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BOOK VISIT

Amir welcomes Algerian President



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani led well-wishers to welcome President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria H E Abdelmadjid Tebboune on his arrival and the accompanying delegation at the Amiri Terminal of Hamad International Airport yesterday evening on a working visit to the country. Also present to welcome the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria were Their Excellencies the ministers, senior officials, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Algeria H E Abdulaziz bin Ali Al Naama, and Ambassador of Algeria to the State of Qatar H E Salah Attia.

Katara opens registration for summer camp activities

QNA — DOHA

The Katara Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) has opened the registration for public to participate in Katara summer camp which will extend from July 23 to August 15, within its summer activities devoted to children.

The camp offers an integrated programme that includes a wide range of activities that would develop

children's character with the engagement of several state entities, along with many facilities and centers of Katara.

It also aims to connect educational practices with the promotion of Qatari identity, as well as customs and traditions which will develop social, religious, and national values to further promote talents and capabilities, in addition to keeping up with the technological era, interest in various

sports activities and awareness and religious programmes.

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is due to provide a range of lectures on medical aid, along with Al Gannas Qatari Society which will provide a variety of activities through which children can learn more about falconry, in addition to a workshop on making coffee, pouring over coffee, receiving guests at Qatari Majlis and other Qatari authentic customs and traditions.

INFORMATION PLATFORM

PSA launches second edition of Qatar Open Data Portal

THE PENINSULA - DOHA

The Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) launched the second edition of the Qatar Open Data Portal (www.data.gov.qa) last May, which is a national platform for open data and information, built in accordance with international standards.

The portal's first edition was prepared in 2019 by MCIT. Since the beginning of 2023, the responsibility for operating and managing this portal has been transferred to PSA, where PSA team is currently working on building an open data platform that includes many topics, through a national partnership with the relevant ministries and government agencies to provide data according to various topics, which are easily displayed in different forms commensurate with the nature of the materials posted and the needs of users.

PSA President H E Dr. Saleh bin Mohammed Al Nabit, praised the efforts exerted during the past period by all stakeholders in Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and PSA team so as to reach this important moment to publicise the updated edition of the Qatar Open Data Portal.

Al Nabit noted that at its fifty-fourth session held in

March 2023, the United Nations Statistical Commission stressed that open data provides a basis for ensuring access to data for all, for use and reuse. It is more than mere technical definitions that determine how data is produced and disseminated.

such as population, price indices, trade, environment, energy, economy and others. At this stage, PSA has started posting the 'Qatar; Monthly Statistics' bulletin on this platform, which contains data from 2018 until 2023.



Rather, it intersects across a value chain of socio-economic and environmental data that is transparent and made available periodically in the portal for the public to benefit from and to increase knowledge.

For his part, Dr. Khalid Ali Al Quradaghi, Director of the Information Systems Department and Advisor to the Office of PSA President, explained that the success of the Qatar Open Data Portal depends on the extent of commitment by partners to provide this portal with information on an ongoing basis. The Portal consists of a host of topics

PSA will continue to periodically update the contents of the statistical aspect with more data, graphs, and others. The portal currently contains detailed data, including data of the past five years, classified by several topics related to national development.

As for the other technical aspects that make up the Qatar Open Data Portal, "we will work with partners in ministries, government agencies and others to provide and upload the required data to the portal in order to be used in the best possible and effective way."

ZAKAT

Awqaf Ministry provides QR26.4m assistance to needy families in June

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

Zakat Affairs Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs provided assistance worth QR26,473,593 to needy families in June 2023.

About 4,100 needy families in Qatar benefitted from the assistance. Director of Zakat Affairs Department Saad Omran Al Kuwari said that these amounts included regular and lumpsum assistance.

He said that all money was disbursed by the Zakat Affairs Department to the beneficiary families registered with it following the regulations in this regard.

The director of the Zakat Affairs Department said that QR8,718,149 were given as monthly assistance to needy families and QR17,755,444 were provided as lump-sum, one-time aid as per the need of the beneficiaries.

He said that the Zakat Affairs Department also allows the beneficiaries, through its website, to submit a request for assistance and find out the required papers and documents, in addition to the ability to track the status of the submitted application and know the committee's decision.

Al Kuwari noted that the Department provides the service of calculating corporate zakat free of charge to facilitate the owners of companies in performing the obligatory duty.

He said that the companies can send their financial budget to the department's e-mail (public.relations@zakat.gov.qa, where specialists study the budget and determine the

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value of the zakat due on the company.

Individuals and companies can also pay their due zakat through the Zakat Affairs Department's website www.zakakt.gov.qa or through offices and collection points located throughout the country.

In May this year, Zakat Affairs Department provided QR16,865,134 to 1,000 needy families in Qatar. The amounts include QR7,762,059 monthly assistance and QR9,103,075 one-time supports.

The Zakat Affairs Department urged all companies operating in the country to take the initiative to calculate the zakat they owe and give it to those who are eligible inside Qatar and who are registered with the Zakat Affairs Department. ➔P2

PROMOTING HERITAGE

QNL Heritage Library boasts over 3,500 Islamic manuscripts

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

In a testament to its commitment to preserving and promoting cultural heritage, Qatar National Library's (QNL) Heritage Library has experienced remarkable growth in recent years. The library's collection now boasts over 3,500 Islamic manuscripts, along with 500 calligraphic panels and artifacts.

Also, the collection at QNL's Heritage Library is highly popular among both public and researchers; its unique and comprehensive nature, coupled with the library's efforts to

In recent years, notable additions have contributed to the expansion of Heritage Library's collection. These include nearly 100 leaves from very early copies holy Quran, dating from the 7th to 10th century CE, which hold immense historical and religious significance.

promote accessibility and engagement, have contributed to its growing popularity, Director of Distinctive Collections at the Library, Stephane J. Ipert told *The Peninsula*.

"Since its opening, the collection at QNL's Heritage Library has experienced significant growth. Through acquisitions,

donations, and collaborative partnerships, we have expanded our collections to include a diverse range of materials that showcase the rich cultural heritage of Qatar and the region," he said.

In recent years, notable additions have contributed to the expansion of Heritage Library's

collection. These include nearly 100 leaves from very early copies holy Quran, dating from the 7th to 10th century CE, which hold immense historical and religious significance. The Library has also acquired a substantial collection of manuscripts on Islamic sciences, including autographs, providing valuable resources for researchers and scholars.

"In 2022, we acquired approximately 40 physical items, including a Chinese Qur'anic manuscript from the late 18th to early 19th century. This manuscript features Arabic text and contains a prayer book of verses, along with sayings of the Prophet (PBUH). ➔P2



Bassem claims gold medal at Asian Championships, books Olympic berth

Qatar's Bassem Hemeida poses for a picture with Qatar Athletics Federation (QAF) President Mohammed Issa Al Fadala after winning a gold medal in 400m hurdles at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok, yesterday. Bassem clocked 48.64 secs to finish ahead of Japan's Yusaku Kodama, who took silver medal with a time of 48.96 secs. India's Santhosh Kumar secured bronze medal. By winning the title, Bassem, qualified for the next month's World Championships in Hungary and the 2024 Paris Olympics.

EDITORIAL 09

Thriving tourism sector

OWING to successful implementation of comprehensive plans to promote country's tourism sector, the number of tourists to Qatar are on the rise as the State received more than two million visitors during the first half of 2023. It shows that the efforts of Qatar Tourism to target international tourists and promote Qatar as a destination of choice are bearing fruits.

BUSINESS 11

Qatar, Hungary discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations

HUNGARY hosted the third session of the Qatari-Hungarian Joint Economic Committee. H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and H E Peter Szijarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, chaired the committee meeting, which was held in Budapest.

SPORT 15

'World watching' as Djokovic and Alcaraz clash for Wimbledon title

NOVAK DJOKOVIC says the "world of sport" will be watching when he faces Carlos Alcaraz in a Wimbledon final where history and a generational shift are at stake.

Qatar to participate in side event of Political Forum on Sustainable Development

QNA — NEW YORK

Qatar will participate in the side event of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.” It will be held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council from July 17 to 19 in New York.

Minister of Public Health H E Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari will lead Qatar's delegation to the meeting which will discuss many vital topics, the chief of which is building the momentum towards the sustainable development goals, along with the effective



Minister of Public Health H E Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari

and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explore actionable policy guidance for the full

implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at all levels.

The forum dedicates sessions to present the national voluntary reviews with the objective of accelerating the sustainable development plan 2030.

The forum is a key historical event for the sustainable development goals summit which is slated to be convened next September in New York under the auspices of the UN General Assembly and is set to identify the objective priorities and generate the political momentum for the summit.

Awqaf Ministry provides QR26.4m assistance in June

FROM PAGE 1

The Department of Zakat Fund is the authorized Governmental Body that has been assigned by law in Qatar to collect the Zakat dues, and then , to distribute such funds among the recipients as per Shari’ah stipulations.

Having examined requests of the needy by the Fund’s competent specialists in Zakat, aids are granted to the needy and poor (citizens and residents). Such aids are of different kinds, among which are: monthly aid, lumpsum assistance for one time as per need, medical treatment aid, school fees for needy families, aid for people in debt and their families, as well as seasonal assistance. The Department has sub-offices and collection points that are spread across the country. It also communicates with the community via ATMs and other commercial outlets, as well as sending an employee to the benefactors’ locations, since this constitutes a form of strengthening Zakat obligation. The Department also calculates the due Zakat for companies, firms and individuals; and holds special training courses in order to make it easy for all to do their duty by themselves.

Amir sends congratulations to President of Turkiye

QNA — DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, 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 sent cables of congratulations to President of the Republic of Turkiye H E Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the anniversary of his country’s Democracy and National Unity Day.

QNL Heritage Library boasts over 3,500 Islamic manuscripts

FROM PAGE 1

“Additionally, generous donations from Qatari families have greatly enhanced our collections, including personal correspondence, papers related to marriages and deaths, and business contracts. Of significant historical importance, the donated books include two items that belonged to Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Al Thani, the founder of Qatar,” said Ipert.

The ongoing partnership with the British Library has played a crucial role in expanding the Library’s digital collections. “The collection at QNL’s Heritage Library is highly popular among both the general public and researchers. Its unique and comprehensive nature, coupled with the library’s efforts to promote accessibility and engagement, have contributed to its growing popularity,” said Ipert.

“In addition, QNL has made substantial progress in digitizing its manuscript collection since its opening four years ago. All digitized items, including manuscripts, books, photographs, maps, and more, are made available through QNL’s digital repository. By providing digital access to these materials, QNL ensures widespread availability and facilitates convenient exploration and study of the collection’s contents,” he added.

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TOY BRANDS

Disney Princess, Bluey, others take spotlight at Qatar Toy Festival

JOELYN BALUYUT
THE PENINSULA

Disney Princess, Bluey, and other popular toy brands have taken the spotlight at the ongoing Qatar Toy Festival, drawing thousands of visitors to the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

The event, which has already sold out tickets for the first three days, features more than 25 renowned toy brands from around the world and will continue for the next three weeks.

Spacetoon TV spokesperson, Ahmad Weiss, revealed to reporters that the in-demand booths at the festival are Disney Princess, Bluey, Barbie and Hayati Girl.

The Disney Princess booth has become a favourite among young girls, offering the opportunity to play with Disney Princess dolls, engage in colouring activities, and even dress up as beloved characters like Belle from Beauty and the Beast, Snow White, and Cinderella. At the Bluey booth, children can enjoy a playground experience with slides and swings, immersing themselves in the playful world of the popular animated series.

Barbie enthusiasts are treated to a vibrant booth that encourages imaginative play, allowing children to become anything they desire, whether a singer, dancer, or musician.

The Hayati Girl booth introduces children to the Hayati doll collection, featuring characters



A girl dressed up like Cinderella at the Disney Princess booth. PIC: SALIM MATRAMKOT/THE PENINSULA

like Jeedah, Sandy, Ameerah, and Siba, providing endless hours of imaginative fun.

Beyond the international brand showcases, the festival

also offers snacks, daily live stage shows, roaming acts, and dedicated areas for first aid and lost and found services. The Qatar Toy Festival is

divided into four distinct areas, referred to as “islands.” Fancy Land caters to children aged 4 to 12 and features beloved characters like Disney Princess, My Little Pony, Barbie, and Hayati Girl, along with a dedicated café.

Champions Land targets ages 5 to 15, presenting brands such as Nerf, Marvel, Transformers, Beyblade Burst, Free Fire, Hot Wheels, and Fortnite. Cutie Pie is designed for kids aged 2 to 6 and offers attractions featuring Blippi, Cocomelon, The Smurfs, and Bluey.

And, Hyper Land caters to ages 5 to 15, offering activities centred around popular brands like Scrabble, Race, Monopoly, Angry Birds, and Sonic the Hedgehog.

The event, which has already sold out tickets for the first two days, features more than 25 renowned toy brands from around the world and will continue for the next three weeks.

The Qatar Toy Festival, which is the largest of its kind in the region is organised by Qatar Tourism, in partnership with Spacetoon. It will continue until August 5, with opening hours on weekdays from 2pm to 10pm and on weekends from 2pm to 11pm.

Tickets can be purchased online or onsite starting from QR50.

HEC Paris EMBA ranked No. 1 in world

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

The Executive MBA (EMBA) programme offered by HEC Paris, one of the leading business schools worldwide, has been ranked number one worldwide according to the latest rankings released by QS World University Rankings.

HEC Paris emerged top of the league of 199 programmes delivered worldwide across five criteria and scored 99.9 out of 100 for thought leadership and academic reputation and 99.6 for employability.

HEC Paris EMBA, which is delivered from state-of-the-art Doha campus in Msheireb Downtown offers a transformative learning experience based on interactive, impact-driven pedagogical approach that combines theoretical knowledge with real-world business applications.

“We credit much of this recognition to our distinguished faculty, staff, and participants who are dedicated to excellence and continuous improvement,” commented Dr. Pablo Martin de Holan, Dean of HEC Paris in Qatar. “Our EMBA programme is designed to be compatible with participants’ professional careers and to provide them with comprehensive, innovative, and applicable knowledge



and skills to fine-tune their analytical and strategic decision-making while expanding their industry networks.”

HEC Paris has been a member of Qatar Foundation since 2010. The new number one EMBA ranking adds to another significant recognition: HEC Paris was also ranked number one worldwide in 2023 for Executive Education by the Financial Times. “These top rankings are a significant accomplishment that reaffirms HEC Paris’ commitment to excellence and impact in Qatar and across the region. The

presence in Qatar of the world’s top ranked business school is a significant achievement and element of pride for Qatar Foundation, allowing us to develop the talent and leaders who drive the future of Qatar,” comments Joshua Kobb, Executive Director of Partnerships and Growth.

The HEC Paris part-time EMBA Programme offers accomplished business professionals the option to enrol in tracks delivered in Paris, Doha and Riyadh. The next intake in Doha begins in February 2024.

Team Qatar heads to Vietnam to take part in World Schools Debating Championship

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

The National English Debate team left for Vietnam yesterday to participate in the World Schools Debating Championship (WSDC) in English to be held in the city of Hanoi during the period from July 17 to 28 with the participation of more than 70 teams.

It’s a truly global competition for high school debaters held annually and teams from all over the world come together in a battle of minds.

The participation of Qatari youth in the World Debating Championship will serve as a moment of pride.

QatarDebate has taken over the challenge of training and providing support to the team during the limited time frame. The team’s incredible capabilities along with intensive support sessions by debate instructors have made it possible for Team Qatar to qualify to partake in such global events, with the generous support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Such global participations strengthen the



Members of the Qatari debate team at the Hamad International Airport.

partnership between the Ministry and QatarDebate.

The centre seeks to invest in the capabilities of the youth by channelling them into positive outlets that serve to the benefit of their future and achieve their goals. The National English Debate team includes Reem Al Aqili, Fatima Marafi, Fatima Almohannadi, Amira Ishaq and Mira Khalid Mohammed. In addition to the team, a delegation from QatarDebate facilitating support is headed by QD’s UK ambassador Hawa Al Jaradi and debate instructors Tasneem Elias, Mubarrat Wassy and Sajid Khandgar.

GARDENING

Indoor hydroponics: Growing veggies in Qatar summers

MARIVIE ALABANZA
THE PENINSULA

Can a country with a hot climate and limited water sources achieve food self-sufficiency all year round? Absolutely! And it all begins with the determination of one person or one family.

Let’s take inspiration from the story of Jaecim Francis Adaya, a Filipino expat who has transformed his yard and garage into a vibrant garden. From an array of lettuce varieties to snow cabbage, he grows a cornucopia of vegetables outdoors from November to April.

And his passion for gardening doesn’t end there. When summer comes, he takes his green thumb indoors, turning a part of his living room into an oasis of nourishing plants through the wonders of basic indoor hydroponics.

“Alongside my accounting career, I have nurtured a deep passion for gardening, especially in the area of growing vegetable. In 2020, I remember as the pandemic hit and families around the world were seeking ways to stay occupied, I stumbled upon a captivating video on YouTube about hydroponics. I got inspired by it and I saw an opportunity for my family to be engaged in a productive activity together. And that’s how my journey into hydroponics began,” Adaya told *The Peninsula*.

Admittedly, his first attempt at hydroponics was met with failures and frustrations. The lack of knowledge, combined with the challenging weather conditions and other unforeseen factors led to initial setbacks, according to Adaya.

Nevertheless, he persisted and sought knowledge from fellow gardeners in both Qatar and the Philippines, learning from his mistakes along the way and eventually mastering the art of basic hydroponics.



Jaecim Francis Adaya PIC: SALIM MATRAMKOT

In Qatar, where the summer season poses challenges for traditional gardening, hydroponics farming proves to be an effective way to grow vegetables indoors.

By skipping the soil and cultivating plants directly in nutrient-rich water, Adaya found a game-changing solution and achieved remarkable results.

Adaya employs the Kratky hydroponic method, a passive technique ideal for beginners as it is easy to set up, requires affordable materials, and does not demand constant monitoring.

The setup requires readily available materials in Qatar: shelves for the hydroponics system, LED lights to replicate sunlight, styrofoam boxes and styrofoam cups. “The nutrients, seeds, and detailed information await those who will join the workshop,” he explained. Aside from the satisfaction of providing fresh, delicious, and nutritious food for his family, Adaya also finds joy in sharing his hydroponics skills with members of the Filipino community.

His goal is to inspire more individuals and families to embrace the sustainable farming practice of hydroponics, not only for healthier eating but also to contribute to a greener future.

“By conducting workshops,

I hope I can inspire members of the community to also pursue their passion for gardening and create their own flourishing gardens here in Qatar. And maybe eventually put up their own hydroponics business in the Philippines.”

To support his advocacy, Adaya has partnered with the Philippine

Business Council in Qatar to provide hydroponics farming workshops to fellow Filipinos. Looking ahead, he aspires to extend these workshops to other nationalities, another one of his goals.

In hydroponics, harvest times vary depending on the plant type, growing conditions, and desired maturity stage. Yet, for Adaya, witnessing his greens sprout from seeds to the bountiful harvest is just as enjoyable as savouring them with his entire family. Living in Qatar for over 12 years, the 41-year-old urban farmer is beyond grateful with how his humble vision has transformed into a beautiful reality, with his family relishing the joy of eating fresh veggies grown right at home.

“Imagine if every family in Qatar and the Philippines could effortlessly access fresh, nutritious vegetables within their own homes. With hydroponics, I believe this dream can become a reality. So, go ahead, start your hydroponics journey and savour the joy of abundant harvest that awaits you.”



Scan for interview

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DIFM/06-23/013	CATERING SERVICES AND OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE OF COFFEE SHOP FACILITIES AND KITCHEN & DINNING HALL FACILITIES	2 Envelopes / مرفوفان (تقني / فني & تجاري / مالي)	QAR 50,000	QAR 1000	10 th Aug 2023 at 01:00 PM

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16/8 JUL 2023 to 29 JUL 2023 from 09:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m. you can obtain a copy of tender documents "Bidding Terms" during official working hours from the Procurement and Contracts Department of Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, based in Al Qayay - Bldg. Al Bank, Zone 79 - Al Tarfa Street, opposite to Gate No. 6 of Qatar University, against handing over the following documents:
Cash deposit receipt - with the value of tender documents "Bidding Terms" amounting (QAR 1000) (only one thousand Qatari riyals), which is non-refundable - to the bank account of Doha Institute for Graduate Studies stated below.
Recent copy of (Commercial Register - Firm Registration - Commercial License) of the company and copy of personal ID of the person authorized to receive tender documents on behalf of the company.
Authorization letter approved by the company signed by the authorized signatory and stamped with company seal stating the name and details of the person authorized to receive tender documents "Bidding Terms" including statement and number of the concerned tender.

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0213-034858-001	معهد الدوحة للدراسات العليا Doha Institute for Graduate Studies	بنك قطر الوطني
1- All forms and formats attached to tender documents must be filled-out and returned, while fulfilling the terms and conditions, with the remaining tender documents, including two proposals (technical and financial), original bid form, and a true copy of it to be reviewed by the Committee. All attachments must be signed by the company's authorized signatory and stamped with company's official seal.	1- يجب تعبئة جميع المتطلبات والصيغ المرفقة بمسندات المناقصة، وإعادتها مستوفية الشروط مع باقي مسندات المناقصة ومشتملة على العرضين الفني والمالي (أ) وأصل نموذج الطءاء ونسخة طبق الأصل منه للعرض على اللجنة، ويجب أن يتم توقيع جميع المتطلبات والصيغ المرفقة من المخلوق بالتوقيع عن الشركة وختمها بختم الشركة المصنع.	
2- Bids shall be addressing Chairman of Tenders and Auctions Committee of Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, placed inside two envelopes sealed by red wax (one technical and the other financial), stating tender number and address, and submitted before 01:00 p.m. on the closure date.	2- توجه الطءاءات باسم الرئيس لسر لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بمعهد الدوحة للدراسات العليا، وتكون داخل مرفوفين مغطيين بالشمع الأحمر (أحدهما فني - والاخر مالي) موضح عليهما رقم المناقصة وعنوانها وذلك قبل الساعة 01:00 ظهرا من تاريخ الاغلاق.	
3- Bid Bond must be attached to the bid, in the form of bank guarantee letter or approved "payable" cheque, which is unconditional, from one of the banks operating in the State of Qatar, with the aforesaid value, as a temporary security valid for 120 days starting from the expiration date of bid submission scheduled term. Any bid that does not include a Bid Bond shall be dismissed.	3- يجب أن يرتقي مع الطءاء الفلي تأمين ائتماني عبارة عن خطاب ضمان بنكي، أو شيك مضمون بالمفوق الدقيق - غير مشروط - من أحد البنوك العاملة في دولة قطر حسب القيمة المذكورة في الجدول اعلاه، وذلك كتأمين مؤقت ساري المفعول لمدة 120 يوما تبدأ من تاريخ انتهاء المدة المقررة لتقديم الطءاءات، وسيتم استبعاد أي طءاء غير مصحوب بالتأمين الائتماني.	
4- Awarded bidder shall submit Performance Bond which is minimum 10% of the total contract letter, in the form of bank guarantee letter or unconditional "payable" cheque, from one of the banks operating in the State of Qatar, within one week from the date of award notification.	4- يقدم صاحب الطءاء المقبول (الفائز) تأميناً تعاهدياً لا يقل عن 10% من القيمة الإجمالية للطءاء بموجب طءاء ضمان بنكي، أو شيك "مقبول الدقيق" - غير مقرر بقيد أو شرط - من أحد البنوك العاملة في دولة قطر لصالح المعهد، وذلك خلال اسبوع من تاريخ إخطاره بقبول طءاءه.	
5- Bids shall be valid for 120 days starting from the expiration date of bid submission scheduled term. Bidder shall abide by their bids and may not withdraw or change their bid till the expiration of its validity term. In case of withdrawal, Bid Bond shall be confiscated.	5- تكون مدة سريان الطءاءات 120 يوما تبدأ من تاريخ انتهاء المدة المقررة لتقديم الطءاءات، ويلتزم مقدم الطءاء بما ورد به طءاءه ولا يحق له انسحاب أو الرجوع عن طءائه حتى نهاية المدة المحددة لسريته، وفي حالة الانسحاب يصار لتأمين التأمين الائتماني.	
6- Any bid whose bidder violated the aforesaid terms and specifications or has not submitted samples or models stipulated in tender documents shall be dismissed. Bidder shall keep a copy of the receipt which proves their submission of samples or models to the requesting party.	6- سوف يستبعد أي طءاء لا يتلزم مقدمه بالشروط والمواصفات المعلنة اعلاه، أو بتقديم العينات أو النماذج في حالة التمس عليها بوثائق المناقصة، وعلى مقدم الطءاء الاحتفاظ بنسخة من الإصل الدال على تقديم العينات أو النماذج للجنة الطءائية.	
7- All rates shall be in Qatari riyals. Proposals must contain fixed total rates. Doha Institute for Graduate Studies reserves the right to divide the award of the tender to more than one bidder, as well as the right to increase or decrease the size of works, services or supplied items by maximum 15% of the total contract value under the same awarded terms, conditions, and rates.	7- تقدم الاسعار بالريال القطري، ويجب أن تشمل العروض على الاسعار الإجمالية الثابتة، ويحتفظ معهد الدوحة للدراسات العليا بحق تجزئة إرساء المناقصة على أكثر من مناصب، وحق زيادة أو خفض حجم الأعمال أو الخدمات أو الاضافات الموردة بنسبة لا تزيد على 15% من قيمة العقد الإجمالية ذات الشروط والاسعار التي يتم الترسية عليها.	

للمزيد من المعلومات أو الاستفسار يرجى المراسلة على العنوان الاتي:
tenders@dohainstitute.edu.qa
أو التواصل على رقم الهاتف: +974 4035 6870

'SKETCHING QATAR ARCHITECTURE'

Artist's book captures Qatar's evolving landmarks

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

Ahed Alkhatib, an architect with a passion for sketching, has released a new book titled “Sketching Qatar Architecture.” The artist’s book showcases 85 meticulously crafted sketches that portray the dynamic architectural landscape of Qatar.

With each page, readers are invited to explore not only Alkhatib’s remarkable observational and sketching skills but also Qatar’s quest for an architectural style that embodies its rich history, technological advancements, and cultural spirit. From contemporary landmarks like Al Thumama Stadium to beloved historic sites such as the Barzan Tower, the book provides an artistic rendition of Qatar’s architectural evolution using nothing more than a permanent ink pen and sheets of paper.

Asked about his inspiration, Alkhatib told *The Peninsula* that the book not only documents his artistic journey but also

The book provides an artistic rendition of Qatar’s architectural evolution using nothing more than a permanent ink pen and sheets of paper.

encapsulates a significant part of his life.

After moving to Doha, he spent a decade immersing himself in the city, creating memories, forming relationships, and establishing a deep connection with his surroundings.

In 2017, he purchased his first sketchbook dedicated to drawing Qatar’s architecture and began capturing quick sketches that took no more than 15 minutes. Encouraged by the positive response on his Instagram account, which quickly gained 1,000 followers, Alkhatib transitioned to a larger format in 2019, devoting up to two hours per sketch. Through his sketches, he discovered the

ability to identify and narrate stories, including his own evolving relationship with Doha.

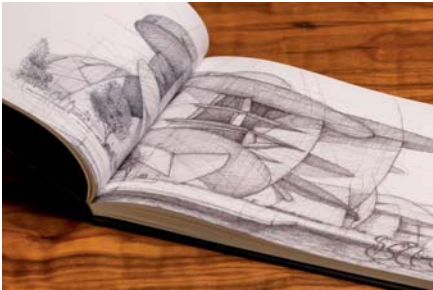
“As an architect, I realized that through looking and sketching buildings I can identify and narrate many stories, also those about my evolving relationship with Doha,” he said.

The book is available at the gift shops of the National Museum of Qatar and the Museum of Islamic Art, and at the IN-Q online store.

“Sketching Qatar Architecture” focuses on the architectural design of buildings as its primary area of interest, the author explained. Before creating each sketch, Alkhatib spends time observing his subjects from different angles, analysing the context, and exploring elements such as light, shadows, and forms.

Through his continuous practice, he develops an “architectural memory” and enhances his eye-hand coordination.

“By using irremovable ink pens, I am forced to keep all the



A sketch of the National Museum of Qatar building in the book. RIGHT: Artist Ahed Alkhatib



lines – from the beginning till the end – treating all the strokes as equally important, keeping them in layers above each other, until the final composition is revealed. Consequently, there are no mistakes or wrong lines in the drawing – all of them remain fundamental parts of the work which eventually discloses the sketching process.”

The architect stressed that the book serves as an invitation to architects, architecture enthusiasts, and aspiring architects, urging them to find

inspiration in his work and embark on their own architectural sketching journey. It encourages readers to contemplate the remarkably diverse architectural landscape of Qatar and marvel at the urban transformation that has taken place within a relatively short period.

The first edition of “Sketching Qatar Architecture” was introduced during the 31st edition of the Doha International Book Fair, held in January

last year. This publication marks Alkhatib’s debut as an author, but he plans to continue his artistic exploration of architecture by publishing more art books in the future, showcasing the architectural wonders of other cities worldwide.

After Graduating from Damascus University in 2009, Alkhatib moved to Qatar in 2010.

QU’s CAM leads groundbreaking research on thermal energy storage materials

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Center for Advanced Materials (CAM) at Qatar University (QU) is making significant strides in the development of innovative thermal energy storage materials, commonly known as phase change materials (PCMs), led by Dr. Igor Krupa, a distinguished research professor.

The team at CAM is revolutionising energy management in bioclimatic buildings and greenhouses by harnessing the power of these advanced materials.

Qatar’s climate is characterised by extreme temperatures, reaching up to 45°C in the scorching summer and dropping as low as 5°C in the short winter. Such harsh conditions lead to substantial energy consumption, especially for air conditioning, with buildings accounting for over 40% of global energy use. To address this challenge, CAM is dedicated to developing bioclimatic buildings that leverage local climate conditions and utilise energy from the environment, particularly the sun.

“The key to achieving sustainable energy management lies in our ability to effectively absorb and release thermal energy from the sun, minimising



the reliance on electrical energy,” explained Dr. Krupa. “By developing specialised Phase Change Materials, we can optimise thermal comfort while significantly reducing energy consumption in both cooling and heating processes.”

PCMs are a class of materials that undergo a phase transition between solid and liquid states at specific temperatures, enabling them to absorb or release large amounts of thermal energy. The specific enthalpy of melting determines the amount of energy absorbed or released during the phase transition. CAM’s research primarily focuses on polymeric PCMs, which utilise materials such as plastics (including polyethylene and polyethylene waste) and paraffin wax. These PCMs are further enhanced with thermally conductive fillers to improve their thermal conductivity and control the rate of heat transport as desired. Over the past decade,

CAM has been at the forefront of thermal storage system research, resulting in numerous published papers and a patented technology. CAM has developed PCM materials in the form of blocks and foams. One notable breakthrough is the creation of foams from polyethylene/paraffin wax blends, which have been patented as insulating plastic foams based on polyolefin (US2018/0291166A1). Foamed PCMs serve a dual purpose as effective heat absorbers and thermal insulators, offering superior heat protection for buildings against overheating.

Recognising the significance of effective thermal management in various sectors, CAM is actively collaborating with key industry players. In the agricultural sector, greenhouses play a crucial role in vegetable production in Qatar. To promote energy efficiency in greenhouse operations, CAM has initiated a collaborative

project titled “Greenhouses for Qatari Climate: Energy Saving Smart and Sustainable Phase Change Materials (Green3SPCM).” This project, undertaken in partnership with AGRICO Qatar, Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO), and Tomas Bata University in the Czech Republic, aims to develop and test thermal storage systems optimised for cooling in greenhouses.

“With our research and development efforts, we aim to facilitate all-season feasible farming in greenhouses by implementing efficient cooling and heating strategies,” stated Dr. Krupa. “Our goal is to contribute to energy saving and promote sustainable agricultural practices in Qatar.”

The main challenge in implementing these thermal storage systems on a larger scale lies in the production of final sheets weighing several tons. However, CAM, in collaboration with its partners, is actively working on developing techniques for large-scale production to meet industry demands. Dr. Krupa and his team’s pioneering work in the field of thermal energy storage materials holds great promise for the efficient management of energy in bioclimatic buildings and greenhouses.

Carnegie Mellon Qatar launches computer science summer camps

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner university, has launched summer camps in computer science for middle and high school students. The camps are an extension of MindCraft, a CMU-Q workshop that has introduced computing to more than 14,000 students in Qatar since 2016.

MindCraft is organised by the Hamad Bin Jassim Center for K-12 Computer Science Education (HBJ Center), a collaboration between CMU-Q and the Jassim and Hamad Bin Jassim Charitable Foundation. Khaled Harras is the director of the HBJ Center, a teaching professor of computer science, and the senior associate dean for faculty at CMU-Q.

“You sometimes hear people say that computer science is the future, but the truth is that computer science is the present,” he said. “After running the MindCraft workshops for seven years, we were finding that students wanted more. These camps are an opportunity to delve more into programming and computing concepts and really challenge the students.”

The HBJ Center team ran an

online version of the camp over spring break, and the response was very positive. In June, the team held the first in-person camps at the Carnegie Mellon building in Education City, with more than 50 students attending two sessions. Director of Support Services at Jassim and Hamad bin Jassim Charitable Foundation, Fawaz Eid Al Shammari, said the Center represents one of the Foundation’s most distinguished educational projects and an implementation of its vision of health and education for a better life. “The summer camp reinforces the Center’s role in advancing computer skills and encouraging school students to innovate in programming,” Nour Tabet is the outreach manager for computer science at CMU-Q and has delivered the MindCraft sessions since they began in 2016. “The energy at the camps is wonderful. The students are so enthusiastic to learn, and we can go much more in-depth over the course of a week,” she said.

One of the camps targets middle school students, and includes robotics and computational thinking. The other camp targets high school students and includes the fundamentals of the Python programming language.



QAFCO
QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY
شركة قطر للأسمدة
QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-371214	Full Third Party Logistics Warehouse Services	500/- (Non-refundable)	1,350,000/-	16.07.2023 17.07.2023 18.07.2023 19.07.2023 20.07.2023 23.07.2023 24.07.2023	16.08.2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
 - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
 - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
 - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA000000000013025828058**
 - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to purchase@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission Tender Fee receipt, you may contact at 'purchase@qafco.com.qa' or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 09:30 – 11:00 hours during the Holy month of Ramadan and 09:30 – 11:30 hours and 12:30 – 14:00 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".

Required

SALES EXECUTIVE (MALE/FEMALE)

A leading publishing house is looking for a Sales Executive

- Minimum 3 years experience in the field of sales and marketing products or services.
- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills
- Educated to a degree level or equivalent.
- Self Starter who is target driven and self motivated - must be comfortable in target oriented environment.
- Ability to achieve monthly targets
- Analysing and investigating price, demand and competition
- Excellent communication and presentation skills (telephone, written and face to face).
- Experience working in a media environment and understanding of (and passion for media industry).

Send your CVs to jobsadv1234@gmail.com

SIS teacher receives Teachers Glory Award

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

A Teacher of Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS), Doha, Payal Das, has received the prestigious Teachers Glory Awards under the category “Excellence in Bringing Innovative Methods of Teaching” at the 26th Elets World Education Summit & Awards 2023 held in New Delhi, India.

The event was inaugurated by Mikael Hermansson, a TEDx speaker, author and edutainer, Sweden, Europe; Divyakant Shukla, Secretary, Secondary Education Board, Government of Uttar Pradesh; K Bhaskar, Commissioner of School Education (Infrastructure), Department of School Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh; and G P Upadhyaya, Cabinet Secretary and Principle Chief Investment Advisor, Government of Sikkim at 26th Elets World Education Summit 2023.

The two-day event was followed by several programmes — magazine launch, panel discussions, expo visit and networking.

COOPERATION

COP28 host UAE and India vow ‘successful’ climate summit

AFP — DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates and India vowed yesterday to make this year’s COP28 conference in Dubai a success, as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to the Gulf state.

The UAE will host the COP28 United Nations climate talks in November and December, as world nations remain far apart on means to reduce fossil fuels and reduce global warming.

“The UAE and India are united in their determination to ensure the successful outcome of COP28 as an inclusive and action-oriented conference,” read a statement following talks in Abu Dhabi between UAE President H H Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al

Modi and the UAE President also stressed the need to take into consideration “the diverse national circumstances of each nation”

Nahyan and Modi.

The two leaders said they were “committed to enhance cooperation on climate ambition, decarbonisation and clean energy, and work together to have tangible and meaningful outcomes” at the conference, it added.

With global temperatures hitting record highs last week and countries buffeted by floods, storms and crop-with-ering heatwaves, the world

remains far off track to meet its climate goals.

Emirati oil executive Sultan Al Jaber, who will head up the COP28 talks, has said he expects fossil fuels to continue to play a role, albeit reduced and with the use of technologies to “abate”, or neutralise, the emissions.

Last year’s climate summit in Egypt saw the creation of a new financial facility for poor countries already ravaged by impacts, but rebuffed attempts to spell out the need to ditch fossil fuels.

That same fault line will run through COP28, pitting the European Union and scores of developing countries against China, India and other emerging giants, along with the United States, the world’s largest oil and gas producer.



UAE President H H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcoming Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi during an official reception at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, yesterday. (AFP)

Modi and the UAE President also stressed the need to take into consideration “the diverse national circumstances of each nation”, the statement said, in an apparent nod to developing and emerging countries.

During the visit, Modi also

met Jaber. Expecting 70,000 participants, double the largest COP to date, this year’s summit hopes to maintain the Paris Agreement’s goal for capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius. Last month UN chief Antonio Guterres slammed the

world’s response to climate change.

Climate policies currently adopted will lead to average temperatures 2.8 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times by the end of the century, said the secretary-general.

Sudan mediation to resume in Saudi Arabia

AFP — WAD MADANI, SUDAN

Sudanese army representatives have returned to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia for talks with their paramilitary foes, a government source said yesterday as the war between rival generals entered its fourth month.

“A delegation of the armed forces has returned to Jeddah to resume negotiations with Rapid Support Forces (RSF) rebels,” the source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The RSF has made no comment on returning to the talks in Jeddah, which Saudi and US mediators adjourned last month after a series of repeatedly violated ceasefires.

On April 15, a power struggle between army chief Abdel Fattah Al Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, burst into all-out war, claiming at least 3,000 lives and displacing more than three million people. The delegation in Saudi Arabia signals a return to diplomatic efforts by the army, after it boycotted talks last week in Ethiopia

hosted by east African regional bloc IGAD. Khartoum’s foreign ministry had objected to Kenyan President William Ruto’s leadership of the IGAD quartet, accusing Nairobi of siding with the RSF.

Before the Jeddah talks were suspended, US mediators had grown increasingly frustrated with both sides’ reluctance to work towards a sustained truce. Experts believe that

both Burhan and Daglo have opted for a war of attrition instead, hoping to extract greater concessions at the negotiating table later.

For three months, barely a day has passed for residents of the capital Khartoum without their homes shaking from constant air strikes, artillery blasts and gun battles.

To escape the brutal urban

warfare and rampant looting, 1.7 million people have fled the capital, according to the United Nations.

Millions remain in the city, sheltering at home as the violence shows no signs of abating.

Witnesses again reported “clashes using various types of weapons” in the capital’s northwest yesterday as well as air strikes from army fighter jets in the south.

Others said RSF drones had targeted Khartoum’s largest military hospital, in an attack the army said killed “five patients” and injured 22 others, “mostly civilians”.

The UN has said that most hospitals in combat zones were out of service. Outside Khartoum, the worst fighting has taken place in the western region of Darfur, where a quarter of Sudan’s 48 million people live. Entire villages and neighbourhoods there have been destroyed, with reports of mass civilian deaths and assassinations of officials for their ethnic background, blamed on the RSF and allied Arab militias.

The International Criminal Court has launched a probe into suspected war crimes.



Smoke rises above buildings as people walk along a street in Omdurman, Sudan, yesterday. (AFP)

ICC confirms \$30m reparations in DR Congo warlord case

AFP — THE HAGUE

The International Criminal Court on Friday confirmed a more than \$30m reparations package for thousands of victims of DR Congo warlord Bosco Ntaganda, including former child soldiers.

Named the “Terminator” for his reign of terror in the vast African country in the early 2000s, Ntaganda was jailed for 30 years in 2019 for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Judges afterwards awarded \$30.3m in reparations, but last year ordered a review saying the number of victims were unclear. But on Friday “the Chamber unanimously assesses Mr Ntaganda’s liability for reparations at USD \$31,300,000,” the Hague-based court said in a statement.

Although Ntaganda is liable for the payment, the ICC found that he did not have the funds, which would now be paid from the Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC.

Judges asked court officials to “continue exploring whether Mr Ntaganda possessed any undiscovered assets” and monitor his finances “on an ongoing basis.” Judges added that based on available information, there were an estimated 7,500 direct and indirect victims of violent attacks, as well as 3,000 direct or indirect victims of crimes against child soldiers.

No financial amounts were given for specific victims, but payment would include around \$11m in socio-economic support and around \$5m for mental care resulting from “psychological harm” suffered during the attacks.

South Africa deploys army over burning of trucks

AP — CAPE TOWN

South Africa deployed the army to help secure four provinces on Friday, after at least 21 delivery trucks were set on fire in the past five days and amid concerns of unrest over a court decision that could send former President Jacob Zuma back to jail.

The deployment of soldiers came a day after South Africa’s apex Constitutional Court ruled that Zuma’s early release from prison on medical parole in 2021 was invalid.

The Department of Corrections has not said if it will order Zuma back to jail to serve the remainder of a 15-month prison sentence for contempt of court, but his initial jailing two years ago sparked a week of violent protests that left more than 350 people dead in some of the worst violence South Africa had experienced in 30 years.

Police said they had no evidence that this week’s torching of trucks was connected to the 2021 unrest or to Zuma, but the decision in Zuma’s court case clearly has put the country on edge. The truck burnings appear to have started on Sunday, the second anniversary of the start of the 2021 protests.

Zuma, 81, was not in South Africa

and had travelled to Russia for medical treatment for an undisclosed illness, said Mzwanele Manyi, a spokesperson for the former president. Manyi gave no date for Zuma’s return.

Authorities haven’t established the motive for this week’s truck attacks, nor if they are connected to each other as they took place in various parts of the country. Police Minister Bheki Cele said there is a possibility that the truck burnings are economic sabotage against South Africa and police are hunting for at least 12 people believed to be linked to the attacks.

In many instances, armed men have forced drivers out of their trucks and then set them alight in the middle of major roads. “These are organised and sophisticated operations,” Cele said in a statement released by the South African government’s official news agency.

Authorities haven’t reported any deaths or serious injuries related to the torching of trucks.

Trucks have previously been burned in South Africa as a form of protest against the government for failing to provide basic services, but the number torched this week was unusually high.

The 2021 riots shook Africa’s most developed economy, seen as a bedrock

of democracy on the continent. It was the worst instance of civil unrest since the end of apartheid in 1994, with authorities still investigating two years later who was behind what appeared to be an orchestrated attempt to unsettle the government.

The Department of Corrections hasn’t said if it will order Zuma back to jail after his appeal failed or if the time he spent on medical parole will count as him having served his sentence.

12 killed in suspected rebel attack in northeast of Congo

AP — KINSHASA, CONGO

An extremist rebel group killed at least 12 people in the northeast of Congo, a local civil society organisation said yesterday.

The New Congolese Civil Society organisation, or NSCC, said the victims were shot dead by the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, a shadowy Islamic State group affiliate that has been launching attacks for years from bases in volatile eastern Congo, following a skirmish with a local armed militia.

Conflict in eastern Congo has gone on for decades as myriad armed groups fight for control of valuable mineral resources. There are frequent mass killings, and the violence has triggered an exodus of refugees.

Farmers in nearby villages discovered the bloodied corpses of 12 people in the bush early Friday as they left to work in their fields. John Vuleverio, coordinator of the NSCC, reported that the death toll was still provisional as the search for other bodies continued in the area.

Col. Jean-Baptiste Munyampazi, the administrator of the territory where the bodies were found, declined to provide an official death toll, indicating that government soldiers stationed in the area were actively tracking down the alleged perpetrators.

In June, the ADF is suspected to have killed at least 41 people — most of them students — in a brutal attack on a school in Uganda, near the border with Congo.



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-48	Supply of Air Filters for HVAC System on Call-off Basis for Three (3) Years	500.00	100,000.00	13 August 2023
QF-RFQ-165	Provision and Support Services of AV-PAVA System for QF on Call-off Basis for Three (3) Years with Option to extend up to One (1) Year	1,000.00	300,000.00	27 August 2023
CO-RFQ-54	Supply and Delivery of Access Control and Vehicle Gate Barrier Spares to Qatar Foundation	1,000.00	N/a	06 August 2023

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement & Program Management Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

1) Tender Fee: Interested bidders shall first deposit the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee as mentioned above into the following Qatar Foundation bank account mentioning “**QF Tender Reference Number**” and “**Bidder’s Name**”:

Account Name	: QATAR FOUNDATION
Account Number	: 0013-024171-001
Swift Code No	: QNBQAQAA
IBAN	: QA19 0NEA 0000 0000 0013 0241 7100 1
Bank Name	: Qatar National Bank

Tender Fee Payment Dates: From **16th July 2023** until **23rd July 2023** between **9:00 AM - 02:00 PM** except **Friday and Saturday**. The tender fees should be paid to QF account before **23rd July 2023, 02:00 PM**. Tender documents will not be issued if the tender fees are paid after the specified deadline.

Supplier Registration Number (SRN): It is mandatory to have QF SRN in order to participate in the above tender(s). QF unregistered bidders, who have paid the tender fees, will not be able to download the tender documents without completing the Supplier Registration process. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.

2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees to QF, shall then request the tender document from QF by providing the below document via this email qftenderfee@qf.org.qa in a single email by providing the following:

- Copy of bidder’s tender fee receipt clearly highlighting “QF Tender reference number”, “bidder’s name” and
- Name and email ID of bidder’s focal point for all tender communications.

- Upon receipt of the above information, QF will then issue an email notification to the bidder and provide a link to download the Tender documents after the due date of Tender Fee Payment.
- The commercial bid must be valid for **120 days** from bid closing date.
- The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **120 days** from the bid closing date.
- The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
- Qatar Foundation tendering qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

STRONG SUPPORT

S Korea to ‘expand scale’ of Ukraine aid: President

AP — KIEV

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol made a surprise visit to Ukraine yesterday, offering support for the invaded country in its war with Russia while demonstrating his own nation's cooperation with NATO.

Yoon's office said he traveled to Ukraine with his wife, Kim Keon Hee, following trips to Lithuania for a NATO summit and to Poland. It's his first visit since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Yoon toured Bucha and Irpin, two small cities near Kiev where bodies of civilians were found in the streets and mass graves after Russian troops retreated from the capital region last year.

He laid flowers at a

monument to the country's war dead, before he sat down for a summit with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

South Korea, a key US ally in Asia, joined international sanctions against Russia and has provided Ukraine with humanitarian and financial support to Ukraine.

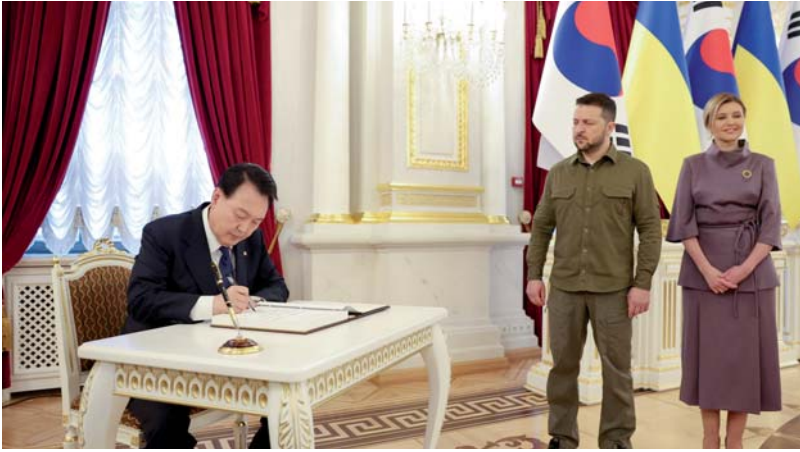
But the Asian nation, a growing arms exporter, hasn't provided weapons to Ukraine in line with its long-standing policy of not supplying arms

to countries actively engaged in conflict.

During a joint news conference with Zelenskiy later Saturday, Yoon announced plans to expand support shipments to Ukraine but didn't touch upon weapons supplies.

Yoon began his statement with a mention of the UN forces' support of South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War that helped repel a North Korean invasion. "The current situation facing Ukraine reminds us of the past situation of the Republic of Korea," Yoon said.

Zelenskiy thanked Seoul for its "firm support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and the "significant political, security, economic and humanitarian aid" it has supplied since the start of Russia's invasion. Yoon said that South



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol (left) signing a guest book as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy (second right) and his wife Olena Zelenska look on during their meeting at the presidential palace in Kiev. (AFP)

Korea will increase the shipments of nonlethal military items such as body armour and helmets this year.

He said that South Korea will also provide humanitarian aid worth \$150m this year, up from \$100m last year. He said that South Korea has also sent the de-mining equipment and other aid items that had been requested by Ukraine.

Yoon said that he and Zelenskyy agreed on cooperating

on post-war reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. Yoon said South Korea will also launch a scholarship fund named after him and Zelenskyy to expand support for Ukrainian students in South Korea.

Rahul Gandhi appeals to India's top court over conviction

AFP — NEW DELHI

Top Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi appealed to the country's highest court yesterday over his conviction for defamation, days after a lower court refused to intervene, media reports said.

Gandhi was sentenced to two years' jail for comments he made in 2019 which a court ruled were insulting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and those sharing his last name.

That made him ineligible to remain a member of parliament, or to stand in next year's election. Modi's government has been widely accused of using the defamation law to silence critics.

Gandhi filed an appeal asking the Supreme Court to stay his conviction, multiple Indian media reports said, a week after the Gujarat High Court refused to do so.

Officials of Gandhi's Congress party did not immediately respond to requests by AFP for comment.

But earlier this month, party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi told reporters: "We have no doubt that this intersection of arrogance and infallibility shown by this government of the day and ruling party of the day will be dealt with properly in the Supreme Court." The case -- one of several lodged against Gandhi in recent years -- has so far only been heard by courts in Gujarat, Modi's home state.

Gandhi is the scion of



Rahul Gandhi

Modi's government has been widely accused of using the defamation law to silence critics.

India's premier political dynasty and the son, grandson and great-grandson of former prime ministers, beginning with independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru.

He is the leading face of the Congress party, once the dominant force in Indian politics but now a shadow of its former self. His conviction stemmed from a remark made during the 2019 election campaign when he asked why "all thieves have Modi as (their) common surname".

Members of Modi's government said the remark was a slur against all Indians with the surname Modi, which is associated with the lower rungs of India's traditional caste hierarchy.

China FM calls on India to meet 'halfway' on border issue

AFP — BEIJING

China's top diplomat urged India to focus on "common interests" and meet China "halfway" to defuse border tensions between Asia's most populous neighbours, the Chinese foreign ministry said yesterday.

Relations between India and China have deteriorated in recent months over their contested Himalayan border, and a visa spat in which the two sides have expelled nearly all

of each other's journalists.

"China and India's common interests clearly outweigh their differences," Wang Yi told Indian foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, when the two met Friday on the sidelines of Southeast Asian talks in Jakarta, the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The two sides should support each other, rather than... suspect each other," Wang added. India and its northern neighbour are locked in a military standoff along their

mostly undemarcated border in the Ladakh region.

Beijing also claims the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of Tibet, and it considers Kashmir a disputed territory. "It is hoped that the Indian side will meet China halfway and find a solution to the border issue that is acceptable to both sides," Wang said.

The two countries have agreed to hold the next round of military commander-level talks on the border issue "as soon as possible", the ministry

statement said. Despite frosty relations, China is India's second-largest trade partner.

In 2020, India sought to limit investments from China as political tensions heightened between them, with their soldiers clashing in the disputed Himalayan region. "China is highly concerned about India's recent restrictive measures against Chinese companies," Wang added, while urging New Delhi to provide a "fair, transparent and non-discriminatory business environment".

Cambodia arrests two opposition members over ballot protest

AFP — PHNOM PENH

Two Cambodian opposition party members have been arrested for allegedly inciting voters to spoil ballots, officials said yesterday, ahead of a national vote in which long-serving leader Hun Sen is effectively running unopposed.

Ly Ry and Bun Kheit of the opposition Candlelight Party were arrested on Friday for "inciting people to destroy ballots", interior ministry spokesman Khieu Sopheak said. Authorities did not provide details on the allegations against the pair, but the spokesman said authorities had "enough evidence" against them.

The kingdom votes in a general election on July 23 with Prime Minister Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party running almost unopposed after the

Recent election law amendments ban anyone who fails to vote in the upcoming vote from running in future elections.

Candlelight Party, its main challenger, was barred from contesting on a technicality.

Candlelight Party spokesman Kimsour Phirith said he did not know when the two arrested officials issued the call to protest. "We are monitoring the case," he told AFP.

Recent election law amendments, ordered by Hun Sen to counter calls for a poll boycott by opposition activists, ban anyone who fails to vote in the upcoming vote from running in future elections. Obstructing the voting process or calling for voters to spoil ballots is also a

criminal offence.

Rights groups accuse Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia for nearly four decades, of using the legal system to crush any opposition to his rule.

Hun Sen is campaigning for re-election but is expected to pass on the leadership to his eldest son, Hun Manet, in the future. Scores of opposition politicians have been convicted and jailed during his time in power.

Opposition leader Kem Sokha was in March convicted of treason and sentenced to 27 years in prison over an alleged plot to topple Hun Sen's government. He is currently serving his sentence under house arrest.

Another opposition figure, Sam Rainsy, has been living in exile in France since 2015 to avoid prison for convictions he says are politically motivated.

S Korea storm leaves 22 dead

BLOOMBERG — SEOUL

Heavy rainfall left at least 22 people dead and 14 missing in South Korea as of 6 pm Seoul time, with thousands being evacuated, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing the nation's Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters.

In Chungcheongbuk-do, a province south of Seoul, about 6,400 residents were evacuated because of rising water levels, the news outlet said in a separate report.

The downturn was still continuing in parts of South Korea later yesterday afternoon.

President Yoon Suk Yeol ordered the government to mobilize as many resources as possible, including the military and police, to respond to the natural disaster, his office said in a statement.

Thai PM frontrunner says only one more shot at forming government

AFP — BANGKOK

The liberal frontrunner to become Thailand's next prime minister said yesterday he would withdraw his candidacy if parliament did not endorse him next week, after military-appointed lawmakers foiled his first attempt.

Pita Limjaroenrat's Move Forward Party (MFP) won the most seats in May elections, buoyed by young Thais eager for progressive reforms after nine years of army-backed rule in the kingdom.

But the Harvard-educated millionaire's campaign to lead the next government was knocked back Thursday by senators in parliament who consider his pledge to reform strict royal defamation laws a red line. The legislature holds its second ballot for a new prime minister on Wednesday, and Pita said he would support a candidate from coalition partner Pheu Thai if he again failed to win the needed votes.

"I'd like to apologise that we haven't succeeded," he said in a video address posted to social media.

"I'm ready to give a chance to Thailand by letting the party that has the second most votes... be the one to form the coalition." Pita was 51 votes short of the 375 lawmakers he needed to support his candidacy during the first ballot.

Just 13 senators voted for him, with many voicing their opposition to MFP's pledge to soften the king-



Move Forward Party supporters and pro-democracy activists gather to protest in Bangkok on Friday. (AFP)

dom's royal defamation laws.

After the first ballot, the party ruled out compromising on its proposed revisions to the laws, which currently allow convicted critics of the monarchy to be jailed for up to 15 years. All 250 senators were appointed under the junta-drafted constitution, which political analyst Thitinan Pongsudhirak said was a reliable impediment to MFP's reformist platform.

"It is a way for the authority and the regime to stay in power in the long term and to prevent a pro-democracy government that can stand against them," he told AFP on Friday. Pita urged his supporters on Saturday to get "creative" in urging senators to throw their support

behind him in the next round.

"I alone can't change the senators' mind. Therefore, I ask everybody to help with this mission," he said. "Send a message to the senators in every way possible, every way you can think of." The MFP's largest coalition partner Pheu Thai is seen as a vehicle for the Shinawatra political family, whose members include two former prime ministers displaced by military coups in 2006 and 2014.

Property tycoon Srettha Thavasin, 60, is widely tipped to be Pheu Thai's candidate for prime minister if Pita's bid fails again.

Liked by business leaders among Thailand's influential elite, he has been touted as a potential compromise candidate.

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AIR TRANSPORT STRIKE

Hundreds of flights across Italy cancelled

AP — ROME

Hundreds of flights across Italy were cancelled yesterday, forcing travellers at the peak of tourist season to make alternate plans, after air transport unions went ahead with a planned work stoppage two days following a train strike that paralysed rail service.

Summertime in Italy is often the peak season for transport strikes, stranding commuters and tourists alike as unions press demands for better work

contracts and conditions. This year, the strikes are taking their toll amid a tourism boom following two years of pandemic losses.

National carrier ITA said it cancelled 133 flights, most of them domestic but a few to European destinations such as Madrid, Amsterdam and Barcelona. Low-cost airlines Ryanair and Vueling cancelled dozens of other flights due to the strike from 10am to 6pm. Striking workers included pilots, flight attendants, baggage handlers and airport personnel.

The website of Naples' airport showed dozens of flights cancelled starting at 10am, a similar scene at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport.

"Yeah, it got canceled. It was ITA Airways to Catania," lamented Stefania Spatola from Philadelphia, who was traveling with 35 members of her family. "All our flights got messed up. It's horrible. It's really, really horrible." Labour unions Filt Cgil, Uiltrasporti and Ugl Trasporto said they called the strike over "absolutely unsatisfactory" contract disagreements with Malta

Air, which operates Ryanair flights. Ryanair posted a note on its website apologising for cancellations and other disruptions due to the strike that is "beyond our control." Filt Cgil spokeswoman Sara di Marco faulted the government for waiting until the last minute to meet with unions to renew work contracts. "We are not happy to create inconvenience to customers because that is not our goal," she said.

Di Marco added that they wanted to meet with the ministry earlier and not one day before the strike, describing the move as an

Summertime in Italy is often the peak season for transport strikes, stranding commuters and tourists alike as unions press demands for better work contracts and conditions.

attempt "to defer or preempt" it.

On Thursday, commuters and tourists were stranded at sweltering train stations across

the country as a strike by rail workers crippled service including high-speed trains that are usually guaranteed.

Lizzy Lake arrived at Rome's airport for a flight back to London only to find she has to stay in the Eternal City for a few more days before she can get out.

"We love Rome, so we're excited to be able to stay for a few more days, but it's just frustrating, obviously. I've got a little boy and we just want to get home now," she said. "But we have strikes in England, so we're used to it."

KIEV READY TO 'REBUFF' RUSSIAN FORCES

Ukrainians alert over Wagner threat at Belarus border

AFP — DNIPOVSKIE

At a long-closed crossing point from Ukraine to Belarus, Oleg, a camouflage-clad guard carrying a Kalashnikov, says he has seen no sign of Wagner mercenaries across the border, some 150 metres away.

Ukraine's military said it was reinforcing the border with Belarus with trenches and mines as some Russian mercenaries were expected to move to the country following their aborted mutiny against Moscow's top brass.

Ukraine is ready to "rebuff" Russia's forces including Wagner, said Oleg, 26, as he patrolled the Slavutych border crossing point, closed since February 24 last year, when Russian forces entered the Chernigiv region from Belarus at the start of the invasion.

"Since we were stabbed in the back from the territory of Belarus, we do not reject... that there may be some movements or deployment of Wagner fighters on Belarusian territory," Oleg told AFP.

Uncertainty persists over the fate of the mutinous Wagner troops since a deal was sealed between Moscow and Minsk, which should have seen some

of them move to Belarus.

The Belarusian defence ministry confirmed on Friday that at least some had arrived, and were instructing local troops.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy downplayed the move, saying Ukraine was "closely monitoring developments there from a security perspective, and currently, there are no major threats".

Driving south to the nearby village of Dniprovske, there were signs of activity in the woods: men in camouflage and fortifications, as well as a dummy figure positioned at the roadside. The village's main street has two shops, a war memorial and church. A family of storks was nesting on top of a telegraph pole.

Smallholder Viktor Koren, 76, was walking to the shop to buy sour cream. He drew in the dust with his stick to show how close he lives to the Dnipro river that forms the border.

"Of course I'm nervous. Because it's so close. There is a river near us, a border, and these assholes are fighting across the border," he said, referring to Russians.

He slammed Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin for aborting his revolt against Moscow and



Ukrainian soldiers ride atop a M113 armoured personnel carrier in Donetsk region amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, yesterday. (AFP)

allying with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

"He was going to Moscow and he didn't make it there... Why didn't he defeat them?" he said. Stocking shelves in a grocery store, 20-year-old Ilya Bobok said he was confident that Ukraine could withstand any new attack.

"The first time they (Russians) had the element of surprise. Now I think, it's not going to work. We already have people trained in combat. Brave guys. I think there's nothing to be scared of."

"They may try but they'll be out of here very quickly." The shop's owner, Kateryna Bobok,

37, echoed his confidence.

"If you've seen the guys protecting us, how can you be nervous?" she said.

She said she had heard on the news about Wagner's possible presence in Belarus but had seen "no signs that anything has changed".

"It's even a little quieter, which is a little bit alarming."

At the border there were weeds growing up through the tarmac and rusted signs about customs rules. Before the war, around 500 vehicles a day passed through the crossing point. On the morning of the invasion on February 24, Ukrainian border guards blew

up a road bridge over the Dnipro river, which forms the border with Belarus.

Russian forces managed to enter the Chernigiv region that day anyway, which saw fierce fighting until they withdrew in April 2022. The region is still regularly shelled.

Oleg said Ukrainian forces estimate around 2,000 servicemen from Russia's conventional army to be on Belarusian territory as well as planes and helicopters from Russia's Space Forces. The situation on the border is "controlled, calm, we don't record any provocations from the Belarusian side," Oleg said.

Kiev rejects Bulgaria's claims over Ukraine war

AP — SOFIA

Ukraine yesterday criticised Bulgaria's pro-Russian president over his remarks that Kiev is to blame for Russia's ongoing war and that supplying arms to Ukraine only prolongs the conflict.

President Rumen Radev had told reporters on Friday, during a news conference in which he spoke about the recent NATO summit, that he wanted "to make it clear that Ukraine insists on fighting this war." "But it should also be clear that the bill is paid by the whole of Europe," he added.

The remarks by the pro-Russian leader are part of his continuing efforts to keep Bulgaria out of joint EU military support for Ukraine.

The Embassy of Ukraine in Sofia in a statement yesterday said Kiev was making all possible efforts to restore peace and rejected Radev's stance that supplying arms to Ukraine fuels and prolongs the war. Blaming the war on Ukraine, which "was treacherously attacked by its northern neighbour, is one of the most common supporting theses of Russian propaganda and hybrid warfare in Europe," the embassy said.

It emphasised that the provision of defence funds to Ukraine does not lead to an increase in casualties, but means that more lives can be saved. During the political crisis that had gripped EU and NATO member Bulgaria in the last two years, Radev has used his powers to appoint caretaker governments that shared his dissent over supplying arms to Kiev. However, his efforts have been undermined since a new pro-Western government was formed in June.

On Friday, Bulgarian Prime Minister Nikolai Denkov was quick to counter Radev's position and put the blame for Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Russian President Vladimir Putin and his administration.

IN BRIEF

UK defence secretary Ben Wallace considers quitting

BLOOMBERG — LONDON: UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace may step down ahead of an expected autumn reshuffle of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's cabinet being done with an eye towards the 2023 election, the *Times* reported.

The newspaper reported that Wallace is mulling whether to depart, without saying how it obtained the information. Sky News, citing a person it didn't identify, reported that Wallace is likely to make a decision next month.

Both reports said that the minister's decision would be unrelated to the current issues facing the Conservative Party, which is trailing heavily in polls.

Wallace, 53, replaced Penny Mordaunt as Defence Secretary when Boris Johnson took charge as prime minister in 2019. He's retained the post under two subsequent premiers, Liz Truss and Sunak, and has helped shape the UK response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

500 evacuated to escape wildfire on Canary island

AP — BARCELONA: Spanish authorities have preemptively evacuated some 500 people to avoid a wildfire that has broken out on the Canary island of La Palma.

The regional president of the Canary Islands, Fernando Clavijo, said yesterday that, in addition to forcing the removal of the residents, the blaze has destroyed at least 11 homes within the relatively small burned zone of 140 hectares (345 acres). He warned that the number of evacuees could easily increase.

"With the resources that we are deploying, we hope we can control the fire today, but the winds are shifting," Clavijo said. "More gusting winds are expected and, combined with the dryness of the terrain and the lack of rain, this situation is complicated." Spain's army has deployed 150 of its firefighters to help local crews battle the blaze. More local firefighters are arriving on boats from the neighbouring island of Tenerife, according to Clavijo.

The fire is on the western side of the island on wooded, hilly terrain dotted with homes. It is not an area that was directly impacted by the 2021 volcano eruption.

Puntagorda mayor, Vicente Rodriguez, told Spanish public broadcaster RTVE that the fire started inside the limits of his municipality. He added that the area has seen below-average rainfall in recent years.

UK immigration fee hikes face criticism

AFP — LONDON

The UK's oldest medical union yesterday hit out at government plans to increase the amount migrant workers pay to use the state healthcare service, to cover public-sector wage increases.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government this week approved recommendations to boost wages of teachers, doctors and police by between 5.0 to 7.0 percent.

Sunak ruled out tax increases or government borrowing to fund the rise but instead said hikes in the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) and visa fees would raise £1bn.

Doctors in Unite, which represents junior doctors,

general practitioners and hospital consultants, said it was "appalled" at the move, as it would see migrants pay double to use the NHS.

Most employees in the UK have National Insurance contributions deducted at source on their salaries, which pays for the National Health Service, as well as state pension and unemployment schemes.

"Just like other workers, migrants contribute to NHS funding through general taxation. Doubling the NHS surcharge to over £1,200 (\$1,570) per year is an unjust additional penalty," Doctors in Unite said. "Migrants are effectively 'taxed twice' to access the same service," it added, calling the move "immoral and divisive".

The IHS, initially brought in to

prevent "medical tourism", is now paid by most migrants under tighter post-Brexit entry rules. It is paid per person in addition to visa fees for stays of more than six months.

Over-18s pay £624 per year while students and under-18s pay £470 per year. The government has proposed raising the IHS for adults to £1,035, and £776 at the reduced rate.

Work and visit visas will go up by 15 percent, while the cost of student and leave-to-remain visas among others will rise by at least 20 percent.

Net migration in the UK hit a record 606,000 in 2022, according to official figures released in May, heaping pressure on the government, which has pledged to cut dependency on foreign labour.

CLIMATE CHANGE

People and pets seek shade as Europe sizzles under heat wave

AP — ROME

Scorching temperatures across Europe forced the closure of the Acropolis in Athens for a second day as officials warned yesterday of even hotter weather next week, when the mercury is forecast to top 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in several popular Mediterranean tourist destinations.

Elderly people, young children and dogs were most at risk, experts said, urging precautions against the heat wave caused by Cerberus, a high-pressure anticyclone coming from the south and named after the three-headed dog in ancient Greek mythology who guarded the gates to the underworld.

Fifteen cities in Italy, most of them in the country's centre and south, were under heat advisories signalling a high level of risk for older adults and other vulnerable people. Temperatures remained in the mid-30s C (mid-90s F) across much of the Italian peninsula yesterday but were expected to reach between 38 C (100.4 F) and 40 C (104 C) in Sardinia, Sicily and Puglia.

The cities under alerts included

the high-tourism destinations of Bologna, Florence and Rome. The capital hit a high of 35 C (95 F) Saturday and was expected to see temperatures as high as 42 C (107.6 F) on Tuesday.

In Greece's capital, where the temperature was forecast to reach 41 C (105.8 F), officials decided to keep the sun-baked Acropolis monument closed from noon to 5.30pm as they did Friday.

Temperatures were milder in Spain's Canary Islands, but a wildfire on the island of La Palma caused a preventive evacuation of some 500 people. Officials warned that shifting winds and the area's rain-parched dry terrain could increase the number of evacuees.

In Turkiye, coastal cities in the south and southwest reached the high 30s (about 97-102 F) and low 40s (104-109 F). The tourism hot spot of Antalya saw a high of 44 C (111.2 F). In the northwestern cities of Edirne, Kırklareli and Tekirdag, 48 people were taken to emergency rooms with symptoms of heat stroke in the past two days, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

The heat wave also was taking



Visitors leave the Acropolis archeological site in Athens on Friday. (AFP)

its toll on water levels in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city. The main water supply at the Omerli Dam reservoir, already at 41% capacity due to low rainfall, was losing 17,000 tonnes of water an hour during the early afternoon, Levent Kurnaz of Bosphorus University's Center for Climate Change and Policy Studies told local media.

European countries father north

also sweltered yesterday. Authorities in Poland warned older adults in particular to stay indoors or in the shade and well-hydrated as temperatures reached 35 C (95 F).

In downtown Warsaw, and in other cities, makeshift hose fountains were arranged to let people and their pets cool off. Police issued warnings about not leaving children or pets unattended inside cars.

Woman jailed for attacking officers during US Capitol attack

AP — WASHINGTON

A Florida woman was sentenced on Friday to six years in federal prison for attacking police officers during the insurrection at the US Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Audrey Ann Southard-Rumsey, 54, of Spring Hill, Florida, was sentenced in District of Columbia federal court, according to court records. She was found guilty in January of seven felony charges, including three counts of assaulting, resisting or impeding officers, three counts of civil disorder and one count of obstruction of an official proceeding.

Southard-Rumsey was arrested in June 2021.

According to court documents, Southard-Rumsey joined with others in objecting to Democrat Joe Biden's 2020 election victory over then-President Donald Trump. A mob stormed the Capitol to try to stop Congress from certifying election results for Biden over Trump, a Republican, authorities have said. Five people died in the violence.

According to the criminal complaint, Southard-Rumsey amplified calls for revolution on social media and worked with others on a declaration calling for the abolition of the Democratic Party and the institution of a new government. On the day of the Capitol attack, Southard-Rumsey uploaded a photograph of herself at the east plaza to Facebook and then broadcasted a live video of herself, the complaint states.

Southard-Rumsey was part of a large group that broke through police barricades, prosecutors said. At one point, she grabbed an officer's riot shield and then later pushed an officer with a flagpole, causing him to fall and hit his head, officials said. She also joined a group that pushed officers down some stairs, authorities said. More than 1,000 people have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for alleged crimes related to the Capitol breach, according to officials. More than 350 people have been charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement.

SWELTERING TEMPERATURE

US bakes under relentless heat dome

Residents of central and southern California, for example, could expect to see thermometers peaking at 38 to 43 degrees Celsius, it said.

AFP — LOS ANGELES

Brutally high temperatures threatened tens of millions of Americans yesterday, as numerous cities braced to break records under a relentless heat dome that has baked parts of the country all week.

The National Weather Service warned of an "extremely hot and dangerous weekend," with daytime highs routinely ranging between 10 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in the American West.

Residents of central and southern California, for example, could expect to see thermometers peaking at 38 to 43 degrees Celsius, it said.

The heat is forecast to remain anchored over the West for the weekend, "growing hotter in the South by early next week." Authorities have been sounding the alarm for days, advising people to avoid outdoor activities in the daytime and to be on the watch



People walk along the Strip during a heat wave in Las Vegas, Nevada, yesterday. (AFP)

for signs of dehydration, which can quickly become fatal in such temperatures.

In the hardest-hit areas, residents face a daily endurance marathon against the sun.

The Arizona state capital of Phoenix has recorded 15 straight days above 109 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius), with yesterday expected to reach well above that mark.

In Houston, residents have been asked to begin conserving energy from 2:00 to 10:00 pm yesterday through Monday, in an attempt by provider Reliant Energy to mitigate high demand.

One local news station in the city, KPRC, heralded the prospect of "finally seeing an end to this heat wave" — but only by "Sunday of next week." Heat waves are occurring more often and more intensely in major cities across the United States, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, with a frequency of six per year during the 2010s and 2020s compared to two per year during the 1960s.

California's famous Death Valley, one of the hottest places on Earth, is also likely to reach new peaks today, with the mercury possibly rising to 130

Fahrenheit (54 Celsius).

Smoke from wildfires in western Canada, meanwhile, was creating unhealthy air quality conditions in parts of the upper-central United States — similar to episodes in June when blazes in the Canadian province of Quebec cloaked the US East Coast in a noxious haze.

While it can be hard to attribute a particular weather event to climate change, scientists insist that global warming — linked to humanity's dependence on fossil fuels — is responsible for the multiplication and intensification of heat waves in the world.

Biden administration suspends satellite monitoring of Colombian coca crops

AP — MIAMI

The Biden administration has quietly ditched a key gauge used for decades to measure success in the war on drugs, suspending satellite monitoring of coca crops in Colombia as cocaine production surges in South America.

A State Department spokesperson said the move was "temporary" but gave no timeframe for data collection to resume or explain why it was suspended in the first place.

It was also unclear whether satellite surveys would continue in Peru and Bolivia, which together account for about half of coca production in the Andean region.

The move, first reported by Colombia's *El Tiempo* newspaper, has drawn outrage from Republicans in Congress from Florida, who have

A State Department spokesperson said the move was "temporary" but gave no timeframe for data collection to resume.

been calling for the president to decertify Colombia's government for failing to cooperate in U.S. anti-narcotics efforts.

But it tracks with leftist Colombian President Gustavo Petro's efforts to refocus law enforcement efforts away from the rural backwaters where coca is grown to instead chase large-scale smugglers and money launderers who reap the bulk of the drug trade's profits.

"We are constantly assessing the effectiveness of various

counternarcotics efforts and make changes to our efforts as needed," the State Department spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

The spokesperson gave the comment on condition of anonymity, citing agency policy. "We continue to work with the Government of Colombia on the monitoring of illicit coca crops."

Since at least 1987, the US government has published annual estimates of coca cultivation in Colombia. The numbers soared to an all-time high in 2020, when the US Office of National Drug Control Policy estimated that 245,000 hectares of land - an area three times the size of New York City - was planted with the illicit crop used to make cocaine. Last year's report showed production was almost unchanged in 2021 from the same high level.

Taiwan ties make 'more sense' than China: Paraguay's Pena

AFP — TAIPEI

Paraguay's formal ties with Taiwan make "more sense" than recognising China, and will be a greater boost to development in the South American nation, president-elect Santiago Pena said yesterday.

Paraguay is the last remaining South American nation to recognise Taiwan over Beijing, which claims the island as its territory and has spent decades convincing Taipei's allies to switch. Pena, who was elected in late April and will be inaugurated next month, has been in Taiwan since Tuesday and his schedule has been packed with meetings and stops, including at a bubble tea shop with the island's President Tsai Ing-wen.

He has vowed to stay on Taiwan's side during his five-year

tenure, a point he reiterated during an interview with AFP and other media yesterday.

"There are solid foundations and concrete facts that support why it makes more sense to have a relationship with Taiwan than with mainland China," he said.

Despite formally recognising Taiwan, Pena said there are "no constraints" to trade with China, with which Paraguay has "a very broad relationship" — China is Paraguay's top supplier of goods.

"But for a country like Paraguay — small and a very open economy — we need to diversify our markets," he said. Paraguay cannot depend on a single market because its "capacity of negotiation" is not the same as larger countries such as the United States and neighbouring Brazil, which counts China as its largest export market, he said.

"Reliance on a single market for some moments will be very good, but in other moments would be very, very bad." The former finance minister had vowed on the campaign trail to maintain formal ties with Taiwan. His win in May soothed Taipei's fear that Paraguay would ditch it in favour of Beijing.

Panama, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Honduras have all switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in recent years.

Paraguay has seen the experience of Costa Rica, Panama and Honduras have all switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in recent years.

"Our relationship with Taiwan is not an impediment to having trade relations with mainland China,"

Pena said, adding that "the restriction is the one placed by the People's Republic of China".

"We have no constraints on doing trade with China, we would love to do more trade with" China, he said. Beijing does not allow its diplomatic allies to also recognise Taipei, which only has formal ties with 13 countries.

China has ramped up diplomatic, military, and economic pressure on Taiwan in recent years because Tsai does not accept that the island is a part of Chinese territory. Beijing staged sea and air military exercises for two days around the island while Pena was visiting, according to Taiwan's defence ministry. This week's trip is not Pena's first to Taiwan -- he came to the island 24 years ago for training and called it a "tremendous experience" to return.

Appeals court pauses ban on US officials social media contacts

BLOOMBERG — WASHINGTON

A federal appeals court temporarily halted an order that would bar Biden administration officials from communicating with major social media companies while it considers the government's request for a longer-term pause.

The Justice Department is arguing that it should not be forced to comply with the nationwide injunction while it pursues a full appeal in the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeals court said on Friday that it will put the ban on hold - known as an administrative stay - while the government presses its case before the New Orleans-based circuit judges.

The appeal will be placed on an expedited schedule while a panel of judges assigned to the case decide on the government's request to keep the injunction on hold until the case is finished, according to Friday's order. The court didn't specify a schedule for those next steps.

Friday's order came from a three-judge panel assigned to handle the government's emergency request. A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment.

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IN BRIEF

Brazil wants 10-year pause on deep sea mining

AP — PUERTO RICO: Brazil on Friday urged a 10-year precautionary pause on deep sea mining in international waters just days after companies and countries were allowed to start applying for provisional licenses.

The call came during a two-week conference held by the International Seabed Authority, a regulatory UN agency based in Jamaica that failed to approve a set of rules and regulations to govern deep sea mining by a July 9 deadline.

The agency has not issued any provisional licenses, nor has it received any applications, although the government of Nauru is expected to apply soon for a license via the Canadian-based Metals Co.

The government of the tiny Pacific island said Friday that it wants to diversify its "limited economic base," but promised it would not sponsor an application during the UN conference, which ends July 21.

Nauru noted that its "good-faith decision" does not mean officials are withdrawing their plan to pursue deep sea mining.

"We're no longer in a 'what if' scenario, but 'what now?'" said Margo Deiye, Nauru's permanent representative to the International Seabed Authority.

Ex-Panama president barred from US over alleged graft

BLOOMBERG — PANAMA: Former Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela is "generally ineligible" for entry into the US due to his involvement in corruption, according to the US government.

"While serving as Panama's vice president and then president, Varela accepted bribes in exchange for improperly awarding government contracts," Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said in a statement on Thursday.

Varela served as Panama's leader from 2014 to 2019. In a post on Twitter, he said that he "managed with transparency more than \$20 billion in public works that today serve the people of Panama." "I was an honest president of a dignified and sovereign nation, and I will do all I have to defend my honor and that of my family," he wrote.

WILDFIRE RAMPAGE

Canada wildfires burn more than 10 million hectares this year

AFP — MONTREAL

Canadian wildfires have burned more than 10 million hectares (24.7 million acres) this year, a record-breaking figure which will continue to rise in the coming weeks, government data showed yesterday.

The prior all-time high occurred in 1989, when 7.3 million hectares were burned over the course of an entire year, according to national figures from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). In total, 4,088 fires have occurred since January, including many blazes that have scorched hundreds of thousands of hectares. Along the

As of yesterday, there were 906 active fires in the country, including 570 deemed out of control.

way, more than 150,000 people have been displaced.

Given the scale and multitude of fires, authorities have had to leave most of them to burn. The majority of fires have occurred in forests, far from inhabited areas — but they still have serious consequences for the environment. "We find ourselves this year with figures that are worse than our most pessimistic scenarios," Yan Boulanger, a

researcher at Canada's natural resources ministry, told AFP.

"What has been completely crazy is that there has been no respite since the beginning of May," he said. As of yesterday, there were 906 active fires in the country, including 570 deemed out of control — with no province spared. The dire situation has shifted across the country in recent months: In May, at the beginning of the wildfire season, Alberta in the west was the center of attention, with unprecedented blazes.

Several weeks later, Nova Scotia, an Atlantic province with a mild climate, took up the baton, followed by Quebec, where huge fires created plumes of smoke that blanketed



This handout photo provided by the British Columbia Wildfire Service on July 12, 2023, shows the Casper Creek wildfire located approximately 32km from Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada. (AFP)

even parts of the United States.

Since the beginning of July, the situation has taken a dramatic turn in British Columbia, with more than 250 fires starting in just three days last week,

mostly triggered by lightning. Much of Canada is suffering from severe drought, with months of below-average rainfall and warm temperatures. The country is warming faster than the rest of

the planet because of its geography, and has been confronted with extreme weather events whose intensity and frequency have increased due to climate change, scientists say.

