mentees, and members of the QPWN Executive Committee.

Gomez delivered a speech titled, "The Power of Mentorship in Women's Professional Development." She emphasised the importance of staying true to oneself and finding the strength to pursue one's goals, regardless of external opinions or obstacles. She encouraged the audience not to let anyone silence their voices and to embrace their unique qualities and aspirations.

"If there's something you want to do, don't allow anyone to move you from [where] you are, find your pose, all of us have it and you have to trust it, and probably if the voice is not strong maybe it's not the place, but if you are convinced – this is who you are and nobody else can move you from there."

The event left participants feeling motivated and inspired to continue their mentoring journeys. Karmela Palma, the newly appointed



Former Ambassador of Mexico to Qatar Graciela Gomez speaking during the QPWN mid-year gathering.

Head of QPWN, stressed the significance of providing ongoing support and inspiration to strengthen the mentor-mentee relationships. Palma also highlighted the transformative impact that mentoring can have on personal and professional growth, emphasising the importance of women mentoring and inspiring other women.

The QPWN Mentoring Programme has been instrumental in supporting professional women in Qatar since its inception in 2010. The

2023 programme has already proven to be a resounding success, with mentors and mentees gaining invaluable insights and experiences over the past six months.

The said programme will continue to make a profound impact until December 2023, with applications for the 2024 cohort set to open in October 2023. Aspiring mentees and mentors are encouraged to stay tuned to QPWN's social media platforms for further updates on the programme.



TENDER NOTICE

The Tender Committee of the Qatar Satellite Company – Es'hailSat, Area No. 31 – Umm Lakhba – Al Markhiya Street, PO Box 10653, Doha, State of Qatar invites sealed bids for **eligible bidders with a minimum of twenty (20) years operational experience in Qatar** for the following tenders which details are as under:

SN	NAME/DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TENDER NO.	TENDER FEES	TENDER BOND	TENDER VALIDITY	CLOSING DATE
A.	Out-Sourcing of Cleaning Services for QSC Head Office and QSC Al-Ghuwayriyah Teleport Site (2-Years Contract)	QSC/011/2023	QAR 500/-	5% of the tendered/offered value valid for 90 days	120 days from Closing Date	19 June 2023, 16:00Hrs
B.	Out-Sourcing of Security Personnel for QSC Head Office & QSC Al-Ghuwayriyah Teleport Office (2-Year Contract)	QSC/012/2023	QAR 500/-	5% of the tendered/offered value valid for 90 days	120 days from Closing Date	19 June 2023, 16:00Hrs

1. **Tender Fees are non-refundable** and can be remitted/deposited to the following company' bank account:

Company Name	Qatar Satellite Company
Bank Name	Qatar National Bank
Account No	0786-777665052
Account Type	Revenue Account
IBAN No	QA09QNBA00000000786777665052
Swift Code	QNBQAQQA
Currency	Qatari Riyals

Tender Number and Company Name must be written on the deposit slip.

2. Deposit Slip of the Tender Fees to be emailed with the letter of intention to participate with the following listed documents on or before 04 June 2023 to TenderCommittee@eshailsat.qa:
- Deposit slip for the Tender Fees
 - Copy of Commercial Registration
 - Copy of Company Establishment Card
 - Valid ID Card
3. Any deposit slip received after 04 June 2023 will not be considered and item no. 1 above is applicable.
4. An email will be sent to all prospective bidders with the link for vendor registration if not yet registered with Es'hailSat as vendor/supplier enabling to access the i-Supplier Portal and receive the Tender/RFP Package/document, **registration must be done on or before 07 June 2023.**
5. Distribution of Tender/RFP Package will be thru Es'hailSat's i-Supplier Portal by 07-08 June 2023.
Classification: Personally Identifiable Information
6. The offer must be submitted with a Tender/Bid Bond issued by Qatari Bank or a bank operating in Qatar.
- Proposals will be submitted thru Es'hailSat's i-Supplier Portal as per the Instruction to Bidders (ITB) on the RFP Package.
- Proposals will be uploaded in two separate files 1. Technical Proposal and 2. Financial Proposal (preferably in PDF formats) by 4:00PM on the Closing Date, Monday, 19 June 2023.
- For more details of the tenders, please send emails to TenderCommittee@eshailsat.qa.

PROMOTING CULTURE

Katara announces cultural programme in Arabic calligraphy

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

The Cultural Village Foundation, Katara has announced the launch of cultural activities related to Arabic calligraphy, within the framework of an annual programme that includes a series of training courses, practical workshops, exhibitions and artistic forums.

Katara General Manager, Prof. Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti explained that the activities of Katara Arabic Calligraphy aim to preserve Arabic calligraphy and the Islamic arts, as one of the most prominent elements of the Arab and Islamic identity and promote it in Qatar and all over the world.

He added that Katara will devote its role as a hub of Arabic calligraphy and spread its

Katara will devote its role as a hub of Arabic calligraphy and spread its culture among young people.

culture among young people, indicating that the cultural village will work to strengthen the global presence of Arabic calligraphy and highlight the cultural meanings it carries and broadcast its splendor and civilisational message after it was included in the UNESCO world heritage list, by launching a long-term work programmes, including training courses, practical workshops, forums, art exhibitions, specialized studies and media publications.

“Katara will launch very

soon its annual programme, which includes a group of practical workshops and training courses in Arabic calligraphy arts and its various types and methods, according to the technical levels and target groups.”

He noted that Katara will also launch advanced courses and professional workshops in cooperation with specialised international organisations presented by a group of famous calligraphers in the Islamic and Arab world, as Katara will issue accredited certificate in Arabic calligraphy that allows them to become professional, pointing out that the programme provides opportunity to learn and train in Arabic calligraphy arts, such Islamic floral ornamentation, and decorating Arabic calligraphy paintings using different materials ceramics, glass,



Participants during an Arabic calligraphy workshop.

wood, cloth and other materials. "Katara will hold Arabic calligraphy exhibitions with a selections of distinguished paintings of the participants in various Arabic calligraphy courses, as they will be nominated and selected by a special jury," Prof. Dr. Al Sulaiti added.

بمفتنا ملاك للعقارات التالية

للبيع وللإيجار بأسعار مناسبة

للإيجار

مكاتب إدارية بمنطقة بن عمران

For Rent administrative offices in the Bin Omran area

للبيع

مبنى إداري مساحة العقار 687م2 عبارة عن طابق أرضي وثلاثة طوابق وقبو

بالإضافة الى مواقف خاصة بالمبنى

Administrative building for sale 687 sqm

The building boats a ground floor, three top floors, abasement,and parking .

للبيع

قطعة أرض مميزة في «مدينة لوسيل»

مساحة البيع 3,953 متر مربع

Land for sale at Energy City Qatar-Lusail Land Size : 3.953 sqm

للبيع

قطعة أرض مميزة في «مدينة لوسيل»

مساحة البيع 4,656 متر مربع

Land for sale at Energy City Qatar-Lusail Land Size : 4.656 sqm

يوجد لدينا

مخزن بمنطقة جري السمر ، المنطقة اللوجستية

مساحته (3361) متر أرضي وميزانين عليه تكيف مركزي

Warehouse in Jery Al-Samar area, the area is 3361 square meters, with a mezzanine and central air conditioning.

للتواصل مع المالك مباشرة

Directly From The Owner... contact

55486133 30347361 33535273

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

Landmark Group announces passing of Founder Chairman Mukesh 'Micky' Jagtiani

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

The Landmark Group yesterday announced that its eminent Founder and Chairman, Mukesh “Micky” Jagtiani, has passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family.

Micky Jagtiani leaves behind a formidable legacy of a leading family-owned business conglomerate in the GCC region and beyond, that he founded and managed for several decades.

Renowned for his exceptional leadership, unwavering customer-centric approach, and deep market understanding, his visionary spirit and strategic fore-

Micky Jagtiani was the driving force in shaping the conglomerate’s extraordinary journey. His strategic acumen enabled the Landmark Group to emerge as the region’s foremost retail and hospitality conglomerate, with over 2,200 stores in 21 countries across the Middle East and Africa, as well as the Indian Subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.



Landmark Group Founder and Chairman Mukesh “Micky” Jagtiani

conglomerate, with over 2,200 stores in 21 countries across the Middle East and Africa, as well as the Indian Subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

He is fondly remembered by his family – his wife- Renuka, his children – Aarti & Savitar, Nisha & Kabir, and Rahul, his grandchildren Samar, Nikhil, Yohan and Aliya – and his beloved Landmark Group community. He leaves behind enduring friendships, partnerships, and bonds with the Group’s senior management, the industry and wider community, whose lives he touched profoundly.

The Landmark Group remains committed to carrying forward his spirit and ensuring the continuing success of his ambitions and dreams.

A public condolence gathering is scheduled to take place on today, May 29.

sight helped the Landmark Group and its brands become a household name in the community.

He will always be known for his inspiring leadership and even more so, for his humility and genuine concern towards all the lives he touched.

From its humble beginnings with a single store in Bahrain in 1973, Micky Jagtiani was the driving force in shaping the conglomerate’s extraordinary journey. His strategic acumen enabled the Landmark Group to emerge as the region’s foremost retail and hospitality

Sustainability is Rooted in Humility

Dana El-Ghazal

As business owners or consumers, we are either demanding or seeking sustainability, but we do not always agree on what it looks like. Kahramaa launched Tarsheed; a rigorous campaign to reduce water and electricity consumption in the residential sector. Qatar Foundation established Earthna; a non-profit center to inform and influence both national and global sustainability policy. Most recently, the Ministry of Municipality announced a plan to distribute waste segregation containers to every household in the next five years to push for recycling. The efforts are ever-evolving and they are admirable.

There are so many guiding principles when it comes to striving for sustainable development. There are the 5C's; Clean, Community, Culture, Care and Corporate Governance. Others position it as the harmony of three core pillars: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

Although it may be challenging to agree on what exactly 'sustainability' looks like, it's fair to say it can be applied to practically all aspects of our lives, which is why there are multiple variables to the sustainability equation. So, what about when it comes to Fashion, notoriously known as one of the world's most polluting industries? Here, the variables include labor practices, sourcing of fabrics, animal-free materials, ethical trade, durability, upcycling, waste reduction and more.

These variations make it harder to meet the full range of expectations. The challenge is even greater when you live in a country that has one of the highest purchasing powers in the world. The average citizen and resident has the tendency to spend and occasionally splurge, so just because sustainability is important on

different, without the financial commitment that comes with having to make new purchases every single time!

Which brings me to why I often say and believe, indelg is not just a brand that's a rental service, it's a verb. Unlike indulging, which gives way to our desires and privileges, maybe sometimes more than is good for us, indulging is a practice of more mindful consumerism, it's intentional and something we consciously build with habits that are less harmful to people and the planet. We still experience gratification, but it's usually in service of something that's greater than just ourselves.

The indelg closet is a consciously curated space that supports women to consign their designer items they no longer want or will wear, and in return make some money back every time it's rented. It's powered entirely by women who want to empower women, promoting fashion inclusivity and trumping fashion exclusivity, all whilst reducing waste.

Since the launch, there's been one prominent, common denominator between all the women who have been wholeheartedly embracing

MoECC to organise workshop on climate vulnerability assessment in Qatar

QNA — DOHA

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) is set to organise a workshop on climate vulnerability and its impact assessment in Qatar, in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

Slated for May 30-31, the workshop will discuss the preliminary results of the assessment of climate vulnerability with relation to six sectors in Qatar, namely energy, water, infrastructure, biodiversity, agriculture and public health.

The workshop aims to educate stakeholders about the ‘Climate Change Adaptation’ project, discuss the data collection process and its potential benefits to Qatar’s broader development efforts, share preliminary findings of

The workshop comes within the framework of the National Climate Adaptation Planning Project, one of the initiatives of the cooperation program between the MOCC and GGGI.

climate vulnerability assessment, and its impact on the mentioned sectors, as well as prioritization, and discussing the scope of proposed adaptation measures to address identified impacts using a set of criteria.

The workshop comes within the framework of the National Climate Adaptation Planning Project, one of the initiatives of the cooperation program between the MOCC and GGGI. The workshop also gives priority to discussing appropriate adaptation measures to address the effects of climate change. The cooperation program between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Global Green Growth Institute is implementing the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) project, which aims to identify and address Qatar’s medium and long-term priorities for adapting to climate change.

PARTNERSHIP

GGGI projects to make Qatar more resilient against climate change

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) to implement a number of projects to make Qatar more resilient in addressing climate change.

The projects include climate change adaptation, circular economy, tracking greenhouse gas emissions (MRV or measurement, reporting, and verification), capacity building, and green growth pathway development.

In an interview with *The Peninsula*, Helena McLeod, Deputy Director-General and Head of the Green Growth Planning & Implementation (GGP&I) Division at GGGI, said GGGI Qatar Office, which opened in January 2022, is providing technical assistance to the government through policy advisory, investment planning, and capacity building in green growth.

She said GGGI's role is to serve as a trusted advisor, contributing to meeting Qatar's climate action such as reducing

emissions in line with their global commitments in the Paris Agreement.

"One of the GGGI's priorities in Qatar is to fast-track the development of a comprehensive MRV system that will enable Qatar to monitor and measure its greenhouse gas emissions especially in energy, transport, industry, and waste sectors," said McLeod. She said MRV system allows accurate submission and measurement of emissions, which is a requirement of the international climate change agreement.

"That is the highest priority that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has for us this year, because they have to submit a formal document and report which accurately tells the world what their emissions are in the country in those different sectors," said McLeod. She said GGGI is also working on the circular waste, circular economy and how to manage waste sustainably. "We are also working with the MoECC on the financial sector to make it greener and more sustainable — promoting resilience and green economic growth. It's not just climate

Qatar is a fascinating country because it's relatively small in terms of population, but it really made remarkable achievements internationally. Qatar is helping less well-off countries as well in addressing climate change.

change, emission reduction but also, for instance, protecting the country's biodiversity and the country itself from climate change," McLeod added.

She said GGGI operates in 40 countries worldwide across Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Europe. GGGI advises host governments, provides technical assistance, analysis and presents recommendations on what's best for a country.

She noted that after evidence is gathered, and recommendations are made, it is down to the government to take a decision on what they're going to enforce in law or in policy and



Helena McLeod, Deputy Director-General, Global Green Growth Institute. PIC: RAJAN VADAKKEMURIYIL

how it can be implemented.

"Here, we are working for the government as partners, with the government in the lead. So we come with our ideas, our knowledge, our advice, but it is up to the government to decide what is in the best interests," McLeod stressed. Regarding consumption, McLeod said rationalising energy consumption would greatly help in protecting the environment which could be achieved by influencing the behaviour of people. She said that every simple way of saving resources

makes people aware that there is a benefit to the environment by using a bit less energy.

For instance, running air conditioning at a comfortable level and using efficient water taps would save energy and resources.

"Qatar is a fascinating country because it's relatively small in terms of population, but it really made remarkable achievements internationally. Qatar is helping less well-off countries as well in addressing climate change. We've also discussed with the Qatar Fund For

Development (QFFD) about where to do some work for developing countries." Speaking about the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, she said Qatar built the most climate-smart stadiums as part of the tournament.

They also invested, for instance, in e-buses to curb emissions. McLeod said the World Cup was also about being futuristic, being cutting edge, and breaking new grounds.

"I think that's something they can also bring to this whole climate debate. How can we protect our history and our people? How can we look forward with the latest technologies and find those solutions and find the solutions at a scale that makes a difference for the world?" On projects being carried out in Qatar, McLeod said, GGGI partners with Qatar on projects outside the country. She cited a Qatar-funded project in the Pacific.

"This is related to working with entrepreneurs who are in green businesses or sustainable businesses and helping them flourish and get bigger. It's working in really poor countries that are very vulnerable to climate change.

Ooredoo sponsors Mubadara Awards, promotes young entrepreneurs

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

Ooredoo Qatar was Gold Sponsor of the recent Mubadara Awards Ceremony 2023 and played a key part in the ceremony, presenting the Highest Social Impact Award trophies to the winning students.

Mubadara 2023 — the Annual Young Enterprise of The Year competition from non-profit organisation INJAZ Qatar, a member of Junior Achievement Worldwide — is the culmination of a six-month long programme offering student teams the opportunity to conceptualise, establish and operate a real business under the guidance of professionals from leading businesses across Qatar.

The awards ceremony held at the Qatar Foundation Student

Center Ballroom was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, as well as of the programme's partners and sponsors. Ooredoo's Director CSR, Sponsorship and Media — Moza Khalid Al Muhannadi — represented the company and presented the Highest Social Impact Award trophies to the winning teams — "360 InVision" and "Maktbati" — as well as a prize of a tablet.

Sheikh Ali Bin Jabor Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Qatar, said: "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the remarkable winners of Mubadara 2023. Witnessing the passion, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit displayed by these talented young individuals is truly inspiring. As a gold sponsor of this prestigious event, Ooredoo

is proud to have presented the Highest Social Impact Award trophies to high school and university students who stood out in this competition."

Mubadara 2023, held under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, attracted enrolment from 12 university teams and six high school teams. Mubadara enabled the students to showcase their business ventures, and highlight the skills learned throughout the programme, to a panel of judges that included some of the leading business figures in Qatar.

Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Al Thani, Chair of Injaz Qatar and Injaz Al Arab, said: "Congratulations to the participants and winners of this year's Mubadara Awards. The calibre of their entries is a credit to them and



Ooredoo's Director CSR, Sponsorship and Media, Moza Khalid Al Muhannadi (third right) with winning student teams at the awards ceremony.

their institutions. Mubadara was founded 15 years ago with the aim of inspiring youth in Qatar to start and grow entrepreneurial ventures and, through the programme, more than 3,500 students have explored their innovative business ideas and the opportunity to turn these ideas into thriving

businesses. The programme isn't just about winning a competition; it envisions building an influential community of entrepreneurs equipped to make significant contributions to Qatar's expeditiously developing economy."

"Khatwa" from Qatar University won the university

category, and the winning high school team was "FA Robot" from Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls and will represent Qatar at the regional INJAZ Al-Arab Young Enterprise of The Year Competition, where they will be up against teams from 14 different countries across the MENA region.

HMC marks World Hemophilia Day with awareness, educational events



FROM LEFT: Dr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Abdelbari, Clinical Pharmacist at Hamad General Hospital; Dr. Usama Al Homsí, Senior Consultant in Medical Oncology and Deputy Medical Director for Clinical Research, Education and Quality at HMC's National Center for Cancer Care and Research; and Cesar Garrido, President of the World Federation of Hemophilia addressing the event.

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

In recognition of World Hemophilia Day, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) in collaboration with the Friends of Hemophilia Society recently hosted a series of awareness and education events for HMC staff, as well as for hemophilia patients and their families.

This year, the theme for World Hemophilia Day is "Access for All: Prevention of bleeds as the global standard of care." World Hemophilia Day provides an ideal opportunity to educate patients and healthcare professionals about the condition, which is an important part of building community support for individuals living with bleeding disorders.

The awareness events for healthcare staff took place at HMC's Hajar Auditorium at the Medical Education Center on May 24, while additional events were held at Rixos Gulf Hotel Doha on May 26 and targeted

hemophilia patients and their families.

Dr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Abdelbari, Clinical Pharmacist at Hamad General Hospital, said the event at Hajar Auditorium was held in the presence of Dr. Usama Al Homsí, Senior Consultant in Medical Oncology and Deputy Medical Director for Clinical Research, Education and Quality at HMC's National Center for Cancer Care and Research; Cesar Garrido, President of the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH); and Rana Saifi, WFH Regional Manager for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The event also gathered a number of local and international experts who delivered lectures on hemophilia, including Dr. Miguel Escobar, Professor at McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth); Dr. Haroon Mann, Consultant Trauma and Orthopedic Surgeon from London; Dr. Laim Ferrnough; Dr. Hasan Abu

Hejleh; and Mr. Mohamed Rafique. Also in attendance were a number of physicians and surgeons from HMC's Departments of Surgery, Orthopedics, Hematology, and Intensive Care, as well as pharmacists from Hamad General Hospital.

Dr. Abdelbari said the lectures focused on strategies to safely perform surgeries on patients with blood disorders. He noted that Qatar's health system offers state-of-the-art healthcare facilities and equipment, as well as highly experienced care teams, both of which are essential for better health outcomes for patients with hemophilia.

"Hemophilia can greatly affect the quality of life of patients and their families. Males are generally more likely to have hemophilia than females. Hemophilia is often linked to genes inherited from the mother, a genetic mutation, pregnancy, or malignant diseases such as cancer," said Dr. Abdelbari.

He also highlighted the importance of the lectures that were delivered on the second day of the events and mainly targeted people with hemophilia and their families. The lectures offered health tips and medical information on hemophilia, including its causes, symptoms and complications, diagnosis, and methods of prevention and treatment.

Hemophilia is a rare genetic disorder that results from the deficiency or absence of one of the clotting factors in the blood (proteins).

This can cause bleeding for a longer time than normal following injury. For example, if a healthy person who does not have hemophilia sustains injuries, the body will collect blood cells to form a clot that stops bleeding by sealing off damaged blood vessels and preventing excessive blood loss, while people with hemophilia have a deficiency or absence of one of the clotting factors, which leads to a heavier or longer bleeding.

PHCC offers health tips for school students ahead of exam season

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

With students' exam period approaching, the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has offered advice for students to safeguard their health and help improve their academic performance.

"It is necessary to know how to properly prepare for exams to overcome anxiety during exams and get better grades," said Dr. Sarah Bakhamis, Family Physician and Manager of PHCC's Al Mashaf Health Center.

Students focus all their attention on studying and neglect their health. Dr. Bakhamis advised students to eat healthy, be sure to drink fluids while studying, such as water and fresh fruit juices, and exercise, as they are good for their brains. Students can walk outside the house for a short distance, as it helps reduce stress.

Dr. Bakhamis reminded students with chronic diseases, such as asthma, abnormal blood pressure, or diabetes to bring their medications to school to avoid feeling unwell during exams.

She also advised students to practice breathing techniques, to inhale and exhale, and relaxation techniques, get enough sleep at night, walk while studying from time to time, every 5 or 10 minutes, avoid sitting for long periods in the same place or bending over wrong that could negatively affect the back and neck, and avoid constantly focusing on computer screen or other electronic devices.

Dr. Bakhamis added that

Dr. Bakhamis added that studying late at night is not effective, as students are not giving their brains a rest, making it difficult to recall information.

studying late at night is not effective, as students are not giving their brains a rest, making it difficult to recall information. Staying up late also leads to severe fatigue, exhaustion, and stress. Further, overtaking stimulants may increase heart rate and affect concentration skills.

She noted that the best time to study is during the early morning hours and from 5pm to 8pm and advised students to sleep for no less than 6-7 hours before the exam for reasons related to metabolism, memory stabilization, calming nerves, to help raise their academic performance and improve their focus during the exam.

On the night before the exam, Dr. Bakhamis recommended reviewing summaries of the material, covering the important points that students have prepared instead of studying. She advised students to take a minute to make sure that they remember and understand the topic well before they move to another topic.

Dr. Bakhamis said that students should prepare the equipment they need for the exam ahead of time and to have their breakfast meal early in the morning to avoid being late for school.

TURKISH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Erdogan wins historic run-off vote, thanks all Turks



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addressing supporters gathered outside his residence following his victory in Turkish presidential election, in Istanbul yesterday. (AFP)

AGENCIES — ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won his reelection bid, beating rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu in the historic run-off vote yesterday. The head of Turkiye's election commission declared Erdogan the winner. "Based on provisional results, it has been determined that Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been elected president," Supreme Election Council chairman Ahmet Yener was quoted as saying by the Anadolu state news agency. "All 85 million of our citizens are the winners of both the May 14 and May 28 elections," Erdogan said in an address to the nation from Istanbul after his victory. "We said 'We will win in a way that no one will lose.' So the only winner today is Türkiye," he stressed. On May 14, no candidate won the required 50% in the first round, triggering the presidential runoff, although Erdogan took the lead with 49.52%. Erdogan's electoral alliance also won a majority in parliament on May 14. "We have completed the second-round presidential

“We hope to be worthy of your trust, as we have been for 21 years.”
 Recep Tayyip Erdogan
 President of Turkiye

election with the favour of our nation," Erdogan said, expressing his gratitude to the people of Türkiye. "I would like to thank each and every member of our nation who once again conveyed to us the responsibility for governing the country for the next five years," he added. With more than 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results from competing news agencies showed Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for Kilicdaroglu. "We hope to be worthy of your trust, as we have been for 21 years," Erdogan told supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul. Supporters of Erdogan were celebrating even before the final results arrived, waving Turkish or ruling party

flags, and honking car horns and chanting his name. Celebratory gunfire was heard in several Istanbul neighbourhoods. Erdogan's performance came despite crippling inflation and the effects of a devastating earthquake three months ago. Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban and Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Erdogan, along with leaders from Qatar, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Libya, Algeria, Serbia and Uzbekistan. In Ankara, Erdogan voter Hacer Yalcin said Turkiye's future was great. "Of course Erdogan is the winner ... Who else? He has made everything for us," Yalcin said. "God blesses us!" Erdogan, 69, is set to remain in power until 2028. He transformed the presidency from a largely ceremonial role to a powerful office through a narrowly won 2017 referendum that scrapped Turkiye's parliamentary system of governance. He was the first directly elected president in 2014, and won the 2018 election that ushered in the executive presidency.



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (right) welcoming Oman's Sultan H M Haitham bin Tarik in Tehran, yesterday. (AFP)

Sultan of Oman visits Tehran, meets Raisi

AFP — TEHRAN

Oman's Sultan H M Haitham bin Tarik, whose Gulf country has been a long-time mediator between Iran and the West, arrived in Tehran yesterday for a two-day visit. His trip comes just two days after Tehran freed Belgian aid worker Olivier Vandecasteele from almost 15 months in custody in exchange for diplomat Assadollah Assadi. The Gulf Sultanate helped facilitate the prisoner swap. The Sultan was greeted on arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad

airport by First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and later met President Ebrahim Raisi at the Sadabad palace in north Tehran. Ahead of his visit, the newspaper Asharq Al Awsat quoted Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi as saying it comes "in pursuance of constructive cooperation and consultation about different issues on the regional and international arenas". The Omani leader's visit comes a year after Raisi visited Muscat, and follows a China-brokered rapprochement deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran announced in March.

Busaidi said Oman was optimistic the sultan's "historic" trip to Iran would be "beneficial in regional and global terms". Oman has close ties with Iran, and played a mediating role between Tehran and the United States in the build-up to a nuclear deal Iran and world powers reached in 2015. The sultanate was reported to have hosted secret US-Iran talks ahead of the signing of the deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, which gave Iran relief from international sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Saudi, US call on Sudan sides to extend 'imperfect' ceasefire

AP — CAIRO

The United States and Saudi Arabia have called on warring sides in Sudan to extend a fragile cease-fire due to expire today (Monday), as weeks of fighting reached a stalemate in the capital and elsewhere in the African country. The Sudanese army and a rival paramilitary force, battling for control of Sudan since mid-April, had agreed last week to the weeklong truce, brokered by the US and the Saudis. However, the

cease-fire, like others before it, did not stop the fighting in the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country. In a joint statement early yesterday, the US and Saudi Arabia called for an extension of the current truce which expires at 9:45pm local time today. "While imperfect, an extension nonetheless will facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people," the statement said. The statement also urged Sudan's military government and the rival Rapid Support

Forces to continue negotiations to reach an agreement on extending the cease-fire. The fighting broke out in mid-April between the military and the powerful RSF. Both military chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan and RSF leader Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo led the 2021 coup that removed the Western-backed government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. The conflict has killed hundreds of people, wounded thousands, and has forced nearly 1.4 million people out of their homes to safer areas.

Crosswords and Sudoku are only available in the print edition of *The Peninsula*

Somalia to allow direct universal suffrage in 2024

AFP — MOGADISHU

Somalia's government and federal member states said yesterday that direct universal suffrage would be introduced with local elections set for June 2024. The move follows a pledge by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in March to end a complex indirect system in place since 1969. "The basic principles should be that the election of the Federal Somali Republic must be one that gives the public the opportunity to cast their votes democratically in a one-person, one-vote system," the government said after reaching an agreement with state leaders. The reform aims to "encourage the multiparty political system" that is independent and "corruption free", it added. Somalia is struggling to emerge from decades of conflict and chaos, but is battling a bloody insurgency and natural disasters including a punishing drought that has left millions facing hunger. The country has not had one-person, one-vote elections nationwide since 1969, when the dictator Siad Barre seized power. Instead, clan affiliations have been the organising principle of Somali politics, with influential roles such as speaker, prime minister and president divided among the main groups. State legislatures and clan delegates also pick lawmakers for the national parliament, who in turn choose the president. But rivalries between the clans have resulted in decades of strife and political wrangling, which in recent years have been exploited by the Al Shabaab militants aligned with Al Qaeda.

HISTORY MAKING

China’s first homegrown passenger jet makes maiden flight

AFP — BEIJING

China’s first domestically produced passenger jet made its maiden commercial flight yesterday, a milestone event in the nation’s decades-long effort to compete with Western rivals in the air.

Beijing hopes the C919 commercial jetliner will challenge foreign models like the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320, though many of its parts are sourced from abroad.

Its first homegrown jetliner with mass commercial potential would also cut the country’s reliance on foreign technology as ties with the West deteriorate.

“In the future, most passengers will be able to choose to travel by large, domestically produced aircraft,” state broadcaster CCTV said.

China Eastern Airlines flight MU9191 from Shanghai “arrived smoothly” in Beijing just after 12:30 pm, around 40 minutes ahead of schedule, according to

Beijing hopes the C919 commercial jetliner will challenge foreign models like the Boeing 737 MAX and the Airbus A320.

CCTV. Footage showed passengers filing out of the plane and into the terminal, before a few dozen staff and officials posed for photographs in a brief ceremony on the tarmac.

“(The flight) was extremely smooth, comfortable and memorable. I think I’ll remember this fondly for some time to come,” a male passenger told CCTV.

The broadcaster had aired footage of the plane rising into the skies above Shanghai Hongqiao Airport on Sunday morning, saying it had 130 passengers on board.

State media footage showed passengers gathering at the sun-drenched Shanghai airfield

to admire the sleek white jet before embarking.

Passengers received red boarding passes and a sumptuous “themed meal” to commemorate the flight, CCTV reported. Other footage showed passengers waving national flags and singing a patriotic song while a cake was being cut during the flight.

China has invested heavily in production of the home-grown jet as it seeks to become self-sufficient in key technologies.

The aircraft is manufactured by state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), but many of its parts — including its engines — are sourced from overseas.

Zhang Xiaoguang, COMAC’s director of marketing and sales, told state news agency Xinhua the flight was a “coming-of-age ceremony (for) the new aircraft”, adding the C919 “will get better if it stands the test of the market”.

From today, the C919 will



China’s first domestically produced passenger jet C919 sits on the tarmac before its first commercial flight from Shanghai to Beijing, in Shanghai Hongqiao Airport yesterday. (AFP)

operate on China Eastern’s regular route between Shanghai and the southwestern city of Chengdu, CCTV reported.

The first model of the narrow-body jet was formally

handed over to China Eastern last year during a ceremony at an airport in Shanghai, hailed by state media as “an important milestone” for the country’s aircraft industry.

Zhang Yujin, COMAC’s deputy general manager, told state-backed Shanghai outlet The Paper in January that the company had taken around 1,200 orders for the C919.

S Korean arrested for opening plane emergency exit door, faces up to 10 years in prison

AP — SEOUL

A man who opened an emergency exit door during a flight in South Korea was formally arrested yesterday and faces up to 10 years in prison on a charge of violating the aviation security law, officials said.

During a preliminary questioning, the 33-year-old told investigators that he felt suffocated and tried to get off the plane quickly, according to police.

Twelve people were slightly injured on Friday after he opened the door of the Asiana Airlines Airbus A321-200, causing air to blast inside the cabin and terrifying passengers. Some testified they suffered severe ear pain and saw others screaming and crying. A video shared on social media shows passengers’ hair being whipped by air blowing into the cabin.

Normally, the emergency exit doors cannot be opened mid-flight due to the difference in air pressure inside and outside of the aircraft. But during Friday’s incident, the man succeeded in opening the door likely because the plane was flying at a low altitude while preparing to land and there wasn’t much difference in pressure, according to Asiana Airlines officials.

The Transport Ministry said the plane was at 700 feet (213 meters) when the man pulled the door open. The plane was preparing to land in Daegu on an hour-long flight from the southern island of Jeju with 200 people on board. They included teenage athletes on their way to a track and field competition, according to Asiana Airlines.

Yesterday, a district court in Daegu approved a warrant to formally arrest the man.

Police earlier sought the arrest warrant, citing the graveness of the crime and a possibility the man may flee, according to Daegu police.

“I wanted to get off the plane soon,” the man, whose face was covered by a black hoodie, a cap and a mask, told reporters at the court ahead of its review of his arrest warrant. “I’m really sorry to kids,” he said, in a likely reference to the

Twelve people were slightly injured on Friday after he opened the door of the Asiana Airlines Airbus A321-200.

teenage athletes. Daegu police said they have up to 20 days to investigate the man before determining whether to send him to prosecutors for a possible indictment. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for breaching the aviation security law that bars passengers from handling entry doors, emergency exit doors and other equipment on board, according to the Transport Ministry.

Daegu police said the man, surnamed Lee, told them that he was under stress after losing a job recently and that he wanted to get out of the plane soon because he was feeling suffocated just before landing.

The people who were taken to hospitals were mainly treated for minor problems such as breathing difficulties.

Asiana Airlines said in a statement that starting from Sunday, it stopped the sale of emergency exit seats on its 174-seat A321-200 planes and the 195-seat A321-200s as a safety precaution.

70 years after first summit, Everest keeps giving

AFP — KHUMJUNG

When Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa first climbed Everest 70 years ago, they paved the way for thousands of foreign climbers to try to follow in their footsteps.

The eight-day trek to the Everest base camp is among the most popular multi-day hikes in Nepal, with tens of thousands of tourists making the journey every year.

What were small agrarian villages when the British expedition passed through in 1953 have since been transformed into tourist hubs with hotels, tea houses and equipment shops, boosting the livelihoods of local communities.

In many homes, three generations have found employment in mountaineering — a far more lucrative occupation than farming or yak-herding.

The work is hazardous by

definition, but in a climbing season of about three months, an experienced guide can make up to \$10,000 — several times the country’s average annual income.

And other Sherpas and Himalayan community members have opened restaurants and guesthouses that line Everest’s money trail.

Veteran mountain guide Phurba Tashi Sherpa was born and raised in Khumjung, a village about 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) from base camp.

He grew up watching his father and uncles go to the mountains for work, and soon joined them on expeditions, eventually climbing Everest 21 times before he retired.

“There would be just a few expeditions before but now there are so many every year,” he said.

“That means an increase in income. It has helped improve the lifestyle here. A lot has changed.”

Beauty in the air



Indonesian Air Force’s Jupiter aerobatic team (JAT) manoeuvre during a performance in Pekanbaru, Riau province yesterday. (AFP)

About 40 killed in fresh clashes in northeast India, says official

AFP — NEW DELHI

Around 40 suspected militants and two police have died in fresh violence in Manipur in northeast India, an official told AFP yesterday, confirming comments from the state premier to local media.

Manipur has been on edge after an explosion of inter-ethnic violence this month killed at least 70 people and left tens of thousands displaced.

The state government official, who did not wish to be named, said that Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh told reporters earlier on Sunday that security forces killed around 40 “militants” over the last two days.

“The terrorists have been using M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles and sniper guns against civilians. They came to many villages to burn down homes,” local media quoted Singh as saying. “We have started taking very strong action against them with the help of the army and other security forces. We have got reports some 40 terrorists have been shot dead,” Singh was quoted as saying.

A military source confirmed an uptick of unrest, and said four people had been killed in the past 24 hours.

Most Thais concerned of new govt formation

BLOOMBERG — BANGKOK

The majority of Thais are concerned the nation’s next prime minister won’t hail from the Move Forward Party, which is forming a pro-democracy coalition to govern after winning a combined majority in this month’s election, according to a Suan Dusit Poll.

Despite cobbling together an alliance of eight parties that commands a majority in the House of Representatives, the coalition doesn’t have the 376 parliamentary seats needed to bypass the 250-member, military-appointed Senate that also gets to vote on the next premier.

The bloc still needs considerable backing from senators to ensure that Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat becomes the nation’s 30th prime minister. At least 19 senators have agreed to back Pita, according to Move Forward Deputy Leader Sirikanya Tansakun.

Until there is a new prime minister, the caretaker government is headed by Prayuth Chan-Ocha, the general who led the 2014 coup and has held power since.

NO-SHOW

Modi opponents boycott opening of new Indian Parliament

AP — NEW DELHI

India’s major opposition parties yesterday boycotted the inauguration of a new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a rare show of unity against his Hindu nationalist ruling party, which has ruled for nine years and is seeking a third term in next year’s elections.

Modi inaugurated the new Parliament in the capital of New Delhi by offering prayers as Hindu priests chanted religious hymns. Opposition parties criticized the event saying Modi had sidelined President Droupadi Murmu, who has only ceremonial powers but is the head of state and highest constitutional authority.

Shortly after the inauguration, a visibly beaming Modi entered Parliament amid a rousing applause by his party lawmakers who chanted “Modi,

At least 19 opposition parties skipped the event, which coincided with the birth anniversary of a Hindu nationalist ideologue.

Modi.” He delivered an almost 40-minute speech in which he hailed India’s parliamentary democracy and said the country had left behind its colonial past, referring to the old Parliament building that was built by the British when they ruled India.

“India is the mother of democracy,” Modi said, as lawmakers thumped their desks. “Several years of foreign rule stole our pride from us. Today, India has left behind that colonial mindset.”

The opposition Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi

tweeted: “Parliament is the voice of the people. The Prime Minister is considering the inauguration of the Parliament House as a coronation.”

At least 19 opposition parties skipped the event, which coincided with the birth anniversary of a Hindu nationalist ideologue. Opposition parties said in a statement Wednesday that Modi’s decision to inaugurate the building was “a grave insult” to India’s democracy, because the government had “disqualified, suspended and muted” opposition lawmakers while passing “controversial legislation” with little debate.

“When the soul of democracy has been sucked out from the parliament, we find no value in a new building,” the parties said.

India’s powerful Home Minister Amit Shah said the opposition had politicized the event. Other leaders from Modi’s party

said the boycott was an insult to the prime minister.

The new triangular-shaped building – built at an estimated cost of \$120 million – is part of a \$2.8 billion revamp of British-era offices and residences in central New Delhi that will also include blocks of buildings to house government ministries and departments, and Modi’s new private residence. The entire project, called the “Central Vista,” is spread over 3.2 kilometers (1.9 miles).

The project was announced in 2019, and Modi laid the foundation in December 2020.

The plan has drawn intense criticism from opposition politicians, architects and heritage experts, many of whom called it environmentally irresponsible, a threat to cultural heritage and too expensive.

Outrage grew in 2021, when at least 12 opposition parties questioned the project’s timing,

saying it was built as the country faced a devastating surge in coronavirus cases. They branded the revamp as Modi’s “vanity project” and said its construction was prioritized over the loss of lives and livelihoods during the pandemic.

A year earlier, a group of 60 former civil servants wrote an open letter to Modi to highlight the architectural value of the old Parliament and said the new plan would “irrevocably” destroy the area’s cultural heritage. Modi’s government has said the overhaul was necessary because the older building was “showing signs of distress and overutilization” and that the new design “combines the country’s heritage and traditions.”

The new building sits just across from India’s old Parliament, a circular structure designed by British architects in the early 20th century.

'MASSIVE ASSAULT'

Russia launches ‘largest drone attack’ on Kiev

AFP — KIEV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy yesterday praised his country's air defence forces, after the capital Kiev saw the largest drone attack since the beginning of the Russian invasion.

The overnight attack killed two people and wounded three others.

The latest drone attack came as Russia has intensified aerial strikes on the capital this month, and warned the West against escalating the conflict after the United States agreed to greenlight F-16 deliveries.

Ukraine said the latest attack in Kiev was “the most important” of the invasion, with more than forty out of 54 drones targeting the capital.

“Every time you shoot down enemy drones and missiles, lives are saved... you are heroes!” Zelenskiy told his air defence forces yesterday morning, also thanking rescuers.

This was the 14th drone

Ukraine said the latest attack in Kiev was “the most important” of the invasion, with more than forty out of 54 drones targeting the capital.

attack on the Ukrainian capital by Russia this month.

“People are in shock. There’s a lot of damage, the windows were broken, the roof was damaged,” said Sergei Movchan, a 50-year-old resident whose house was damaged by debris.

Kiev had been relatively spared since the beginning of the year, but in May its residents have had to live with almost nightly air raid sirens and thundering explosions.

“Russians are intimidating us. But I think it’s the agony of their regime,” Movchan said.

In Kiev the air raid alert lasted more than five hours as the attack was carried out in several waves.

Kiev’s mayor, Vitali Klitschko described the assault as “massive” with drones “arriving from several directions at once”.

The Kiev military administration said that “more than 40 Russian drones were destroyed by air defence” systems in the “most important drone attack against the capital since the start of the invasion” in February 2022.

Authorities reported that two killed and three others wounded as debris of the downed drones fell in several districts. Sunday was to be celebrated as Kiev’s city day, usually marked by street concerts and celebrations.

“Today the enemy decided to ‘congratulate’ the population on Kiev Day with the help of their killer drones,” the authorities said.

Congratulating residents on Kiev Day, presidential chief of staff Andriy Yermak said the capital had “stood up” to Russia.

“Kiev, a city of free and brave people, has become a symbol of Ukraine’s



A rescuer putting out a fire in a building, as a result of falling debris after a massive drone attack mainly targeting the Ukrainian capital, in Kiev. (AFP)

unbreakable spirit and the Kremlin’s failed imperial ambitions,” Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov said.

Ukraine’s air force said that “a record” of 54 drones were launched from the regions of Bryansk and Krasnodar in Russia, adding that 52 were destroyed. It said Russia used

Shahed drones from Iran, and presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak to vow new sanctions against Iran.

After Kiev long asked for advanced warplanes, the United States on Friday said it would allow Kiev to acquire F-16 fighter jets, the most sophisticated material yet sup-

plied by the West.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday said Western nations were “playing with fire” by agreeing to supply Ukraine with F-16.

Lavrov called the move an “an unacceptable escalation” of the conflict, in a TV interview posted on social media.

US, allies slam Kosovo after clash with Serb protesters

BLOOMBERG — PRISTINA

The US and top European allies condemned Kosovo’s government following clashes between police and ethnic Serbs that erupted when protesters tried to block ethnic-Albanian mayors from reaching their offices in the north of the country.

Kosovo police used teargas to disperse the crowds, which included demonstrators opposed to the officials taking office following local elections last month that the ethnic-Serb community boycotted and called invalid.

In an unusually sharply worded statement, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken denounced the authorities for accessing the buildings “by force” and said they had done so “against the advice of the United States and Kosovo’s European partners.”

“These actions have sharply and unnecessarily escalated tensions, undermining our efforts to help normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia and will have consequences for our bilateral relations with Kosovo,” Blinken said in a statement.

The UK, France, Germany and Italy also denounced Kosovo’s government, saying it had acted “despite our call for restraint.”

“We call on Kosovo’s authorities to immediately step back and de-escalate,” they said in a joint statement. It also expressed concern over “Serbia’s decision to raise the level of readiness of its Armed Forces at the border with Kosovo.”

They had previously urged Kosovo to avoid deepening tensions via overt displays of authority.

POLITICS

Starmer plans to block new North Sea projects: *The Times*

BLOOMBERG — LONDON

UK Labour and opposition leader Keir Starmer will announce proposals to block all new North Sea oil and gas developments and limit borrowing to green investment, the *Sunday Times* reported, citing an unidentified person in

the Labour party.

Starmer is expected to set out a net zero energy policy, which would include the pledge to ban new North Sea licenses, in Scotland next month. The policy will be one of Starmer’s five key pledges to the electorate, the newspaper said.

Additionally, Starmer will

announce that a Labour government would only borrow to invest in green enterprises. The party will set out its fiscal plans in full at the election, the person said.

When asked if Labour planned to block new North Sea energy projects, shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Jon

Ashworth said the party would be announcing details on its energy policy in the coming weeks.

“But we know we’ve got to move to more renewable sources of energy, it’s important for our climate change commitments,” Ashworth said during an appearance on Sky News’s

Sophy Ridge on Sunday. “It’s also the way in which we can bring energy bills down for consumers.” Labour would continue to use existing oil and gas wells over the coming decades and manage them sustainably as it works to transform the UK into a clean-energy superpower, the newspaper said.

STAKES HIGH FOR SANCHEZ

Spain votes in local polls that up pressure on PM

AFP — MADRID

Spaniards were voting yesterday in local and regional polls seen as a barometer for a year-end general election which surveys suggest Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will lose, heralding a return of the right.

The stakes are high for Sanchez, whose Socialist party governs the eurozone’s fourth-largest economy in coalition with the far-left Podemos.

Voters are casting ballots for mayors in 8,131 municipalities while also electing leaders and assemblies in 12 of Spain’s 17 regions — 10 of which are currently run by the Socialists.

Voting opened at 9am (0700 GMT) with some 35.5 million people eligible for the local elections and 18.3 million for the regional elections. Balloting ends at 8pm.

With no exit polls, initial results are due out two hours later.

“Most of our citizens will vote positively... for what is important: for public healthcare, public education and housing policies for our young people,” said Sanchez as he cast his ballot in Madrid.

If the left “exceeds expectations and manages to retain control of most regional governments in play... this would suggest the national elections will be very closely fought, and bode well for the left’s chances of staying in power”, Eurasia Group analyst Federico Santi said this week.

But if surveys — which forecast a shift to the right — prove correct, success at a regional level will provide opposition leader Alberto Nunez Feijoo, head of the right-wing Popular Party (PP), with the “momentum” he needs to win the end-of-year election,



Partido Popular party’s Madrid regional president candidate Isabel Diaz Ayuso arrives to cast her ballot in Madrid, yesterday. (AFP)

he said. After casting his ballot, Feijoo urged people “to vote massively” and ensure the next government was a strong one.

“We have difficult years ahead of us but... the stronger the government, the stronger our democracy will be and the faster we will get out of the economic, institutional and social problems we have in our country,” he said.

Yesterday’s elections find Sanchez, who has been in office since 2018, facing several obstacles: voter fatigue with his left-wing government, soaring inflation — even though Spain’s rate is lower than other EU nations — and falling purchasing power. Feijoo has denounced Sanchez as not only pandering to the far left but also to the Basque and Catalan separatist parties on which his minority government has relied for parliamentary support.

He has positioned Sunday’s vote as a referendum on “Sanchismo”, a derogatory term for Sanchez’s policies.

In his campaign closing remarks, Sanchez focused on his government’s record in bolstering the economy, fighting drought and managing Spain’s increasingly sparse water resources.

“Social democratic policies suit Spain a lot better than neo-liberal policies because we manage the economy a lot better,” he said.

Of the 12 regions where new leaders will be elected, 10 are currently run by Socialists, either alone or in coalition. The number of regions the PP manages to wrest from the Socialists will be important in determining public perceptions of whether Feijoo has won this first round — and whether his victory in the year-end general election is a foregone conclusion.



OFFICIAL NEWS

Seven charged over Northern Ireland policeman shooting

AFP — BELFAST : Seven men have been charged over the shooting of an off-duty police officer in Northern Ireland earlier this year, investigators said on Saturday.

Some of the defendants will face terrorism charges, while all stand accused of attempted murder. Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell, a high-profile officer who has led major investigations, survived the late-February attack, in which he was shot multiple times at a sports centre.

He had been coaching a youth football group which included his son, in the town of Omagh in the British province.

The shooting, condemned by politicians as “outrageous and shameful”, was carried out by two men. Seven have now been charged, officers said.

“Two men aged 28, and five men aged 33, 38, 45, 47 and 72, have been charged with attempted murder,” the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) said in a statement.

Medical row in France over unauthorised COVID-19 trial

AFP — PARIS: French medical bodies yesterday called on authorities to punish researcher Didier Raoult for “the largest ‘unauthorised’ clinical trial ever seen” into the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19.

Raoult, the former head of the IHU Mediterranean research hospital, and his subordinates engaged in “systematic prescription of medications as varied as hydroxychloroquine, zinc, ivermectin and azithromycin to patients suffering from COVID-19... without a solid pharmacological basis and lacking any proof of their effectiveness,” a group of 16 research bodies wrote in an op-ed piece on daily Le Monde’s website.

The drugs continued to be prescribed “for more than a year after their ineffectiveness had been absolutely demonstrated,” they added.



Extinction Rebellion activists sit on the road as police use water cannon to disperse their protest in The Hague, on May 27, 2023. (AFP)

Over 1,500 arrested at climate protest in The Netherlands

AFP — THE HAGUE

More than 1,500 people were arrested during a protest by the Extinction Rebellion climate group in The Hague on Saturday, Dutch police said.

Activists blocked a section of a motorway during the afternoon in protest against Dutch fossil fuel subsidies.

Police said they had used water cannon to disperse activists blocking a major road in the city, and arrested “a total of 1,579 people... 40 of whom will be prosecuted” on charges including

vandalism. One of the activists bit a policeman during his arrest, police said. According to Extinction Rebellion, some 7,000 people gathered to join the demonstration.

Anticipating the water cannon, some wore swimsuits or carried umbrellas as they sat in protest across the A12 motorway, holding banners and signs.

The protest marks the seventh organised by Extinction Rebellion in the same section of motorway at The Hague, close to the parliament and main ministry buildings. But Saturday saw the

highest number of people arrested at a protest yet, according to Dutch news agency ANP.

“We’re going to stay here until they drag us away,” said post-graduate student Anne Kerevers, 31. “Climate change is an unfolding crisis and we know the cause and it’s still being subsidised by our government and it needs to stop,” she told AFP.

Several Dutch celebrities were among the protesters, including actor Carice van Houten, best known for her role as Melisandre in the hit TV series “Game of Thrones”.

‘PREVENTS CATASTROPHIC DEFAULT’

Republicans, Biden reach debt ceiling deal

AFP — WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden and Republican leader Kevin McCarthy announced a deal on Saturday to raise the debt ceiling, dragging the United States back from the precipice of default with only a few days to spare.

Congress will vote on the deal to extend the government’s borrowing authority on Wednesday, just shy of the June 5 “X-date” when the Treasury estimates the government will no longer be able to pay its bills, plunging the world’s biggest economy into turmoil.

Biden said in a statement that the deal was “good news for the American people, because it prevents what could have been a catastrophic default and would have led to an economic recession, retirement accounts devastated, and millions of jobs lost.”

McCarthy, who spoke with Biden on Saturday to close the deal, said there was still “a lot of work to do, but I believe this is an agreement in principle that’s worthy of the American people.”

The Republican speaker added he would consult again with the president yesterday and oversee final drafting of the

Congress will vote on the deal to extend the government’s borrowing authority on Wednesday, just shy of the June 5 “X-date” when the Treasury estimates the government will no longer be able to pay its bills, plunging the world’s biggest economy into turmoil.

bill, and the House would “then be voting on it on Wednesday.”

Raising the debt ceiling — a legal manoeuvre that takes place most years without drama — allows the government to keep borrowing money and remain solvent.

This year, Republicans demanded deep spending cuts — largely in social spending for the poor — in return for raising the debt ceiling, saying the time had come for bitter medicine to address the country’s mammoth \$31 trillion debt.

Biden argued that he would not negotiate over spending issues as a condition for raising the debt ceiling, accusing the



Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) speaks to the press after an “agreement principle” was reached between House Republicans and President Joe Biden’s team to avoid a default on the US debt at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, yesterday. The agreement still needs to pass through both the House and Senate. (AFP)

Republicans of taking the economy hostage.

Both sides have now somewhat climbed down.

According to a source familiar with the negotiations, the deal includes freeing up the debt ceiling for two years, meaning there will be no need for negotiations in 2024, when the presidential election will be in full swing.

The big cuts Republicans wanted are not there, though non-defence spending will remain effectively flat next year, and only rise nominally in 2025, the source said.

There will also be new rules for accessing certain federal assistance programs, though the source said the deal protected Biden’s signature Inflation Reduction Act and student debt

relief plan. Biden said “the agreement represents a compromise, which means not everyone gets what they want. That’s the responsibility of governing.”

– Deadlines – Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had initially warned of a possible default around June 1 if Congress failed to raise the ceiling on borrowing, but gave lawmakers some breathing room on Friday when she updated the deadline to June 5.

Even so, the legislation will still have to clear Congress much more quickly than the normal timetable for even the most uncontroversial bills.

Under House rules, lawmakers have to be given 72 hours before voting once a bill is presented. And if it passes the House, it will then have to go through the Senate, where Democrats hold the majority.

McCarthy is hoping to bring the narrow House majority of 222 Republicans with him, but the deal is likely to face opposition from 35 far-right lawmakers who told him to “hold the line” against compromising on far more sweeping spending cuts. That means a large number of Democrats will have to be persuaded to vote with a reduced number of Republicans — something that rarely happens on big bills.

Three killed, 5 wounded in US bike rally shootout

AFP — LOS ANGELES

At least three people were killed and five others wounded in a shootout at a biker rally on Saturday in the US state of New Mexico, local media reported.

The shooting occurred around 5pm (2300 GMT) as 20,000 bikers took part in an annual Memorial Day motorcycle rally in Red River, a small town near the ski destination of Taos.

In a video interview with local outlet *Questa Del Rio News*, Red River Mayor Linda Calhoun confirmed the deaths and injuries, and said an unspecified number of suspects had been arrested.

“No law enforcement, no first responders were injured. No local people were injured... It was a gang-related incident,” she said, declining to divulge which gangs were believed to be involved.

“The shooters have all been apprehended,” she added. The *Taos News* reported that a law enforcement officer had referred to the incident over central dispatch as “a rolling shootout — between Banditos (Motorcycle Club) and someone else.” Speaking to local *ABC* affiliate *KOAT*, one witness described chaos breaking out in the huge crowd.

“There were people running by where we were standing, screaming, ‘There’s shooting down there,’” said Eddie Cook. “As everybody was running by, then I heard the gunshots.” The shooting prompted the mayor of Taos to put a curfew in place between the hours of 10pm and 4am.

BRIBERY CHARGES

Texas House votes to impeach Republican Attorney General

AP — AUSTIN

Texas’ GOP-led House of Representatives impeached state Attorney General Ken Paxton on Saturday on articles including bribery and abuse of public trust, a sudden, historic rebuke of a fellow Republican who rose to be a star of the conservative legal movement despite years of scandal and alleged crimes.

The vote triggers Paxton’s immediate suspension from office pending the outcome of a trial in the state Senate and empowers Republican Gov. Greg Abbott to appoint someone else as Texas’ top lawyer in the interim.

The 121-23 vote constitutes an abrupt downfall for one of the GOP’s most prominent legal combatants, who in 2020 asked the US Supreme Court to overturn President Joe Biden’s electoral defeat of Donald Trump. It makes Paxton only the third sitting official in Texas’ nearly 200-year history to have been impeached.

Moments after the vote, Paxton’s office said the impeachment was “based on totally false claims” and pointed to internal reports that found no

The 121-23 vote constitutes an abrupt downfall for one of the GOP’s most prominent legal combatants, who in 2020 asked the US Supreme Court to overturn President Joe Biden’s electoral defeat of Donald Trump. It makes Ken Paxton only the third sitting official in Texas’ nearly 200-year history to have been impeached.

wrongdoing. House investigators said the attorney general’s own probe into Paxton’s actions includes false and disproven claims.

“No one person should be above the law, least not the top law enforcement officer of the state of Texas,” Rep. David Spiller, a Republican member of the committee that investigated Paxton, said in opening statements. Rep. Ann Johnson, a Democratic member, told lawmakers that Texas’ “top cop is on the take.” Rep. Charlie Geren, a Republican committee member, said without elaborating that Paxton had called lawmakers and threatened them with political “consequences.” As the articles of impeachment were laid out, some of the lawmakers shook their heads.

Paxton has been under FBI

investigation for years over accusations that he used his office to help a donor and was separately indicted on securities fraud charges in 2015, though he has yet to stand trial. Until this week, his fellow Republicans had taken a muted stance on the allegations.

Lawmakers allied with Paxton tried to discredit the investigation by noting that hired investigators, not panel members, interviewed witnesses. They also said several of the investigators had voted in Democratic primaries, tainting the impeachment, and that they had too little time to review evidence.

“I perceive it could be political weaponisation,” said Rep. Tony Tinderholt, one of the House’s most conservative members. Republican Rep. John Smithie compared the proceeding to “a Saturday

mob out for an afternoon lynching.” Paxton is automatically suspended from office pending a Senate trial, and it falls to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott to appoint an interim replacement. Final removal would require a two-thirds vote in the Senate, where Paxton’s wife’s, Angela, is a member.

Texas’ top elected Republicans had been notably quiet about Paxton this week. But on Saturday both Trump and US Sen. Ted Cruz came to his defence, with the senator calling the impeachment process “a travesty” and saying the attorney general’s legal troubles should be left to the courts.

“Free Ken Paxton,” Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social, warning that if House Republicans proceeded with the process, “I will fight you.” Abbott, who lauded Paxton while swearing him in for a third term in January, has remained silent. The governor spoke at a Memorial Day service in the House chamber about three hours before the impeachment proceedings began. Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan also attended but the two appeared to exchange few words, and Abbott left without commenting to reporters.

Volcanic stone sculpture



A volcanic stone sculpture made by a stone carver in gratitude to the Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl volcanoes is seen on a street in Santiago Xalitlintla, Puebla State, Mexico. In the foothills of Mexico’s Popocatepetl volcano, locals have their own beliefs about why ash is raining down on them — and it has little to do with conventional science. According to legend, the spirit of the volcano located 70km southeast of Mexico City is embodied by a man known locally as “Don Goyo.” And when he gets upset, “El Popo” starts to rumble. (AFP)

P IN BRIEF

President Biden attends second grandchild’s graduation

AP — MIDDLETOWN: It’s been a busier-than-usual graduation season for President Joe Biden.

Biden and his wife, Jill, were on hand yesterday to watch granddaughter Natalie Biden graduate from high school, the White House said. Natalie is the daughter of the president’s late son, Beau. She is a student at St. Andrew’s School in Middletown, Delaware, and will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall. Beau Biden graduated from Penn.

The private Episcopal school was the setting for some scenes from the 1989 movie *Dead Poets Society*, starring the late Robin Williams.

Presidents usually deliver a couple of commencement addresses every year, including at one of the military service academies. But this year, Biden also got to watch another one of his grandchildren go through that rite of passage. Earlier this month, Biden and the first lady attended granddaughter Maisy Biden’s commencement from Penn.

US Army Air Force pilot killed during WWII accounted for

AP — HARRISBURG: An Army Air Force pilot from Pennsylvania killed during World War II has been accounted for almost eight decades later, military authorities said.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said last week that 2nd Lt. James Litherland, 25, of South Williamsport was accounted for in March.

In February 1944, Litherland was co-piloting a B-17F Flying Fortress that was struck by anti-aircraft fire after a bombing raid on a German V-2 rocket site in Bois-Coquerel, France. Three airmen parachuted to safety but Litherland and six other crew members were still on board when the plane crashed near Le Translay, France, authorities said.

Six sets of remains were recovered near the crash site but only five were identified. In 2018, more material was recovered from the crash site and the unknown remains were exhumed from a cemetery in France.

MIGRATION RULES

Asylum-seekers say joy over end of Title 42 turns to anguish

AP — TIJUANA

The day that President Joe Biden’s administration ended a public health measure blocking many asylum-seekers at the Mexican border during the Coronavirus pandemic, Teodosio Vargas was ready to show US officials his scars and photos of his bullet-riddled body.

Instead, he stood frozen with his pregnant wife and 5-year-old son at a Tijuana crossing, feet from US soil. He was unsure of the new rules rolled out with the change and whether taking the next few steps to approach US officials to ask for asylum in person could force a return to his native Honduras.

“I can’t go back to my country,” said Vargas, a long scar snaking down his neck from surgery after being shot nine times in his homeland during a robbery. “Fear is why I don’t want to return. If I can just show the proof I have, I believe the US will let me in.”

Asylum-seekers say joy over the end of the public health restriction known as Title 42 this month is turning into anguish with the uncertainty about how the Biden administration’s new rules affect them.

Though the government opened some new avenues for immigration, the fate of many people is largely left to a US government app only used for scheduling an appointment at a port of entry and unable to

decipher human suffering or weigh the vulnerability of applicants.

The CBP One app is a key tool in creating a more efficient and orderly system at the border “while cutting out unscrupulous smugglers who profit from vulnerable migrants,” the Department of Homeland Security said in an email to The Associated Press.

But since its rollout in January, the app has been criticised for technological problems. Demand has far outstripped the roughly 1,000 appointments available on the app each day. As a Honduran man, Vargas does not qualify for many of the legal pathways the Biden administration has introduced. One programme gives up to 30,000 Cubans,

Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans a month a shot at humanitarian parole if they apply online, have a financial sponsor in the US and arrive by air. Minors traveling alone also are exempt from the rules.

Migrants who do not follow the rules, the government has said, could be deported back to their homelands and barred from seeking asylum for five years.

Vargas said he decided not to risk it. He has been logging onto the app each day at 9am for the past three months from his rented room in a crime-riddled Tijuana neighbourhood.

His experience is shared by tens of thousands of other asylum-seekers in Mexican border towns.

FAJR 3:16AM
SUNRISE 4:44AM
DHUHR 11:31AM

PRAYER
TIMINGS

ASR 2:56PM
MAGHRIB 6:21PM
ISHA 7:51PM



WEATHER
TODAY

Hazy at first and hot daytime
with slight dust at times.

31°C
Minimum

41°C
Maximum

DOHA	RUWAIS	ALKHOR	DUKHAN	MESAIEED	ABU SAMRA
31 / 41	28 / 34	26 / 43	26 / 38	26 / 44	25 / 37

HIGH TIDE 1:00 – 23:00LOW TIDE 7:51 – 0:55

Trending in QATAR

On The Peninsula social media platforms

Amir congratulates Erdogan on election victory

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani extended his congratulations to his brother President H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the brotherly Republic of Turkiye on his successful re-election to a new presidential term.



Mol busts gambling ring, seizes over QR200,000

Competent authorities at the Ministry of Interior, represented by both Al Rayan and Al Shamal Security Departments, were able to apprehend a person who had used his residence as a gambling ring.



Saudi astronaut shares Makkah, Grand Mosque from outer space

Rayyanah Barnawi, Saudi's first female astronaut sent to space, shared footage of Makkah as seen from outer space. On her official social media account, the Saudi astronaut posted a video showing them passing over Makkah from space.



Al Arabi edge Al Rayyan to clinch Amir Cup

Al Arabi emerged as the Amir Cup handball tournament champions after they edged Al Rayyan 38-37 in a pulsating final at Duhail Handball Sports Hall. Qatar Olympic Committee President H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani crowned the winners with the prestigious trop.



6 ways to survive peak airport chaos this summer

The busiest travel season of the year is about to kick off. That means the next time you walk into an airport, you can expect crowds and construction, long lines, packed lounges. But swarmed airports don't have to ruin your trip.



ELEVATING OPPORTUNITIES

Qatar Airways Privilege Club launches 'Card Linked Offers'

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Qatar Airways Privilege Club announced the introduction of a new feature, Card Linked Offers, which will integrate Avios in members' lifestyles. Visa or Mastercard credit cardholders – including cards registered in Apple Pay, Google Pay or Samsung Pay – can now be linked to their Privilege Club accounts. This enables members to collect and spend Avios on everyday purchases at a wide range of retail and lifestyle partners in Qatar.

Card Linked Offers enhances Privilege Club members' benefits by rewarding them for shopping, dining and other purchases with the linked credit cards, allowing them to have more choices than ever before. This new feature is available for Visa credit cards issued in over 70 countries where card linking is

supported, as well as for Mastercard credit cards issued in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Qatar, UAE, UK, Uruguay and USA.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive H E Akbar Al Baker said: "At Qatar Airways, we constantly look towards innovation and ensuring our services are unparalleled in the industry, and our loyalty programme is no different. Privilege Club has seen many enhancements in the last year including the adoption of Avios as the rewards currency, and the latest Card Linked Offers announcement only continues our programme of improvement."

"Having introduced the ability to collect and spend Avios in our airport, we believe that introducing the new feature will further solidify the Privilege Club experience as a lifestyle. As the Card Linked Offers



launches, our members will see an exciting range of benefits when spending and collecting their Avios."

To link purchases to the loyalty programme, users can simply log in to their Privilege Club account and add their credit card details. Upon completing a transaction at partner outlets, members can choose to collect or spend Avios through their account and can either be credited in Avios or the equivalent cashback

will be credited on their linked card.

Privilege Club has come together with a wide variety of esteemed partners including Kulud Pharmacy, F45, Evergreen Organics and many others to offer Card Linked Offers at their outlets. An extensive choice of retail, food and beverage, and lifestyle venues will be available for members to benefit from the Card Linked Offers as more partners are added to the portfolio.

Planet-friendly farming takes root in drought-hit Tunisia

AFP – CAP NEGRO

Saber Zouani lost his job as a waiter when the Covid pandemic ravaged the Tunisian tourism sector, so he decided to try something new and started a permaculture farm.

Now he grows all the food he needs and has become a pioneer of the style of ecological agriculture that is gaining fans worldwide, including in his North African country.

Many hope it will help Tunisia weather the impacts of climate change and wean it off its reliance on global supply chains, including grain and fertiliser imports from war-torn Ukraine and Russia.

In his western home town of Cap Negro, Zouani, 37, proudly showed off his three-hectare (seven-acre) farm, set up to mimic natural ecosystems in line with ideas popularised in the 1970s by Australian ecologists.

Permaculture, as an alternative to industrial agriculture, aims to work in harmony with the environment, keep soil structures intact, and do without artificial inputs such as chemical fertilisers or pesticides.

"No, these are not

"Plant Your Farm" project aims to create 50 micro-farms over five years, of which around 30 are already up and running.

weeds," said Zouani, a biotechnology graduate, pointing to nettles and dandelions growing wild all around his rows of onions, peppers and radishes.

When he harvests his vegetables, he said, he puts the excess green matter back onto the soil to slow evaporation – hoping to keep the ground as moist as a forest floor covered with fallen leaves.

Such methods are especially useful in Tunisia where an unprecedented drought has parched the countryside and left water reservoirs at dangerously low levels this spring.

At his farm, Zouani captures precious rainwater in a pond and only sparingly waters his plants, which are all grown from his own seeds.

Zouani also keeps cows, sheep, goats and chickens and composts their droppings to create soil enriched with the nitrogen-rich



A farmer piles up hay on a donkey-pulled cart in Cap Negro in northern Tunisia. (AFP)

natural fertiliser.

"We need to create living soil, attract earthworms, fungi and all the nutrients for our plants and trees," said Zouani.

Permaculture, he said, draws on farming methods and wisdoms of centuries past -- "returning to our roots, to the traditional methods used by our grandparents".

Zouani said he earns around 300 dinars (\$100) a month from selling farm produce, with enough left over to make him, his brother and their elderly parents self-sufficient.

In two or three years, he hopes to make "a decent income" and turn his farm, named "Om Hnia" in honour of his late grandmother, into an eatery and eventually a rural eco-lodge.

Zouani started off more than two years ago with the help of the Tunisian Association of Permaculture, which gave him initial training and then financial support for basic equipment.

The group's "Plant Your Farm" project aims to create 50 micro-farms over five years, of which around 30 are already up and running,

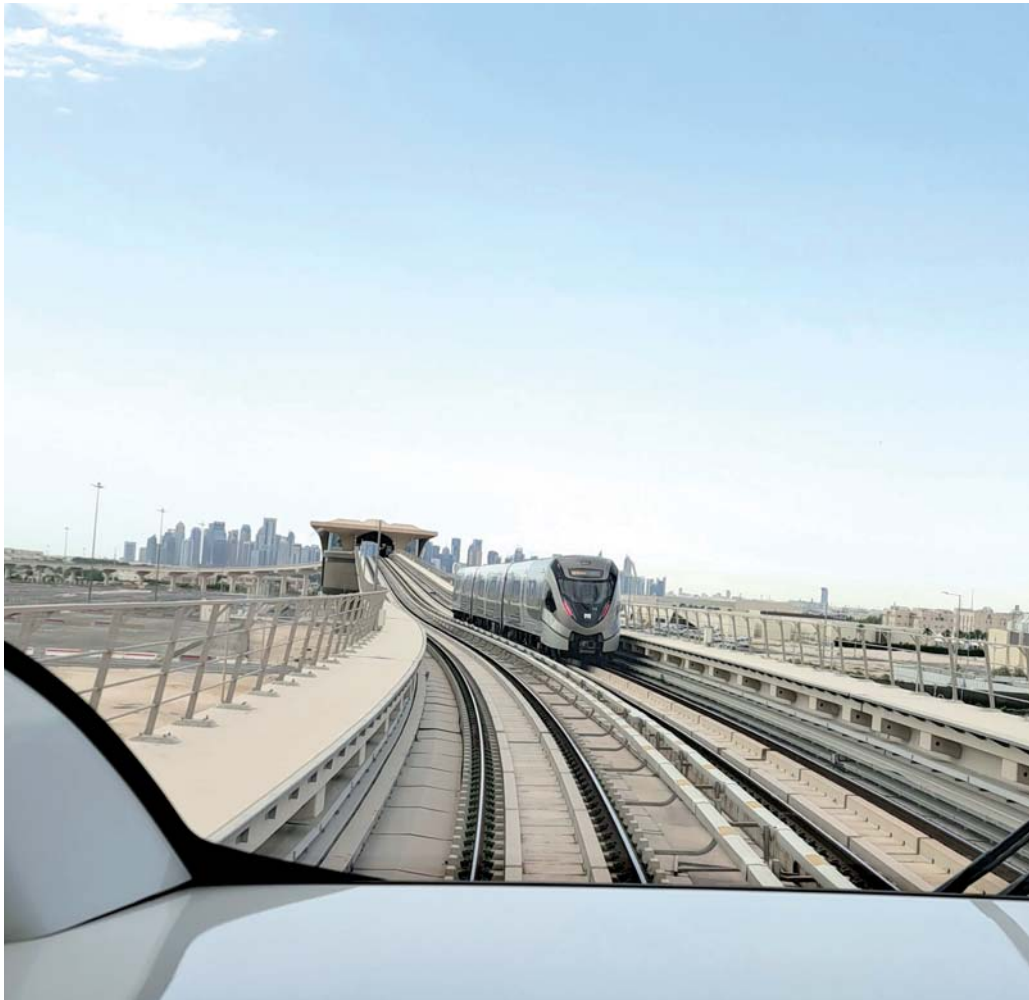
said its president Rim Mathlouthi.

The goal, Mathlouthi said, is to "demonstrate to the authorities and other farmers that permaculture is a profitable and efficient agricultural system which brings back biodiversity when the soil is depleted from ploughing and chemical inputs".

She said the initiative, with funding from Switzerland and others, even covers Tunisia's sun-baked arid regions and aims to entice jobless young people to cultivate abandoned family land.



Metro ride



A view from inside the Doha Metro. Photograph by The Peninsula reader Mayur Sawant.

TikTok is testing AI chatbot named Tako

BLOOMBERG – CALIFORNIA

TikTok is the latest app to jump on the generative artificial intelligence bandwagon. The social networking service is testing out a chatbot named Tako, which can answer questions and have conversations with users of the app, according to screenshots seen by Bloomberg. When asked about the feature, a representative said it was trying "new ways to power search and discovery on TikTok" in select markets.

"We're always exploring new technologies that add value to our community," the spokesperson said in a statement. "We look forward to learning from our community as we continue to create a safe place that entertains, inspires creativity and drives culture." TikTok follows tech peers such as Snap, Microsoft and Google in developing chatbots and other generative AI tools – the buzziest technology to sweep the internet in recent years. The Tako test is currently available to a small number of employees, according to Daniel Buchuk, an analyst at Watchful, a company that tracks apps' development testing for competitors.

TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, is making the push into AI at a contentious time. Policymakers in the US and Europe are looking to crack down on the app, fearing that data could be used by the Chinese government. This month, Montana became the first US state to approve a measure banning TikTok – legislation that faces legal challenges. For now, Tako appears as a small ghost-like icon on the top right of the app's screen. After tapping that icon, users are taken to an instant messenger, where they can ask questions.