



JOINT ARAB ISLAMIC EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT

## Amir: Stop Israeli war crimes in Gaza



تميم بن حمد

@TamimBinHamad

The ongoing war crime in Gaza requires our Islamic countries to take a firm stance and deterrent steps that are commensurate with the weight of our countries, and consistent with the position and feelings of our peoples regarding what is happening. Israel committing genocide crimes with such recklessness does not only harm Arab and Islamic national security, but also the national security of our countries.



QNA — RIYADH

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani took part, with Their Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies Heads of State and delegations, in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which was held at the King Abdul Aziz International Conference Center in Riyadh yesterday.

The summit was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani along with Their Excellencies members of the official delegation accompanying H H the Amir, Their Highnesses and Excellencies members of participating delegations, representatives of regional and international organizations, and guests of the summit.

H H the Amir Sheikh Tamim



Who would have imagined that hospitals would be openly bombed in the twenty-first century, and that entire families would be erased from the records by the indiscriminate bombing of residential neighbourhoods and refugee camps, and that an entire people would be forcibly displaced with deplored and unacceptable plans to displace them.

As our hearts break with pain at the sight of the mass killing of children, women, and the elderly, and the human suffering, we wonder how long will the international community continue to treat Israel as if it is above international law.

bin Hamad Al Thani gave the following speech during the summit:

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Your Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies,

May Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you,

At the beginning, I extend my thanks for the blessed efforts of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and His Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for this summit, which comes at a crucial time in the history of our region.

Our summit is being convened today while our Palestinian brothers in the Gaza Strip are bearing the brunt of the atrocities of the Israeli war machine in a way beyond human tolerance.

The international community has failed to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities and take whatever action necessary to stop war crimes and massacres committed in the



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani taking part in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh, yesterday.

name of self-defence, and to put an end to this war of aggression.

As our hearts break with pain at the sight of the mass killing of children, women, and the elderly, and the human suffering, we wonder how long will the international community continue to treat Israel as if it is above international law, and how long will it be condoned to flout all international laws in its brutal, never-ending war on the country's indigenous population.

What is happening in Gaza constitutes a threat at every level, and even at the level of wars of aggression there are precedents which are being

We are also continuing to support all regional and international diplomatic efforts for de-escalation, stemming the bloodshed, and protecting civilians, including making efforts in humanitarian mediation to release the hostages.



We demand that the United Nations send international teams to immediately investigate the Israeli allegations and claims used to justify the bombing of hospitals, although there is no justification for such a crime.



recorded. How did bombing hospitals become a normal thing. At first it is denied and the victims are accused, then it is justified by the existence of tunnels underneath these places, then it becomes something that does not need to be justified after feelings become blunted and eyes become acclimated to seeing tragedies. These are unparalleled things.

We found in this war or before it, during the siege of Gaza, a noticeable increase in the levels of immunity among some countries that claim to protect international law and the world order.

We have seen their immunity to the scenes of indiscriminate killing of Palestinian

civilians, whether children or women, as well as the bombing of hospitals and shelters, no longer affecting them, and their levels of immunity have reached the point of seeing the bodies of innocent people being eaten by dogs, and these countries do not do anything. Glory be to God, the strength of immunity is only against our Palestinian brothers.

By allowing their justification, the international system fails itself before it fails us. Who would have imagined that hospitals would be openly bombed in the twenty-first century, and that entire families would be erased from the records by the indiscriminate bombing of residential neighbourhoods and refugee camps, and that an entire people would be forcibly displaced with deplored and unacceptable plans to displace them. All this unfolds in full view of the world. This is coupled with blatant racist statements by Israeli leaders that are not denounced by their allied countries' leaders.

The State of Qatar is unflinching in its historical position in support of the steadfastness of the brotherly Palestinian people and their just cause.

We continue, with our partners in the region and the international community, to provide humanitarian aid and work to expedite its delivery to those in need, despite continuous Israeli intransigence to hinder it.

In this regard, we demand that safe humanitarian corridors be permanently opened to allow for an unhindered and unconditional delivery of aid to those affected and afflicted.

We categorically reject the use of arbitrariness in providing humanitarian aid and threatening to bomb it as a means of pressure and political blackmail. We stress the need to make this aid accessible to all parts of the Gaza Strip. This is the weakest level of faith, and the least that we can do.

We are also continuing to support all regional and inter-



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national diplomatic efforts for de-escalation, stemming the bloodshed, and protecting civilians, including making efforts in humanitarian mediation to release the hostages.

We hope to reach a humanitar-ian truce in the near future to spare the Strip from further worsening of the humanitarian catastrophe that has befallen it.

We reiterate our firm position to condemn all forms of targeting civilians, regardless of their ethnic, religious or national background. ➤P3

### FINANCIAL REWARDS FOR WINNERS

## 60th School Holy Quran Contest begins today

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH  
THE PENINSULA

The 60th School Holy Quran Contest with over 22,000 contestants will begin today (November 12, 2023), the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has announced.

The contest will run until November 23 where the winners will get valuable prizes. Over 22,000 students from 532 government and private schools of all grades and kindergartens registered for this annual holy Quran competition.

The tests of the competitions will be from 7.30 am to 11am. Four mosques have been designated for boy students with 46 committees for holding the tests. They are Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque in Doha, Hamza bin Abdul Mutalib Mosque in Al Wakrah, Othman bin Affan Mosque in Al Khor, Al Mana Mosque in Al Waab, in addition to Al Maha Academy.

The Ministry designated nine holy Quran learning centres with 53 committees for holding tests of the contest for girl students.

They are Hessa Bint Mohammed Al Muslim Center in Hazm Al Markhiya, Khawla Bint Al Azwar Center in Al Khor, Rawdat Bint Mohammed Center in Muaither, Abdul Rahman Dawish Fakhro Center in Al Wakrah, Alia Bint Khalfan Al



وزارة الأوقاف والشئون الإسلامية  
Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs

Suwaidi Center in Rawdat Al Hamama, Kamila Bint Issa Al Kuwari Center in Al Kharaitiyat, Mohammed bin Hassan Al Sulaiti Centre in Al Maamoura, Hind Bint Umayyah Al Makhzoumia Center in Manasir, in addition to Al Arqam Academy.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs allocated financial rewards to all students who succeeded in the competition. ➤P4

### BILATERAL RELATIONS

## 'Room for growth in Qatar-Angola ties'

AYENI OLUSEGUN  
THE PENINSULA

As Angola marks its 48th Independence Day (November 11), the country's envoy to Qatar noted that both countries have room for expanding bilateral and economic ties.

Ambassador H E Antonio Coelho Ramos da Cruz, in a statement to *The Peninsula*, said both countries established diplomatic relations in 2006 and have since maintained significant relations, including high-level visits that have strengthened political ties and cooperation in regional and international affairs, without detracting from economic activity.

Cruz cited the official visit of the Angolan President H E João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço to Doha in 2019, during which several agreements were signed.

"Since the signing of the various cooperation agreements, the two countries have used the economic aspect as a fundamental tool to create a favourable environment for investment and business. In addition to the energy sector, Angola offers opportunities in the mineralogy,



The two countries established diplomatic relations in 2006 and have since maintained significant relations, including high-level visits that have strengthened political ties and cooperation in regional and international affairs, without detracting from economic activity.

Antonio Coelho

Ramos da Cruz

agriculture, infrastructure and tourism sectors without losing sight of education and culture," stated Cruz, whose country's embassy in Doha opened in February this year.

"The bilateral relationship is concentrated in the energy sector (oil and gas) where Qatar, one of the largest producers and exporters of these commodities, is interested in investing in agriculture, mineralogy, infrastructure and tourism. Although the level of diplomatic relations has evolved positively with a focus on the energy sector, the potential for cooperation between the two countries has not yet reached the levels of development we want, but there is plenty of room for progress," he added.

Both countries' agreements include a protocol for establishing political consultation mechanisms to share and harmonise positions on bilateral, regional, continental and international issues. There is also an agreement to abolish visas for diplomatic and special passports. Recently, Angola exempted Qatari citizens from short-term tourist visas for up to 30 days per entry and 90 days annually.

Meanwhile, other agreements cover a mutual promotion and protection of investments based on the sustainable economic development of the parties. ➤P3

### EDITORIAL 09

#### Call for global action

IN A strongly worded speech at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh yesterday, the Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has once again urged the international community to play its part in immediate cessation of Israel's illegal military operations in Gaza.

#### BUSINESS 01

#### Business continuity is key to national resiliency

OVER 130 companies will take part in the upcoming third edition of the Business Continuity and Resilience Conference which will discuss the key role that risk management plays in ensuring the development process of diverse projects.

#### SPORT 07

#### Alex Marquez wins Malaysian MotoGP sprint

ALEX MARQUEZ won the Malaysian MotoGP sprint race yesterday at Sepang ahead of championship rival duo Jorge Martin and Francesco Bagnaia, who saw his lead at the top cut to 11 points.

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نوفمبر  
November  
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نوفمبر  
November  
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Smoked turkey breast, Local4.50 QR  
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## Amir, Iran President discuss Gaza situation



QNA — RIYADH

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met President of Iran H E Dr. Ebrahim Raisi on the margin of the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two countries, in addition to discussing a number of regional and international

issues, especially the developments of the situations in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Chief of the Amiri Diwan H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Head of the State Security H E Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khulaifi, and a

number of senior officials, members of the official delegation.

On the Iranian side, it was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia H E Alireza Enayati, Deputy Chief of Staff for Political Affairs to Iran's President Mohammad Jamshidi, and Special Aide at the President Office H E Mehdi Mujahed.

## PM, US Secretary of State discuss Gaza ceasefire, aid efforts

QNA — DOHA

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani received a phone call from US Secretary of State H E Antony Blinken yesterday.

The deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip was discussed during the phone call.

During the call, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign underscored the need for concerted regional and international diplomatic efforts to reach an immediate ceasefire and to permanently open the Rafah crossing to ensure the flow of relief and humanitarian aid convoys to the Palestinian people besieged in the Gaza Strip.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign stressed Qatar's continued mediation efforts to release hostages, noting that the continued bombing doubles the humanitarian catastrophe in the strip and complicates the efforts being made.

## Amir: Stop Israeli war crimes in Gaza

FROM PAGE 1

We also condemn in the strongest possible terms the targeting of health and educational facilities and justify this with groundless allegations. In this context, we demand that the United Nations send international teams to immediately investigate the Israeli allegations and claims used to justify the bombing of hospitals, although there is no justification for such a crime.

Honourable audience,

You all know the position and feelings of our people regarding what is happening, and there is no need to elaborate on the matter. Difference over this or that issue should not be a justification for disagreement over taking a firm stance vis-a-vis the ongoing crime in Gaza, nor should we be satisfied with denunciation

and condemnation statements. Rather, we must take deterrent steps to stop the ongoing war crime, in a way that will also project the weight and leverage of Islamic states. Israel's continuation of its aggression and committing crimes of genocide with such recklessness will not harm only Arab and Islamic national security, but also the national security of our countries.

In conclusion, we stress that the only sustainable solution to this issue is the one that establishes the foundations of justice in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, and this is the solution that the international community have called for, and which we adhere to out of our conviction in the right of the Palestinian people to enjoy goodness

and well-being and the right to self-determination concerning its independent state.

And because we believe that the Israeli plans in the aftermath of this criminal war are a repetition of its colonial policies that have thwarted all peace initiatives and even agreements and led to all these crises.

The basic thing is that it refuses to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people, and only thinks about security arrangements while continuing the colonialist mentality and its practices towards the indigenous people.

The international community's failure to oblige Israel to stop the ongoing crime during our meeting is a license to continue this disastrous approach.

May Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you.

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Amir sends congratulations to President of Poland

QNA -DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of Poland H E Andrzej Duda on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Poland H E Mateusz Morawiecki on the occasion.

### Amir sends congratulations to President of Angola

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 Angola H E Joao Lourenco on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

## 'Room for growth in Qatar-Angola ties'

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, there is a comprehensive agreement in the sectors of industry, mining, energy, agriculture, communications, transport, construction, labour and tourism.

Qatar and Angola also have a memorandum of understanding between the Qatar Ports Management Company (Mwani) and the Maritime Port Institute of Angola (IMPA) for managing port and maritime systems in Angola. In oil and gas, QatarEnergy has been investing in the Angolan oil sector since 2020.

Also, there is a tender for the concession to manage the terminals at the Port of Lobito

(for general cargo and containers and the mineral terminal), the Port of Luanda and other opportunities, both in Cabinda and Namibe.

This agreement will allow Qatari ships to transport Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) exported by Angola from the Angola LNG plant in Soyo, in the province of Zaire.

According to the envoy, the priority is to facilitate the implementation of the agreements and cooperation protocols that have been signed, create conditions to strengthen cooperation between the two countries and promote greater awareness of Angola and the countless opportunities it

offers to investors, business people and Qatari society in general.

He disclosed that the main aim is to sign an agreement establishing the 'Bilateral Commission' between Angola and Qatar – a process he noted is well 'advanced.'

"More than just signing these instruments, we are evaluating the means of implementing trade cooperation mechanisms between the countries, and at the same time, we are aiming in the first half of 2024 to hold the Bilateral Joint Commission. This will be a time when more senior officials from the two countries can meet again," he added.

## Fire Station: Artist In Residence invites artists to apply for Paris Residency 2024

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

Fire Station: Artist in Residence has launched an open call, inviting artists to apply for a three-month residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France.

The 2024 Paris residency programme will accept applications from November 12 until December 2, 2024. The Paris international residency programme is intended to promote cultural exchange and provide Qatari artists with the opportunity to develop their artistic skills in the heart of the city's

vibrant artistic scene. It supports residents by honing their artistic practice, whilst allowing them to network among international art communities and explore diverse cultural perspectives. Applications are open for Qatari artists and artists born to Qatari mothers.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and practice the art of painting, drawing, sculpture, media art, installation, graphic arts, illustration, photography, filmmaking, sound art, and design or a related discipline.

Khalifa Ahmad Al Obaidli,

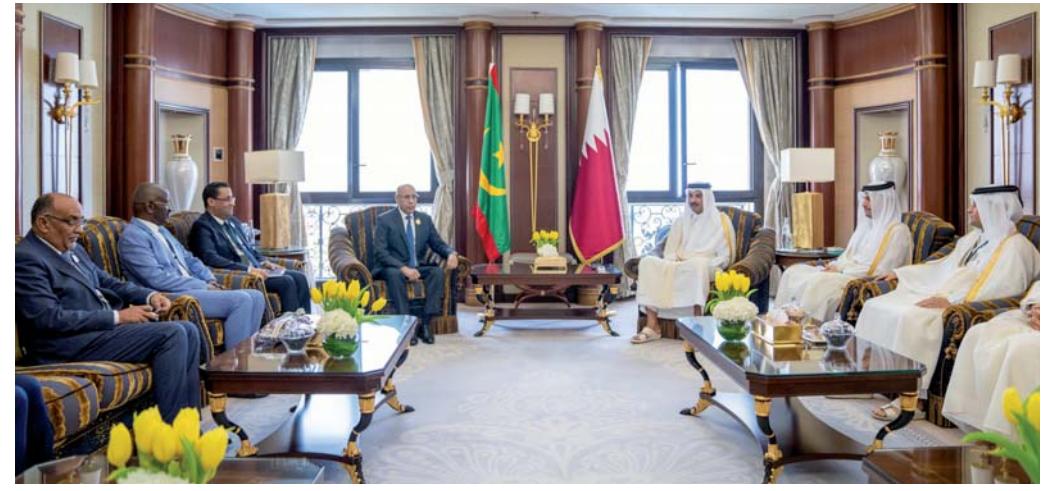
Director of Fire Station, said, "We are delighted to announce the commencement of the application process for Fire Station's 2024 Paris Residency programme. Programmes such as these underline our commitment to forming strategic partnerships with organisations that contribute to the enrichment of the artistic landscape in Qatar. We look forward with great anticipation to witnessing the creative output from the next generation of our Paris Residency."

Saida Al Khulaifi, Head of Programmes and Exhibitions of Fire Station, added: "Our Paris Residency programme presents a unique opportunity for artists to level-up their practice and broaden their horizons by immersing themselves in a different artistic environment. It also allows both established and aspiring artists in Qatar to embrace the international art community and actively participate in shaping the global artistic discourse. We take great pride in the ongoing success of the programme and look forward to welcoming the submission of applications for the first cycle of 2024."



Fire Station building.

## Amir, Mauritania President review ties



QNA — RIYADH

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met President of Mauritania H E Mohamed Ould Cheikh Mohamed Al Ghazouani on the sidelines of the extraordinary joint Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh yesterday.

They discussed relations between the two brotherly countries and the prospects for strengthening them, in addition to discussing a number of

regional and international issues, especially the developments of the situations in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Chief of the Amiri Diwan H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Head of the State Security H E Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khulaifi, and a number of

senior officials, members of the official delegation.

On the Mauritanian side it was attended by Minister in-charge of the Office of the President of the Republic H E Mokhtar Ould Ajay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad H E Mohamed Salem Ould Marzouk, Minister of Finance H E Isselmou Ahmed Mbadi, and Minister of Petroleum, Mines and Energy H E Nani Ould Achrouqa.



## Malcolm Gladwell in conversation with Dean Safwan Masri



Malcolm Gladwell is the author of five New York Times bestsellers – *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, *What the Dog Saw*, and *David and Goliath*. He has been named one of the 100 most influential people by TIME magazine and one of the Foreign Policy's Top Global Thinkers.

Sunday, November 12, 2023

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Auditorium

Georgetown University in Qatar

RSVP





## Qatar participates in meeting of OIC FMs

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani chaired the delegation of Qatar at the Preparatory Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for the Eighth Extraordinary Islamic Summit. The extraordinary summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia, was held yesterday to discuss the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, and to seek to issue a resolution aimed at an immediate halt to military operations, providing civil protection, releasing hostages and prisoners, and stopping the forced displacement of the Palestinian people in compliance with international norms and laws and common humanitarian principles.



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani meeting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany H E Annalena Baerbock in Riyadh yesterday.

## Qatar calls for efforts to reach Gaza truce

QNA – RIYADH

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany H E Annalena Baerbock, on the sideline of the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh yesterday.

The meeting addressed the developments in Gaza Strip and

the Occupied Palestinian territories.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister stressed the need for concerted regional and international diplomatic efforts to reach an immediate ceasefire, and to permanently open the Rafah crossing to ensure the flow of relief convoys and humanitarian aid to the Palestinian besieged in the Gaza Strip, expressing Qatar's deep concern over the catastrophic deterioration of

the humanitarian conditions in the strip.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed Qatar's categorical rejection of the repeated crimes of the Israeli occupation forces by targeting civilian establishments, including hospitals, schools and population centres in the Gaza Strip, and considered them a dangerous escalation that portends dire consequences for the security and stability of the region.

## Qatar, Peru sign air services agreement

QNA – LIMA

Qatar and Peru have signed an air services agreement.

The agreement was signed in Lima on behalf of the Qatari side by Mohamed Faleh Alhajri, in charge of managing Civil

Aviation Authority.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Peru by Minister of Transport and Communications H E Raul Ricardo Perez Reyes Espejo, in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Javier Gonzalez Olaechea.

Following the signing ceremony, a bilateral talks session was held to discuss and review aspects of cooperation between Qatar and Peru and to discuss ways to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries in the field of air transport.

## Qatar, Rwanda to enhance cooperation in communication, IT fields

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Qatar and Rwanda recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the field of communications and information technology during a visit by Minister of Communications and Information Technology H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai and a delegation from Qatar to Rwanda.

The visit is part of the state's efforts to enhance collaborations in the field

of information and communication technology in Africa.

The MoU was signed by Al Mannai and Rwanda's Minister of Information Technology, Communications, and Innovation H E Paula Ingabire. The areas of collaboration include public key infrastructure, formulation of information and communication technology policies and strategies, support for research and development in artificial intelligence, exchange of

experiences in digital transformation and e-commerce, cooperation in smart cities, and in cross-border data flow.

Al Mannai stated, "This collaboration is a testament to our commitment to promoting innovation and technological advancement on both local and international levels."

The partnership aims to strengthen synergy for mutual growth and development, fostering knowledge and resource exchange in various key areas of the information and communication technology sector.



Minister of Communications and Information Technology H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai (left) and Rwanda's Minister of Information Technology, Communications, and Innovation H E Paula Ingabire signing the MoU.

## Youth forum at Expo highlights Qatar's efforts for environment

QNA – DOHA

Expo 2023 Doha hosted the youth awareness forum organised by Al Adaam Ambassadors Program and sponsored by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, with the aim of shedding light on ways to preserve natural resources, reduce pollution, and preserve biodiversity.

Moderated by Manar Al Suwaidi, the forum was held under the title 'Youth

Environmental Awareness for a Greener Future' and focused on the role of youth in the field of environmental sustainability.

A group of young people spoke during the event. They reviewed the efforts and contributions of Qatar in the field of sustainable environmental development and preservation by reducing the negative impacts resulting from urban and economic growth and rationalising the use of natural

resources. They also discussed the concept of sustainability through the axes of sustainable development, biodiversity, water sustainability and renewable energy, environmental biotechnology, and nutritional aspect.

Al Anoud Al Maqbali discussed Qatar's great role and its efforts in reducing food waste, contributing to achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030, as Qatar has developed a strategy to implement initiatives based on best practices to reduce food waste.

## 60th School Holy Quran Contest begins today

FROM PAGE 1

The 60th School Holy Quran Contest is being organised by the Department of Religious Call and Guidance at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The competition aims to preserve the Book of God in the hearts of generations, and to pay attention to the Arabic language because it is the language of the Holy Quran, while sharpening the enthusiasm of students to compete in the most honourable field of knowledge, which is the Book of God Almighty.

The purpose of the contest is raising generations imbued with the morals of the noble Quran who follow the example of the prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace, "whose character was the Quran," and raising generations to love the Book of God and to have the Quran alive in their hearts, and then reflect on it and act upon its guidance and rulings.



QFFD announces the following Public Tender:

SN	TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	TENDER FEE (USD)	TENDER BOND (USD)	CLOSING DATE
1	QFFD/PFP-0/PDS/0060/15-2023	THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, PROVISION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHING WORKS IN ALMATY - OTEGEN BATYR, KAZAKHSTAN.	2000 \$	450,000 \$	15-January-2024

- ❖ Tender Document of the above Tender is available for collection via email from 13-11-2023 until Bid closing date.
- ❖ Interested parties shall first deposit the appropriate Tender Fee (non-refundable) as mentioned above; payable to:
 

Bank Name: Masraf Al-Rayyan Bank  
 Account Name: Qatar Fund for Development  
 Account Number: 0003-102031-202  
 IBAN: QA14MAFR000000000003102031202  
 (Company Name, Tender Name & Tender Number must be mentioned in the deposit slip)
- ❖ The Tender document will be issued upon receiving a copy of the Commercial Registration, Classification Certificate (if any) and proof of payment via email: [overseas.tender@qatarfund.org.qa](mailto:overseas.tender@qatarfund.org.qa).
- ❖ Tender document submitted should be accompanied with a Tender Bond in accordance with the tender document issued in a form of a Bank Guarantee from one of the local Banks registered in Qatar valid for 180 days from date of closing date.
- ❖ The Closing time will be no later than 12:00 noon, on the closing date mentioned above; any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- ❖ Tender document to be submitted at:
 

SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE  
 Qatar Fund for Development  
 L9 Floor, Laffan Tower  
 P.O. Box 23366  
 Doha, Qatar



## QATAR ELECTRICITY AND WATER COMPANY Q.P.S.C STATE OF QATAR

Announces the following Tender:

Sr. No	Tender No. & Description	Tender Category	Description	Tender Bond (QAR)
1.	Supply of Consumables on Call off Basis for Three years (Tender No. OT/09/CONSUMABLES)	Category - 1	General Consumables	42,857.00
		Category - 2	Gaskets	12,421.00
		Category - 3	Bearings	37,769.00
		Category - 4	Bolts	15,707.00
		All Categories		108,754.00

Bidder has the option to quote for single or multiple categories and the Bid Bond value should correspond to the total value(s) specified next to each category/ies in the table above.

- Document for the above Tender can be downloaded from the company website [www.qewc.com/qewc/tenders](http://www.qewc.com/qewc/tenders)
- Closing Date and Time: 30.11.2023 at 11:00 AM
- Offer must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Tender bond must be included with the offers from a local bank and valid for 120 days from closing date (One Tender Bond only irrespective of no. of the Categories quoted).
- Tender bids to be deposited in the Tender Box situated at the Purchase Department of QEWC, and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Head of Tender and Purchase Committee.
- Location : Qatar Navigation Tower in Al-Dafna Area, Floor No.48, Zone 63

For More Information please contact us via email [3080@qewc.com](mailto:3080@qewc.com)

## JOINT ARAB ISLAMIC EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT

## Amir's speech at Riyadh summit commended

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Professor Mariam Al Ali Al Maadeed, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Qatar University praised the speech of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit.

"The speech was important and courageous and consistent with Qatar's firm position toward the Arab core issue, the cause of Palestine," said Professor Al Maadeed.

She added that the speech was directed to the international community to remind stakeholders of their legal and moral responsibilities regarding the killing and destruction taking place in Gaza by Israeli occupation forces.

"The Amir rejected arbitrariness in the provision of humanitarian aid, threats, and political blackmail. H H the Amir emphasized the harmony of the position of the people in Qatar and in the Islamic world in taking a firm position, as the Amir reiterated the



The speech was directed to the international community to remind stakeholders of their legal and moral responsibilities regarding the killing and destruction taking place in Gaza by Israeli occupation forces.

**Professor Mariam Al Ali Al Maadeed**

H H the Amir explained that the Israeli aggression on Gaza violated all humanitarian laws and norms and international agreements by the bombing of hospitals and the annihilation of families through its mass murder of the Palestinian people."

**Dr. Fatima Ali Hussain Al Kubaisi**

unwavering support of the state of Qatar to the Palestinians and their justice cause," she further said.

Dr. Fatima Ali Hussain Al Kubaisi, Associate Professor – Dean of College of Arts and Science (CAS) at Qatar University, said that H H the Amir's speech at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh yesterday was comprehensive and found good response among the Arab people because he spoke openly describing the ongoing Israel aggression on the Palestinians in Gaza Strip as collective punishment and called the happenings in their real names that reflect the true situation.

She said: "H H the Amir explained that the Israeli aggression on Gaza violated all humanitarian laws and norms and international agreements by the bombing of hospitals and the annihilation of families through its mass murder of the Palestinian people."

"Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani pointed out the way the international community is handling the war in Gaza which is disappointing. The international community

has failed to deter Israel from the ongoing aggression on civilians," she further said.

The Dean of CAS noted that the Arab people followed the visits of H H the Amir to three Arab countries, namely UAE, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. "The Arab people sensed the keenness of Qatar's leadership to deter aggression against the Palestinians and Qatar's adherence to the rights of the Palestinian people, and this was clearly emphasized in H H's speech during the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit."

"H H the Amir spoke about the miserable situation of the people in Gaza rejecting the unjust Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, calling for action at all levels to deter this injustice against the Palestinian civilians. The diplomatic movement carried out by Qatar and the speech of His Highness confirms that the State of Qatar is represented by its leadership and its people, adopting the Palestinian cause and keen to restore its position among Arab and Islamic issues by

supporting the rights of the Palestinian people and deterring Israeli aggression," Fatima Al Kubaisi said.

Dr. Talal Abdulla Al Emadi, Dean of College of Law at Qatar University, lauded the speech H H the Amir delivered yesterday at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit.

"The Amir of the State of Qatar, H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, delivered a very powerful speech. While highlighting Qatar's unconditional solidarity with the Palestinian people, he insisted that international organisations and states should take all necessary measures to prevent further crimes from happening," Dr Al Emadi said in a statement.

"H H the Amir reiterated that foundational principles of international humanitarian law must be respected in times of war. He emphasized the principle of distinction, according to which only military objectives can be targeted. Hospitals, safety zones and other civil objects are immune from attack. In his insightful speech, the Amir also underlined that Qatar is

committed to supporting any de-escalation efforts via diplomatic means."

Dr. Al Emadi said that the Summit resulted in a resolution consisting of 31 clauses. "The resolution strongly condemns Israeli aggression against Palestine and stresses that the commission of international crimes, including war crimes, shall stop. Furthermore, Arab-Islamic leaders called on the international community and the United Nations, in particular the Security Council to take action to stop these crimes and hold Israel accountable."

He added: "It is worth noting that there are several competent international commissions of inquiry for the situation in Palestine. These international bodies should continue their fact-finding efforts to accumulate evidence proving the atrocities that have been taking place. This evidence can certainly assist the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in his ongoing investigation on the situation in Palestine and the occupied territories."



H H the Amir delivered a very powerful speech. While highlighting Qatar's unconditional solidarity with the Palestinian people, he insisted that international organisations and states should take all necessary measures to prevent further crimes from happening

**Dr. Talal Abdulla Al Emadi**

## Turkish envoy lauds Amir's speech

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Ambassador of Türkiye to Qatar, H E Dr. Mustafa Göksu (pictured) has lauded the speech of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at the joint Arab-Islamic summit held in Riyadh yesterday.

Ambassador stressed what was stated in H H the Amir's speech regarding the necessity of permanently opening safe humanitarian crossings to deliver aid to the affected in Gaza without any obstacles or conditions.

He noted that the international community had failed in the test after the recent events in Gaza, which H H the Amir said. "The international community has failed to assume its legal and moral responsibilities and take action to stop war crimes and massacres committed in the name of self-defense, and put an end to this aggressive war."

Meanwhile, the Ambassador said that Doha and Ankara agree on what H H the Amir said about the firm and historical position of Qatar in support of the steadfastness of the brotherly Palestinian



people and their just cause.

Göksu also praised Qatar's efforts to reduce the escalation, which H H the Amir stated, "We are continuing to support all regional and international diplomatic efforts to reduce the escalation, stop bloodshed, and protect civilians, including making efforts in humanitarian mediation to release the hostages, and we hope to reach a humanitarian truce in the near future to curb the worsening humanitarian catastrophe."

## Shura Council participates in Asian parliamentary meeting in Baghdad

ONA – BAGHDAD

The Shura Council participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs of the Asian Parliamentary Association (APA), which was held the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

Their Excellencies Members of the Shura Council Eng. Ahmed bin Hitmi Al Hitmi and Nasser bin Mutarrif Al Humaidi, represented the Council at the meeting.

During the meeting, members of the bureau were elected. The meeting also reviewed the report of the Secretary-General of the APA on the work of the committee, and discussed a number of draft resolutions.

The attendees agreed that only one topic would be raised during the meeting, as they unanimously agreed to choose the Israeli aggression against Gaza and the genocide and massacres that the

Palestinian people are subjected to as the topic of discussion.

The meeting issued a statement, in which the committee affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to struggle and legitimate resistance by all available means in order to establish the independent State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of return of the refugees who were displaced from Palestine in 1948 in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 194.

The statement called for an immediate and unconditional halt to all forms of hostilities, an end to the unjust siege on Gaza, and the delivery of urgent relief aid to the Palestinian people.

Attendees of the meeting also stressed the necessity of establishing a fund for the reconstruction of cities destroyed by the Israeli entity, calling on the international community to adopt unified standards

in dealing with similar issues, and to put pressure on the Israeli side to stop the war immediately and adhere to international humanitarian laws and conventions.

The statement called for supporting granting Palestine full membership in the United Nations, and rejecting and stopping the Israeli entity's plans aimed at annexing the entire Palestinian Jordan Valley region, the northern Dead Sea, and the settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The attendees expressed their rejection of the Israeli entity's plans aimed at displacing the people of Gaza and the West Bank outside the borders of the Palestinian state.

The statement stressed the necessity of ending the occupation and aggression of the Israeli entity on all Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories, to achieve peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East.

## SYMPOSIUM

## 'Continuous engagement with Taliban key to solving issues'



Fatima Gailani (second right) speaking during the panel session on 'Education in Afghanistan Systemic Challenges.'

Gailani stressed that the Muslim world has a responsibility to talk to the Taliban and find a solution to the problem.

AYENI OLUSEGUN

THE PENINSULA

More than two years after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, with no formal recognition from any country, engagement with the Taliban remains the right way to go, the former head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society has stressed.

Fatima Gailani, a prominent member of the peace negotiators and one of only four women in the 21-member team for the Doha Peace talks, has urged that keeping the line open and engaging with the Taliban remain the key to solving widespread issues in the strife-torn country.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* on the sidelines of the 'Afghanistan Regional Symposium: Confronting the Impasse' organised by Georgetown University Qatar (GU-Q), Gailani said previous discussions have yielded some results.

"From outside, Afghanistan is seeing what impact engagement has had on the behaviour of the Taliban. Over and over again, we will insist on things that we know from



Dean of GU-Q Dr. Safwan Masri delivers his opening address during the symposium.

economic aspirations of the Afghan people.

In his remarks, the dean of GU-Q, Dr. Safwan Masri, said, "The people of Afghanistan face an oncoming humanitarian and economic crisis that is more urgent than ever. While international support for humanitarian aid is essential, it alone cannot fully address the underlying causes of Afghanistan's deteriorating situation, including the nation's political strife, ongoing conflicts, and the intervention of external factors and actors."

"Having this particular conversation in Doha is especially important given the mediation role that Qatar has played in Afghanistan. There is a moral and pragmatic demand for the international community to

assume responsibility for the country's recovery," he added.

Also, a panel session including Gailani, Suleiman bin Shah, founder and CEO of the Kabul-based Catalysts.Af, Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, and Hammed Hakimi from the Atlantic Council analysed how engagement can help women access available education pathways, safeguard their fundamental rights, and the need for transformative education.

Other sessions covered "Reporting from Conflict Zones: Media Resilience in Afghanistan," "Afghanistan Imagined by Afghans," and "Climate Change and Natural Resource Governance."

agency recently disclosed that over one million girls are affected by the ban. However, estimates put five million already out of school before the Taliban takeover due to a lack of facilities and other reasons.

Women and girls have also been excluded from public spaces like parks and most jobs. The ban has triggered global condemnation, with many Muslim countries calling the move un-Islamic.

Gailani stressed that the Muslim world has a responsibility to talk to the Taliban and find a solution to the problem. According to Gailani, it is imperative to keep the engagement going because, as Muslims, education is not just a right; it is a duty.

"It is my duty as a Muslim woman to be educated and to work. There is also a contradiction from the people outside Afghanistan. There are many institutions where women are allowed to work and study. Moraa University has a capacity of 10,000 students and only 80 students presently. What is the excuse?" Gailani stressed.

Meanwhile, the one-day symposium brought together leading experts, scholars, and policymakers to share deep insights on the fundamental challenges facing Afghanistan and the rest of the world since the Taliban regained government control in 2021. Discussions advanced valuable analysis on solutions that can support the social and

# Over 650 participants attend first day of Sidra Medicine PMFG 2023



Speakers and Moderators for the first day of the PMFG 2023 Conference.

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

**S**idra Medicine (a QF entity) welcomed over 650 attendees, partners and exhibitors and 50 local and international speakers, to the first day of its annual Precision Medicine and Functional Genomics (PMFG 2023) Conference.

Sessions on Day 1 of PMFG 2023 focused on large scale population genomic programs from Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Session keynote speaker, Sir Mark Caulfield, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology from Queen Mary University of London, was introduced by the British Ambassador to Qatar, H.E Jonathan Wilks CMG.

Sir Caulfield presented the lessons learned from the 100,000 genomes project while Director of the Qatar Genome Program Dr. Said Ismail discussed Qatar Genome becoming a national enabler of precision medicine. PMFG

2023 also featured an address by Dr. Salih Ali Al Marri, the Assistant Minister of Health Affairs from Qatar's Ministry of Public Health.

In his remarks, Dr. Al Marri noted: "The path to precision medicine and the programs and knowledge-sharing that will be taking place in conferences like this, is evidence to the efforts being made to not only improve healthcare but to personalize it for the benefit of all. I am proud of the roles that Qatar-led and Qatar-based health, educational and research organizations are doing in their respective fields – to support the country's health strategy."

The second session on Day 1 focused on the clinical research programs at Sidra Medicine highlighting the achievements and real-world impact of clinical research on genetic and metabolic disorders, cancer, fertility complications, immune dysregulation and neurological disorders.

PMFG 2023 Conference Chairs, Dr. Bernice Lo and Dr. Matteo Avella said: "We are thrilled that to date, our hospital has enrolled nearly 10,000 families in several of our clinical and genetic research programs. They have become integral partners in helping us understand rare diseases but also to find better treatment protocols and cures for diseases and health challenges ranging from diabetes, autism, cancer, infertility and more."

Dr. Khalid Fakhro, Chief Research Officer at Sidra Medicine said: "It gives me great pride to see how far Sidra Medicine's precision medicine journey has come. Thanks to our key partners from the health, education and research sector and most importantly our patients and their families – we have made a significant contribution to the genomic research landscape in the Arab world through several groundbreaking programs and publications of hundreds of studies

in high-impact journals.

The second day of PMFG 2023 on today will feature: Morning Session: The Power of Precision Medicine and Genomics in Pediatric Healthcare. Keynote speaker, Dr. Ed Liu, Jackson Labs, Professor, President Emeritus and Honorary Fellow – will be discussing Path to Precision Medicine: Advancing Human Health and Economic Impact at a National Scale.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Kingsmore, President/CEO of Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine will be discussing Rapid genome sequencing for newborn screening and inpatient diagnosis of genetic diseases.

A panel session on "Precision medicine and functional genomics revolutionize pediatric healthcare". Afternoon Session: Genomic Insights and Innovations, From Single-Cell Sequencing to Public Health Applications.

the team has made an agreement with the implementing partner, JNRCS, and coordinated with UNHCR to refer the patients who needed general surgeries.

A public invitation was announced for Syrian refugees out of camps, the poorest Jordanians from the host community, and vulnerable groups from other nationalities in Jordan.

Then, the candidates received medical examinations and assessment, to ensure their eligibility and real need for surgery. So far, 74 surgeries have been performed for 73 Syrian and Jordanian children, with a completion percentage of 92%.

QRCS covered the costs of transportation for the patients and their families to and from the hospital. Lack of money is one of the main reasons why the patients cannot show up for hospital appointments.



QRCS is implementing a general pediatric surgery project in Amman.

## Qatar Tourism leads 42 local partners at WTM in London



Qatar Tourism officials at the World Travel Market in London.

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

**Q**atar Tourism represented Qatar at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, leading a delegation of 42 esteemed hospitality and corporate partners.

The event took place from November 6–8 at ExCeL London and brought together more than 51,000 senior travel industry professionals, distinguished speakers, and representatives from global tourism boards.

On the sidelines of the event, Qatar Tourism held several constructive meetings. The delegation featured 39 hospitality partners and three corporate partners including

Discover Qatar, Qatar Airways, and Expo 2023 Doha.

Spread over 609 sqm, Qatar Tourism's two-storey pavilion showcased the destination's one-of-a-kind attractions, while demonstrating the country's unique blend of modernity and cultural authenticity. It also featured a range of immersive experiences including a Whale Shark activation which allowed visitors to step into an oceanic enclave to witness the beauty of this endangered species up close. In addition, the Dynamic Souq Experience transported visitors to a bustling traditional market with real-time sights and sounds from Souq Waqif.

By utilising cutting-edge

projection mapping technology, the booth's windows served as portals to the authentic exteriors of the Souq.

Visitors enjoyed a fully immersive room with panoramic views of iconic destinations across Qatar. Within this space, visitors could explore and interact with Qatar's distinctive tourism offerings in real-time.

To shine a spotlight on Qatar's heritage, the pavilion incorporated a dedicated cultural area where visitors received personalised Arabic calligraphy gifts, savoured traditional Arabic coffee, and applied henna art by skilled artists.

## Ooredoo partners Cisco to launch cloud phone service for businesses

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

**O**oredoo, in a landmark collaboration with global tech titan Cisco, has unveiled its Cloud Phone service to the business community. The launch underscores a robust partnership between the two pioneering industry leaders, aimed not only to introduce the new Cloud Phone service but also to shed light on Ooredoo's enhanced Business Broadband services, including the transformative Business EDGE solution.

Chief Business Officer, Thani Ali Al Malki, said, "In this era of digital transformation, our strategic alliance with Cisco is a testament to Ooredoo's commitment to providing businesses in Qatar with world-class solutions. The introduction of Cloud Phone, backed by Ooredoo's trusted broadband services, embodies our dedication to ensuring businesses are future-ready, efficient, and digitally empowered."

In the joint conference and demonstration of the services, Cisco experts showcased the

## MES Indian School wins overall championship in 28th Sirat-un -Nabi Elocution

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

**M**ES Indian School won the overall championship in the 28th Sirat-un -Nabi Elocution and 25th Holy Quran Recitation competitions.

The event was held at MES Indian School as part of promoting national identity and religious values among the students. As many as sixty-four participants from sixteen expatriate schools participated in the events.

In the junior category of the Recitation Competition, Mohd Umar Mujeeb of MES Indian School won the first prize. Mohd

Talha Shaikh of MESIS and Firas Mohammad of Ideal Indian School secured the second and third prizes respectively.

In the senior category of the elocution competition, Onaisa Rashid of MES Indian School bagged the first prize while Aysha Siddiqah of Shantiniketan Indian School and Fathima Ikra Ashraf of Birla Public School secured second and third prizes respectively.

In the junior category of the Elocution Competition, Aaesha Fathima Basheer of MES Indian School bagged the first prize while Alham Fathima of DPSMIS and Sahla Fathima of Bhavan's Public School secured the second and

third prizes respectively.

In the senior category of the elocution competition, Onaisa Rashid of MES Indian School bagged the first prize while Aysha Siddiqah of Shantiniketan Indian School and Fathima Ikra Ashraf of Birla Public School secured second and third prizes respectively.

Speaking on the occasion President, Oryx Universal College (Liverpool John Moores University) Qatar Azmy Ameri appreciated the commendable initiatives of the school in inculcating the Islamic values and ideals among the young minds that are the future pillars of the modern society.

## Nando's Qatar supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

**N**ando's Qatar, renowned for its flame-grilled PERi-PERi chicken and a part of the Oryx Group for food services in Qatar, announced its participation in their annual campaign to promote breast cancer awareness, in partnership with the Qatar Cancer Society.

Nando's initiated this campaign with an internal awareness activity, educating their employees, affectionately known as Nandocas, about the importance of breast cancer awareness. This was followed by a "Pink Drink Competition," where all participants were encouraged to create their recipes for designer mocktail drinks using Nando's ingredients.

Nando's initiated this campaign with an internal awareness activity, educating their employees, affectionately known as Nandocas, about the importance of breast cancer awareness.



Nando's officials with display cheque of the cash donation in support of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

competition, on the event day, Mary Mae, representing Nando's Pearl Casa, emerged

as the winner among the participants. Her drink, "Bebida Rosa," a refreshing blend of

fresh orange and lemon juice and grenadine syrup, became the favorite drink of the

of Nando's Qatar from the Oryx Group for food services Vyanktesh Jaiswal expressed, "We are deeply honored to stand alongside the Qatar Cancer Society in this noble cause. Our commitment goes beyond crafting unique beverages for our patrons. It is about forging a healthier future for our community. We take immense pride in our Nandocas and their unwavering dedication to making a meaningful difference."

Marketing & Business Development at Qatar Cancer Society Zakariya Karazoun added, "We appreciate the support and partnership of Nando's Qatar and Oryx Group for Food Services in raising awareness about breast cancer in their unique way. Every effort towards awareness makes an impact."



# Chinese vessels chase Philippine boat in high-seas

AFP — SOUTH CHINA SEA

**A**s a Philippine Coast Guard rubber boat carrying journalists sped towards Filipino troops on a grounded navy vessel in the disputed South China Sea, three Chinese speed boats gave chase.

The high-seas pursuit near Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands on Friday ended when Philippine Navy inflatable speed boats deployed from the crumbling BRP Sierra Madre and blocked the approaching Chinese vessels.

Moments later, the Philippine Coast Guard craft carrying AFP and a local media outlet slipped into the shallow waters of the shoal.

It floated about 180m from the World War II-era BRP Sierra Madre where a handful of marines are stationed — one of nine Philippine outposts in the hotly contested Spratlys.

The rusty hulk has been a flashpoint for Manila and Beijing since the Philippine Navy ran it aground in 1999 to check China's advance in the



Media personnel film a presentation of the five Philippine rigid-hulled inflatable boats being shadowed by China Coast Guard ships during the press conference at a hotel in Manila yesterday. (AFP)

waters.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea and has ignored an international ruling that its stance has no legal basis.

It deploys steel-hulled ships and speed boats to patrol the waters and reefs in the sea and has built artificial islands that it has militarised to reinforce its

claims. Tensions have escalated under Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, whose administration has been increasingly vocal in criticising Chinese actions in the sea.

Resupply and rotation missions to the BRP Sierra Madre have become a frequent trigger of diplomatic spats between the

countries.

Manila accuses Chinese vessels of harassing and blocking Philippine boats delivering food, water and materials for badly needed repairs.

Beijing, which has urged Manila to remove the ship, insists the Philippine vessels are infringing China's territorial

fuelled fears for a potential accident or miscalculation serious enough to ignite a military conflict.

Manila's longtime ally Washington reiterated Friday that its mutual defence pact with the Philippines "extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft — including those of its Coast Guard — anywhere in the South China Sea." "The United States stands shoulder-to-shoulder with our Philippine ally in the face of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) repeated harassment in the South China Sea," US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement.

As the journalists sat in the rubber boat under a cloudy sky observing the dilapidated state of the BRP Sierra Madre on Friday, a US maritime patrol plane circled overhead.

The Philippine Coast Guard identified five Chinese coast guard, 28 "maritime militia" and five navy vessels floating nearby.

## Grain tune: Indian PM's millet music gets Grammy nod

AFP — NEW DELHI

**I**ndia's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made an entry into the halls of global music with a song featuring him and his passion for millet nominated for a Grammy.

"Abundance In Millets" by Falu and Gaurav Shah, a tune the musicians say was "written and performed" with the prime minister, features speeches by Modi expounding the benefits of his favourite grain.

India is the world's largest producer and second-largest exporter of millet, a gluten-free grain which can grow on marginal land with

limited water, and Modi's government has been working to boost its production and consumption since coming to power in 2014.

"Millets are a wonder", Falu and Shah sing, pondering "what if we could change the world?" The tune was nominated Friday in the Best Global Music Performance category, alongside six others, ranging from Nigerian Afrobeat star Burna Boy and Davido, to Mexico's Silvana Estrada and Franco-Lebanese trumpeter Ibrahim Maalouf.

Grammy-winning Indian-American singer Falguni Shah, popularly known as Falu, has said the song was a "smart idea" from Modi

himself who collaborated in its making to realise his "vision" of helping overcome hunger and alleviate poverty in the world.

The song was "written and performed with Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help farmers grow millets and help end world hunger", Falu said on X in June.

Modi, 73, has called the tune "very creative" and said he believes it "will inspire more people to embrace millets for healthy living!" It was India's suggestion that the United Nations declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets, and at the G20 summit in September in New Delhi world leaders were served an

all-vegetarian dinner dominated by millet. Millet was a staple food in many regions of India for thousands of years, and was eaten as porridge, flatbread, dosa pancakes and with lentils.

But the "green revolution" that started in India in the 1960s saw the production of millet fall as hybrid high-yield varieties of wheat and rice gained prominence. As a result, millet began to be seen as the food of the rural poor.

"The shared efforts of our farmers and us...will adorn India and the world's prosperity with a new radiance," Modi says in the song, in a sample from a speech.

## Australia responds to 'cyber incident' affecting ports

AFP — SYDNEY

**T**he Australian government said yesterday it was responding to a "significant cyber security incident" affecting several ports operated by DP World Australia that could last a number of days.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil said on social media platform X the government was coordinating a response to the incident and that authorities were working with DP World Australia "to understand the impacts".

O'Neil said the national crisis management framework employed during the Covid-19 pandemic was being used in response to the incident. DP World Australia did not respond immediately to a request for comment from AFP. However, the ports operator said in a statement quoted by The Sydney Morning Herald it had "restricted" landside access to our Australian port operations while we continue our investigation" to safeguard employees, customers and its networks.

National Cyber Security Coordinator Darren Goldie said on X, formerly Twitter, that the "interruption is likely to continue for a number of days and will impact the movement of goods into and out of the country".

"DP World Australia has advised it has restricted access to its Australian port operations in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle while it investigates the incident," he said.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre, which leads the government's digital security responses, was advising the port operator and "providing technical advice and assistance", he said. The National Emergency Management Agency and National Coordination Mechanism, which streamlines a crisis response, will meet together today, Goldie said.

## Pakistani police arresting Afghan women and children in crackdown, activists claim

AP — KARACHI

**P**akistani police are arresting Afghan women and children in southern Sindh province as part of a government crackdown on undocumented migrants, activists said yesterday.

More than 250,000 Afghans have left Pakistan in recent weeks as the government rounded up, arrested and kicked out foreign nationals without papers. It set an Oct. 31 deadline for undocumented migrants to leave the country voluntarily.

The expulsions mostly affect Afghans, who make up the majority of foreigners living in Pakistan. Authorities maintain they are targeting all who are in the country illegally.

Human rights lawyer Moniza Kakar said police in Sindh launch midnight raids on people's homes and detain Afghan families, including women and children.

Human rights lawyer Moniza Kakar said police in Sindh launch midnight raids on people's homes and detain Afghan families, including women and children.

drown Afghan families, including women and children.

Since November 1, she and other activists have stationed themselves outside detention centers in Karachi to help Afghans. But they say they face challenges accessing the centers. They don't have information about raid timings or deportation buses leaving the port city of Afghanistan.

"They've been arresting hundreds of Afghan nationals daily since the Oct. 31 deadline, sparing neither children

nor women," Kakar said.

Last December, Afghan women and children were among 1,200 people jailed in Karachi for entering the city without valid travel documents. The arrests brought criticism from around Afghanistan after images of locked-up children were circulated online.

In the latest crackdown, even Afghans with documentation face the constant threat of detention, leading many to confine themselves to their homes for fear of deportation, Kakar said. "Some families I know are struggling without food, forced to stay indoors as police officials continue arresting them, regardless of their immigration status." She highlighted the plight of refugee children born in Pakistan without proof of identity, even when their parents have papers. Minors are being separated from their families, she told The Associated Press.

## ENDING PROTESTS

### 150 Bangladesh garment factories shut, 11,000 workers charged as police curtails protests

AFP — DHAKA

**B**angladeshi garment manufacturers yesterday shuttered 150 factories "indefinitely", as police issued blanket charges for 11,000 workers in connection with violent protests demanding a higher minimum wage, officers said.

Bangladesh's 3,500 garment factories account for around 85 percent of its \$55 billion in annual exports, supplying many of the world's top brands including Levi's, Zara and H&M.

But conditions are dire for many of the sector's four million workers, the vast majority of whom are women whose monthly pay, until recently, started at 8,300 taka (\$75).

Violent protests demanding better pay erupted last month, with at least three workers killed and more than 70 factories ransacked or damaged since, according to police.

A government-appointed panel raised the sector's wage by 56.25 percent on Tuesday to 12,500 taka, but garment



Police personnel stand guard along a street as garment workers and activists protest in Dhaka yesterday. (AFP)

workers have rejected the hike, instead demanding a 23,000 taka minimum wage.

On Thursday, 15,000 workers clashed with police on a key highway and ransacked Tusuka, a top plant, along with a dozen other factories.

Police have filed cases against 11,000 unidentified people over the attack on Tusuka garment factory, police inspector Mosharraf Hossain told AFP.

Bangladesh police often

issue primary charges against thousands of people — without specifying their names — following large protests and political violence, a tactic that critics say is a way to crack down on dissent.

Human rights groups have previously warned such mass cases launched against thousands of unidentified people gives police the license to target innocent protesters.

Wage protests pose a major challenge to Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina, who has ruled the country with an iron fist since 2009.

A resurgent opposition has challenged her rule as she readies for elections due before the end of January.

Police told AFP that 150 factories had closed in the major industrial towns of Ashulia and Gazipur, both north of the capital Dhaka, as manufacturers feared further strikes when Bangladesh's working week began on Saturday.

## Ally of Myanmar junta chief jailed for corruption: State media

AP — BANGKOK

**A**military court in Myanmar has sentenced a general who until recently was a senior member of the country's ruling council to five years in prison for abusing his authority and taking bribes, state-run media reported yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Soe Htut, who was home affairs minister as well as a member of the ruling State Administration Council, is the latest senior officer to be jailed for corruption since the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi more than 2 1/2 years ago.

A report in yesterday's state-run *Global New Light* of Myanmar newspaper said Soe Htut abused his rank and authority by directing subordinates to issue passports to companies at their request, accepted bribes and failed to ensure that financial rules and regulations were followed for the staff welfare fund of the home affairs ministry.

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**EDITORIAL****Call for global action**

In a strongly worded speech at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh yesterday, the Amir H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has once again urged the international community to play its part in immediate cessation of Israel's illegal military operations in Gaza that has killed more than 11000 Palestinians mostly children and women.

As Israeli forces continue to bomb Gaza's hospitals and shooting people trying to flee those hospitals, Saudi Arabia hosted the extraordinary summit bringing together countries from the Islamic and Arab world to "unify efforts" on Gaza's worsening situation.

While no strong stance on Israeli aggression came out as a result of the summit, the leaders spoke on bringing an end to humanitarian catastrophe on Palestinians living in Gaza while expressing their dejection over failure of the international community and United Nations Security Council to stop the atrocities on the people of Gaza.

In his powerful speech, the Amir said the international community "has failed to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities and take whatever action necessary to stop war crimes and massacres committed in the name of self-defence, and to put an end to this war of aggression."

"As our hearts break with pain at the sight of the mass killing of children, women, and the elderly, and the human suffering, we wonder how long will the international community continue to treat Israel as if it is above international law, and how long will it be condoned to flout all international laws in its brutal, never-ending war on the country's indigenous population."

"The international world remains immune in front of all these scenes. Who could have imagined that hospitals could be publicly shelled in the 21st century?" he said.

Since the war broke out between Hamas and Israel, Qatar has been making the best possible efforts for de-escalation and the Amir said Qatar is continuously supporting all regional and international diplomatic efforts for de-escalation, stemming the bloodshed, and protecting civilians, including making efforts in humanitarian mediation to release the hostages.

The Amir also reiterated Qatar's demand of permanent and safe humanitarian corridors "for an unhindered and unconditional delivery of aid to those affected and afflicted, stressing the need to make the aid accessible to all parts of the Gaza Strip. "This is the weakest level of faith, and the least that we can all do," he said.

The Amir appreciated the effort of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in hosting the crucial summit to raise voice for innocent Palestinians.

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**Why is Israel bombing Gaza hospitals, ambulances? It's all about 'winning'**

NEVE GORDON — AL JAZEERA

Across Israel, huge billboards tower over central highways, while large placards have been placed in front of schools, supermarkets, and government buildings. They all feature a new slogan: "Together we will win." The slogan is short and sharp (in Hebrew, it is made up of two words, "beyahad nenaatzeach") and has been embraced by large segments of Israel's Jewish population. Part of its attraction is likely due to its ambiguity, allowing each viewer to interpret the word "win" differently.

Despite different interpretations of what victory would look like, however, there appears to be wide consensus among Israelis that a victory of any type can only be achieved through unleashing lethal violence on Gaza.

Otherwise, how do we explain that when fleeing residents, travelling on a road Israel identified as a "safe route" to the south, are hit by a deadly air strike not a single voice on mainstream media is heard criticising the assault? Nor do we hear any outrage when bombs are dropped in the middle of one of the most crowded neighbourhoods in Jabalia refugee camp or when missiles strike a convoy of ambulances. For most Israelis, "winning" currently seems to justify almost any violence.

As the past month demonstrates, most Israelis appear to have had no qualms about the military dropping 30,000 tonnes of explosives on Gaza, damaging around 50 percent of all housing units throughout the Gaza Strip, and rendering at least 10 percent of these uninhabitable.

Almost 70 percent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has been forcibly displaced from their homes due to bombing and raids. Half of the hospitals and 62 percent of primary care health centres are effectively out of service and one-third of all schools have been damaged and about nine percent are now out of service.

This, many Israeli Jews believe, is part of what is needed to "win" and, thus, the Palestinians will just have to suffer thousands of civilian casualties, including the deaths of the more than 4,000 children killed to date. They seem to accept that "winning" entails killing on average six children every hour since October 7, and transforming Gaza into a "graveyard for children," as UN chief Antonio Guterres put it.

The kind of indiscriminate bombing we have seen in the past month is undoubtedly part of Israel's effort to assert deterrence in relation to Hamas, as well as Hezbollah. The message is clear: look at the destruction



Palestinians arrive in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, after fleeing their homes in Gaza City and the Northern Gaza Strip. (AFP)

For the Israeli political right and many on the political centre, "winning" means transforming parts of northern Gaza and a large perimeter around the Strip's northern, eastern and southern borders into a no-man's land. It means the permanent removal of populations from the north to the south and from Gaza's borders inward.

in Gaza and beware.

Yet even the wholesale bombing of Gaza needed for this kind of deterrence is not really the end goal. What "winning" ultimately means for most Jewish Israelis is the complete annihilation of Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Advertisement Considering that Hamas is an ideology, a social movement and a governing apparatus that includes a military arm, the scope and feasibility of this goal are unclear, but it will definitely entail killing thousands of combatants, including their political and military leaders, demolishing the tunnel system Hamas has created, and destroying the weapons the group has amassed. And the killing of thousands of civilians, the massive displacement of the population, and extensive destruction of civilian sites is considered legitimate "collateral damage".

But if the destruction of Hamas is the end goal, then "winning" also entails a regime change in Gaza as well as creating a new reality on the ground where Israel controls not only the borders surrounding the Gaza Strip, but also what happens within these borders.

It is only at this point, however, that the current widespread consensus in Israel about the need to annihilate Hamas becomes fractured and "winning" is interpreted differently according to the political group to which one belongs.

For the religious right, the

heinous Hamas massacre is considered an opportunity to resettle the Gaza Strip with Jewish settlers. The blanket bombing and the displacement of more than a million Palestinians makes it possible to slice the Strip into different parts and to create Palestinian-free zones where Jewish settlers can take over land and rebuild settlements. Resettlement of the Gaza Strip is, however, part of a larger plan to Judaise the entire region — from the river to the sea. At this very moment — and under the cover of Israel's violence in the Gaza Strip — settlers belonging to this political group are expelling Palestinian communities from the hills east of Ramallah, the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron Hills in the West Bank. "Winning" for them is completing the Nakba once and for all by replacing the indigenous population with Jews throughout the Biblical land of Israel.

For the Israeli political right and many on the political centre, "winning" means transforming parts of northern Gaza and a large perimeter around the Strip's northern, eastern and southern borders into a no-man's land. It means the permanent removal of populations from the north to the south and from Gaza's borders inward while confining the Palestinians into an even smaller prison than the one they have lived in for the past 16 years. It entails creating a puppet government responsible for running municipal tasks, not unlike the Palestinian Authority in the West

Bank, and it means Israeli soldiers will periodically enter the Gaza Strip to "mow the lawn," similar to what the military does in Jenin.

Advertisement The remaining political centre and many Jewish Israeli liberals do not really know what "winning" means beyond the exertion of horrific violence to "destroy Hamas." Trapped in a militaristic and now retributive paradigm, they seem to think that Israelis and Palestinians are locked in a fatalistic zero-sum game where only the application of violence against Palestinians will somehow ensure Jews are safe. Not entirely sure about what victory means, but desiring this end result, nonetheless, they, too, support the violence.

Thus, whether the vast majority of Jewish Israelis admit to it or not, "winning" involves a widespread eliminationist drive that is directed against the Palestinian people and not merely Hamas.

Only a tiny segment of Israel's Jewish society is refusing these forms of "winning" and are calling for an immediate ceasefire. For them, then, winning entails a complete and total paradigm shift, transforming Israel into a single democratic state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea where Jews and Palestinians can live together as equals.

For this group, the "together" in the slogan "together we will win" is not the Jewish exceptionalism that reigns in Israel (and in many quarters around the world) but a Jewish Palestinian alliance, something that today seems like a far-fetched dream. This prophetic vision, however, is the only notion of winning worth fighting for. And our only hope for a peaceful future in this historic land.

Neve Gordon is Professor of International Law at Queen Mary University of London.

**Injured kids are dying in Gaza, send in the hospital ships**

MICHAEL ROSE — THE WASHINGTON POST

On October 8, President Biden ordered a fleet of military ships and an aircraft carrier closer to the war between Israel and Hamas. Days later, he ordered a second carrier group to steam into the eastern Mediterranean. As a doctor, I don't pretend to know the geopolitical calculus governing these decisions. But I do know what it feels like to witness the death of a child — and to be haunted by the possibility that it was preventable. I know that, with thousands of children dying in the current Middle East conflict, there are two other ships we ought to send to the region.

The USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy are floating 1,000-bed hospitals equipped with well-trained staff, operating rooms and even intensive care units. They provide mobile medical and surgical services to support disaster relief and humanitarian operations and have been deployed numerous times across the globe. Yet as one of the worst humanitarian crises of our lifetime unfolds, the Mercy is en route to a planned mission in the Pacific, and the Comfort is moored in Mobile, Ala., undergoing upgrades. Planned partnerships and maintenance are important, but in times of crisis, triage is required. We should send the ships instead to Gaza, where too many children have already perished.

There would be challenges to readying the mobile medical centers and sailing them

to the Mediterranean in a timely manner, but there are few groups more capable of implementing timely logistics. In 2010, the USNS Comfort arrived in Haiti just a week after a devastating earthquake injured thousands and damaged the country's largest hospital beyond repair.

to the Mediterranean in a timely manner, but there are few groups more capable of implementing timely logistics. In 2010, the USNS Comfort arrived in Haiti just a week after a devastating earthquake injured thousands and damaged the country's largest hospital beyond repair.

Some might worry that the ships' deployment to Gaza might help Hamas. But by focusing U.S. aid on children younger than 15, who make up around 40 percent of Gaza's population, we can ensure that care is directed to noncombatants only. The same holds true for concerns that Hamas

could try to smuggle wounded fighters onboard, the way it tried to smuggle them out of Gaza along with injured bystanders. The patients would be young children, and they would return to Gaza with their parents after recovering. Ultimately, if U.S. officials could successfully sort out bystanders from terrorists at the Egyptian border, they would be able to differentiate children from combatants entering their own ship.

Others might fear for the safety of our sailors. Certainly, no one is fully safe near a war zone. Because of their size, however, the Comfort and Mercy would have to anchor out at sea with patients arriving via Navy helicopters or smaller boats. This distance from the front lines decreases the risk of disaster from a misfired missile or booby trap.

President Biden has made clear that he stands behind Israel in its fight against Hamas while also supporting humanitarian efforts for Palestinian civilians. Deploying the USNS Comfort and Mercy to care for injured children in Gaza offers a rare opportunity for an unambiguous good in a war that currently feels hopeless.

I'm a doctor, and not adequately trained to understand the complexities of this conflict and the region. But I know that everyone can understand the simplicity of this humanitarian mission.

Michael Rose is an assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

## ARMISTICE DAY

# Thousands join pro-Palestine demonstration in London

AFP — LONDON

Huge crowds marched through the British capital yesterday, as pro-Palestinian supporters made their latest mass call for a ceasefire, with police out in force to prevent clashes with counter-protesters.

The "National March for Palestine", organised by the Stop the War Coalition, set off after a two-minutes' silence to remember Britain's war dead on Armistice Day was observed at The Cenotaph war memorial in central London at 1100 GMT.

Huge crowds of protesters waved black, red, white and green Palestinian flags and held aloft placards proclaiming "Stop Bombing Gaza", just over a month since a Hamas attack killed more than 1,200 and took some 240 people hostage, according to Israel.

Five weeks of an Israeli military campaign in response has left just over 11,000 people in Gaza dead, according to the health ministry in the coastal enclave. As the march set off, protesters shouted "free Palestine" and "ceasefire now".

London's Metropolitan Police has made a total of nearly 100 arrests at previous

The "National March for Palestine", organised by the Stop the War Coalition, set off after a two-minutes' silence to remember Britain's war dead on Armistice Day was observed at The Cenotaph war memorial in central London at 1100 GMT.

pro-Palestinian marches, including for supporting Hamas.

But yesterday's march has generated concern because it coincides with Armistice Day, commemorating the end of fighting in World War I in 1918 — and political criticisms about the policing operation.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak made a late plea for calm late on Friday, calling for protesters to do so "respectfully and peacefully".

Met Police deputy assistant commissioner Laurence Taylor said march organisers had changed the route from Hyde Park to the US Embassy in south London to ensure it will not pass any landmark memorials.

Previous events have seen

"small groups break away" and that "their behaviour has been escalating and becoming more violent", Taylor, who is leading the policing operation, told reporters.

Metal barriers have been placed around the area containing the most significant memorials, and an exclusion zone created, with police able to arrest any marchers who try to breach it.

Thousands of people wearing red poppies — the symbol of remembrance — stood heads bowed at The Cenotaph on Whitehall for a solemn ceremony of reflection, with other services held up and down the country.

Minor scuffles broke out near the memorial as counter-protesters — many dressed in black with their faces covered, and some waving England's St George's flag and the Union Jack — tried to break through police lines. Missiles were later thrown at officers in the nearby Chinatown area, the Met said on X (formerly Twitter).

Taylor has said counter-protesters were likely to include groups of football hooligans, and police were "likely" to have to use force at some point against "pockets of



Former Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn (centre) joins protesters with placards and flags taking part in the 'National March For Palestine' in central London, yesterday. (AFP)

confrontation".

British media reported that Tommy Robinson, the leader of the far-right English Defence League, was among the counter-protesters.

About 1,850 police officers, including some from other forces across Britain, have been drafted in to keep the peace, with 1,375 today, when a national service of remembrance takes place at The Cenotaph led by King Charles III,

senior royals and political leaders.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman, an increasingly outspoken right-winger, has done little to quell tensions, by accusing police of being more sympathetic to so-called left-wing protests than others.

Support for Palestinians is a long-standing policy of the British political left.

The government was also at odds with the Met this week,

with ministers calling for the march to be banned, sparking concern over political interference in operational matters.

Sunak said he would hold Met Police commissioner Mark Rowley "accountable" for his decision to allow the demonstration to go ahead.

Rowley has said, however, that it does not meet the threshold for requesting a rare government order to stop it going ahead.

## Macron: Israeli strikes in Gaza have no legitimacy

SPUTNIK — MOSCOW

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Friday Israel's strikes on the Gaza Strip have no reason or legitimacy and must be stopped.

Earlier, Macron stated the need to financially support the Middle East countries to prevent them from being drawn into the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"De facto — today, civilians are bombed — de facto. These babies, these ladies, these old people are bombed and killed. So there is no reason for that and no legitimacy. So we do urge Israel to stop," Macron told the BBC.

He said there is no other solution for Gaza than a humanitarian pause and a ceasefire.

## Polish nationalists organise march in capital Warsaw

AP — WARSAW

Thousands of people walked through Warsaw yesterday in a march organised by nationalist groups as Poland celebrated its Independence Day holiday, 105 years after the nation regained its statehood at the end of World War I.

Participants carried Poland's white-and-red flag and some burned flares as they marched along a route leading from the city centre to the National Stadium.

While many patriotic events take place across the nation of 38 million each year, the yearly Independence March has come to dominate news coverage because it has sometimes been marred by xenophobic slogans and violence.

This year's event was attended by some 40,000 and passed off peacefully, the Warsaw mayor, Rafal Trzaskowski, said.

# Spain's acting PM signs new deals with small parties

AP — MADRID

Spain's Socialist party on Friday wrapped up deals with a bunch of small parties to ensure acting Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has enough parliamentary support to be reelected, possibly next week.

The accords follow weeks of intense negotiations and highlighted the Socialists' ability to reach agreements with parties across the country despite having finished second place in July 23 elections with only 121 parliamentary seats in the 350-seat Parliament.

Sánchez and the Socialists on Friday signed agreements with the Basque Nationalist Party and a Canary Island coalition that mean that Sánchez should be able to count on the support of 179 legislators, three more than the 176 majority required in Parliament to be chosen as the next prime minister. Sánchez has been in office since 2018.

The president of the parliament is expected to set a date for an investiture debate and vote within the next few days.

Probably the biggest and potentially most damaging deal

was struck Thursday with a fringe Catalan separatist party led by fugitive former Catalan President Carles Puigdemont that is promising the support of its seven parliament members in exchange for an amnesty for potentially thousands of people involved in the region's failed secession bider concessions.

Details of an amnesty bill have yet to be released but it stands to benefit Puigdemont and scores of others, from minor government officials to ordinary citizens, who ran into legal trouble for their roles in Catalonia's illegal secession attempt that

brought Spain to the brink of rupture six years ago.

Spain's courts are still trying to have Puigdemont extradited from Belgium. Given that he is considered an enemy of the state for many Spaniards, any deal that benefits him is politically toxic.

The amnesty has raised the ire of Spain's two main opposition parties, the right-of-center Popular Party and the extreme right Vox group. It has also roused discontent in the judiciary and police unions.

Tens of thousands of people have rallied in Madrid and

Barcelona against the amnesty in recent weeks.

Violence broke out late Thursday night outside the Socialist Party's headquarters after four consecutive nights of protests. Bottles, beer cans and fireworks were thrown at a heavy police cordon, and officers moved in using batons to break up the protests and make arrests. More protests are planned for Friday and over the weekend.

Sánchez, who formerly opposed an amnesty, insists now it is needed for a return to normal political life in Catalonia and will benefit Spain.

## BATTLEGROUND

# Russia targets Kiev region after two months

AFP — KIEV

A missile targeted Kiev yesterday, ending nearly two months of relative calm in the Ukrainian capital, while frontline regions fended off waves of drone attacks overnight.

Ukraine is bracing for a renewed Russian aerial onslaught this winter, after systematic strikes last year targeted the country's energy grid, leaving thousands without heating or electricity in freezing temperatures for long periods.

"After a long pause of 52 days, the enemy renewed missile attacks on Kiev," said the head of the Kiev city military administration Sergiy Popko.

He added that the Russians had launched a missile attack on the capital yesterday morning.

AFP journalists in central Kiev

heard two strong explosions and saw trails in the sky at dawn.

Air sirens sounded soon after that.

Asked why the alarm had gone off after the explosion, air force spokesman Yuriy Ignat said on television that "ballistic missiles fly extremely fast and are not as visible as cruise missiles on the radars." The air force said it was clarifying whether the capital had been targeted by an Iskander ballistic missile, or by an S-400 anti-aircraft missile.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Tuesday that Ukraine had deployed more Western air defence systems, as it braces for a second full winter of Russian attacks on energy facilities. Air defences last downed a missile in Kiev on September 21. The falling debris wounded seven people, including a child. There were no

reported casualties or damage in the capital itself yesterday.

But two missiles hit a field between two settlements in the wider Kiev region, the head of the regional military administration said.

"The blast wave damaged five private residential buildings. In particular, roofs and windows were smashed," Ruslan Kravchenko said.

Other regions of Ukraine meanwhile fended off drone attacks overnight. The air force said it downed 19 of the 31 attack drones launched by Moscow between Friday evening and yesterday 3am (0100 GMT).

"The Russian occupants sent most of the attack UAVs to the frontline areas," it said.

It added Russia used several missiles overnight, but did not specify if any of them were downed.

Ukraine warned it may attack Russian oil and gas infrastructure if Moscow repeats its campaign of strikes on energy infrastructure over the winter.

Energy Minister German Galushchenko said it "would be fair" to target Russia's oil and gas infrastructure if Ukraine's power grid came under sustained attacks, in an interview with Politico.

On the ground, Ukrainian forces are facing assaults from Russian troops around the eastern frontline town of Avdiivka.

"Our servicemen and women are steadfastly holding the line in the Avdiivka sector," Ukrainian army commander Oleksandr Tarnavskyi said.

## P IN BRIEF

### Croatia's defence minister badly injured in car crash

AP — ZAGREB: CROATIA'S defence minister was seriously injured in a car crash early yesterday in which another person died, officials said.

The accident happened around 6am on a road in eastern Croatia. Minister Mario Banožić, 44, was driving a car that was in collision with a van, Croatia's Defence Ministry and the state HRT television reported. The van driver was killed in the crash.

"We are expressing our condolences to the family of the person who was killed," government spokesman Marko Milic said on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter.

Milic added that Banožić's condition is not life-threatening, though he suffered serious injuries. Doctors said he had head and brain contusions and remains under observation, but he is conscious.

### Germany to scale back refugee security checks

SPUTNIK — MOSCOW: The German Interior Ministry will scale back security checks currently in place for refugees and end the head count to streamline the process, German media reported yesterday.

An internal memo circulated at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) said there should be fewer ID checks going forward, the *Bild* daily newspaper reported. It will also ban analysis of mobile phone data for citizenship identification and run fewer checks on refugees in EU databases.

The measures have reportedly been agreed on by the Interior Ministry and BAMF, which said it had received the highest number of asylum requests since 2016. The federal office said that 31,887 first-time applications were made in Germany in October.

### 31 hurt in suspected gas blast at Italian migrant centre

AFP — ROME: A suspected gas explosion partially brought down a building housing asylum seekers in central Italy overnight, injuring 31 people, firefighters said yesterday.

A photo published by the fire service showed sections of the two-storey building in San Lorenzo Nuovo, near Viterbo, reduced to rubble after the blast which occurred shortly before midnight. The fire service said there had been an "explosion and partial collapse" of the building it described as a reception centre, "probably as a result of a gas leak".

Thirty-one people had been confirmed injured, it said, after rescue searches that included the use of sniffer dogs. One person was in a serious condition.

# Iceland evacuates town over fears of volcano eruption

AP — LONDON

Residents of a fishing town in southwestern Iceland left their homes yesterday after increasing concern about a potential volcanic eruption caused civil defence authorities to declare a state of emergency in the region.

Police decided to evacuate Grindavik after recent seismic activity in the area moved south towards the town and monitoring indicated that a corridor of magma, or semi-molten rock, now extends under the

community, Iceland's Meteorological Office said. The town of 3,400 is on the Reykjanes Peninsula, about 50km southwest of the capital, Reykjavik.

"At this stage, it is not possible to determine exactly whether and where magma might reach the surface," the Meteorological Office said.

Authorities also raised their aviation alert to orange, indicating an increased risk of a volcanic eruption.

Volcanic eruptions pose a serious hazard to aviation because they can spew highly abrasive ash high into

the atmosphere, where it can cause jet engines to fail, damage flight control systems and reduce visibility.

A major eruption in Iceland in 2010 caused widespread disruption to air travel between Europe and North America, costing airlines an estimated \$3bn as they cancelled more than 100,000 flights.

The evacuation comes after the region was shaken by hundreds of small earthquakes every day for more than two weeks as scientists monitor a buildup of magma some

5km underground.

Concern about a possible eruption increased in the early hours of Thursday when a magnitude 4.8 earthquake hit the area, forcing the internationally known Blue Lagoon geothermal resort to close temporarily.

The seismic activity started in an area north of Grindavik where there is a network of 2,000-year-old craters, geology professor Pall Einarrson, told Iceland's RUV. The magma corridor is about 10km-long and spreading, he said.

## ELECTION INTERFERENCE CASE

## Trump pushes for broadcasting his federal trial

WASHINGTON — AP

Donald Trump is pushing for his federal election interference trial in Washington to be televised, joining media outlets that say the American public should be able to watch the historic case unfold.

Federal court rules prohibit broadcasting proceedings, but The Associated Press and other news organizations say the unprecedented case of a former president standing trial on accusations that he tried to subvert the will of voters warrants making an exception.

The Justice Department is opposing the effort, arguing that the judge overseeing the case does not have the authority to ignore the long-standing nationwide policy against cameras in federal courtrooms. The trial is scheduled to begin on March 4.

Lawyers for Trump wrote in court papers filed late Friday that all Americans should be able to observe what they characterise as a politically motivated prosecution of the Republican front-runner for his party's

The request for a televised trial comes as the Washington case has emerged as the most potent and direct legal threat to Trump's political fortunes.

presidential nomination in 2024. The defense also suggested Trump will try to use the trial as a platform to repeat his unfounded claims that the 2020 election that he lost to Democrat Joe Biden was stolen from him. Trump has pleaded not guilty.

"President Trump absolutely agrees, and in fact demands, that these proceedings should be fully televised so that the American public can see firsthand that this case, just like others, is nothing more than a dreamt-up unconstitutional charade that should never be allowed to happen again," Trump's lawyers wrote.

The request for a televised trial comes as the Washington case has emerged as the most potent and direct legal threat to



Supporters of former US President Donald Trump wait in line to hear him speak at a campaign rally at Stevens High School in Claremont, New Hampshire, yesterday. (AFP)

Trump's political fortunes. Trump is accused of illegally scheming to overturn the election results in the run-up to the violent riot at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, by his

supporters. Trump has repeatedly sought to delay the Washington trial date until after the 2024 election. But U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who was

nominated for the bench by Democratic President Barack Obama, appears determined to keep it as scheduled.

On Friday in Florida, US District Judge Aileen Cannon,

who is handling the separate classified documents prosecution of Trump, pushed back multiple deadlines in a way that makes it highly unlikely that case can proceed to trial in May, as had been planned. Trump is facing dozens of felony counts under the Espionage Act. He has pleaded not guilty.

"It would be a great loss if future generations of Americans were forever deprived of being able to access and view the events of this trial even years after the verdict, which would immeasurably improve the ability of future journalists and historians to retell accurately and meaningfully analyze this unique chapter of American history," Rebecca Blumenstein, president of editorial for NBC News, wrote in a court filing.

The Justice Department has said that knowledge that cameras are in the courtroom can affect lawyers and witnesses in "subtle ways" and lead to grandstanding. Noting the "ever-increasing acrimony in public discourse," prosecutors said witnesses who testify on camera may also be harassed or threatened.

## Colombia detains four in kidnapping of footballer's father

AFP — BOGOTÁ

Police in Colombia have detained four people suspected in the kidnapping of the father of Liverpool footballer Luis Diaz, who was held hostage for nearly two weeks by members of the ELN guerrilla group, officials said yesterday.

Luis Manuel Diaz was freed Thursday, 12 days after being abducted by armed men on motorcycles at a gas station in the town of Barrancas near the Venezuelan border.

"We have detained four people allegedly responsible for the kidnapping of Luis Manuel Diaz," the National Police of Colombia said in a statement on social media platform X.

According to the authorities, three of the suspects are members of a gang known as Los Primos or, alternatively, Los Primates, which handled the "logistics of the kidnapping" for ELN.

ELN, which is in peace negotiations with the government and is party to an ongoing six-month ceasefire, has described the kidnapping by one of its units as a "mistake." Two men with the nicknames "Marlon" and "El Negro"



Luis Manuel Diaz (centre), father of Liverpool's forward Luis Diaz, is helped before giving a press conference at his house in Barrancas, Colombia, on November 10, 2023. (AFP)

were arrested at dawn yesterday in the municipality of Maicao in northern Colombia.

Another suspect, alias "Arenca," had been detained on October 31 in neighboring Barrancas, the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Police found two firearms hidden in a piece of furniture in the home of one of the suspects. The

name of the fourth suspect was not revealed.

The elder Diaz's wife Cilemis Marulanda was kidnapped together with him on October 28, but was rescued hours later.

On Thursday, after days of intense negotiations, the rebels handed Diaz over to humanitarian workers at an undisclosed location

in the Serrania del Perija mountain range. He was then flown by helicopter to the city of Valledupar, some 90km from his hometown.

Hours later, he arrived by car to neighbours celebrating with drums and trumpet music outside his home, which was under police guard.

The abduction threatened to derail high-stakes peace negotiations between the ELN and the government of leftist President Gustavo Petro.

On Friday, Diaz told reporters he hoped his release was a step toward "peace in Colombia, so that everyone, and all the hostages, will have a chance to be free." Luis Manuel Diaz was the founder and amateur coach of the only football academy in Barrancas, where his son showed promise from a very young age.

Known locally as "Mane," Diaz Sr is credited with aiding the meteoric rise of the Liverpool and Colombia striker.

On Friday he said he had been held by two different groups during the kidnapping.

"I felt a change after three days, when it seemed that I was already in the hands of the ELN. They spoke to me differently and treated me differently," he told reporters.

## FBI seizes phone of New York Mayor amid fundraising probe

NEW YORK — THE WASHINGTON POST

New York Mayor Eric Adams had his electronic devices, including phones, seized by FBI agents Monday, according to the mayor's campaign attorney. The seizures are connected to a federal investigation into fundraising during his 2021 campaign.

"As a former member of law enforcement, I expect all members of my staff to follow the law and fully cooperate with any sort of investigation — and I will continue to do exactly that," Adams said.

Adams's attorney, Boyd Johnson, told *The Washington Post* that Johnson was not accused of "any wrongdoing." The FBI declined to comment Friday night.

The seizures, first reported by the *New York Times*, occurred while the former police captain was leaving an event, according to Johnson, and came days after FBI agents searched the Brooklyn home of Adams's top fundraiser, Brianna Suggs, on November 2.

That day, the mayor's team notified investigators that it had knowledge of another individual acting inappropriately, a person with knowledge of the events said Friday, on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive dealings. The person could not say who that individual was or what conduct was deemed inappropriate.

In a statement, Johnson said the "behavior was immediately and proactively reported to investigators." Adams's team believes the information it volunteered precipitated the FBI's request for devices. Several devices were taken Monday and others were surrendered later when Adams notified authorities that there were more. Adams's passwords were given voluntarily to federal investigators, the person also said.

After the search of Suggs's home, Vito Pitta, a lawyer for Adams's 2021 campaign, told *The Post* in a statement that the mayor had not been contacted as part of the inquiry but that the campaign was complying with the investigation.

## POLITICS

## Mexico's ruling party names gubernatorial candidates, but questions remain about unity

AP — MEXICO CITY

Mexico's ruling party yesterday named its candidates for eight governorships and the mayoralty of Mexico City.

But after ruling out the most popular candidate for the capital, questions remain about whether the party can avoid desertions.

For the moment, former capital police chief Omar García Harfuch — who won polls on the city race but was knocked out by a gender quota requiring a female candidate — told local media he had no plans to leave the party.

"We will always respect the gender quotas and the decision of our party," García Harfuch wrote in his social media accounts.

The Morena party, founded by charismatic President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, is made up of disparate elements united only by López Obrador's outsized personality, but he cannot be reelected and leaves office in ten months.

Morena already announced its nominee for the presidential race: former Mexico City mayor Claudia Sheinbaum, who is seen as an unquestioningly faithful follower of the president.

García Harfuch gained fame as a tough and effective Mexico City police chief after he survived a 2020 ambush attack by the Jalisco drug cartel on a street in the capital. The brazen attack left him with three bullet wounds, while his two bodyguards and a bystander were killed.

Because the capital is so

large — at over 9 million inhabitants — the post is considered a governorship, and has been a launching pad for the presidency in the past.

But the nomination went to Clara Brugada, the borough president of a rough stretch of low-income neighborhoods on the city's east side. Brugada was preferred by the leftist wing of Morena because she built "utopias" — sports and cultural complexes — in neighborhoods where past administrations focused on the bare-bones issues of drainage, policing and chaotic transportation networks.

A top contender for the Morena presidential nomination, former Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, is expected to announce his next move Monday.

## Actors union explains AI guardrails in strike deal with studios

AFP — LOS ANGELES

From computer-generated "extras" to AI "zombies," new restrictions against the use of artificial intelligence in Hollywood were set out by the actors' union Friday.

The Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) reached a deal with studios like Disney and Netflix this week to end its nearly four-month strike. Its board members on Friday voted 86 percent in favour of ratifying the agreement.

Besides a seven percent minimum pay increase, and a new \$40m-per-year fund to transfer a

portion of revenues for hit shows from studios to actors, AI guardrails were a key part of talks.

The deal "allows the industry to go forward — it does not block AI," SAG-AFTRA negotiator Duncan Crabtree-Ireland told a press conference.

"But it makes sure that performers are protected. Their rights to consent are protected. Their rights to fair compensation and their rights to employment are protected." Studios have been experimenting with AI in recent years, from bringing deceased movie stars back using realistic "digital replicas," to using computer-generated background

figures to reduce the number of actors needed for battle scenes.

Many cost-cutting producers want a growing role for AI, and have begun requiring some performers to take part in high-tech 3D "body scans" on set, often without explaining how or when the images will be used.

But now, an actor must be paid the same rate for any use of their digital replica as they would have earned doing the same "amount of work" on set themselves in real life, Crabtree-Ireland said.

Amid fears that background workers — or "extras" — could be the first to lose their jobs to AI, strict curbs have been put in place.

"No use of a digital replica can be used to evade engagement and payment of a background actor under this contract," he said.

Studios must gain consent from an actor every time their digital replica is used in any film or TV episode. They cannot present actors with boilerplate contracts entitling them to use a replica in perpetuity, but must instead provide a "reasonably specific description" of how it will be used each time.

SAG-AFTRA president Fran Drescher said it was vital to nail down rules this time, because "in the world of AI, three months is equivalent to a year."



25°C Minimum 31°C Maximum

DOHA RUWAIS ALKHOR DUKHAN MESAIEED ABU SAMRA  
25 22 25 22 23 22  
31 31 31 31 30 31  
HIGH TIDE 5:00 - 16:00 LOW TIDE 12:00 - 23:00

## Trending in QATAR



On The Peninsula social media platforms

### Emergency Departments at HMC received more than 700,000 visits in 2022

Acting Head of the Emergency Department at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) Dr. Aftab Mohammad explained that HMC's emergency departments received more than 700,000 admissions in 2022.



### We are minutes away from death: Al-Shifa Hospital Director

As troops encircle Gaza's main hospital, the last generator ran out of fuel in Al-Shifa, said Muhammad Abu Salmiya, the Hospital Director, from inside the besieged facility.



### Qatar pilots using palm tree waste as artificial soil for potted plants

The Ministry of Municipality's Agricultural Research Department is implementing a pilot project to convert palm tree waste into artificial soil composition for potted plants, said a top official.



### Colombia nabs four in kidnapping of Liverpool striker Diaz's father

Police in Colombia detained four people suspected in the kidnapping of the father of Liverpool footballer Luis Diaz, who was held hostage for nearly two weeks by members of the ELN guerilla group.



### England defeat Pakistan by 93 runs at World Cup

England brought the curtain down on their Cricket World Cup title defence on Saturday by defeating Pakistan by 93 runs.



## SMART AND SUSTAINABLE

### Msheireb Properties wins two Qatar Tourism Awards

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

**M**sheireb Properties, Qatar's leading sustainable property developer, is celebrating the organisation's big win at the first annual Qatar Tourism Awards.

Msheireb Properties' flagship rejuvenation project, Msheireb Downtown Doha took home two awards for its efforts in Smart Solutions and Cultural Experience development.

Senior Director of Corporate Communications Dr. Hafiz Ali Abdulla said: "We are extremely proud to have had our work recognised at such a prestigious event. It is a testament to the many thousands of colleagues who have worked so hard to build and create the world's first fully certified sustainable smart city project."

"Since its official launch just ahead of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Msheireb Downtown Doha has established itself as one of the country's main touristic and cultural destinations, attracting over 4 million visitors during the World Cup period. Over the next five years, we plan to continue growing and sustaining our cultural experience at Msheireb Downtown Doha by continuously enriching its offerings and services, expanding our educational programmes, and engaging with the local community."

Msheireb Properties was awarded the Digital Innovation Experience award, in acknowledgement of the way that smart and sustainable features have been integrated into every stage of the project, since its inception.

Contributing to an enhanced visitor experience, Msheireb Downtown Doha ensures seamless accessibility throughout, including: Walkable streets, shaded courtyards, and natural cooling design to provide a year-round comfortable and enjoyable environment. The wealth of sustainable amenities, including smart transportation options, like the self-powered 2km tram network, which means that visitors can explore Msheireb Downtown Doha with ease.



Qatar Tourism and Msheireb Properties officials during the Qatar Tourism Awards ceremony.

**Msheireb Downtown Doha took home two awards for its efforts in Smart Solutions and Cultural Experience development.**

The trams are fully air-conditioned and incorporate special light-filtering glass panels which inhibit over 90 percent of the heat from sunlight. They are also convertible and can be operated as open-air cars during the cooler months. It is the first of its kind in Qatar and has become the main transport network throughout MDD.

Commenting, Dr. Abdulla, added: "Msheireb Downtown Doha is an holistic, world-leading destination for living, leisure, and business, offering residents and visitors alike a unique and culturally rich experience, and we are proud to

have today been acknowledged for the role that we play in Qatar's vibrant tourism scene as well."

Msheireb Properties was also presented with the Cultural Experience award, in acknowledgement of Msheireb Downtown Doha's cultural offering which provides a seamless blend of historic relevance and contemporary comfort, incorporating interactivity, dramatic storytelling, and a strong focus on social history. The combination of historic preservation, architectural authenticity, and sustainability in Msheireb Downtown Doha creates an urban living environment that respects tradition and fosters a sense of community.

Visitors can explore Msheireb Museums, preserving the history of the area and highlighting the development of Qatar's first trade centre. Through unique exhibitions, interactive screens, and unique events, visitors are fully engaged and immersed in Qatar's rich heritage.

## Qatar-Indonesia Year of Culture marks 'golden moment' in cultural relations

JOELYN BALUYUT  
THE PENINSULA

**T**he Head of Socio-Culture Division at the Embassy of Indonesia in Qatar, Ali Murtado, highlighted that the Qatar-Indonesia Year of Culture (YoC) has marked a "golden moment" in the cultural ties between the two countries.

The Year of Culture initiative, launched in 2012, serves as a platform for diverse exchange programmes, fostering collaboration between Qatar and a chosen partner nation each calendar year. For 2023, Indonesia is the Southeast Asian country collaborating with Qatar, bringing forth a wealth of creative, cultural, and artistic exchanges.

Ali Murtado, also the Person-In-Charge for Qatar-Indonesia YoC, highlighted the immense potential and benefits of cultural cooperation between the two diverse and culturally rich nations. "Through various cultural exchanges and promotions, this initiative will undoubtedly strengthen the relationship between Qatar and Indonesia, particularly among the people."

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Ali Murtado

Various activities and events have been conducted for the said programme, the latest of which include a series of engaging events - storytelling sessions, cultural games, workshops, and exploration opportunities held at the Qatar National Library, and the opening of the "Growing Kopi, Drinking Qahwa: Stories of Coffee in Qatar and Indonesia" exhibit at the National Museum of Qatar.

Reflecting on the impact of the Qatar-Indonesia Year of Culture,

Murtado noted its catalysing effect on bilateral relations.

He pointed out a key aspect involving literary collaboration, where both countries collaborated to translate children's books between Arabic and Indonesian. The result has been the distribution of 1,000 reading packages, introducing the young minds of both nations to each other's cultures.

"This literary connection not only enhances mutual understanding but also broadens the cultural horizons of young minds."

Murtado expressed optimism about the enduring impact of the year-long programme, stating: "I believe that the Qatar-Indonesia Year of Culture initiative is not merely a one-year celebration but rather the beginning of a robust and enduring partnership."

He outlined future priorities, including sports-friendly matches, training sessions, voluntary activities, and exhibitions in fashion and art, all aimed at maintaining and deepening the cultural connections established during this cultural exchange.

**Saving Brazil's golden monkey, one green corridor at a time**

AP – RIO DE JANEIRO

**D**ozens of young people kneeled under the scorching sun this week in Rio de Janeiro's rural interior, planting a green corridor that will be a future safe passageway for an emblematic and endangered species, the golden lion tamarin.

The 300 tree seedlings they planted this week - only inches tall at present - will eventually connect two patches of forest together. It is the latest in a series of incremental forest growth initiatives driven by environmentalists, providing an ever-larger habitat for the monkey.

Until recently, the bare and dry land they were replanting belonged to a ranch owner who had torn down its trees for cattle pasture.

Rampant deforestation over centuries has decimated this part of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, the only place in the world where the small, copper-colored monkey whose face is framed by a silken mane can be found. With fewer than 5,000 individuals, it is considered an endangered species.

"One of the biggest problems is the fragmentation of the forest," said Luís Paulo Ferraz, executive director of the Golden Lion Tamarin Association, known by its Portuguese acronym AMLD. Ferraz says monkeys are too scared to cross the few hundred meters of bare land that sometimes separate two isles of green vegetation, fearing they might become the prey of larger predators, such as big cats. Hence the need for green corridors.

Before colonization by the Portuguese in the 16th century, the Atlantic forest biome covered 330 million acres (more than 500,000 square miles) near and along Brazil's coast. Less than 15% of that remains today, according to The Nature Conservancy.

In the specific region of the Atlantic forest where golden lion tamarins can be found, the forest is down to just 2% of its original size, Ferraz said.

## Asfari Qatar Falcons Championship



Al Gannas Qatari Society concluded the competitions of the 10th Asfari Qatar Falcons Championship 2023 in Ras Laffan by conducting the final competition for seven rounds of Al Daw, and crowning the winners. The Asfari Qatar Falcons Championship was organised this year for the first time. The seven rounds, for which ten competitors qualified, witnessed great competition and strength to secure the first three places.