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WEDNESDAY
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Amir reshuffles Cabinet, appoints new ministers

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued Amiri Order No. 2 of 2024, reshuffling the Cabinet, yesterday.

The order stipulates that the Cabinet shall be reshuffled as follows: H E Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs; H E Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi as Minister of Social Development and Family; H E Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater as Minister of Education and Higher Education; H E Mansoor bin Ebrahim bin Saad Al Mahmoud as Minister of Public Health; H E Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani as Minister of Commerce and Industry; and H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani as Minister of Transport.

The Amiri Order is effective



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani with the newly-appointed ministers at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

starting from the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette.

The newly-appointed ministers later took the oath before H H the Amir at the Amiri Diwan yesterday. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani. Also

present was Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

H H the Amir also issued Amiri Order No. 4 of 2024, appointing H E Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad as Minister of State for International

Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Amiri Order is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette.

H H the Amir also issued Amiri Order No. 5 of 2024, appointing H E Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sayed as Minister of State for Foreign Trade

Amir appoints Chief of Amiri Diwan

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued Amiri Order No. (3) of 2024, appointing H E Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khulaifi as Chief of the Amiri Diwan. The Amiri Order is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA

Amir appoints head of State Security

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 74 of 2024, appointing H E Khalfan bin Ali bin Khalfan Al Bati Al Kaabi as Head of the State Security. The decision is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA

Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Amiri Order is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA

Speaker stresses Qatar's keenness to strengthen GCC cooperation

ABU DHABI: Speaker of the Shura Council H E Hassan bin Abdulla Al Ghanim has stressed Qatar's keenness on the unity of the Gulf ranks, supporting joint Gulf action, consolidating the values, and preserving the Gulf identity in a way that contributes to building a bright future for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

This came during his speech at the 18th meeting of Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National, and Ummah Councils in the GCC countries, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, yesterday.

He said Qatar, with its wise leadership, is keen on the unity of the Gulf ranks, strengthening joint Gulf action, and preserving the authentic Gulf identity, which reflects the heritage and culture of the GCC countries.

In this context, he pointed

out the role of the Shura Council and its continuous efforts to enhance joint Gulf parliamentary work, as it concluded its chairmanship of the 17th meeting of the Speakers of the Shura, Representatives,

National, and Ummah Councils in the GCC countries, with fruitful cooperation between the member states, which contributed to achieving several common goals that seek to raise the level of cooperation at all

levels. He also noted the Shura Council's interest and role in strengthening joint Gulf action and preserving the Gulf identity, referring to the seminar organised by the council during his presidency, which addressed this important file and resulted in recommendations that focused on protecting the Gulf identity and strengthening cultural and social ties between the peoples of the GCC countries.

The Speaker of the Shura Council stressed that these efforts seek to enhance Gulf integration in a way that meets the aspirations of the citizens of the GCC countries.

In a related context, he emphasised the importance of strengthening parliamentary diplomacy to support the foreign relations of the GCC countries, noting that this

● *The Speaker emphasised the importance of strengthening parliamentary diplomacy to support the foreign relations of the GCC countries.*

diplomacy provides an opportunity to clarify the stances of the Gulf countries and convey the voice of the Gulf citizens to the international community, which supports the common interests of the GCC countries.

He addressed the developments of the Palestinian issue, in light of the ongoing Israeli war, stressing the council's support for the Palestinian issue. — QNA → P4

Qatar condemns Israeli minister's statements on West Bank annexation

DOHA: Qatar has condemned in the strongest terms the statements made by the Minister of Finance in the Israeli occupation government, that included instructions to prepare the infrastructure required to annex the occupied West Bank.

Qatar considered such statements a blatant violation of international law and UN Security Council Resolution 2334, and a dangerous escalation that would hinder the chances of peace in the region, particularly amid the ongoing brutal war on the Gaza Strip and its devastating consequences.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised the need for the international community to strongly confront the colonial, settlement, and racist policies of the Israeli occupation, as well as its repeated violations of the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, particularly its ongoing crimes in the West Bank, including violations of religious sanctities and its schemes to Judaize Jerusalem. The statement also reiterated the urgent need for international solidarity, more than ever, to achieve the two-state solution that paves the way for a just and lasting peace in the region. The Ministry stressed that repeated Israeli statements in violation of international laws and resolutions clearly demonstrate that the occupation is the primary obstacle to any efforts for peace and stability.

The Ministry reaffirmed Qatar's firm and consistent stance in supporting the Palestinian cause and the steadfastness of the brotherly Palestinian people, based on international legitimacy and the two-state solution, which ensures the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. — QNA

Hospitality Qatar kicks off with over 120 exhibitors

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Hospitality Qatar opened yesterday showcasing the latest developments in the industry. The three day event at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC) features over 120 exhibitors from 20 countries.

Under the Patronage of H E Saad bin Ali Al Kharji, Chairman of Qatar Tourism and the Board of Directors of Visit Qatar; Omar Al Jaber, Acting Director of Tourism Development at Qatar Tourism, inaugurated the ninth edition of Hospitality Qatar. Organised by IFP Qatar, the event is being held until November 14.

The opening ceremony was attended by Sultan bin Rashid Al Khater, Consultant to the Minister of Commerce and Industry; and Hamid Bentahar, President of the National Confederation of Tourism in Morocco, along with a host of prominent local and foreign dignitaries, including ambassadors from participating countries and leaders of international delegations.

In a speech at the opening ceremony, Al Jaber stated, "At

Showcasing Qatar's vibrant hospitality and tourism industry, the event will also see 175 chefs from 35 top hotels in Doha compete across 20 different categories.

Qatar Tourism, we are proud to be the strategic partner of Hospitality Qatar 2024, a unique platform that showcases the latest advancements and innovations in such vital sectors. This partnership reaffirms our unwavering commitment to supporting and strengthening Qatar's hospitality and tourism industry."

Al Jaber added: "The significant development Qatar has seen in infrastructure and hospitality facilities is no coincidence; it is the result of a strategic vision aimed at positioning Qatar as a leading tourist destination. Hosting events like this reflects Qatar's commitment to improving and developing the tourism sector as a cornerstone of economic diversification, in line with QNV 2030." → P4

Sidra Medicine launches Qatar's first cord blood banking service

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has launched a state-of-the-art cord blood banking service. This is the country's first local cord blood storage facility and will offer families a unique opportunity to preserve their newborns' stem cells in Qatar, for potential future medical needs.

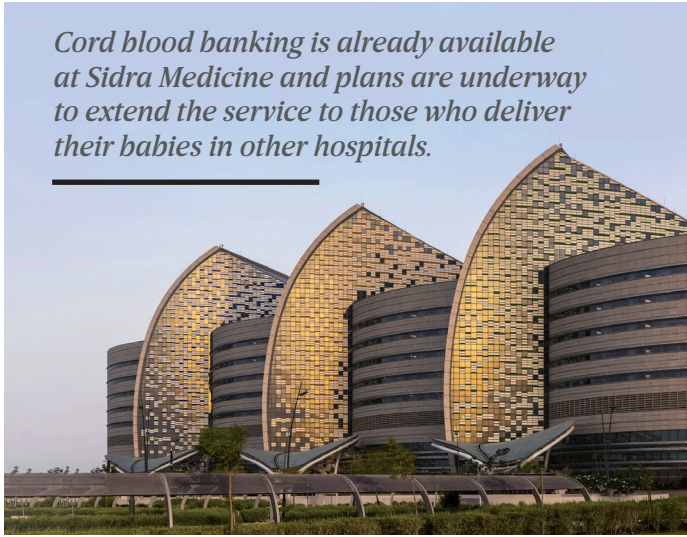
Cord blood banking is the process of collecting and storing the blood from a newborn's umbilical cord and placenta after birth. The collection is painless, non-invasive, and risk-free for the mother and baby. Cord blood is rich in hematopoietic stem cells, which have the potential to treat various medical conditions, including certain cancers, blood disorders, and immune system diseases.

Prof. Johnny Awwad, Chair of Women's Services at Sidra Medicine, said: "As the only facility in Qatar providing local cord blood storage, Sidra Medicine offers an unparalleled advantage by keeping the samples in the country. This

ensures their optimal quality and immediate access when needed most, compared to having them shipped from abroad. Cord blood is increasingly being stored by parents everywhere, who are seeking to preserve their child's stem cells as they can be crucial for their child or their sibling/s in the future. Our commitment to the latest technology and international standards further guarantees the utmost reliability and peace of mind for

families in Qatar."

All the cord blood samples will be sent to Sidra Medicine's Cord Blood Bank in its Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility, where cryogenic freezing will allow them to be stored securely for over 30 years. Prof. Khalid Fakhro, Chief Research Officer at Sidra Medicine said: "Our cord blood banking service is another successful milestone for our precision medicine strategy." → P2



Newly-appointed Cabinet members take oath



FROM RIGHT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs H E Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani; Minister of Social Development and Family H E Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi; and Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater taking oath.



FROM RIGHT: Minister of Public Health H E Mansoor bin Ebrahim bin Saad Al Mahmoud; Minister of Commerce and Industry H E Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani; and Minister of Transport H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani taking oath at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.



Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani observe as newly-appointed ministers take oath of their offices at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

Amir appoints CEO of Qatar Investment Authority

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 73 of 2024, appointing Mohammed Saif Saeed Al Suwaidi as CEO of Qatar Investment Authority. The Decision is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA

Amir appoints HMC Managing Director

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 71 of 2024, appointing H E Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Mohammed Al Suwaidi as Managing Director of Hamad Medical Corporation. The Decision is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA

Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy reorganised

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 69 of 2024, reorganising the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy. The Decision is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA

Amir appoints President of Public Works Authority

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 72 of 2024, appointing H E Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Meer as President of Public Works Authority. The Decision is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA

Amir constitutes Board of Directors of Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 70 of 2024, forming the Board of Directors of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy. The Decision stipulated that the Board of Directors of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy shall be chaired by H E Prime Minister, with H E President of the Qatar Olympic Committee as Vice-Chairman. The Board members are H E Minister of Interior, H E Minister of Finance, H E Minister of Culture, H E Minister of Sports and Youth, H E Chairman of Qatar Tourism, H E Hassan bin Abdullah Al Thawadi, Eng. Yasser Abdullah Al Jamal, and the Executive Director of the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences, in addition to three members with experience in the field of the Committee's competencies chosen by Chairman of the Board. The Chairman of the Board of Directors may add representatives of other parties concerned to the membership of the Board. The Decision is effective as of the date of issue and is to be published in the official gazette. — QNA



Amir appoints new Chief of Amiri Diwan, Ministers of State

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued Amiri orders appointing H E Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khulaifi (right) as Chief of the Amiri Diwan; H E Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad (centre) as Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and H E Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sayed as Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Sidra Medicine launches cord blood bank

FROM PAGE 1

He added, "There are over 80 diseases that can be treated using the banked samples including some types of cancers. With this private service now available for maternity patients at Sidra Medicine, we provide parents with the opportunity to safeguard their child's future health by cryopreserving their stem cells. This is particularly relevant for families with a history of congenital medical issues. The stored stem cells could provide a source for regenerative therapies if their child or other family members experience blood or immune system disorders."

Congratulations

For the trust bestowed by

His Highness

Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani

The Amir of the State of Qatar

We extend our warmest congratulations to



H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani

on His Excellency's appointment as

Minister of Transport

We wish him continued progress and success.

Congratulations

For the trust bestowed by

His Highness

Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani

The Amir of the State of Qatar

We extend our warmest congratulations to



His Excellency
**Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman
bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani**
on his appointment as
**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
State for Defense Affairs**



Her Excellency
Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi
on her appointment as
**Minister of
Social Development and Family**



Her Excellency
Lulwa bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater
on her appointment as
**Minister of
Education and Higher Education**



His Excellency
Mansour bin Ebrahim bin Saad Al Mahmoud
on his appointment as
Minister of Public Health



His Excellency
Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani
on his appointment as
Minister of Commerce and Industry



His Excellency
**Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah
bin Mohammed Al Thani**
on his appointment as
Minister of Transport

We wish their excellencies continued progress and success



اكتور قطر
AKTOR QATAR

Speaker stresses Qatar’s keenness to strengthen GCC cooperation

FROM PAGE 1

He also stressed the council’s support for the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and international legitimacy resolutions.

Hassan bin Abdulla Al Ghanim stressed the importance of continued Gulf parliamentary support for the rights of the Palestinian people, urging the international community to assume its responsibilities in stopping the crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced displacement committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip, and to take all measures to prosecute and hold accountable this entity and its officials for committing these crimes.

Regarding the Lebanese issue, the Speaker of the Shura Council voiced the council’s condemnation of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

He called for the necessity of obligating Israel to abide by

Al Ghanim stressed the importance of continued Gulf parliamentary support for the rights of the Palestinian people, urging the international community to assume its responsibilities to stop genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza Strip.

international legitimacy resolutions to protect lives and ensure security in the region.

Concluding his speech, the Speaker of the Shura Council congratulated Member of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates H E Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Yamahi on his election as Speaker of the Arab Parliament, stressing that this step represents a real opportunity to enhance the pioneering role of the UAE at the Arab parliamentary level, and contributes to supporting the Gulf stances

on vital issues affecting the region and supports joint parliamentary work.

The Speaker voiced his confidence in the success of the UAE in leading the current session of the meeting, hoping that these efforts will contribute to enhancing cooperation between the GCC countries and achieving the aspirations of the peoples of the GCC.

The Speakers of the Gulf legislative councils stressed in their speeches during the meeting the importance of enhancing Gulf integration, addressing the need to develop Gulf parliamentary work, and unifying efforts to support important regional and international issues, particularly the Palestinian issue.

The Speakers of the Gulf legislative councils discussed a number of topics related to enhancing joint Gulf parliamentary cooperation, in addition to discussing the regional and international challenges facing the region.



UAE Vice-President meets Speaker of Shura Council

Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court of the United Arab Emirates H E Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan met yesterday with Speaker of the Shura Council H E Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim as part of the meeting with Their Excellencies the Speakers of the Legislative Councils of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries participating in the 18th Regular Meeting of the Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils of the GCC states, hosted by the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi. The meeting discussed a number of topics related to joint Gulf action, and ways to enhance and develop it.

Speakers of GCC Legislative Councils greet Qatar on success of constitutional referendum

ABU DHABI: Their Excellencies Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils in the GCC countries congratulated the State of Qatar on the success of the General Referendum on the draft constitutional amendments to the permanent constitution of the State of Qatar.

This came in the final statement of the 18th regular meeting of Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils in the GCC countries which was held yesterday, in Abu Dhabi,

United Arab Emirates.

The statement lauded the salient role performed by the Shura Council of the State of Qatar during its presidency of the 17th regular meeting, emphasizing that this role has strengthened the path of cooperation and coordination among the Gulf legislative councils, and positively impacted the joint Gulf action.

The conferees expressed their grave concern over the ongoing crisis in Palestine, underscoring the importance of the international community’s obligation to uphold its

responsibility toward protecting the Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the remainder of the occupied territories.

Additionally, they stressed the need for lifting the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and called for unconditional opening of all crossings immediately to ensure the delivery of essential humanitarian, relief, and medical assistance to meet the fundamental needs of residents of the Strip, affirming that they stand in solidarity with the brotherly people of Lebanon and called for stepping up

regional and global efforts to end the war in Lebanon and provide the emergency humanitarian support to mitigate the suffering of civilians.

Their Excellencies Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils in the GCC countries agreed to select the topic of the legislative role of the Gulf legislative councils in governing Artificial Intelligence: Reality, challenges, and future prospects as the common Gulf topic for 2025, which will be discussed within the framework of the

councils’ sessions.

The statement hailed the recommendations of the symposium on cultural diversity and the role of the Gulf legislative councils in protecting Gulf identity, which was organized by the Shura Council as part of the Gulf topic of the previous session, and accordingly they took a number of critical decisions related to reinforcing the parliamentary relationship among the GCC states and lending impetus to the Gulf parliamentary cooperation at numerous levels. — **QNA**

Minister of Labour meets with Sudanese Ambassador

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Minister of Labour H E Dr Ali bin Samikh Al Marri yesterday met with Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Qatar H E Ahmed Abdel-Rahman Siwar Al Dahab.

The meeting included a review of the bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of labour, as well as discussions on ways to support and develop these relations.

Hospitality Qatar kicks off with participation of over 120 exhibitors

FROM PAGE 1

Following the opening ceremony, Qatar Tourism and IFP Qatar hosted a special awards ceremony titled ‘Ambassadors of Excellence’ to honour seniors from different departments in Qatar’s hotel industry for their outstanding service in 2024.

Honourees received certificates of appreciation and award plaques from Al Jaber.

Reflecting on the success of the first day, Haidar Mshaimesh, General Manager of IFP Qatar, said: “Hospitality Qatar is the country’s leading international trade exhibition and conference for hospitality and hotels, restaurants and cafes (HORECA). Organised in partnership with Qatar Tourism, the expo has attracted over 120 suppliers and service providers across the hospitality, HORECA, tourism,



Acting Director of Tourism Development at Qatar Tourism. Omar Al Jaber, inaugurating the exhibition at the DECC, yesterday.

and food and beverage (F&B) sectors from more than 20 countries. It also brings together investors and hospitality pioneers in Qatar to explore investment opportunities in the

country’s dynamic hospitality and tourism industry.”

He added: “This year, we proudly highlight the participation of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the event’s

government partner, with a dedicated pavilion hosting a high-level Moroccan delegation as part of the Qatar-Morocco Year of Culture. Led by Bentahar, the delegation includes senior

officials representing Morocco’s public and private hospitality and tourism industry.”

Mshaimesh said: “Hospitality Qatar has steadily expanded its scope and offerings over the years to meet the increasing demand of the hospitality sector both locally and globally. This year’s agenda includes industry conferences, training sessions, and competitions tailored for HORECA, in addition to the B2B Matchmaking Program that connects industry leaders with potential buyers and investors, providing a unique platform to showcase products and services as well as forming new partnerships.”

He noted: “This year’s event features a comprehensive lineup of activities, including the Salon Culinaire competitions, where over 175 chefs from 35 top hotels

in Doha will compete across 20 different categories, presenting innovative recipes from various cuisines. For the first time, the exhibition will also host live cooking demonstrations by renowned culinary experts from France, Morocco, and beyond.”

Hospitality Qatar provides the ideal platform for all exhibitors, whether they are producers, suppliers, or industry professionals to reach their target markets while fostering growth within the sector. The event covers all segments of the industry, including hotels and facilities, interiors and design, leisure and entertainment, travel and tourism, resorts and landscaping, cutting-edge hospitality tech and supplies for HORECA, eco-friendly hotel systems and solutions, and F&B industry, among others.

Qatar attends Web Summit Lisbon

LISBON: The State of Qatar participated in the Web Summit in Lisbon, held from November 11 to 14 in the Portuguese capital, with over 70,000 tech innovators, investors, and business leaders from around the world attending.

The Qatari delegation was headed by Director of the Government Communications Office H E Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor Al Thani, who is also Chairman of the Permanent Web Summit Organizing Committee, alongside representatives from various governmental and semi-governmental entities.

The Web Summit team highlighted details of the Qatari delegations participation, including the diverse national entities and Qatari speakers from various sectors, aimed at attracting investment to Qatar and strengthening its business

The Qatari delegation was headed by Director of the Government Communications Office H E Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor Al Thani, who is also Chairman of the Permanent Web Summit Organizing Committee, alongside representatives from various governmental and semi-governmental entities.

sector, particularly in technology, artificial intelligence, and research and development.

The team also noted the achievements of the first edition of the Web Summit in Qatar, which resulted in sig-

nificant milestones.

Qatari companies at the Web Summit Lisbon 2024 aim to strengthen their international partnerships and explore investment opportunities in the global market.

During the summit, Invest Qatar launched the Startup Qatar programme to support startups, providing them with funding and development programmes for innovations in sectors such as gaming and healthtech.

Following the success of the Web Summit Qatar 2024, which attracted over 15,000 participants from 118 countries, Qatar is preparing to host the next edition of the summit in February 2025, expected to see an even larger presence of companies and investors, further establishing Qatar as a regional hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. — **QNA**

MSDF holds seminar on Qatar-Morocco cultural ties

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF), represented by the Family Empowerment Department, has organised a seminar on ‘Qatar and Morocco: Reality and Prospects’.

The event was held within Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year Cultural in cooperation with the Qatar Museums Authority, the Years of Culture Committee and the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies at the Institute’s headquarters.

In her inaugural speech, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies Dr. Amal Ghazal, highlighted the fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and Family and Ambassador of Morocco to Qatar H E Mohamed Setri. She noted the importance of the role of academics in deepening understanding of Qatari-Moroccan relations, stressing that this seminar represents an important step to strengthen relations between the two countries and embody a unique model of Arab cooperation.

The seminar was distinguished by the participation of a number of researchers who presented various papers that

focused on the social and humanitarian aspects of the friendship between the Qatari and Moroccan peoples.

The papers also reviewed the experiences of Moroccan expatriates in Qatar and the impact of this experience on their lives, in addition to exchanging experiences between Qatari citizens who

presented a study on the strength of Qatari-Moroccan political relations and their mutual support on fateful issues reviewing examples of each country’s support for the other in international forums.

Director of the Family Empowerment Department Fatima Al Nuaimi, said, “The Ministry’s participation in the



Panellists at a MSDF seminar on Qatar-Morocco cultural relations.

resided in or visited Morocco, which enriched aspects of cultural and social understanding between the two countries.

During the seminar, Ismail Attia, a graduate of the Institute’s History Program, presented a paper entitled “History of Moroccan-Qatari Relations,” in which he reviewed the development of these relations through the various stages, which witnessed gradual growth and tangible development.

Assistant professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies Abdelkarim Amengay

activities of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Cultural represents the importance of highlighting the spirit of cooperation between the two countries in broad areas, including cultural and social cooperation.”

She added, “It confirms the integration of the fraternal relations that link the two brotherly countries. The exhibition is an opportunity to highlight the spirit of Qatari and Moroccan culture, and gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the culture of the two countries through various products.”

LIQUIDATION NOTICE

Based on the resolution of the shareholders on 22 April 2024 It has been decided to liquidate.

M/s HILL AND KNOWLTON QATAR W.L.L.
(Optional liquidation)

The liquidator / Premijith Cheruvicheri Prabhakaran
From Morison Menon Chartered Accountants
and Partners LLC

Hereby announces starting the liquidation of
M/s HILL AND KNOWLTON QATAR W.L.L.
CR No 32079

Whoever having any rights at the side of this company is requested to send a registered letter including the supporting documents to the
PB No 32312, Doha - Qatar and Email premijith@morisonqatar.com
Stating details of the claims

Within seventy-five days from date of this notice

LIQUIDATION NOTICE

Based on the resolution of the shareholders on 03 June 2024 It has been decided to liquidate.

M/s CRACKNELL QATAR WLL
(Optional liquidation)

The liquidator / Premijith Cheruvicheri Prabhakaran
From Morison Menon Chartered Accountants
and Partners LLC

Hereby announces starting the liquidation of
M/s CRACKNELL QATAR WLL
CR No 45756

Whoever having any rights at the side of this company is requested to send a registered letter including the supporting documents to the
PB No 32312, Doha - Qatar and Email premijith@morisonqatar.com
Stating details of the claims

Within seventy-five days from date of this notice



QF's WISH Summit sheds light on protecting healthcare in conflict zones

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), an initiative of Qatar Foundation (QF), will host its seventh edition of WISH Summit in Doha today and tomorrow. This year's theme is Humanizing Health: Conflict, Equity, and Resilience.

Over two days, more than 3,000 health policymakers, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and practitioners will convene at Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) to look for innovative solutions to some of the world's most significant health challenges.

This year, WISH has partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop three WHO-led collaborative research projects, generating evidence-based reports for in-depth discussion at the summit. These reports will focus on topics that urgently require the attention of the global health community. This partnership underscores a joint commitment to enhancing policy and practice.

Additionally, local and international partners will collaborate with WISH to produce summit reports covering various issues including health systems, ethics, physical health, and mental health. WISH 2024 will continue to emphasize the need for regional perspectives on global health and the importance of translating research into practical solutions with real-world impact.

Protecting health in armed conflict is one of the research topics being discussed at the Summit.

Advisor, Policy Hub at Qatar Foundation Sultana Afdhal discusses about this important and crucial topic.



Attacks on healthcare personnel and infrastructure are devastating for the communities that they serve. A hospital that has come under attack and is no longer able to provide care will see the sick and injured go untreated, the spread of disease, the collapse of mental health and many longer-term health consequences.

Sultana Afdhal, Advisor, Policy Hub at QF



How do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contribute to health protection in conflict settings? Can you share examples of effective interventions?

Unfortunately, it is often the case that NGOs are left to pick up the pieces. When conflicts end, and the media coverage moves on, it is the NGOs that remind in country supporting communities and the most vulnerable. Sadly, we have heard too many examples of this. Our local partners such as the likes of the Qatar Red Crescent Society, Qatar Charity and the Qatar Fund for Development are all contributing to efforts on the ground in the region. We are also proud to collaborate with international partners – Emergency NGO, an Italian organization gave us incredible accounts of how they've

depression. These trauma-related conditions can disrupt cognitive, emotional, and social development, leading to difficulties in education, relationships, and employment. Unaddressed, these issues often persist into adulthood, affecting overall well-being and societal integration. This is something that WISH has looked at in great detail, the adverse effects of childhood trauma – and is something we've long recommended screening for.

How can the international community better support health initiatives in armed conflict zones? What role do you believe governments should play?

The response is of course multifaceted – the international community can enhance health initiatives in conflict zones by funding medical aid, pro-

more to protects health and healthcare workers who find themselves in armed conflict settings.

What strategies have proven effective in promoting physical and mental health recovery in communities emerging from conflict?

Effective strategies for recovery in post-conflict communities include trauma-informed mental health services, rebuilding healthcare infrastructure, and community support programs. Empowering local leaders, creating safe spaces, and promoting economic opportunities also enhance resilience. Education and social cohesion initiatives foster a supportive environment, facilitating long-term physical and mental health recovery.

What are the primary challenges to accessing healthcare in today's conflict zones, and how do these challenges affect the overall health of the population?

Attacks on healthcare personnel and infrastructure are devastating for the communities that they serve. A hospital that has come under attack and is no longer able to provide care will see the sick and injured go untreated, the spread of disease, the collapse of mental health and many longer-term health consequences. In addition to that, the provision of routine care is severely disrupted, for example the provision of cancer care treatment, dialysis and even routine medicines – something so many of us take for granted – becomes a matter of life and death.

How have armed conflicts specifically impacted public health infrastructures, and what are the immediate consequences for the community? Please support with examples.

Military strategies developed by



Paramedics carry a wounded Palestinian youth out of an ambulance upon his arrival at the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis for treatment, in the southern Gaza Strip.

How important is collaboration between local governments, international organizations, and communities in the rebuilding of health systems post-conflict?

Collaboration between local governments, international organizations, and communities is essential for rebuilding post-conflict health systems. It ensures culturally appropriate care, resource sharing, and capacity-building, fostering sustainable healthcare solutions. Community involvement enhances trust and relevance, while international expertise and funding address critical gaps, accelerating recovery and long-term health resilience. But as we have set out previously – NGOs and the wider community has a critical role to play in rebuilding devastated health systems. By contributing to the rebuild, communities will once again own the facilities that serve them.

Please comment about Qatar's role in protecting healthcare in conflict zones.

Qatar plays a critical role in protecting health in armed conflict – we already know the vital role played by Qatar based organizations play on the ground, and now, with the publication of the new WISH/WHO report on protecting health in armed conflict, Qatar is uniquely placed to advocate at the political level . It is my great hope that taken together, Qatar continues to play a significant and leading role in ensuring that international humanitarian law is upheld, and that the international community can work together to ensure that our health workers, our hospitals, our community care initiatives are free from the devastation of war.



Children exposed to conflict may experience long-term psychological effects such as PTSD, anxiety, and depression. These trauma-related conditions can disrupt cognitive, emotional, and social development, leading to difficulties in education, relationships, and employment.

some actors in the region now deliberately target the provision of healthcare services, with the specific objective of breaking the spirit of the people living in that environment, in particular, women and children. What you are seeing now in Gaza is the destruction of the support services specifically designed to demoralizing of the population. This is what our new WISH report, published jointly with WHO seeks to address – to remind political leaders that attacks on healthcare can never be justified.

tried to continue to provide basic health services in some of the most challenging environments in Sudan. Indeed, WISH 2024 saw a session dedicated to “Sudan, the forgotten war”. This tells us everything.

What are the potential long-term psychological effects of conflict on children, and how might these impact their development into adulthood?

Children exposed to conflict may experience long-term psychological effects such as PTSD, anxiety, and

protecting healthcare workers, and facilitating safe access to vulnerable populations. Then there is the political side, Governments should prioritize diplomacy to ensure humanitarian access, allocate resources, and enforce accountability for attacks on health facilities, promoting stability and continuous health support. We are proud to say that WISH 2024 will see the launch of a new global alliance of State and non-State actors who will take the message to our political leaders that we must do



A WHO-led multi-agency mission accessed Al-Shifa Hospital in north Gaza.



A doctor performs a medical check on a patient at a hospital in Tokar in Sudan.

Environment Minister heads Qatar’s delegation at COP29 in Azerbaijan

BAKU: The State of Qatar is participating in the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, with a delegation headed by Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change participated in the opening session of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit, inaugurated by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H E Ilham Aliyev, and attended by numerous world leaders, heads of government, ministers, UN officials, and representatives from civil society organizations.

On the sidelines of the conference, H E Minister of Environment and Climate Change held meetings with several officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan.

The conference, which will run until November 22, will address key issues such as climate finance, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, climate adaptation, climate justice, public-private sector cooperation, and measures to enhance



Minister of Environment and Climate Change H E Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie with the Qatari delegate at COP 29.

the transition to renewable energy. Additionally, discussions will cover green transportation technologies, biodiversity protection, and reports and reviews from the COP28 summit.

COP29 serves as a critical platform for reviewing global progress in combating climate change and for developing new policies aimed at accelerating worldwide climate action.

The State of Qatar has a special focus on climate change, reflected in its commitment to international agreements, particularly the Paris Agreement and other related international treaties. Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to address climate change by diversifying the national economy, enhancing capacity building, and optimizing the use of the country's

natural resources sustainably, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The state has launched a series of national policies to combat and adapt to the impacts of climate change, including the National Climate Change and Environment Strategy, the National Climate Action Plan 2030, and the Third National Development Strategy.— **QNA**

Qatar participates in 73rd Session of Executive Office of Council of Arab Ministers of Transport

CAIRO: The State of Qatar took part in the 73rd Session of Executive Office of Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, held yesterday at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport in Alexandria, Egypt. Deputy Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the Arab League Khalid Abdullah Al Ibrahim headed the State of Qatar's delegation to the meeting.

The meetings agenda covered various topics aimed at

enhancing Arab cooperation in transportation and logistics, supporting efforts to develop transportation infrastructure across the Arab region, and fostering economic integration among Arab member states to achieve sustainable development goals. The outcomes of this session will be presented to the 37th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, scheduled to convene today at the academy's headquarters in Alexandria. — **QNA**

British Embassy Doha to host King Charles III’s birthday party today

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: British Embassy Doha is to celebrate His Majesty King Charles III's birthday today. The reception will showcase the 'Best of British' food and drink, and British culture. Highlights will include a display of British traditions and heritage, alongside entertainment that reflects the spirit of the United Kingdom.

The event will also highlight the exceptional UK-Qatar relationship over recent years.

This year's celebration holds special significance as His Majesty looks forward to

hosting Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in London for his first official State Visit.

H E Neerav Patel, British Ambassador to Qatar, said, "His Majesty The King holds Qatar in high regard, including through his close and personal bond with Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone celebrating His Majesty's birthday with us in Doha. It is the personal connections between our people that makes our strong relationship so special and enduring."

Qatar to host 7th GCC Theatre Festival for Persons with Disabilities

DOHA: The State of Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Social Development and Family, will host the 7th edition of the Theater Festival for Persons with Disabilities in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries from November 27 to December 3, coinciding with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is marked on December 3 each year.

The festival aims to integrate persons with disabilities into Gulf societies and raise the level of awareness of Gulf society about the talents and capabilities of people with disabilities, in addition to enhancing confidence in them and highlighting their talents and capabilities in the field of theatre as well as providing them with the opportunity to present their issues in their own way within the framework of artistic work in order to integrate them into society.

GCC countries will present

The festival aims to integrate persons with disabilities into Gulf societies and raise the level of awareness of Gulf society about the talents and capabilities of people with disabilities, in addition to enhancing confidence in them and highlighting their talents and capabilities.

a theatrical performance during the festival.

The State of Qatar won three awards in the sixth edition of the GCC Theater Festival for Persons with Disabilities that was hosted by Saudi capital, Riyadh, in 2022.

The Theater Festival for Persons with Disabilities is held every two years and hosted by one of the GCC states.

Media City Qatar attends Web Summit in Lisbon

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Media City Qatar participates at Web Summit 2024, as part of Qatar's delegation, held in Lisbon, Portugal, from November 11-14, 2024. This strategic presence underscores Qatar's ambitions to attract global tech leaders and foster a business-friendly environment in Doha, supporting the city's emergence as a leading destination for digital media and technology innovation companies, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

During the event, Media City Qatar joins other participating organizations from Qatar at the summit to highlight the country's growing digital ecosystem and state-of-the-art facilities, actively engaging in networking opportunities with industry professionals, investors, and innovators.

With a focus on AI, digital media, and cutting-edge technologies, Media City Qatar aims to attract global talent and foster strategic partnerships.

In recent times, Qatar is expanding its appeal as a prime destination for businesses seeking to establish or extend their presence in the Middle East. As a global hub, Qatar now ranks 3rd in MENA and 5th globally in the National Entrepreneurship Context Index (2024 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor), with \$1bn invested in its first



(From Left to Right) Chief Executive Officer of Visit Qatar Eng. Abdulaziz Ali Al Mawlawi, Chairman of Qatar Tourism H E Saad bin Ali Al Kharji, CEO of Media City Qatar Eng. Jassim Mohamed Al Khori and CEO of Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar) Sheikh Ali Alwaleed Al Thani at the event.

venture capital fund for SMEs and startups. Consistently ranked highly across various global indices, Qatar is celebrated for its cultural vibrancy, world-class safety, and high quality of life, offering a unique blend

of tradition and modernity.

Reflecting on these developments, CEO of Media City Qatar Eng. Jassim Mohamed Al Khori said, "By participating in Web Summit 2024 in Lisbon

Action plan for tackling diabetes, obesity discussed at UDST’s event

M MAZHARUL HAQUE
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) hosted the 3rd Diabetes Care Symposium under the theme, 'Empowering Person-Centered Diabetes Care and Innovation' on Monday in collaboration with the National Diabetes Committee, Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and Novo Nordisk, a global healthcare company. The symposium marked a milestone in Qatar's commitment to enhancing diabetes care and education.

The event attracted a diverse audience of healthcare professionals and students, both locally and internationally. The symposium featured a dynamic programme, including presentations, panel discussions, and an exhibition showcasing innovative advancements in diabetes care.

This year's theme, 'Empowering Person-Centered Diabetes Care and Innovation', aligns with the International Diabetes Federation's vision for 2024–2026, aiming to improve the quality of

life for diabetes patients by empowering healthcare professionals and students with the necessary knowledge and skills.

Those present at the symposium included Sheikh Dr. Mohamed bin Hamad Al Thani, Director of Non-Communicable Disease Prevention Programmes; Prof Abdul-Badi Abou-Samra, Co-Chair, National Diabetes Committee and Director, Qatar Metabolic Institute; Dr. Rayana Ahmed Bou Haka, representative of the World Health Organisation office in Qatar; and a multitude of researchers, distinguished guests, faculty members and students.

UDST President Dr. Salem Al Naemi said, "The symposium serves as a vital scientific forum for healthcare professionals, where they exchange ideas and concepts on the latest trends in diabetes care. Through this symposium, we aim to empower healthcare providers to apply the latest strategies that contribute to improving the quality of life and health outcomes for diabetes patients. Diabetes represents a major global health challenge and

the symposium highlights the importance of collaboration and innovation in addressing this challenge."

Prof Abdul Badi Abou-Samra, Co-Chair of the National Diabetes Committee at the Ministry of Public Health and Director of the Qatar Metabolic Institute at Hamad Medical Corporation emphasised the importance of the forthcoming 'Action Plan on Obesity, Diabetes and Modifiable Risk Factors for ASCVDs (2024-2030),' which will be officially launched at the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) 2024 on November 14, coinciding with the World Diabetes Day.

"As we advance towards implementing the Action Plan, we are focusing on comprehensive strategies to address the root causes of obesity and diabetes in Qatar. Our approach aims to empower individuals, families and communities with the knowledge and resources to make healthier choices, while strengthening preventive healthcare services and enabling primary care to deliver care closer to



Moderator Prof Abdul Badi Abou-Samra (left) and panelists during a panel discussion, 'Emerging Trends in Person-Centered Diabetes Care, Innovation and Strategies' at University of Doha for Science and Technology on Monday.

home. The symposium held in collaboration with the UDST is a vital platform to share innovative practices and engage with healthcare professionals who play a crucial role in transforming patient care. Together, we strive to create a healthier future by tackling these challenges, inspiring change, and enhancing the quality of life for all," he said.

Venkat Kalyan, Vice-President and General Manager of Novo Nordisk Gulf, said, "Novo Nordisk is grateful to be a part of today's event and collaborated with the UDST to organise the symposium on diabetes care."

He underscored the critical need to raise awareness about diabetes as a chronic and recurrent condition that has reached high prevalence level

in Qatar. "Novo Nordisk continues its commitment to diabetes care through collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders and healthcare organisations."

Kalyan added, "We are committed to enhancing the quality of life for individuals living with diabetes by reshaping the preventive measures and treatment approaches for diabetes."

Inaugural Michelin Guide Doha 2025 to be revealed on December 12

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The inaugural launch of the Michelin Guide in Doha is a significant milestone in the culinary world. This prestigious invite-only event marks the first time in history that the Michelin Guide selection will arrive in Doha, Qatar. The ceremony is set to take place on Thursday, December 12th, 2024, at the Katara Hall, Raffles Doha.

"The Michelin Guide, renowned for its meticulous and independent reviews of dining establishments, has been exploring Doha's vibrant culinary scene, where our famously anonymous inspectors have thoroughly reviewed the city's top eateries, from the bustling Corniche to the luxurious hotels and diverse restaurants representing cuisines from around the world. We are

delighted to finally announce the Michelin Guide's arrival in Doha," said Gwendal Poulennec, International Director of the Michelin Guides. The arrival of the Michelin Guide in Doha is supported by Qatar Tourism, highlighting Qatar's emergence as a global culinary destination. This inclusion is a testament to the talented chefs and culinary teams in Doha, who bring passion, creativity,

and respect for local traditions to their craft.

The ceremony will not only celebrate the best of Doha's dining scene but also aim to put the city on the international culinary map. It is expected to attract affluent travelers and food enthusiasts from around the world, eager to experience the unique gastronomic culture of Doha.

The Michelin Guide conveys

its restaurant reviews through an extensive system of distinctions, the most famous of which are its globally renowned Michelin Stars awarded to the best culinary experiences within the Guide's restaurant selection. One Michelin Star is awarded to restaurants for "high-quality cooking that is worth a stop," Two Michelin Stars for "excellent cooking that is worth a detour," and three Michelin

Stars for "exceptional cuisine that is worth a special journey."

Alongside the coveted Star ratings, the selection will also include the popular Bib Gourmand category, a distinction awarded to restaurants that provide value-for-money meals.

All establishments are chosen according to the same five criteria used by Michelin inspectors around the world.

The Peninsula

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EDITORIAL

Deplorable comments

SHOWING the evil intention of the occupational forces, Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich vowed to annex Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. For more than a year now Israel has been bombarding and killing the people of Gaza in an attempt to wipe out the Palestinian population from the region as part of their strategy to take over the entire area. The Israeli far-right minister Smotrich said he had "instructed the director of settlement affairs in the defence ministry and the Civil Administration... to prepare the necessary infrastructure for applying sovereignty".

The State of Qatar condemned in the strongest terms the statements made by the Minister of Finance in the Israeli occupation government, that included instructions to prepare the infrastructure required to annex the occupied West Bank. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized the need for the international community to strongly confront the colonial, settlement, and racist policies of the Israeli occupation, as well as its repeated violations of the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, particularly its ongoing crimes in the West Bank, including violations of religious sanctities and its schemes to Judaize Jerusalem. The statement also reiterated the urgent need for international solidarity, more than ever, to achieve the two-state solution that paves the way for a just and lasting peace in the region. The Ministry stressed that repeated Israeli statements in violation of international laws and resolutions clearly demonstrate that the occupation is the primary obstacle to any efforts for peace and stability.

Israel's horrific crimes has claimed 50,000 Palestinians, 70 percent of whom are children and women, in Gaza and other Palestinian territories. The Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education announced that the Israeli occupation murdered at least 12,061 Palestinian students and injured at least 19,467 others, since the beginning of Israel's genocide against the Gaza Strip and aggression against the West Bank. These figures should shake the sleeping international community awake and bring the atrocities to an immediate stop.

The only way to bring peace to the Middle east region is to make Israeli forces withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories. It is time for the whole world to come together and force Israel to follow the UN resolutions and respect international conventions. A timeline must be put in place to make a sovereign Palestinian State a reality. Afte the mindless destruction, a large part of the Palestinian territory is destroyed, and the infrastructure remains in rubbles. A lot of effort is needed to make the place liveable again, but for this the violence must stop NOW.

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Biden can still save what remains of Gaza, and his sorry legacy

ANDREW MITROVICA — AL JAZEERA

AFTER they lose, retire, or get pushed out, politicians tend, it is said, to become preoccupied with their legacies.

This cliché may be true since – driven by hubris and narcissism – former presidents and prime ministers try to shape their legacies by penning self-serving biographies describing their triumphs [many] and failures [few] while exercising the singular powers and prerogatives of high office. I'm not sure, to be frank, whether US President Joe Biden has the time to publish an air-brushed account of his unremarkable four-year tenure as commander-in-chief. But I believe that Biden, like anyone living out their twilight years, is apt to devote a moment or two to quiet reflection and, perhaps, introspection.

I think the seminal questions Biden is bound to be contemplating as he approaches his departure from the White House are familiar to many his age: What good have I done? How have I helped people who need help? How have I eased, as best I can, the suffering of others? In the raw residue of the Democrats' drubbing by a resurgent Donald Trump, Biden's epitaph is largely being written by angry pundits and once-loyal allies turned finger-pointing detractors who fault him for that stinging defeat.

Biden, they insist, should have signalled much earlier his intention not to seek re-election and, as a result, allowed for an open primary where several candidates could have vied for the Democratic Party nomination for president. A stronger standard-bearer may have emerged, or, at the least, Kamala Harris would have been better able to establish her identity and presidential bona fides. Instead, Biden's stubbornness and blindness sealed Harris's and, by extension, America's unhappy fate. They could be right. They could be wrong. I don't know.

This, I do know. Biden has a fast-closing window to wrest the "narrative" over his sullied "legacy" from the legion of miffed commentators and turncoat friends lobbing recriminations and blame at him today. Seizing this one last opportunity to make good on a blatant wrong will require will and determination – the kind of will and determination that Biden has, to date, not demonstrated.

However slim and distant, there is always the hope, I suppose, that Biden will finally embrace the impulse to do the necessary and urgent thing and possibly end the genocide that is engulfing Gaza and the occupied West Bank with such grinding, relentless ferocity.

Every minute of every hour of every day, the already awful, apocalyptic conditions faced by besieged Palestinians in what remains of Gaza and the West Bank worsen. The halting scenes of devastation and despair are almost beyond comprehension.

Every minute of every hour of every day, more innocents – mostly children and women – are being killed, their bodies wrapped in white shrouds by surviving families whose grief is

Palestinians displaced from shelters in Beit Hanoun cross the main Salaheddine road into Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip following Israeli army evacuation orders yesterday. (AFP)

“Every minute of every hour of every day, more innocents – mostly children and women – are being killed, their bodies wrapped in white shrouds by surviving families whose grief is tempered by the knowledge that they will, in all likelihood, be the next to die.”

tempered by the knowledge that they will, in all likelihood, be the next to die.

Every minute of every hour of every day, more innocents – mostly children and women – remain entombed under rubble or succumb to starvation, disease and the dispiriting exhaustion brought on by one forced march after another. Every minute of every hour of every day, Gaza and much of the West Bank has been erased, reduced to dust and memory.

And every minute of every hour of every day, innocent Israelis remain captive by Hamas and the imperial designs and parochial whims of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has – according to his sacked defence minister, Yoav Gallant – rejected peace deals that would have ended the wholesale agony months ago. All along, Netanyahu has played Biden and company for chumps. He knew that America's unqualified support for Israel's "right to defend itself" – regardless of who occupies the Oval Office – meant that Biden and compliant company were obliged to approve of the destruction of Gaza and the West Bank.

The public spats over the scope and scale of the carnage have been rhetorical. Netanyahu understood that Biden et al were also obliged to provide the arms and money to engineer a genocide that has killed more than 43,000 [and counting] in a little more than a year.

With Trump win, Israeli minister calls to annex parts of West Bank

LOUISA LOVELUCK, CLAIRE PARKER, CATE BROWN — THE WASHINGTON POST

ISRAEL'S finance minister on Monday welcomed President-elect Donald Trump's victory and said it meant "the time has come" to exert full Israeli sovereignty over parts of the occupied West Bank. The speech by Bezalel Smotrich, one of the most powerful ministers in Netanyahu's far-right coalition government, was the strongest indication to date of how Trump's election has emboldened Israeli hardliners as they seek to cement the state's control over the Palestinian territories.

"Trump's victory brings an important opportunity for the State of Israel," Smotrich told supporters at a conference of his religious Zionist party, according to comments shared by his spokesman. During Trump's first term, he said, "we were on the verge of applying sovereignty over the settlements" in the West Bank. "Now," he said, "the time has come to make it a reality." Netanyahu's government in the past two years has dramatically expanded Israel's footprint in the occupied West Bank, where an estimated 3 million Palestinians live alongside more than 500,000 settlers. His administration has approved strategic land seizures and major settlement construction, escalated demolition of Palestinian property and increased state support for Jewish settler outposts built in violation of Israeli and international law. Settler violence against Palestinian residents has grown commonplace, often in full view of Israeli soldiers and police officers.

Smotrich, head of the National Religious Party-Religious Zionism, frequently issues inflammatory statements. He has advocated, for instance, for the starvation of 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, and for Israelis to occupy the land there. His remarks Monday underscored Israel's deepening occupation in the West Bank, where the army earlier this year transferred significant management powers to a Smotrich ally, Hillel Roth. Giving military control to a handpicked civilian has been viewed as another step toward Smotrich's long-running aspiration, outlined in a 2017 treatise, to achieve "victory by settlement" and extend Israeli law over the territory – an effort analysts say would effectively convert occupation into annexation.

"Moving forward, I intend to lead a government decision stating that the Israeli government will work with President Trump's new administration and the international community to apply sovereignty and seek American recognition," Smotrich said.

Giving military control to a handpicked civilian has been viewed as another step toward Smotrich's long-running aspiration, outlined in a 2017 treatise, to achieve "victory by settlement" and extend Israeli law over the territory.

The United Nations' highest court this year ordered Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territory, evacuate existing settlements and pay reparations to Palestinians who have lost land and property. The Israeli government declined to participate in the proceedings, which Netanyahu described as an "abuse of international law and the judicial process," and rejected the "false decision" they produced.

The Israeli government has also ignored the Biden administration's insistence that any diplomatic solution to the war in Gaza include a path to an independent Palestinian state. Full annexation of the West Bank, rights groups say, would sound the death knell to that lingering ambition, rights groups say. In his comments Monday, Smotrich explicitly linked Trump's election to his proposed path forward.

"After years in which, unfortunately, the current administration chose to interfere in Israeli democracy and personally refused to cooperate with me as Israel's finance minister, Trump's victory also brings an important opportunity," Smotrich said. He declared 2025 "the year of sovereignty in Judea and Samaria," the biblical name for the West Bank.

The Biden administration has been a strong supporter of Israel, supplying the government with billions of dollars in American weaponry to fight wars in Gaza and Lebanon, despite concerns over the tens of thousands of civilians the weapons have helped kill. Smotrich boasted in June about the steps he'd taken to achieve his vision for the West Bank. He vowed to thwart the establishment of a Palestinian state through "structural changes" in Israel's management of the territory "that will change the DNA of the system for many, many years," according to the Israeli rights group Peace Now, which obtained a recording of the conference.

"He is using the election to say that we are headed toward annexation, but this is not a new idea," said Yonatan Mizrahi, head of the settlements monitoring unit at Peace Now. "How real it is depends on one person, and that's Donald Trump. He didn't give the greenlight under the previous administration. The question is

whether he will now." An earlier "peace plan" outlined by Trump in 2020 would have required Israel to freeze settlement construction in the West Bank for four years. But it would not have disturbed any existing settlements.

It was unclear whether Smotrich's comments Monday indicated new action by the Netanyahu administration. Smotrich said he had instructed the Defense Ministry's settlement administration division and Israel's civil administration in the West Bank to prepare the groundwork to extend Israeli sovereignty over parts of the West Bank, but did not say whether this was a new development. His spokesman did not respond to requests for clarification. Some analysts saw little new in the remarks. "I'm not sure I'd call it an announcement – just the usual performative statements in a faction meeting of his party intended for press coverage," said Dahlia Scheindlin, a Tel Aviv-based fellow at Century International. "I view this as his two cents' worth on Trump's victory, hoping to instill the notion that Trump should go back to the support for piecemeal but formal annexation he gave in the first term." But Naomi Kahn, director of the international division at the pro-settler lobbying group Regavim, said she hoped the announcement signaled the beginning of an effort for which the group has long advocated: extending Israeli sovereignty – and with it, civil law – across the West Bank, beginning with the sections that make up Area C, home to most of the settlers.

Israel already exercises full administrative and security control over Area C, which comprises about 60 percent of the West Bank. But activities such as the construction of roads and houses, the transfer of property and the provision of basic services such as water and electricity are governed by Israeli authorities using a patchwork of military regulations and Ottoman and Jordanian laws – not the rules that apply to Israelis who live within the country's internationally recognized 1948 borders.

Regavim, which was co-founded by Smotrich in 2006, has long pushed for Israel to annex the West Bank entirely.

Kahn hoped Smotrich's speech "means that the state of Israel has to take responsibility for Area C – really take responsibility," including by "planning for the entire area, creating a master plan for development." The measures the Israeli government ultimately takes, and when it takes them, she said, are a matter of political will. Trump's election, she said, presented "an opportunity for fresh eyes to look at this situation."



Minister of Culture H E Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al Thani (fifth right) with other dignitaries at the event.

Doha Photography Award launched

DOHA: The Ministry of Culture announced yesterday the launch of the Doha Photography Award, which comes within the activities of the first edition of the Doha Photography Festival and aims to activate Qatar's role in various fields of arts, with a special focus on the art of photography.

Minister of Culture H E Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al Thani, Assistant Undersecretary for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture Dr. Ghanem bin Mubarak Al Ali, several officials, and dignitaries attended the award launch ceremony.

In a speech at the occasion, Director of the Qatar Photography Center, Jassim Ahmed Al Buainain, said that the award comes to translate the vision of the Ministry of Culture in continuing to achieve artistic and cultural momentum in society and creating a great interaction between the components of the photography industry, with the aim of supporting and encouraging photographers in the field of photography among different

age groups, refining young Qatari talents, and developing their aesthetic sense and photographic taste.

The Doha Photography Award includes several categories and axes. It has opened the door for the participation of two categories: The first category: for the age group under 18 years, and consists of one category (general), and participation is limited to those inside Qatar with all types of photos without being restricted to a specific axis. The first-place winner will receive QR30,000, the second-place winner will receive QR20,000, and the third-place winner will receive QR10,000.

The second category: The adults category, is for those over 18 years old, and includes five axes: Qatar axis: It allows all photographers to participate in highlighting the beauty of the State of Qatar in an artistic and attractive way. Three prizes were allocated for the axis: First place QR300,000, second place QR200,000, and third place QR150,000. Story axis: It allows

photographers to submit 6 to 10 photos that tell a complete story. Three prizes were allocated for the axis: First place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000. Special axis: It is determined by the competition committee affiliated with the Qatar Photography Center and changes it every year, and witnesses the organization of courses and workshops throughout the season to develop the skills of photographers. Three prizes were allocated for it: First place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000. Video axis: Allows photographers to participate with creative video clips. Three prizes are allocated for it: First place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000.

General axis: It is divided into the color photos section and the black and white section, with three prizes for each section, for a total of six prizes: first place QR150,000, second place QR100,000, and third place QR75,000. — *QNA*



Labour Minister chairs meeting of Workers' Support and Insurance Fund Board

The Board of Directors of the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund held its regular meeting, chaired by Minister of Labour and Chairman of the Board H E Dr. Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri. The meeting addressed several important agenda items, including cases submitted to the Fund. Significant decisions and recommendations were made to improve the Fund's performance and effectiveness, with the overarching goal of enhancing the work environment.

QRDI Council launches BioMed community

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council has launched the BioMed community as part of its initiative, RDI communities. The first gathering took place at Alwadi Hotel Doha - MGallery recently, marking a new chapter for the biomed sector in Qatar.

Nejoud M. Al Jehani, Senior Director of Policy Planning and Evaluation at QRDI Council said: "Launching the BioMed Community, marks a significant step forward for Qatar's biomedical research landscape. By fostering collaboration among key players in the industry, we are creating a powerful network that will not only drive innovative research but also address critical health challenges facing both Qatar and the global community. This community will be an important force in advancing Qatar's RDI sector and will shape the

future of biomedical research and innovation, contributing to the achievement of the Qatar National Vision 2030."

Under the slogan Connecting Minds and Shaping the Future of BioMed in Qatar, the BioMed Community is designed to bring together academic researchers, healthcare practitioners, industry representatives, policymakers, and international experts in the biomedical sector and encourage collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation to address the most pressing health and biomedical challenges facing Qatar and the broader global community.

Starting with a welcome speech by Nejoud M. Al Jehani, and a keynote by Dr. Hilal Lashuel, RDI Advisor to the Chairperson at Qatar Foundation, the agenda included inspiring sessions by valuable speakers including, Sheikh Dr. Mohamed Hamad Al Thani,

Director of the Public Health Department, Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Asiya Ismail Odugleh-Kolev, Integrated Health Services (IHS), World Health Organization (WHO), and Dr. Rana Lonnen, Healthcare Venture Capital, in addition to Dr. Sara Abdulla, Research Program Expert at QRDI Council, and Dr. Omar F. Boukhris, Research Program Director, from QRDI Council.

Community participants will have the opportunity to unlock numerous benefits aimed at strengthening Qatar's biomedical sector. Among these privileges are access to research funding options, including QRDI Council grants and additional funding sources.

Participants will also be offered opportunities to collaborate with renowned researchers and innovators, industry leaders, healthcare professionals, and policymakers on innovative projects and clinical trials.

Security cooperation important pillar of Qatar-Japan ties, says Ambassador

The event was attended by Brigadier General Mohamed Salmeen Al Jabri from the Amiri Navy; Brigadier General Ahmed Mohamed Al Dahi, from the Amiri Signal Corps; Japan's Defence Attache Colonel Tatsukawa; and a number of diplomats and Qatari officials.

ARSALAN ALTAF
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Bilateral relations between Qatar and Japan have evolved from traditional trade and energy ties to a strategic partnership encompassing a wide range of areas including security cooperation.

"The relationship between Japan and Qatar was elevated to a strategic partnership when the Japanese Prime Minister visited Qatar last year. Now our focus has gone beyond the LNG towards a comprehensive policy aiming to strengthen ties in a wider range of areas. Security

cooperation indeed is one of the important pillars of this policy, and it is becoming more and more active, these days," said the outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Qatar H E Satoshi Maeda.

He was addressing a reception to celebrate Japan Self-Defence Forces (SDF) Day held in Doha on Monday. The event also served as a farewell to the ambassador, who is completing his three-year tenure in Doha.

The event was attended by Brigadier General Mohamed Salmeen Al Jabri from the Amiri Navy; Brigadier General Ahmed Mohamed Al Dahi, from the Amiri Signal Corps; Japan's Defence Attache Colonel Tatsukawa; and a number of diplomats and Qatari officials.

This is the first SDF Day reception to be held in Qatar, since Colonel Tatsukawa was posted to Qatar last year as the country's first resident Defense Attaché.



Ambassador of Japan to Qatar H E Satoshi Maeda delivering his speech at the event.

Qatar and Japan also held their first defence ministerial meeting on the sidelines of Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore in June 2024, where the two sides had a very constructive discussion on various matters regarding security issues of mutual concern for both nations, the ambassador said. Japanese destroyer Murasame also visited Doha port as a goodwill gesture

earlier this month. "I believe that this port visit represents a symbolic milestone on the path of bilateral cooperation between both countries and that the anticipated opportunities of further progress in cooperation in such significant scope are very promising," the ambassador remarked. Reflecting on his time in Doha, the envoy said, "I really enjoyed my job and life in Qatar and am very happy and honored to be the Ambassador of Japan in Qatar."

Colonel Tatsukawa said since 2010, defence cooperation and exchange between Japan and Qatar has been centred on Arabic language training by the language institute of Qatar Armed Forces and short-term international students' programmes by the Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College.

This year's three international students from Japan were also present at the reception.

MIA Bazaar returns with new features and experiences

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Bazaar has returned with exciting enhancements designed to offer both vendors and visitors a more enjoyable experience.

Located at Zone 2 of MIA Park, the picturesque location provides stunning views of Doha's West Bay, with the iconic skyline creating the perfect backdrop for a memorable shopping and relaxation experience.

As a vibrant marketplace, the MIA Bazaar showcases the diversity and creativity of local entrepreneurs, offering a wide variety of unique products,

including handmade crafts, artwork, fashion, and more. Guests can also indulge in delicious treats and delicacies while enjoying the park's scenic waterfront atmosphere.

The stalls open from 4pm to 10pm every Friday and from 2pm – 9pm every Saturday, providing a lively weekend destination for residents and visitors alike. More than just a marketplace, the MIA Bazaar is a celebration of local talent and an opportunity to enjoy the fresh outdoor setting of MIA Park.

Entrepreneurs interested in joining the bazaar can send an email to BDRFP@qm.org.qa for further details on how to participate.



The stalls open from 4 pm to 10 pm every Friday and from 2 pm to – 9 pm every Saturday.

M7 launches Masterclasses with The Design Studio by Azza Fahmy

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: M7, Qatar's creative startup hub dedicated to fashion, design and technology, has launched its inaugural Masterclass series led by The Design Studio by Azza Fahmy (DSAF). Held from November 10–13, the series emphasises M7's commitment to nurturing Qatar's creative talent through high-calibre educational programmes.

The programme is delivered by the team behind DSAF, the design studio founded by the Egyptian Designer, Azza Fahmy which offers a range of programmes and courses in jewellery making, design and conceptual thinking. Their mission in preserving traditional techniques through a contemporary lens, aligns closely with M7's mission to empower Qatar's creative community with essential

skills in design, craftsmanship and business skills. The programme also marks a strategic step in M7's long-term vision to cultivate a roster of emerging Qatari jewellery designers who honour and preserve their cultural heritage.

"This Masterclass series is part of M7's ongoing commitment to support Qatar's aspiring designers and entrepreneurs through strategic partnerships with leading industry experts," said Maha Al Sulaiti, Director of M7. "Delivered by The Design Studio by Azza Fahmy, the Masterclass allows participants to explore their own cultural heritage through jewellery design and learn from some of the best minds in the industry. Initiatives like this pave the way for Qatar's future leaders in this



Participants during a session at the event.

industry."

The Masterclass series is a programme of intensive workshops led by DSAF instructors which are being held at M7's Learning Space and Resident

Partner's Scale7's state-of-the-art jewellery studio. Participating designers are engaged in hands-on exercises, including designing jewellery sets inspired by architectural forms, translating

creative inspiration into sketches, and developing skills for market-ready designs.

Founded in 2013, DSAF is a design studio and educational initiative from Cairo, Egypt, founded by the Egyptian Designer Azza Fahmy that fosters a new generation of contemporary jewellery designers. Through a curriculum rooted in traditional craftsmanship and contemporary thinking, DSAF empowers

designers to create unique works that meet international quality standards. The studio's origins trace back to the Nubre workshops, where Azza Fahmy and a

variety of guest designers and artists from Europe shared their expertise with both local and foreign students in Aswan, Upper Egypt.

In addition to the Masterclass series, a panel discussion titled "Navigating the Jewellery Industry" took place on November 9 where panellists explored the theme of preserving cultural heritage while achieving commercial success in the global jewellery market. Panellists included Azza Fahmy's Education & Development Director Yasmine El Hamalawy and Nada Al Sulaiti, Founder and Creative Director of Hairaat, Qatar's internationally celebrated jewellery brand. The discussion provided participants with an in-depth look at balancing tradition and innovation, a key theme for emerging Qatari designers.

Qatar takes part in World Cities Forum in South Korea

INCHEON: The State of Qatar has participated in the World Cities Forum 2024, which kicked off Tuesday in Incheon, South Korea, with a delegation headed by Minister of Municipality H E Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah.

The three-day forum aims to reinforce international cooperation for global health security and innovation in global health to align with the evolving global visions and dynamics, highlighting the challenges and risks currently faced by cities, in addition to discussing the need for boosting cooperation in global health security to stave off any potential breakout of pandemic.

Additionally, the event intends to discuss numerous critical topics such as healthy cities' strategies, addressing the climate crisis and innovation in the health field, et cetera.

In his opening remarks before the forum, H E Al Attiyah highlighted the State of Qatar's efforts to strengthen health, equity, and sustainable development through innovation, multi-factorial change, in addition to encouraging community engagement, and combining health in all policies, and

promoting health and well-being, justice, and preventing the primary causes of diseases.

He noted that the State of Qatar has become the first country in the world to have all its municipalities classified as healthy cities by the World Health Organization (WHO), emphasizing that such a classification is a culmination of numerous efforts, foremost of which is the Healthy City programme (HCP), one of the most consequential projects set forth in the National Health Strategy in Qatar, as a health priority for all policies.

Al Attiyah highlighted that such steps aim to provide an enduring healthy environment for both citizens and residents, in alignment with the Qatar National Vision 2030, and the Qatar National Development Framework (QNDF), in pursuit of creating viable cities, healthy life, work and education.

He noted that the State of Qatar hosted the Eastern Mediterranean Region Healthy Cities Conference 2023 from October 31 to November 2, 2023, under the theme "Healthy Cities: a multisectoral approach for promoting health and well-being". — *QNA*



Qatar, S Korea discuss cooperation

Minister of Municipality H E Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah met with Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea H E Song Miryung, during His Excellency's participation in the World Health City Forum 2024. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of cooperation between Qatar and the Republic of Korea.

Ministry of Labour hosts roundtable with research institutes, policy centres

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Labour, represented by the Labour Market Information and Research Department, hosted a roundtable with research institutes and study centres across the country.

The meeting served as a platform for participants to explore opportunities for strengthening collaboration and to discuss strategies for improving research and studies to optimise the efficiency of programmes and initiatives aimed at the development of the labour market. Director of the Labour Market Information and Research Department Hussain Ali Al Hababi, emphasised that the roundtable meeting aligns with the Ministry of Labour's ongoing efforts to strengthen integration and collaboration with partners across various sectors.

The goal is to support the implementation of projects and initiatives within the Labour Market Information and Research Department, based on reliable data-driven studies and

research. This will enhance the effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at driving transformative changes in line with the National Strategy for an Effective and Highly Productive Workforce 2024-2030, which seeks to create a workforce ready for the future.

The meeting included an overview of the operational framework and strategic objectives of the Labour Market Information and Research Department. Additionally, participants explored how to leverage the accurate data and comprehensive analyses produced by these institutes to support the execution of targeted projects within the department's plans and initiatives.

The participants discussed the importance of scientific methods in labour market analysis and how academic expertise can be leveraged to design innovative strategies for the labour sector. The discussion also highlighted the need to strengthen collaboration based on the exchange of information and expertise to achieve common goals.

MoEHE organises open day event

DOHA: Under the slogan, "Qatar Day for Mathematics," and as part of the 4th edition of the Arab Mathematics Olympiad 2024, which Qatar hosts for the first time, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in partnership with Qatar University, organised an open day event aimed at professional development and the exchange of experiences.

The event featured a presentation of the latest technologies and modern methods in educational research in mathematics, with distinguished contributions from speakers and lecturers from various higher education institutions in Qatar.

The open-day activities

included two main programs, one for team leaders and assistants and another for participating students. In addition, 12 scientific lectures on mathematical research and nine specialized training workshops were conducted by a distinguished group of faculty members from Qatar University and mathematics teachers from public schools.

The event also included scientific dialogue sessions led by mathematics experts nominated by ALECSO and professors from Qatar University and the Community College, as well as a STEM Projects exhibition for students from both public and private schools.

The open day also featured a

series of lectures and training workshops presented by several Arab mathematics scholars from outside Qatar.

On this occasion, Assistant Director of Educational Guidance and General Coordinator of the Olympiad Committees Fatima Al Rashed indicated that the open day activities held as part of the 4th Arab Mathematics Olympiad under the slogan "Qatar Day for Mathematics," and with the participation of talented Arab students in mathematics, aim to foster creativity and confidence in these students by involving them in a distinguished scientific event that enhances their academic abilities. — *QNA*



President of Cuba meets Qatar's Ambassador

President of the Republic of Cuba H E Miguel Diaz-Canel met with Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Cuba H E Tariq Othman Fakhroo. The meeting discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

GU-Q's Qalam Series reflect on power of writing

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In a wide-ranging discussion hosted by Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), internationally acclaimed novelist Kamila Shamsie and current GU-Q Writer-in-Residence discussed the writing process, the interplay of politics and cultural production, and maintaining values in the face of social change and unrest with celebrated writer, commentator, and activist, Dr. Ahdaf Soueif.

Dr. Soueif is a cultural and political commentator and activist who has been named one of Egypt's most influential novelists by Harper's Magazine. She writes about Egyptian and Palestinian politics and history through award winning fiction and non-fiction novels, short stories, and translations.

GU-Q's inaugural Writer-in-Residence Kamila Shamsie, led the engaging discussion as part

of GU-Q's distinguished "Qalam" series. Shamsie, whose books *Burnt Shadows* and *Home Fire* have won multiple awards, honored Soueif's impact on writers who came after, such as Shamsie herself, whose own first novel was published just a few weeks before Soueif's *Map of Love*.

"The Map of Love was short-listed for the Booker Prize, translated into 30 languages, and sold a million copies. It is impossible to overstate what a very big deal it was...It was the book of the year, the one everyone was reading on the subway," Shamsie recalled.

This in turn gave Soueif a prominent platform which she used to write about the second Intifada and the War on Terror in publications such as *The Guardian* at a time when there were very few voices speaking in the Western media from the perspective of people from the region. Her reputation as a

political commentator grew when she covered the Arab Spring, first via journalism and later in the book *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution*. When asked to give advice to writers and activists today, she responded: "I would say speak out, don't shout, and don't compromise, and use any space that comes your way, but be true to what you actually believe."

A former trustee of the British Museum, who resigned that position on ethical grounds, Soueif has always been committed to the role of culture in society. She spoke about her time spent in Doha in 2010 to produce an innovative book with Bloomsbury Publishing that gathered 25 prominent writers and intellectuals from different disciplines, and asked them to "fall in love with one piece" from the Museum of Islamic Art's collection. The result was a confluence of Eastern and Western

perspectives on the collection titled *Reflections on Islamic Art*. "I thought this was an opportunity to bring interesting people and objects from both worlds together," recalled Soueif, and the result was a volume that instead of reinforcing orientalist stereotypes about Islamic art offered insight on the importance of both art and Islam in the modern world.

At every stage of her career, Soueif has inspired others to try to make a difference through the example of her innovative fiction, her fearless non-fiction and her founding of the Palestine Festival of Literature which has taken hundreds of writers from around the world to Palestine since 2008.

Launched in September 2024, *Qalam* has previously brought such eminent literary voices to Qatar as Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Hisham Matar.

AAU, HMC to host two conferences this month

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Arab Association of Urology (AAU), in partnership with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), is proud to announce the 21st Arab Association of Urology (AAU) Congress in conjunction with the 33rd World Congress of Videourology and Advances in Clinical Urology.

This prestigious event will take place from November 21 to 24, 2024, at HMC's Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Centre in Doha, Qatar.

The congress will bring together leading urologists, researchers, and healthcare professionals from around the world to share and explore the latest innovations in urological care. The event will feature a pre-congress workshop on November 21, followed by the main congress from November 22 to 24, focusing on the theme 'Embracing Innovations and Advancements in Urological Care'.

Dr. Mohamed Moussa, President of the Arab Association of Urology expressed his excitement for the upcoming event, stating, "It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I extend a warm welcome to each one of you to the 21st AAU Congress in conjunction with the 33rd World Congress of Videourology and Advances in Clinical Urology. This conference promises to be an enriching experience, fostering collaboration and innovation in urological advancements. Our agenda is comprehensive and designed to cater to the diverse interests of our participants."

The congress agenda is designed to delve into the latest research, breakthroughs, and best practices that are shaping the future of urological care. From prostate health to kidney disorders, bladder conditions, and andrology, to innovative surgical techniques, the



Dr. Mohamed Moussa

comprehensive program will cater to the diverse interests of all participants. With a expert lineup of local and international speakers, attendees will have the opportunity to explore cutting-edge presentations that reflect the most recent advancements in the field of urology.

This event celebrates a commitment to improving patient outcomes through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the exploration of new frontiers in urology. The congress will also commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Endourological Society, a leader in minimally invasive urological surgery and innovation, encouraging international exchange and partnership among experts.

Dr. Khalid Al Rumaihi, Head of the Urology Department at Hamad Medical Corporation and Local Congress Co-Chair, added, "We are delighted to partner with the Arab Association of Urology on this congress which will serve as a critical platform for advancing urological knowledge and practice. It is through such events that we can collectively push the boundaries of research and clinical care, ensuring that our patients receive the most effective and cutting-edge treatments available."

The AAU is a leading regional organization dedicated to advancing urological practice and knowledge throughout the Arab world.

Aljazeera Media ends training programmes for young people

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Aljazeera Media Institute concluded last week three specialised training courses for young age groups characterized with great turnout and intense interaction of participants.

The week began with "Future Presenter" course, presented by trainer Amal Hekmat, which focused on basics of television career and qualities of a professional broadcaster including mastery of proper body language, correct vocal performance and talk shows presentation skills.

Hikmat explained that the course included practical exercises to enhance understanding and develop skills, stressing importance of such programs



Participants of the training programme.

and its role in developing media skills and enhance media culture among young generations, concluded that "When providing the right environment, children will be able to discover their own talents in media field."

The second workshop was "Personal Marketing" held under the supervision of trainers Mohammed Al-Doss and Hamza Rababaa. Mohammed Al-Doss stressed personal marketing is an essential tool to build a strong

and influential image, while Hamza Rababaa pointed out that exploring personal strengths and developing self-confidence helps participants highlight their excellence and leave a lasting impression. Participants praised the role of practical exercises in the workshop and how positively affect and improve their understanding and practice of skills acquired.

Finally, the training week concluded by a Spokesperson course presented by presenter

Samaa Al-Saabi, where eleven trainees participated. Al-Saabi explained that facing audience may be more intimidating than facing the camera, explaining the importance of eye contact and body language in these situations.

The course focused on developing these skills, helping trainees break fear barrier. Trainees praised the role of the trainer in answering their questions and adding a touch of fun to the course.

11 killed in Israeli air strikes across Lebanon

BEIRUT: Lebanon said Israeli strikes killed 11 people across the country yesterday, including five in a rare attack on a house east of Beirut, where a security official said displaced people lived.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah group said it fired missiles at an air base near Tel Aviv, following a wave of Israeli air strikes on the group's south Beirut bastion.

Since September 23, Israel has stepped up its bombing campaign in Lebanon, mainly targeting Hezbollah strongholds in south Beirut and in the east and south of the country. On September 30, it sent in ground troops.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Baalshmay killed five people," the health ministry said in an initial report, referring to a mountain village east of Beirut, outside Hezbollah's traditional strongholds.

The security official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the "Israeli strike targeted a house where displaced people lived, including

Since September 23, Israel has stepped up its bombing campaign in Lebanon, mainly targeting Hezbollah strongholds in south Beirut and in the east and south of the country.

women and children".

Israeli strikes also killed one person in the eastern Hermel region and five others in the southern village of Tefahta, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the border with Israel, the ministry said.

Israeli strikes outside Hezbollah strongholds have often targeted buildings where displaced civilians have sought refuge, with Lebanese security officials telling AFP the targets were Hezbollah operatives.

On Monday, Israel struck Lebanon's northernmost Akkar region, killing at least eight people according to the ministry, in one of the farthest attacks from the border since

the war began in September.

On Sunday, Lebanon said an Israeli strike killed 23 people, including seven children, in the village of Almat, north of the capital.

Hezbollah yesterday targeted an "air base south of Tel Aviv... with a salvo of quality missiles", the group said, after Israel's military said it had intercepted projectiles fired from Lebanon.

Sirens sounded across central Israel and Israeli media reported that flights were temporarily halted at Ben Gurion International Airport.

That attack came after Israel launched more than a dozen air strikes on south Beirut, state media said, shortly after its military warned residents of four districts in the Hezbollah stronghold to evacuate.

"Israeli warplanes launched a violent strike targeting the Hadi Nasrallah highway, which is the 13th raid on Beirut's southern suburb," the official National News Agency (NNA) said.



Rescue teams stand next to damaged cars at the site of an Israeli air strike that targeted the village of Baalshmay in the Lebanese mountains, east of Beirut, yesterday. (AFP)

Israel's military later said it had struck "Hezbollah terrorist targets" in south Beirut including "command centres, weapons production sites, and additional Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure".

Witnesses told *AFP* they heard gunfire in the area ahead of the strikes — warning shots by residents for people to leave following the evacuation call.

The NNA also reported Israeli attacks in east and south Lebanon, including on the southern city of Nabatiyeh.

Last month, Israeli strikes razed Nabatiyeh's historic marketplace, with another wave of attacks hitting city hall and killing several people including the mayor.

The Lebanon war came after nearly a year of

cross-border exchanges of fire, launched by Hezbollah in support of Hamas following its Palestinian ally's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered the Gaza war.

More than 3,280 people have been killed in Lebanon since the clashes began last year, according to the health ministry, the majority of them since late September. — *AFP*

Iran, Russia link bank card systems in move to overcome sanctions

TEHRAN: Iranian bank cards can now be used in Russia, state television reported, as the two countries linked their banking systems in the latest bid to counteract sanctions.

Iranian banks have been excluded since 2018 from the SWIFT international financial messaging service, which governs the vast majority of transactions worldwide.

The move is part of a raft of sanctions that were re-imposed on Iran after the United States withdrew from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

Iranian bank cards can now be used in Russia, state television channel IRINN said on Monday, showing the withdrawal of money using an Iranian bank card from an ATM in Russia.

The operation was made possible by connecting Iran's interbank network Shetab to its Russian equivalent Mir, the channel said. — *AFP*

Mozambique opposition calls for crippling protests over poll results

MAPUTO: Mozambique's opposition leader yesterday called for crippling protests this week over contested elections won by the ruling Frelimo party, in power since the country's 1975 independence from Portugal.

Venancio Mondlane, who won 20 percent of the October 9 vote according to the election authority, claims the ballot was rigged. Protests over the results have already claimed 30 lives, according to Human Rights Watch.

"We are going to paralyse all activities," from Wednesday to Friday, Mondlane said on social media. He asked supporters to demonstrate in the capital Maputo, the provincial capitals, along the country's borders and at the southern African country's ports.

He urged truckers to stop bringing in goods from neighbouring South Africa to Maputo port.

President Filipe Nyusi is expected to step down at the end of a two-term limit in January and hand over to the Frelimo party's victorious candidate, Daniel Chapo. Popular among young voters, Mondlane, a 50-year-old former radio presenter, was until June part of the longstanding opposition party Renamo. — *AFP*

Central Africa urges lifting of embargo on diamond exports

BANGUI The Central African Republic (CAR) sought yesterday to convince the regulatory body for global diamond trading to lift all restrictions against it, ending an export embargo in place for more than a decade.

The Kimberley Process (KP) regulatory body opened its plenary assembly in Dubai yesterday under the presidency of the United Arab Emirates.

The CAR wants a total lifting of the embargo imposed since a political and military crisis sparked civil war in 2013, after decades of violence, instability and coups.

Mines and Geology Minister Rufin Benam Beltoougou highlighted at the opening session his government's efforts towards the return of peace and meeting the criteria for the lifting of the embargo, according to a statement by his ministry posted on Facebook. — *AFP*

'People need everything': UN says Gaza aid far from enough

GENEVA: The UN yesterday warned that already low levels of aid trickling into Gaza had dwindled further, with the situation in the besieged north especially "catastrophic".

The warning from UNRWA, the United Nations agency supporting Palestinian refugees, came as Israel said it was opening an additional aid crossing into Gaza on the eve of a US-imposed deadline to improve humanitarian conditions in the war-ravaged territory.

Asked about whether there were signs the situation had improved ahead of Wednesday's deadline, Louise Wateridge, an UNRWA emergency officer, highlighted that "aid

entering the Gaza Strip is at its lowest level in months".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin last month cautioned Israel that it had until November 13 to let more aid into Gaza or risk the withholding of some military assistance from the United States, Israel's primary supporter.

The letter was sent weeks before the November 5 US presidential election won by Donald Trump, who has promised to give Israel freer rein.

Speaking to a Geneva media briefing via video-link from Gaza, Wateridge said that "the average for October was 37 trucks a day into the

entire Gaza Strip... That is for 2.2 million people".

"Children are dying. People are dying every day," she said, stressing that "people here need everything". The situation is at its worst in northern Gaza, where a UN-backed assessment at the weekend said that famine was imminent.

No food was permitted to enter besieged northern Gaza for an entire month, Wateridge said, adding that UN requests to access the area have been repeatedly denied.

Wateridge said that testimonies from the north painted "an endlessly horrific" picture that was becoming "more critical" by the hour.

"Hospitals have been bombed,

the doctors inform us that they have run out of blood supplies, they have run out of medicine... there are bodies in the streets."

Vowing to stop Hamas fighters from regrouping in already-ravaged north Gaza, Israel began a major air and ground assault just over a month ago.

Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel resulted in 1,206 deaths, mostly civilians, according to an *AFP* tally of Israeli official figures. Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed 43,603 people in Gaza, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, which the UN considers reliable. — *AFP*

Mauritius oppn wins election by landslide

PORT LOUIS: Mauritius opposition leader Navin Ramgoolam said yesterday his alliance had secured a landslide election victory, after the incumbent prime minister conceded he faced a "huge defeat".

Ramgoolam, now set for a third term as prime minister, told crowds of jubilant supporters that his Alliance of Change had made a clean sweep of parliamentary seats on the island of Mauritius in Sunday's vote.

"The court of the people has delivered its verdict and a new Mauritius awakes," the 77-year-old said to boisterous cheers and blaring horns.

He claimed his side had won all 60 of the National Assembly seats for the island that were up for grabs, in a victory over prime minister Pravind Jugnauth, known as PKJ, who has been in office since 2017.

Ramgoolam now faces the task of uniting the Indian Ocean archipelago, touted as one of Africa's most stable and prosperous democracies, after a tense and hotly-disputed election.

"I hope PKJ resigns soon. He was beaten 60-0," Ramgoolam added.

The figure was confirmed by local media, although the election commission has yet to issue official results. It would be the third time since Mauritius became independent from Britain in 1968 that there has been a 60-0 score, media reports said.

As well as the 60 seats for Mauritius, there were two up for grabs for the island of Rodrigues and another eight allocated under what is dubbed the "best loser" system.

prime minister was celebrating a historic deal that saw Britain cede sovereignty over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius after a long-running dispute. But the vote was overshadowed by an explosive wire-tapping scandal, when secretly recorded phone calls of politicians, diplomats, members of civil society and journalists were leaked online.

During the campaign, both camps promised to improve the lot of ordinary Mauritians who face cost-of-living difficulties despite robust economic growth.

Measures outlined in the Alliance

liament speaker are chosen.

The majority-Hindu nation has seen substantial stability and growth since independence, building an economy based on tourism as well as financial services and textile manufacturing. Gross domestic product per capita in 2022 was more than \$10,000, according to the World Bank.

But analysts have highlighted growing concerns about governance and corruption as well as the need to diversify the Mauritian economy.

Both Jugnauth and Ramgoolam are members of the dynasties that have dominated the leadership of



Supporters of the Alliance du Changement (Alliance for Change) celebrate following the announcement of initial results of Mauritius' legislative election, in Plaine Magnien, yesterday. (AFP)

of Change manifesto include the creation of a fund to support families facing hardship, free public transport, increased pensions and reduced fuel prices, as well as efforts to tackle corruption and boost the green economy.

It also called for constitutional and electoral reforms including changing how the president and par-

Mauritius since independence.

Ramgoolam, who previously worked as a doctor and a lawyer, served as prime minister between 1995 and 2000 and again from 2005 to 2014. He is the son of Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who led Mauritius to independence from Britain in 1968. — *AFP*

Iran says building 'defensive' tunnel in Tehran

TEHRAN: Iran is building what it calls its first "defensive" tunnel within the capital Tehran's metro network, state media reported yesterday, but without elaborating on what the defence measures are.

"For the first time in the country, a tunnel with defensive functionalities is being built in Tehran," Jafar Tashakori, who heads the city council transport commission, was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

"This tunnel follows the path between 'The Defenders of Health' and 'Imam Khomeini Hospital' metro stations, and provides the possibility of direct tunnel access to this medical centre," he added.

Tashakori did not give more details on the tunnel's defensive capabilities.

However, the word "defence" can mean several things in Farsi, with doctors and nurses called "health defenders" and police "security defenders". — *AFP*

21 killed in Ivory Coast road accident

ABIDJAN: Authorities in Ivory Coast said yesterday 21 people were killed and at least 10 others injured in a road accident.

The accident Sunday night took place on a stretch of a road linking the southwestern city of Soubré and the south-central town of Gagnoa, the Ministry of Transport said in a statement, without providing further details. However, the statement added an investigation has been launched.

"The Ministry of Transport calls on all road users to be more vigilant in road traffic, by complying with traffic regulations, in particular by being careful when overtaking and by adapting their speed to the different speed limits," it added. — *AP*

EU vessels to cease fishing in Senegal after accord expires

DAKAR: European fishing vessels will imminently cease activities in Senegalese waters after the non-renewal of an agreement between Brussels and Dakar, EU ambassador Jean-Marc Pisani said yesterday.

The accord between the European Union and the West African country that has been in force since 2019 is due to expire at midnight between

Sunday and Monday.

Pisani said the agreement would not be renewed for the time being after the European Commission notified the Senegalese government in May of "shortcomings" regarding illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

"European boats will stop fishing in Senegal's exclusive economic zone from midnight on November 17", Pisani told

journalists in the capital Dakar.

"These European boats will be able — it will be up to the shipowners — to continue fishing elsewhere", he said, citing agreements between the EU and Senegal's neighbours, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Cape Verde.

"It would not be consistent for the European Union, which has a zero-tolerance policy towards IUU fishing, to renew

an agreement with countries that have been notified of this type of problem", he said.

The cessation of fishing in Senegalese waters will affect 18 Spanish and French vessels, which catch tropical tuna and hake and do not represent any real competition for the Senegalese fishing sector, he said.

Fishing is an economic and cultural pillar in Senegal.

It provides a direct or indirect livelihood for some 600,000 people out of a population of around 18 million, according to a widely accepted figure.

The roughly 50,000 Senegalese fishermen work mainly in traditional wooden vessels known as pirogues. Fishermen regularly complain about competition from foreign vessels, which they blame for the shortage of fish. — *AFP*

35 killed in China car ramming

ZHUHAI, CHINA: A man killed 35 people and injured 43 more when he ploughed his car into people exercising around a sports centre in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai on Monday, local police said yesterday.

The toll was a dramatic increase from the initial incident report the day before, when police only said that people had been injured.

A 62-year-old man surnamed Fan drove his small SUV through the gate and "forced his way into the city's sports centre, ramming people who were exercising on the internal roads", police said yesterday.

Preliminary investigations suggested Fan's attack had been "triggered by (his) dissatisfaction with the division of property following his divorce", their statement said.

Footage from Monday night geolocated by AFP showed people lying motionless on the ground, while others were seen frantically attempting to resuscitate the unconscious.

An eyewitness surnamed Chen told Chinese news magazine Caixin it was common for groups to take daily walks on the dedicated track around the stadium. He had just completed his third lap on Monday when a car suddenly sped at them and

Preliminary probe suggests attack was triggered by suspect's dissatisfaction with the division of property following his divorce.

knocked down "many people", but he was able to jump aside.

Another eyewitness surnamed Liu told Caixin that the car "drove in a loop".

"People were hurt in all areas of the running track — east, south, west, and north," he said. Fan was "controlled on the spot" as he attempted to drive away, police said yesterday.

He was found in his car cutting himself with a knife, and is currently in a coma after self-inflicted injuries to his neck and other parts of his body, unable to undergo interrogation, they added. The 43 people wounded are not currently in life-threatening condition, police said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged "all-out efforts" to treat the injured and has "demanded punishing the perpetrator in accordance with the law", according to state news agency Xinhua.

China's largest airshow showcasing Beijing's civil and military aerospace sector is being held in Zhuhai at the

moment. There were fewer than 20 people at the sports stadium yesterday night when AFP visited the scene.

Some of them were attempting to film videos but were blocked by a police car and security guards shouting "No filming!" At another entrance, candles flickered at a makeshift memorial where people were sending online flower deliveries.

One delivery driver told AFP he had already brought 10 orders there that night.

Security was also high in front of the emergency room of a nearby hospital, where a huge group of doctors and nurses were milling about.

After the announcement of the death toll, the news shot to the top of the trending topics on Chinese social media, with tens of millions of views.

The graphic videos that circulated on social media on Monday night showing the aftermath of the incident had mostly disappeared though.

On Chinese social media platform Xiaohongshu, users expressed their shock at the sudden rise in fatalities.

Videos on the social media platform showed Zhuhai residents queuing up at blood donation centres and hospitals. — **AFP**



Participating world leaders and delegates pose for a family photo during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, yesterday. (AFP)

World leaders meet for climate talks in Baku

BAKU: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres yesterday said nations at the COP29 summit must reach a deal that does not leave poorer countries "empty-handed" in their fight against climate change.

"Developing countries must not leave Baku empty-handed. A deal is a must," Guterres said in the capital of Azerbaijan, which is hosting the summit.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley also renewed her call for taxes on fossil fuels, aviation and shipping, saying

hundreds of billions of dollars could be raised for climate action. "We need to consider levies," the Caribbean leader, an influential advocate for climate action, told delegates at the COP29 climate summit.

Dozens of world leaders arrived in Azerbaijan yesterday for COP29.

More than 75 leaders are expected in Baku over two days but the heads of some of the most powerful and polluting economies are not attending this year's summit.

Just a handful of leaders

from the G20 — which accounts for nearly 80 percent of planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions — are expected in Baku, including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Joe Biden, Xi Jinping, Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron are among G20 leaders missing the event, where uncertainty over future US unity on climate action hung over the opening day.

The host Azerbaijan yesterday defended fossil fuels and the right of countries to exploit them. — **AFP**



China's largest air show takes off

Visitors are seen around planes participating in the 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, in south China's Guangdong province yesterday. The aerospace exhibition is showcasing military fighters, passenger jets, drones and weapons systems, some for the first time in public. (AFP)

Japan hunts for sailor after naval minesweeper sinks

TOKYO: Japan cancelled a joint naval training exercise with the United States yesterday as it searches for a sailor missing after a mine-sweeping ship caught fire and sank.

Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said a search was underway for a 33-year-old after the Ukushima went up in flames on Sunday in waters off southwestern Fukuoka.

The ship's other crew members, around 40 people, were rescued -- including one injured person -- officials said.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force cancelled a mine warfare exercise as well as a joint minesweeping drill with the United States to focus on the search.

A dozen naval ships joined coastguard vessels and dive teams to look for the missing sailor, Nakatani said.

Officials believe the fire started in the ship's engine room. — **AFP**

S Korea prosecutors indict controversial American streamer

SEOUL: Controversial YouTuber and Twitch streamer Johnny Somali has been indicted for "causing a commotion" at a convenience store in South Korea, prosecutors said yesterday.

They said American national Somali, whose real name is Ramsey Khalid Ismael, is not allowed to leave South Korea because of a travel ban linked to the case.

"He was indicted on Monday without detention for creating a commotion at a convenience store in October," a spokesman for the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors' Office told AFP. — **AFP**

North Korea ratifies defence treaty with Russia

SEOUL: North Korea has ratified a landmark defence pact with Russia, state media reported yesterday, deepening security cooperation that has seen Pyongyang send thousands of troops to help Moscow fight Ukraine.

The agreement formalises months of tightening military bonds between two nations that were Communist allies throughout the Cold War.

Seoul and ally the United States have accused the nuclear-armed North of sending thousands of soldiers to Russia, where they have been outfitted with Russian uniforms and are,

according to reports, massed on the border near Kursk.

The deal "was ratified as a decree" of leader Kim Jong Un, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said yesterday. The notice comes after Russian lawmakers voted unanimously last week to ratify the deal, which President Vladimir Putin later signed.

"The treaty will take effect from the day when both sides exchanged the ratification instruments," KCNA said.

North Korea has become one of the most vocal and important backers of Russia's offensive in Ukraine.

Pyongyang has long been accused by Western nations of supplying Moscow with artillery shells and missiles for use in Ukraine, but that support has escalated in recent weeks with the reported arrival of thousands of North Korean troops prepared to engage in combat.

Putin and Kim signed the strategic partnership treaty in June, during the Kremlin chief's visit to North Korea.

It obligates both states to provide military assistance "without delay" in the case of an attack on the other and to cooperate internationally to oppose Western sanctions.

Putin hailed the deal in June as a "breakthrough document".

"With bilateral ratifications, Pyongyang and Moscow will claim legitimacy for North Korea's military deployment to Russia, arguing that this action is justified by the ratified treaty between the two," said Hong Min, a senior analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

"While their treaty does not override UN resolutions prohibiting such cooperation, they will assert its legitimacy based on their agreement," Hong added. — **AFP**

Fifth storm in a month bears down on Philippines

MANILA: The Philippines prepared yesterday to evacuate potentially tens of thousands of people as the fifth major storm in three weeks bore down on the archipelago shortly after the onslaught of Typhoon Toraji.

Now a weakened tropical storm, Toraji blew out to sea overnight after causing relatively limited damage and no reported deaths.

But Tropical Storm Usagi is now just two days away from the coast of Luzon, the archipelago nation's largest and most populous island, and gaining strength, the national weather agency said.

"It's looking like it will follow the track of (Yinling)," civil defence chief Rueli Rapsing of Cagayan province told AFP, referring to a typhoon that struck the northern tip of the country last week. "We preemptively evacuated 40,000 people that time, so we could be looking at the same scenario and evacuate 40,000 individuals again," he said, adding Cagayan officials will decide on it at a meeting on Wednesday.

Rapsing said the water level of the Cagayan river, the country's largest, was four metres (13 feet) above normal, preventing more than 5,000 people who were previously evacuated from returning home.



An aerial photo shows a swollen river inundating farm fields and houses at a village in Ilagan town, Isabela province, Philippines, yesterday. (AFP)

He said he also dispatched a search and rescue team to Amulung town after two young men went missing while collecting driftwood from the Cagayan river's swollen waters.

The local government also reported knee-high floods across Santiago, a city of 150,000 people along an upper bank of the Cagayan river.

In all the government said it had evacuated more than 32,000 people from vulnerable areas in the northern Philippines ahead of Toraji's Monday landfall.

The evacuations follow Severe Tropical Storm Trami, Typhoon Yinling and Super Typhoon Kong-rey, which killed a combined 159 people. — **AFP**

India to allow Musk's Starlink to operate if passes security checks

MUMBAI: Elon Musk's satellite internet service Starlink will be granted permission to operate in India after complying with security regulations, local media reported yesterday.

The potential launch of Starlink — with its network of low Earth orbit satellites capable of providing internet to remote and disconnected locations — in the world's most populous country has been accompanied by fierce policy debates and alleged national security concerns.

But yesterday communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia told local media that India would allow the company to operate "as long as they're complying with all the conditions from a security perspective".

"They have to check all the boxes," business newspaper Mint quoted Scindia yesterday.

The minister did not provide further details, but local media reported earlier this month that the government and Starlink were in talks over several security-related issues including storage

of data. The decision comes less than a week after Donald Trump won the US presidential elections, with Musk emerging as one of his most enthusiastic backers and being pipped for a government role.

Starlink shot into the global spotlight when its terminals were sent to Ukraine after Russia's 2022 invasion to help with battlefield communications.

Musk has also butted heads with Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani in recent months over the way satellite spectrum should be awarded.

Ambani, who heads India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio, has been trying to convince authorities to auction the spectrum rather than just allocate it.

In submissions made before the country's telecom regulator, Jio has argued that auctions are needed to ensure a "level playing field" between terrestrial operators like itself and satellite internet service firms like Starlink.

Musk, on the other hand, strongly opposes this, pushing for administrative allocation instead. — **AFP**

Germany set to organise snap election on Feb 23

BERLIN: Germany, mired in political crisis, is headed for February 23 elections, the main parties agreed yesterday, aiming to form a stable government after Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-party coalition collapsed last week. The two biggest parties agreed on the early timetable, which would see centre-left leader Scholz seek a vote of confidence on December 16, paving the way for the February vote, coalition sources said.

Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), now in a minority government with the Greens, hammered out the compromise date with the conservative opposition Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian allies CSU.

The agreement seeks to quickly restore political stability at a time when Europe's biggest economy is set to shrink for a second year in a row and amid heightened geopolitical volatility, with wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East. The election date would mean Germany will be

Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), now in a minority government with the Greens, hammered out the compromise date with the conservative opposition Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian allies CSU.

ruled by a lame-duck chancellor and stuck in the middle of its campaign period when Donald Trump is inaugurated as US president on January 20. Embattled Scholz, who wants to run again despite poor poll ratings, initially suggested an election in late March but came under heavy pressure from all other parties to speed up the process.

The CDU is riding high in the polls and its leader Friedrich Merz had pushed strongly for an election as early as possible — a demand backed by two thirds of voters, according to a recent

survey. "We don't have unlimited time to elect a new government in Germany, regardless of who leads it... because the world around us is not waiting," Merz said yesterday.

"It's not as if everyone is holding their breath and watching Germany in fascination, as decisions are taken in Europe, Asia and the United States.

"The world expects a Germany that is capable of taking action." The February 23 date would force politicians to run their campaigns in the dark and cold of winter, when voters will be less enthusiastic to flock to outdoor events than during the usual summer campaign seasons.

Under the deal brokered yesterday, Scholz would seek a vote of confidence in the week before the Christmas holidays in the lower house of parliament, which he is expected to lose.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the head of state, will then have 21 days to dissolve the Bundestag, and elections will



Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz (left) arrives to attend a SPD parliamentary group meeting at the Bundestag, Germany's lower house of parliament, in Berlin yesterday. (AFP)

have to be held within the following 60 days. CDU general secretary Carsten Linnemann said he hoped this will quickly restore a sense of stability. "People are very nervous and don't know where the country is going," he told the public broadcaster ZDF.

He added that once there was more clarity on the timetable, "things will calm down and we

can go into the election campaign".

Scholz took office in late 2021, taking over from the CDU's Angela Merkel, in a three-way coalition with the left-leaning Greens and the liberal and pro-business Free Democrats (FDP).

But mounting differences over economic and fiscal policy came to a head last week when

Scholz fired the rebellious FDP finance minister Christian Lindner, prompting the small party to leave the government. Since then, Scholz's SPD and the Greens have carried on in a minority government that would need opposition support to pass any laws — something the CDU/CSU had rejected in the absence of clarity on an election date. — **AFP**

Spain royals to return to flood epicentre after chaotic visit

MADRID: Spain's king and queen will next week visit the epicentre of the country's catastrophic floods where survivors heckled and hurled mud at them during their last trip, palace sources said yesterday.

King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia will travel "early next week" to the eastern Valencia region, which has suffered almost all the destruction and 222 deaths, palace sources told AFP.

Furious residents chanting "murderers" in the ruined Valencia region town of Paiporta pelted the couple and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez with projectiles and mud on November 3. While Sanchez and the Valencia region's leader Carlos Mazon were swiftly escorted away, the royals braved the chaos to speak with flood victims. They have promised to travel to the town of Chiva where their planned visit on the same day was cancelled. Felipe is due to return to the Valencia region yesterday to meet some of the thousands of soldiers taking part in the relief work following the October 29 disaster. — **AFP**

Musk rails against judges in Italy migrant row

ROME: After calling Germany's chancellor a "fool", billionaire Elon Musk yesterday waded into a fraught debate over the hard-right Italian government's migrant policy, prompting outrage from the opposition.

Rome judges on Monday rejected the detention of a second group of migrants transferred to Italian-run centres in Albania, referring the case to the European Court of Justice (ECJ).

The detention of a first group transferred last month had also been denied by Italian judges, who cited a recent ECJ ruling questioning the way Italy designates countries as "safe" for migrant repatriations. "These judges need to go," commented Musk — the world's richest man who played a major role in the re-election of Republican Donald Trump as US president — on the X social network that he owns.

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini, the leader of the far-right, anti-immigration League party, responded in English: "Elon Musk is right." But the centre-left Democratic Party denounced the comment as an "unacceptable interference" in Italian affairs. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni took office in 2022 vowing to reduce the tens of thousands of migrants who arrive on Italy's shores each year, but her policies have faced repeated challenges in the courts. — **AFP**

UK vows to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 81% on 1990 levels by 2035

BAKU: The UK will aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 81 percent on 1990 levels by 2035, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced yesterday, as his government ramps up its ambitions on climate change.

The previous government in London committed in 2021 to curb such emissions by 78 percent over the same period compared to 1990.

Starmer unveiled the new target as he attended the beginning of the COP29 climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he is one of the only G20 leaders to show up.

The summit's start has been overshadowed by the re-election in the

US of longtime climate change sceptic Donald Trump, as well as new warnings that 2024 is on track to break temperature records.

UK Labour party leader Starmer, who took power in July, told a press conference that Britain was "building on our reputation as a climate leader".

"I've had a series of meetings here at COP this week because this government recognises that the world stands at a critical juncture in the climate crisis," he said.

"There is no national security, there is no economic security, there is no global security without climate

security." The British leader insisted his government was not going to "start telling people how to live their lives" in order to meet the new emissions reduction target.

"We're not going to start dictating to people what they do," he added.

Starmer touted efforts already put in place by ministers to meet what he called an "ambitious" but "realisable target", including ending an effective ban on new onshore wind projects.

His Labour government has also said it will not issue any new oil and gas exploration licenses in the North Sea, and closed the UK's last coal power plant in September.

Starmer said that meant Britain was the "first G7 economy to phase out coal power", and that it was now prioritising renewable energy projects.

"Make no mistake, the race is on for the clean energy jobs of the future, the economy of tomorrow," he said.

"And I don't want to be in the middle of the pack. I want to get ahead of the game." Environmental groups cautiously welcomed the new 2035 target.

Friends of the Earth's head of campaigns, Rosie Downes, called it "a step in the right direction but must be seen as a floor to the level of ambition not a ceiling". — **AFP**

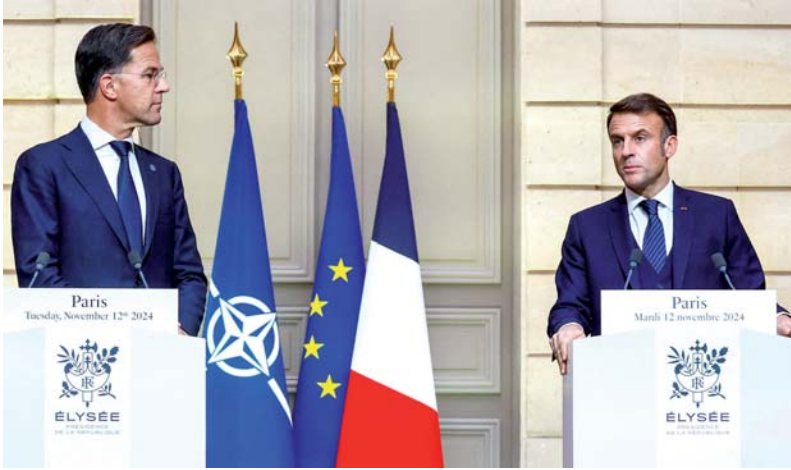
Europe has 'avoided bearing burden of its own security', says Macron

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday renewed his calls for Europe to assume more responsibility for its own defence, saying it had for "too long avoided bearing the burden of its own security".

Speaking alongside NATO chief Mark Rutte, who was visiting Paris in the wake of Donald Trump's reelection as US President, Macron said he was "delighted" that other nations were falling in line with his longstanding call to collectively invest more in defence.

"It's the agenda of European strategic autonomy that will allow us to have more money, to build capacity and autonomy for the Europeans, and an ability to cooperate with our non-European allies as part of the alliance," Macron said. Trump has questioned Washington's commitment to defend NATO allies and spoken of slashing support to Ukraine or striking a deal with Russia to end its years-long invasion. His return to the White House is a renewed spur to Europeans — long used to conventional and nuclear protection from the US military — to re-examine their own defence.

"Nothing should be decided about Ukraine without the Ukrainians, nor about Europe without the Europeans," Macron said, adding that "building up homegrown military capacity would



French President Emmanuel Macron (right) and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte deliver statements during their meeting at The Elysee Palace, in Paris yesterday. (AFP)

be "a long-term effort." He joined Rutte in calling North Korean troops' appearance alongside Russian soldiers "a serious escalation" in the Ukraine conflict that widened the threat to the Pacific, increasingly the Americans' priority theatre. "Russia, working together with North Korea, Iran and China, is not only threatening Europe, it threatens peace and security, yes here in Europe, but also in the Indo-Pacific and North America," Rutte said.

"We must stand together — Europe,

North America and our global partners... We have to keep our transatlantic alliance strong," he added.

Rutte pointed to backing Russia has received from Iran, North Korea and China. "We must do more than just keep Ukraine in the fight. We need to raise the cost for (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and his enabling and authoritarian friends by providing Ukraine with the support it needs to change the trajectory of the conflict," he told reporters. — **AFP**

Russia jails paediatric doctor over alleged Ukraine comments during consultation

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday sentenced a 68-year-old paediatrician to five and a half years in prison for allegedly criticising the Ukraine campaign during an appointment, after she was denounced by the ex-wife of a soldier killed in combat.

The case against Nadezhda Buyanova has exemplified the level of repression in Russia and how common denunciations have become while the country's troops fight in Ukraine.

Arrested in February, the Moscow doctor was accused by Anastasia Akinshina, the ex-partner of a soldier, of calling the man a "legal target" of Ukraine, in comments allegedly made during a medical appointment for her son.

Buyanova has said she is innocent and "just a doctor".

Judge Olga Felina sentenced her despite no public evidence that the conversation took place and after Akinshina's seven-year-old son testified against the doctor, in a practice reminiscent

of Soviet show trials.

"I believe this is absurd," grey-haired Buyanova said moments before she was handed the prison term.

Several supporters, mostly medics, shouted "Shame on you!" in court as the sentence was read out.

"I am a paediatrician... I do not regret a single day," Buyanova said.

Many have pointed to Buyanova's birthplace — Ukraine's western city of Lviv — as the real reason for her harsh treatment.

Handcuffed in the defendant's glass cage and wearing a black jumper, she thanked supporters for coming to the court.

"We must empathise with one another and love others," she said in court. "But there is no paradise on earth, there is no peace on earth. And I would like that."

The medic cried in court last week as prosecutors demanded a six-year sentence for her, saying she was from a



Paediatrician Nadezhda Buyanova, who is charged with spreading fake information on the Russian army, attends her verdict announcement in Moscow yesterday. (AFP)

"simple family" and did "not have an easy life".

"The evidence has not been presented," her lawyer Leonid Solovyyev said after the verdict.

Her defence insists there is no audio recording of the alleged comments and decried that prosecutors brought Akinshina's

child into the trial, saying he had been pressured by the FSB security service. Despite his mother saying earlier in the trial that he was not present during the conversation, the boy told the court that Buyanova had called his father a "legal target for Ukraine". — **AFP**

Jailed Swedish-Eritrean journalist wins rights prize

STOCKHOLM: A Swedish-Eritrean journalist held incommunicado without charge in Eritrea for more than 23 years won a Swedish rights prize on Monday for his fight for freedom of expression, the jury said.

Dawit Isaak was among a group of around two dozen people, including senior cabinet ministers, members of parliament and independent journalists, who were seized in a purge in September 2001.

He was awarded the Edelstam Prize "for his outstanding contribution and exceptional courage in standing up for freedom of expression, one's beliefs, and in the defence of human rights," the Edelstam Foundation said in a statement.

Amnesty International considers Isaak a prisoner of conscience, and press freedom group Reporters Without Borders (RSF) says he and his colleagues detained at the same time are the longest-held journalists in the world.

UN rights experts have demanded Asmara immediately release him.

Eritrea has provided no news about him, and there are fears he may no longer even be alive. He would be 60 years old.

His daughter Betlehem Isaak will accept the award on his behalf in Stockholm on November 19.

Isaak fled to Sweden in 1987 during Eritrea's struggle against Ethiopia which eventually led to independence in 1993.

After obtaining Swedish citizenship, he returned to Eritrea in 2001 to help shape the media landscape, and co-founded Setit, the country's first independent newspaper.

He was arrested shortly after the paper published articles demanding political reforms.

Asmara has not provided any information about his whereabouts or health over the years, which UN experts in 2021 deemed "extremely concerning". — **AFP**

Trump shapes cabinet ahead of White House return

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump shaped his incoming cabinet yesterday -- eying a mix of seasoned figures and hard-liners -- ahead of a meeting with President Joe Biden in what will be his first White House visit since a scandalous exit four years ago.

The 78-year-old Republican, who won a decisive victory against Vice President Kamala Harris in last week's election, will make a triumphant return to Washington today, meeting Biden in the Oval Office.

He could also visit the Capitol where his party has won a narrow majority in the Senate and is poised to formally confirm retention of its House majority, giving the party the so-called trifecta of both chambers and the White House from January.

"We're working out the details of him gathering with us potentially tomorrow morning before he goes to the White House," Republican speaker and Trump ultra-loyalist Mike Johnson said.

With only just over two months until he takes office, Trump is moving fast to fill the new cabinet.

Governments worldwide are scrutinizing the picks for signs of how closely the incoming administration will stick to Trump's promises of an isolationist foreign policy, harsh crackdowns on illegal immigration, and going after his domestic political enemies.

Hard-liners

The biggest job so far is secretary of state, where, according to multiple US

media, Trump has picked Florida Senator Marco Rubio.

Congressman Michael Waltz, a former special forces officer, is reportedly lined up for the influential White House national security advisor role.

Both have hawkish views on China and are not considered isolationists, despite desire in some Trump circles for the United States to retreat from foreign engagements and cut obligations to allies like NATO.

On the domestic front, Trump has signaled he will back up his extreme election campaign rhetoric aimed at stirring fear and anger against illegal immigrants ahead of promised mass deportations.

On Monday, he named veteran hard-line immigration official Tom Homan as the country's "border czar." US media also reported that Stephen Miller, author of Trump's so-called "Muslim ban" immigration policy during his first term, will hold a powerful position as deputy chief of staff.

Trump's team said Lee Zeldin is tapped as Environmental Protection Agency chief, with a mandate to slash climate and pollution regulations that Republicans say is slowing down business development.

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem -- a Trump ally who famously wrote about shooting her dog because it did not respond to training -- has been tapped to head the massive Department of Homeland Security, CNN reported.



US Senator Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida, speaks next to former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a campaign rally at the PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on October 29, 2024. (AFP)

New York congresswoman Elise Stefanik, a fierce Trump ally and pro-Israel stalwart, got the nod for UN ambassador, Trump's transition team said.

Biden's invitation restores a presidential transition tradition that Trump tore up when he lost the 2020 election, then failed to invite the Democrat for a visit or even attend his rival's inauguration.

By the time Trump took his last Marine One flight from the White House lawn on January 20, 2021, he had also

been repudiated by many in his own party for having encouraged a mob to assault the Capitol.

It was a period of disgrace that soon evaporated, however, as Republicans returned to Trump's side, recognizing his unique electoral power at the head of the far-right movement that has now swept him back to power.

Trump enters his second term with a near total grip on his party and the Democrats in disarray. — **AFP**

Jury says defense contractor must pay \$42m over Abu Ghraib abuses

WASHINGTON: A federal jury found that a Virginia-based defense contractor shared responsibility with the US Army for abusing detainees at Abu Ghraib prison, awarding \$42m in damages yesterday to three Iraqi men who said they were tortured there two decades ago.

The verdict against CACI International marks the first time a civilian contractor has been held legally responsible for the inhumane treatment of detainees at the prison west of Baghdad, where US forces questioned hundreds of Iraqis after toppling Saddam Hussein. Photographs of Army soldiers gleefully abusing detainees drew widespread condemnation upon their release in 2004.

CACI employees worked as interrogators at Abu Ghraib under contract with the US government. Attorneys for the company said none of them laid a hand on detainees or had any role in the abuses. Lawyers for the three Iraqi plaintiffs said CACI interrogators would direct military personnel to "soften up" detainees before they were questioned, leading to abuses across the facility.

The jury of six women and two men in US District Court in Alexandria deliberated for 1½ days before returning the verdict. A previous trial on the same claims ended with a hung jury in May. The company is expected to appeal.

"This is a remarkable moment of justice and vindication for our clients, who fought tirelessly for 16 years to be heard in a US court," Baher Azmy, an attorney for the three Iraqi plaintiffs at the Center for Constitutional Rights, said after the verdict.

The plaintiffs - Salah Al-Ejalli, a journalist residing in Sweden; Asa'ad Al-Zuba'e, a grocery store owner in Iraq; and Suhail Al Shimari, an Iraqi middle school principal - said they were restrained in uncomfortable positions, forced to be naked or threatened with unmuzzled dogs after being sent to Abu Ghraib in November 2003. Their abuse was not depicted in photographs, according to lawyers for the men.

An attorney for the Iraqi plaintiffs, Muhammad U Faridi, said during closing arguments that CACI managers in Virginia knew about rampant detainee abuses as early as 2003 and should be held accountable along with the Army personnel who were convicted at courts-martial. "You saw regret and remorse from so many witnesses. ... The only entity that has no regrets, no remorse, over what happened is CACI," Faridi said. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

New Haiti PM sworn in as airliner hit by gunfire

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aime was sworn in as Haiti's new prime minister on Monday as a gun attack on a passenger jet at the capital's airport underscored the utter breakdown in law and order in the Caribbean country.

Fils-Aime replaced outgoing premier Garry Conille, who was appointed in May but became embroiled in a power struggle with the unelected transitional council tasked with stabilising the crisis-ravaged nation.

"We have a transition with lots of work to do: the first essential job, which is a condition for success, is restoring security," Fils-Aime said in his first remarks.

He said he was aware of Haiti's "difficult circumstances" but promised to put "all of my energy, my skills and my patriotism at the service of the national cause." The challenges awaiting him are daunting, as evidenced by the drama in the skies over the capital city.

Low-cost American carrier Spirit Airlines said that a flight from Florida was hit by gunfire while trying to land at Port-au-Prince on Monday and had to be diverted to the neighbouring Dominican Republic.



Newly sworn-in Haitian Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime speaks in Port-au-Prince, on November 11, 2024. (AFP)

One flight attendant suffered minor injuries and was being evaluated by medical staff, the airline said in a statement, while images posted online appeared to show several bullet holes inside the cabin.

No passengers were hurt.

The airport in Port-au-Prince has grounded all commercial flights, the Miami Herald reported, while American Airlines announced it was suspending its service between Miami and the Haitian capital until Thursday.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), a

trade group representing airlines, said it "strongly condemns recent attacks on civil aviation in Haiti, underscoring the urgent need for robust security measures to protect air operations." It stressed how the disorder threatened "the movement of goods and humanitarian aid critical for the Haitian people."

After being named just five months ago, outgoing premier Conille was ousted by the nine-member transitional council on Sunday.

He has questioned the authority of the council to sack

him, and the row threatens to create more instability in Haiti which has been without a president since the assassination of leader Jovenel Moise in 2021.

There is no sitting parliament either, and the last elections were held in 2016.

The Caribbean nation has long struggled with political instability, poverty, natural disasters and gang violence.

Responding to the latest political instability, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged all sides in Haiti to "work constructively" together to ensure the integrity of the transition process, his spokesman said Monday.

"It's not for the Secretary General to choose who will be the prime minister of Haiti," said spokesman Stephane Dujarric. "What is important is that Haitian political leaders put the interests of Haiti first and foremost." Gangs in recent years have taken over about 80 percent of the capital Port-au-Prince as any semblance of government evaporated.

The UN report said the gangs were digging trenches, using drones and stockpiling weapons as they change tactics to confront the Kenyan-led police force. — **AFP**

Fifteen inmates killed, many injured in latest Ecuador jail massacre

GUAYAQUIL: At least 15 inmates were killed and 14 injured in clashes yesterday at a prison in the Ecuadorian port of Guayaquil, the latest in a series of massacres blamed on a war between drug cartels.

Once seen as a beacon of stability in South America, Ecuador has become one of the world's most violent nations and a major drug trafficking hub in recent years.

Much of the violence has taken place in prisons where more than 460 inmates have been killed since February 2021, often in gruesome fashion, with their bodies dismembered and burnt.

The latest bloodshed took place in Litoral penitentiary, the country's biggest, where 119 inmates were killed in September 2021 in Ecuador's worst prison massacre.

"This morning, in a pavilion of the Litoral penitentiary, serious incidents were reported between inmates, resulting in a preliminary toll of 15 dead and 14 wounded," the prison service said.

AFP drone images of the prison yard showed inmates in orange prison garb placing a body on the ground next to a dozen corpses wrapped in blankets.

In another part of the prison, dozens of prisoners could be seen sitting in rows, guarded by security force members.

The prison service said that

a "significant contingent" of troops and police had been deployed to restore order at the prison, which was now under the "full control" of the authorities. The violence in Ecuador's prisons has spilled over onto the streets.

The Andean country registered a record 47 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2023, up from a rate of six per 100,000 in 2018.

In January, the violence reached a new peak following the jailbreak of a powerful narco boss, Jose Adolfo Macias.

In the most dramatic incident, gunmen stormed the studios of a television station in Guayaquil and held a presenter at gunpoint live on air.

Gang members also took scores of prison guards hostage

and set off explosions prompting President Daniel Noboa to declare war on organized crime and deploy the army to combat the gangs.

Yesterday's massacre is the first at a prison since then.

But tit-for-tat gang attacks left at least 17 dead near Guayaquil last month and prison officials continue to be targeted.

Five penitentiary staff were shot dead in the space of a month between late August and late September. The victims included the director of Litoral, who was shot dead after her car was ambushed while traveling near Guayaquil and the head of another prison in the Amazonian province of Sucumbios, who too was shot dead while traveling by car. — **AFP**



A forensic medicine vehicle leaves the Del Litoral prison facilities after clashes in Guayaquil, Ecuador, yesterday. (AFP)

No immunity decision in Trump's hush money case

NEW YORK: The judge overseeing President-elect Donald Trump's hush money case, in which he was convicted on 34 counts of falsifying business documents, did not issue a ruling as expected yesterday on whether to dismiss the matter, and instead set a new deadline for prosecutors to determine how to proceed post-election, according to a court document made public Tuesday.

New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan set a November 19 deadline for prosecutors to convey "your view of appropriate steps going forward." The order came in an email from Merchan's law clerk to lawyers on each side Sunday as part of an email exchange.

Prosecutor Matthew Colangelo wrote in an email earlier that day that the Manhattan district attorney's office is considering the recent change in circumstances stemming from Trump's election last week. Colangelo asked for a delay in the proceedings so the office could "consider a number of arguments based on the impact on this proceeding from the results of the Presidential election." Trump attorney Emil Bove, in the same email exchange, cited Trump's election as new grounds for a dismissal of the case. "There are strong reasons for the requested stay, and eventual dismissal of the case in the interests of justice," Bove wrote.

It was not clear how prosecutors would address the jury's verdict, which was reached after a six-week trial this year.

Merchan was supposed to issue a long-awaited finding yesterday, determining whether a recent US Supreme Court decision on presidential immunity should have been applied to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's case against Trump.

Trump was convicted on 34 counts of falsifying business records in May for covering up the nature of a \$130,000 payment to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels shortly before the 2016 election. The new delay further throws into question whether Trump will be sentenced November 26. — **THE WASHINGTON POST**

Wildfires burn from coast to coast in US

NEW YORK: Firefighters in the western US state of California gained a foothold in the battle against a wildfire north of Los Angeles while weather officials yesterday issued red flag warnings across the US Northeast where blazes turned deadly over the weekend.

The Mountain Fire in California's Ventura County burned 20,630 acres of land as of yesterday, an amount it has held near for several days after 80 mph winds fueled its explosive growth last week, *USA Today* reported.

As winds slowed, firefighters managed to bring the containment level to 48 percent, allowing officials to downgrade several evacuation orders. The fire has torched nearly 200 homes and businesses, injured six people and threatened thousands of structures.

Meanwhile, in the Northeast, weather officials issued red flag warnings from New Jersey to Massachusetts after a bout of modest weekend rainfall failed to douse the region's wildfire threat, reported *USA Today* about the developments.

Up to 0.30 inches of rain fell on Sunday, marking the first rainfall in over a month in parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, but the dry soil and leaves quickly absorbed the rain and have again become fertile ground for fires, authorities were quoted as saying. — **XINHUA**

70 million users watch Netflix with advertising

NEW YORK: Major entertainment streaming provider Netflix said yesterday that 70 million viewers are watching its shows with advertising every month, nearly double the total from May, a sign that more acceptance emerges for such a commercial pattern.

More than 50 percent of new subscribers are opting for Netflix's ad-supported plan in the countries where it is available, Amy Reinhard, the company's president of advertising, said in a blog post. The company is seeing "steady progress" across all 12 countries where the advertising plan is available, *Bloomberg News* reported yesterday.

Netflix plans to make advertising a major revenue source to complement subscriptions, yet its ad business is still small relative to peers. For years, the company positioned itself as an alternative to ad-supported TV and only introduced commercials when it lost customers in 2022.

"Netflix has priced its advertising-supported plan as a less-expensive alternative for cost-conscious users, a tactic that has produced steady growth," said *Bloomberg News* in its report about the finding. "The company had 40 million monthly active users on ad plans in May. It finished the third quarter with a total of 282.7 million subscribers." — **XINHUA**

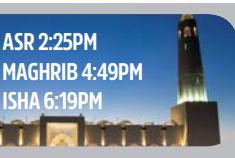
Enjoy your drive with peace of mind with QIIC



FAJR 4:29AM
SUNRISE 5:49AM
DHUHR 11:18AM

PRAYER
TIMINGS

ASR 2:25PM
MAGHRIB 4:49PM
ISHA 6:19PM



“ One of the most popular programmes at Ajyal, Made in Qatar showcases films by Qatari and Qatar-based talents, and is a testament to the limitless potential of Qatar’s creative community.

WEATHER
TODAY

Misty to foggy at places at first, relatively hot daytime with some clouds and mild by night.

22°C

Minimum

34°C

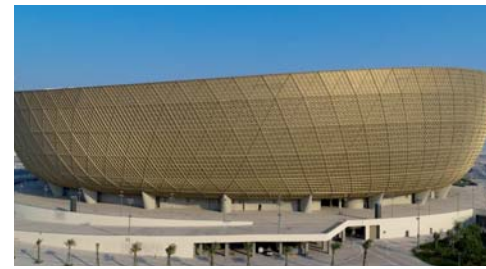
Maximum

Trending in
QATAR

On The Peninsula social media platforms

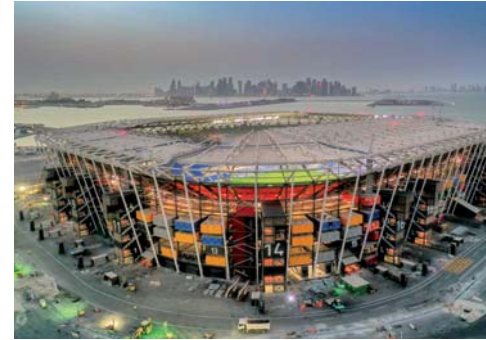
Tickets to go on sale for Real Madrid, Continental Champions matches in Qatar

The FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2024 organisers confirmed tickets will be available from November 21, with Visa card holders receiving exclusive access to a pre-sale period from November 14.



All you need to know about FIFA Intercontinental Cup 2024 in Qatar

Football fans worldwide will reunite in Qatar this December as the country hosts the FIFA Intercontinental Cup finals, bringing together champions from four confederations to compete for the grand title.



Department of Meteorology warns of poor visibility

The Department of Meteorology yesterday warned of poor visibility at most places across the country, stating "mist to fog formation at most areas is causing low horizontal visibility less than 2km."



Fifth storm in under a month bears down on Philippines

The Philippines prepared yesterday to evacuate tens of thousands of people as the fifth major storm in three weeks bore down on the archipelago shortly after the onslaught of Typhoon Toraji.



Bees help tackle elephant-human conflict in Kenya

A long-running project by charity Save the Elephants offered an unlikely solution — deterring some of nature’s biggest animals with some of its smallest: African honeybees.



Doha Film Institute showcases exciting homegrown talent at Ajyal

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Doha Film Institute (DFI) is showcasing an inspiring selection of stories by Qatar’s emerging film talents in the Made in Qatar programme at the 2024 Ajyal Film Festival.

One of the most popular programmes at Ajyal, Made in Qatar showcases films by Qatari and Qatar-based talents, and is a testament to the limitless potential of Qatar’s creative community. The selection includes five diverse films that underline the creative progress of the country’s flourishing film industry with two films created with support from the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar.

The jury for this year’s Made in Qatar programme is led by acclaimed Palestinian actor Saleh Bakri and includes Kenyan filmmaker Debra Aroko and Qatari director Amal Al Muftah.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Chief Executive Officer of DFI and Festival Director, said: “ After a successful special screening of Made in Qatar films earlier this year, we are proud to screen five additional new films reflecting the diversity of our nation and the progress of our creative talent to prominence on the world stage. The programme continues to be a cornerstone of Ajyal, providing a platform for homegrown voices to share their



Jury members Saleh Bakri, Debra Aroko and Amal Al Muftah.

unique perspectives and innovative storytelling techniques. The selection is a strong representation of the vibrant creative ecosystem that the nation has fostered and a testament to the success of the Institute’s commitment to supporting filmmakers through every step of their creative journey.”

The programme includes I Lay for You to Sleep by Ali Al Hajri, a contemplative experimental narrative that explores the emotional depths of loss and renewal through poetic imagery. As women prepare a body for burial, we follow Ali’s journey through memories and reflections, confronting the mysteries of life, death and rebirth. The film is also screening in the Bader Shorts Competition.

Alkaline by Paul Abraham and Abdulla Al Hor highlights the complex interplay between personal choices, family expectations and how fear can shape relationships in

profound ways. Presenting how a father’s health scare changes his life and creates a rift with his son, the film journeys through the conversations and self-reflection by the son to bridge the divide. The film, in Malayalam and English, was created with support from the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar.

Breshna by Obada Jarbi narrates

the moving story of a survivor of a terrorist attack in Kabul who finds refuge in Qatar. The poignant short film captures her reflection on hope, resilience and the longing for peace as she comes to terms with loss and survival. Through her story, the film offers a deeply personal perspective on displacement and the strength needed to seek a new beginning amidst painful memories.

Can You See Me? by Dhoha Abdelsattar follows a lonely woman, Maryam, who is trapped in the cycle of a mundane life that spirals into emotional turmoil until she is forced to confront herself and the possibility of change. This evocative short is a reflective journey through the quiet struggles of inner turmoil, exploring resilience and self-discovery.



A still from Can You See Me?

China’s largest air show takes off with fighter jets, attack drones

ZHUHAI: Stealth fighter jets and attack drones took centre stage as China’s largest air show officially opened yesterday, an opportunity for Beijing to showcase its growing military might to potential customers and rivals alike.

China has poured resources into modernising and expanding its aviation capabilities as it faces off against the United States and others around regional flashpoints like Taiwan.

The star of Airshow China, which showcases Beijing’s civil and military aerospace sector every two years in the southern city of Zhuhai, is the new J-35A stealth fighter jet.

Its inclusion in the airshow suggests it is nearly ready to enter operation, which would make China the only country to have two stealth fighters in action, experts said.

The J-35A is lighter than China’s existing model, the J20, and looks more similar in design to a US F-35.

A group of J20s performed a display flight yesterday morning, flying in a diamond formation across a grey sky.

State news agency Xinhua quoted military expert Wang Mingzhi as saying the combination of the two models



Chinese-made Chengdu J-10 Vigorous Dragon fighter jets fly in formation during the 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, yesterday. (AFP)

greatly enhances the People’s Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF)’s “ability to conduct offensive operations in high-threat and contested environments”.

The airshow will feature a dedicated drone zone for the first time, reflecting their increased prominence in war-zones, including Ukraine.

The SS-UAV -- a massive mothership that can rapidly release swarms of smaller drones for intelligence gathering, as well as strikes -- will be on display in Zhuhai, according to the South China Morning Post.

This year the show’s focus is squarely on the military sector, as it coincides with the 75th anniversary of the PLAAF,

but China’s burgeoning space industry will also be showcasing developments.

A model of a homegrown reusable space cargo shuttle will debut at the show, Xinhua reported on Monday.

Named Haoloong, the shuttle is designed to be launched on a commercial rocket, and then dock with China’s space station Tiangong.

“It can re-enter the atmosphere, fly and land horizontally at a designated airport, allowing for recovery and reuse,” Xinhua said.

Beijing has poured huge resources into its space programme over the past decade in an effort to catch up to traditional space powers the United States and Russia. — AFP

Dubai begins construction on first flying taxi ‘vertiport’

DUBAI: Construction has begun on Dubai’s first “vertiport,” a dedicated facility for flying taxis near Dubai International Airport (DXB), the Dubai government announced yesterday.

Scheduled for completion by 2026, the port aims to offer fast, sustainable transportation to some of its most popular areas using a driverless vehicle providing self-flying taxi service.

The facility, named DXB Vertiport, spans 3,100sqm and is expected to manage up to 42,000 landings and serve 170,000 passengers annually. The initial phase will include additional stations located in Downtown Dubai, Dubai Marina and Palm Jumeirah.

— XINHUA

Nintendo courts non-gamers in ‘about-turn’ strategy

TOKYO: Once confined to rectangular screens, chirpy plumber Mario and pointy-eared Princess Zelda are popping up in theme parks and toy stores as Nintendo goes all out to win non-gamer fans.

It wasn’t always this way: for many years, the Japanese company shied away from promoting products or creating media other than video games. But its push for broader brand recognition over the past decade has reached the point where even Mario creator Shigeru Miyamoto describes Nintendo as something of a “talent agency” for its colourful characters.

A new area based on the “Donkey Kong” games was unveiled at the Universal Studios Japan amusement park yesterday, expanding Nintendo’s zone there -- already a major tourist draw.

Its doors open on December 11, following last month’s launch of the first ever Nintendo museum in a renovated factory in Kyoto.

At the box office, “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” was 2023’s second-highest grossing title, with a sequel due in 2026 and a film based on Nintendo’s “The Legend of Zelda” also on the way.

“Over the past decade, there has really been an about-turn” in Nintendo’s strategy, said Florent Gorges, an expert on the company’s history. The gaming giant started life in Japan’s traditional former capital of Kyoto in 1889, producing playing cards.

For a long time, it took a “conservative” and “somewhat reclusive” approach to cashing in on its intellectual property, said Gorges.

“There was a certain culture of secrecy, taken to extremes within Nintendo, that made it very squeamish about trying new things,” he said. Hiroshi Yamauchi, company president for over half a century between 1949 and 2002, “hated” the idea of any kind of company mascot, Gorges added.

An early foray outside of the gaming world also proved tricky. In the 1990s, Nintendo entrusted its Mario IP to a Hollywood production team who made a live-action movie that was roundly panned.

The flop may have contributed to its cautious approach, until disappointing sales of the Nintendo 64 and GameCube consoles in the following decade forced a re-think. The two next consoles -- the portable DS with two screens, and the remote-controlled Wii -- were designed to attract non-gamers. — AFP



Enchanting beauty of sunset

A falcon stands backdropped by the setting sun, south of Doha, yesterday. (AFP)