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SPORT | Page 1

Msakni penalty earns Arabi important win over Gharafa



GULF TIMES



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Global solidarity needed to face challenges: PM

Global Security Forum begins

QNA Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani inaugurated yesterday the 5th Global Security Forum, held under the theme "Reshaping the Global Order: Conflict, Crises, and Co-operation" at the Sheraton Doha Hotel.

HE Sheikh Mohamed delivered an opening speech that highlighted the most prominent challenges facing the world at the level of regional and international security, and the monopoly exercised over basic commodities as a result of wars and crises. HE the Prime Minister said success in overcoming various challenges remains dependent on the ability of all countries to adhere to basic principles agreed upon by all countries like justice, equality, solidarity, and the rejection of double standards.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also indicated that the politicisation of basic goods such as energy, water and medicine is no less dangerous for the most vulnerable peoples from the effects of wars and conflicts, indicating that the Middle East region, which has been the scene of crises for several decades, desperately needs a sustainable framework to ensure peace and stability in the long term. It is based on the principles of dialogue, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

Qatar, in light of the successive global crises, took early steps to stabilise supply and supply chains, realising the importance of increasing local production of basic goods and diversifying

supply chains to enhance its national security, he said stressing that Qatar will spare no effort in working with its international partners to achieve global food security, and to exchange experiences with them in these areas.

With regard to the challenge of environmental protection and global energy security, HE the Prime Minister affirmed that Qatar has adopted a realistic approach for years that combines environmental protection and fair energy security for all, indicating that Qatar has provided European countries with energy during their current crisis, and that it will play a major role in a serious and responsible energy transition, especially in light of increasing its production capacity to 126mm tonnes by 2026.

HE Sheikh Mohamed indicated that Qatar follows an approach that combines national and humanitarian development internally, and a foreign policy based on balancing principles and interests and mediation in resolving disputes by peaceful means, referring to Qatar's achievements in this field, and to its impressive success in organising a World Cup that carried a message of peace and harmony among the people. HE the Prime Minister alluded to the efforts of Qatar in supporting humanitarian work in countries that are exposed to disasters and humanitarian crises or the least developed countries around the world.

The opening was attended by a number of sheikhs, ministers and heads of participating delegations, as well as a number of ambassadors accredited to the state, senior officials, experts and academics specialised in global security issues, and journalists.



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New Al Sadd Health Center opens

HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari inaugurated yesterday the new Al Sadd Health Center of the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC).

With the opening of the Al Sadd Center, the number of health centres affiliated to PHCC has reached 31, distributed in cities and regions of the country.

The Al Sadd Center is located in a strategic area in the centre of Doha and serves many neighbouring areas. Registration is carried out according to the approved national address for patients.

In a statement on the occasion of the opening, HE Dr al-Kuwari affirmed that the opening of more primary healthcare centres in various regions of the country comes within the framework of work to ensure that all residents have access to high-quality and integrated health services, and at the right time and place, in order to achieve the goal (A Healthy Population: Physically and Mentally) in Qatar National Vision 2030 and in the health strategy.

She added that primary healthcare



Minister of Health inaugurates New Al Sadd Health Center.

services have become more focused on healthy lifestyles and disease prevention, and seek to promote public health, within the framework of the health sector plans to shift care from a curative, hospital-based model to an enhanced one that provides preventive and health services in the community.

Managing Director of Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC) Dr Mariam Ali Abdul Malik said the new centre has a capacity of 35,000 patients, and it is expected that this number will be fully registered in the first year through electronic registration or a direct visit to the centre.

She added that the PHCC, while focusing on establishing new centres, is also working on maintaining, expanding and developing some of the existing centres that are witnessing a high turnout of patients.

The capacity of the Al Sadd Health Center can be increased to 50,000 to serve the residents of Al Sadd and neighbouring areas like Al Mirqab Al Jadeed, Fereej Bin Mahmoud, Al Messila, Fereej Bin Omran, Al Hitmi Al Jadeed, and Hamad Medical City.

The new centre offers services such as family medicine, pregnancy and postpartum follow-up, healthy child services, periodic immunisations, healthy women, non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases, travel immunisations, annual health examination, adolescent health, premarital examination, dental, ear, nose and throat, dermatology, ophthalmology, optometry, maternal and child health consultations, nutritionist, social worker, health education, physiotherapy, minor surgery, urgent care services for the elderly and children, and mental health services. (QNA)

Russia agrees to 60-day grain deal extension

Russia has agreed to extend the Ukraine grain export deal following talks with the United Nations yesterday - but only for a further 60 days. Moscow said it wanted to see "tangible progress" on a parallel agreement on Russian exports before the deal comes up for renewal again. The grain export deal has helped ease the global food crisis triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February last year. The invasion saw Ukraine's Black Sea ports blocked by warships until a deal signed in July allowed for the safe passage of exports of critical grain supplies.

Bank shares plunge on SVB contagion fears

Global bank shares and short-dated US Treasury yields plunged yesterday as concerns over fallout from the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank lingered despite action from regulators. The US dollar also fell. Gold and silver prices rallied on safe-haven buying. Bond markets saw a repricing of rate hike bets, with rising expectations for a pause in rate hikes or a lower rate hike pulling Wall Street shares back from earlier losses. European stocks logged their steepest one-day fall this year, with the pan-European STOXX 600 index closing down 2.3%.

More than 675 companies from 55 countries to take part in AgriteQ

10th edition of Qatar International Agricultural Exhibition begins at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre tomorrow

THE Ministry of Municipality yesterday announced that the 10th Qatar International Agricultural Exhibition (AgriteQ) 2023 will be held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre from tomorrow until March 19, with the participation of more than 55 countries.

This came during a press conference held by the ministry to provide the details of the exhibition, which gains its importance from being a strategic platform to explore new horizons for the advancement of the Qatari agricultural sector, as the backbone of food security that comes at the forefront of the strategic priorities to achieve self-sufficiency.

In this context, chairman of the exhibition's organising committee and director of the Public Parks Department at the Ministry of Municipality, Mohamed Ali al-Khoury said the keenness of Qatar to organise the exhibition confirms the increasing interest of the country in the agricultural sec-



Officials at the press conference yesterday.

tor in recent years. This is done with the aim of achieving great progress in local production to increase self-sufficiency rates and achieve food security, especially after the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the interruption in supply chains around the world, which made achieving self-sufficiency a vital matter for various countries.

He added during the press conference that the exhibition is a direct gateway to accessing the latest global technological innovations that support the national trend towards expanding agricultural production to meet the local demand for food products, according to the objectives of the "comprehensive plan for food security". To Page 11

MoL working on attracting, classifying foreign workers

THE Shura Council held its regular weekly meeting yesterday at Tamim bin Hamad Hall under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem.

In the presence of HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Saeed bin Smaikh al-Marri, the Shura Council discussed the Ministry of Labour (MoL)'s efforts in terms of the Qatarisation of jobs in private sector, qualifying the national workforce, attracting and classifying expatriate workers, regulating labour recruitment offices and the progress made in developing the MoL's electronic services and digital transformation towards simplifying and facilitating procedures for citizens and companies.

HE Dr al-Marri said the ministry is working on attracting and classifying

expatriate workers, which will contribute to increasing productivity in the work environment, through vital initiatives that will provide classification methods for workers, the extent of their skills and the need of the local market for them.

He informed that the ministry is working to implement seven initiatives to attract and classify expatriate workers, including the launch of the Qatari guide for classifying occupations, the labour rotation programme, a programme for 'talent visas', and the provision of different types of work permits based on workers' skill levels.

He also said the MoL is in the process of establishing a national centre for accreditation and testing of professions and skills for expatriate workers with the aim of raising production efficiency and reducing costs in state projects. Page 12

QFMA warns against suspicious companies

Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) has warned investors against dealing with suspicious companies. In a post on its official Twitter account, QFMA said there has recently been a notable increase in suspicious advertisements for companies calling for and promoting saving and investment management to obtain profits and revenues. To avoid fraudulent operations, the Authority warned investors against dealing with such companies without ensuring that they have the required licences from relevant authorities in the country to practise those activities. (QNA)

Shura speaker meets parliamentary heads on sidelines of IPU assembly



HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem met with a number of speakers of parliaments, on the sidelines of the 146th assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Bahrain. HE al-Ghanem met separately with Chairman of the Shura Council of Bahrain Ali bin Saleh al-Saleh, Speaker of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire Adama Bictogo, and House of Peoples Representatives of Ethiopia Tagesse Chafo. The meetings discussed the existing co-operation between the Shura Council and Bahraini Shura Council, Cote d'Ivoire's National Assembly and Ethiopian House of Peoples Representatives, and ways to enhance it. The Shura Council members from the delegation participating in the work of the 146th IPU Assembly attended the meetings. (QNA)

Qatar-Gambia panel discusses labour co-operation



The joint technical committee between Qatar and Gambia has held a meeting on labour and manpower issues and the regulation of the employment of Gambian workers in Qatar, based on the labour agreement signed between the two countries. The two sides discussed ways to develop bilateral labour relations, and reviewed developments in the work environment in Qatar, in addition to strengthening and developing procedures for recruiting Gambian workers in the country, especially technical and specialised workers. (QNA)

Al-Hammadi meets Turkish ambassador



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met with ambassador of Turkiye to the State Dr Mehmet Mustafa Goksu. They discussed bilateral relations. (QNA)

Reminder and Clarification Statement

NOTICE TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

The Board of Directors of **Masraf Al Rayan Q.P.S.C.**, Doha – Qatar (the "Company" and/or "MAR") is pleased to invite MAR's shareholders to attend the Annual General Assembly Meeting ("AGM") which will be held physically in Four Seasons Hotel, Doha, State of Qatar, on Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 5:30 p.m., Doha Time, to consider and approve the items on the following agenda.

If the quorum is not met, the AGM shall be deferred to Wednesday 22 March 2023 at the same afore-mentioned time and venue.

AGM Agenda

- To review and endorse the Board of Directors report on MAR activities and its financial position for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2022 and the future plan of the Company for the year 2023;
- To hear the Shari'ah Supervisory Board report on MAR compliance with Shari'ah rules for fiscal year ended 31 December 2022;
- To review and endorse the External Auditors report on MAR Financial Statements as presented by the Board of Directors for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2022;
- To discuss and approve MAR Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2022;
- To discuss and approve the proposals of the Board of Directors regarding appropriation and cash dividend of QAR 0.10 per share, representing 10% of the nominal value of the share for the fiscal year 2022 and acknowledgement of profits appropriation policy;
- To hear and discuss the External Auditor's report on the requirements of Article (24) of the Corporate Governance Code of Companies and Legal Entities listed on Primary Market issued pursuant to Resolution No. (5) of 2016 of the Board of Directors of Qatar Financial Markets Authority ("QFMA");
- To discuss and approve of MAR Annual Corporate Governance Report for the year 2022 including endorsement of MAR ESG Framework;
- To absolve the Chairman and Board Members from all responsibilities for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2022, fix their remuneration for 2022 and approve the policy of remuneration and incentives of the Board and Senior Management and major transactions with related parties, if any;
- To appoint MAR External Auditors for fiscal year 2023 and approve their fees;
- To approve Board recommendations regarding appointment of members of Sahria Supervisory Board for the next three years term (2023-2024-2025) and delegate the Board of Directors to add one or more new member(s) or to fill any vacancy that may occur for any reason whatsoever, fix their remunerations and assume any other matter related to SSB during the new term, subject to QCB approval;
- Elect the Bank's Board of Directors for the new term 2023-2025 in accordance with amended corporate governance regulations issued under QCB Circular No (2) of 2023.

Please visit the Company's website www.alrayan.com to check the full details and supporting documents for the items above including audited financials, external auditor's reports, the Corporate Governance report and the Board Election and Nomination Policy. The final list of Board candidates will be published on the website upon receipt of QCB approval on the candidates.

Shareholders or their duly authorized agents who are willing to attend the AGM must come to the Four Seasons Hotel in Doha starting from 3:00pm Doha Time on the date of the meeting and present their IDs and their duly authenticated proxies, as applicable. Registration process will start at 3:00 pm Doha Time and close at 5:30pm sharp on the date of the meeting.

Reference to the first AGA Notice on 22 February 2023, we would like to clarify that the attendance of the AGM meeting may be assigned by proxy provided that the representative is a shareholder and the delegation is special and made in writing. Shareholders may use the proposed proxy form prepared by the Bank and available on website www.alrayan.com. The shareholder may not delegate any of the members of the Board to attend the meetings of the AGM on his/her behalf. In all events, the number of shares acquired by the delegate in this capacity shall not exceed (5%) of the company's capital. In case of natural shareholders, a copy of the ID or passport of both the proxy and the principal must be enclosed with the proxy document. The proxy of a natural shareholder must be a shareholder in the Company as well. In case of corporate shareholders, the corporate shareholder may appoint a representative to attend the AGA by either issuing an authorization letter on its letterhead, signed by one of its authorized signatory appearing on its Commercial Register and stamped by its official stamp or by simply completing, signing and stamping the proxy form. In all events, an up-to-date copy of CR, Establishment Card and ID/passport of the representative must be enclosed to the authorization letter or the proxy form. This statement supersedes any previous statements issued by the Bank in relation to proxies. For any queries, please contact us at the following numbers +974 44940478, +974 44940401, +974 44940673 or +974 4940674 or email us at IR@alrayan.com or visit the Corporate Secretariat office on the 23rd floor of the Head Office located in 69 Al Add Al Sharqi Street, Marina 40, MAR Tower, Lusail City, Doha, State of Qatar.

Notes

- This invitation shall be deemed as a legal announcement to all shareholders without the need to send a special invitation by post according to Qatar's Commercial Companies Law No. (11) of 2015 as amended by Law No (8) of 2021.
- A statement that includes the information stipulated under Qatar's Commercial Companies Law including the amounts received by the Chairman, Directors of the Board and members of Senior Management as remuneration, fees, salaries, credit facilities, and benefits in kind, will be available for the shareholders review one week before the AGM in the Corporate Secretariat office on the 23rd floor of the Head Office located in 69 Al Add Al Sharqi Street, Marina 40, MAR Tower, Lusail City, Doha, State of Qatar.
- Only shareholders listed on the Qatar Exchange/Qatar Central Securities Depository's shares register issued upon the close of trading on the date of the AGM shall have the right to attend and vote.
- Every shareholder shall have the right to attend the AGM. He/she shall have a number of votes that shall be equal to the number of his/her shares. The decisions shall be issued by the absolute majority of the shares represented in the AGM meeting and by two third of shares represented in an EGM meeting. The minors and persons placed under guardianship shall be represented by their legal guardians.
- Neither the distrainer nor the pledger shall have the right to attend the AGM nor shall either one vote on its resolutions, in accordance with Article (10) of the Company's Articles of Association and Article (164) of Qatar's Commercial Companies Law No (11) of 2015 as amended by Law No (8) of 2021.
- In the event of a failure to attain a quorum for the first AGM meeting, the proxies issued to attend the first meeting shall be considered valid and effective for any following meeting, unless they are expressly cancelled by the concerned shareholder via a notice issued to the Company Secretary of MAR at least two days prior to the date of the meeting.

Best Regards,
Board of Directors

NHRC chief meets UN officials in Geneva

HE the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) and Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah met yesterday at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva with UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada al-Nashif. During the meeting, they discussed means of co-operation between the GANHRI and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to protect and promote human rights in light of the many current humanitarian crises. Also, Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah presented the most important recommendations of the International Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights, which is co-organised by the GANHRI, NHRC, OHCHR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Arab League. HE the Chairperson of NHRC and GANHRI met with GANHRI Geneva Representative Katharina Rose in the presence of GANHRI Secretary Amina Bouayach. The meeting discussed the GANHRI agenda and the GANHRI Annual Meeting, which takes place tomorrow at the UN headquarters.



50 arbitration cases settled in '22, says justice ministry

The Ministry of Justice said that 50 arbitration cases were settled during 2022, with a completion rate of 100% and an increase of 16%, compared to 2021. The Arbitration Affairs Department at the Ministry of Justice stated in its annual report for 2022 that the number of judgments issued in arbitration cases through the Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) reached 19 out of 50 judgments issued last year, with a rate of 38% of total judgments issued in 2022.

The report added that the number of judgments issued per month ranged between one and 10 judgments, with an average of four judgments, detailing that the highest number of judgments a month issued in 2022 was issued in November, totalling 10 judgments. The report elaborated that most of the areas of dispute were related to contracting and sub-contracting contracts, accounting for 24% of total cases, institutional rulings constituted 58% of the total rulings documented currently, whilst free rulings ac-

counted for 42%. The report pointed out that judgments issued in the English language constituted 47% of documented judgments. Cases, where one party or both disputing parties were Qataris, stood at 82%, whereas cases, where one or both parties were foreigners, amounted to 18% of the total documented judgments. The report stated that the shortest arbitration duration period including the issuance of a judgment was one month, whilst the longest period was four years. (QNA)



QMC chairman meets UK envoy

Chairman of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met with ambassador of the United Kingdom to Qatar Jon Wilks. They discussed media relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them. (QNA)

Qatar participates in meeting on Arab media's anti-terrorism role

Qatar, represented by the Qatar Media Corporation, participated in the 24th meeting of the permanent expert group concerned with following up the role of Arab media in confronting terrorism, which was held in Kuwait. QMC's Media Consultant Abdulrahman Nasser al-Obaidan chaired QMC's delegation to the meeting. The QMC delegation is also participating in the two-day 98th meeting of the Standing Committee for Arab Media. The two meetings are preparatory for the 16th regular session of the executive office of the Council of Arab Information Ministers to kick off tomorrow under the chairmanship of Iraq. These meetings seek to follow up the implementation of the decisions issued by the 52nd regular session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers, which was held in September in Cairo, a move seeking to give



Arab media work more vitality and interaction in support of Arab issues, at various levels, starting with the Palestinian cause. Among the items on the meeting's agenda will be fighting terrorism and extremism, digital media, dealing with major digital

international companies, in addition to draft guiding Arab legislation to regulate social media, and protect users from ethical and legal abuses of inappropriate content, as well as the inclusion of media education in educational curricula for Arab countries. The meetings of the Standing

Committee for Arab Media and the Executive Office will discuss a number of organisational issues, including the 2023 Media Excellence Award dedicated to the topic of environmental media under the theme 'Climate Change and the Future', which will be of financial value, for the first time.

Dr Hanadi appointed member of WHO Technical Advisory Group

Dr Hanadi al-Hamad, Qatar's National Health Strategy Lead for Healthy Ageing and chairperson for the Department of Geriatrics and Long-Term Care at Hamad Medical Corporation, has been appointed to serve as a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Technical Advisory Group tasked with integrating health and care workforces to establish better care networks for ageing populations. WHO is in the process of developing global policy options to support its member states, including Qatar, to progressively integrate their health and care workforces. The goal is to develop the first global policy resource with an explicit focus on care workers as part of integrated person-centred health services and strengthened primary health care systems. The WHO Technical Advi-



Dr Hanadi al-Hamad

care workforce to strengthen primary care. They will also capture the diversity of approaches and respective challenges in ensuring the quality and sustainability of the health and care workforce. And finally, they will provide evidence informed policy options to Member States on key considerations for integrating the health and care workforces in a variety of country contexts. Dr al-Hamad, also the medical director of Rumailah Hospital and Qatar Rehabilitation Institute, has established a strong and successful working relationship with the WHO, including acting in an advisory capacity for the safety and care of older persons during the Covid-19 pandemic. The invitation is for a two-year appointment as a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on integrating health and care workforces.



The study will inform researchers on potential interventions that can be implemented in clinical practice to improve children's readiness to school.

New HMC research facility to improve quality of life and care of preterm kids

A new state-of-the-art Qatar Preterm and Precision Medicine Research Clinic (QPrem & PM-RC) to assess preterm children's readiness to join school, has recently opened at the Women's Wellness and Research Centre (WWRC). The clinic, named after QPrem (Qatar Preterm Study) and Precision Medicine (QPrem & PM-RC), focuses on the development of preterm and is looking comprehensively at various aspects including their medical, psychological, neurocognitive, executive functioning, behavioural, genetic predisposition, and environmental factors. The aim is to inform policymakers and practitioners of possible ways to intervene and improve the quality of life and care of preterm children and their families. Dr Hilal al-Rifai, WWRC's chief executive officer and

medical director said that the establishment of the clinic aligned closely with Qatar's National Health Strategy and that Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has given great attention to family and child-centred care when designing and developing the WWRC. "The QPrem & PM-RC will offer evidence-based care to patient and ease the clinicians' decision-making process," he noted. The Translational and Precision Medicine Research Lab (T&PML) director, Dr Nader al-Dewik said, "This new research clinic will not only assess the children's development but also will feed the third-generation genomics lab with samples utilising this new technology. This is to discover the underlying environmental and genetic factors of high priority health concerns impacting mothers and their preterm children."

The research clinic at the WWRC was opened in collaboration with Prof Muthanna Samara from Kingston University London and Professor Neil Marlow from University College London. Prof Samara, one of the principal investigators of the QPrem project, explained. "The study will assess children's IQ, language, behaviour, academic achievement, executive functioning, social relationships, etc. It will also utilise outstanding and innovative methodologies including experimental testing using advanced technology, validated tools and tests in English and Arabic, tailored to the Qatari population. "The study will inform clinicians on potential interventions that can be implemented in clinical practice in the future to improve children's readiness to school!"

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EVENT PARTNER:

Kahramaa, QEWC extend agreement for Ras Abu Fontas power operation

The Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) and the Qatar Electricity and Water Company (QEWC) yesterday signed an extension agreement for the operation of Ras Abu Fontas (BA) power plant at a ceremony under the patronage of HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi.

According to a Kahramaa statement, the agreement, which extends the current 20-year contract by an additional seven, is a significant achievement for both sides as they co-operate to achieve the best utilisation of Qatar's resources. It also underlines the strength of Kahramaa and QEWC as reliable suppliers and operators in the fields of electricity generation and water desalination.



HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi is flanked by Kahramaa president engineer Issa bin Hilal al-Kuwari and QEWC managing director and general manager engineer Mohamed Nasser al-Hajri at the signing ceremony.

The Ras Abu Fontas (BA) power plant is one of six plants that form the Ras Abu Fontas Complex, inaugurated in 2002. Pursuant to the arrangement, QatarEnergy will continue to supply the natural gas required to operate the plant for the same period.

Kahramaa will utilise the supplied electricity to meet the growing needs of Qatar and will have a higher level of flexibility in utilising the three gas turbines of the power plant.

HE al-Kaabi said the agreement reflects the strong co-operation between Kahramaa and QEWC and aims at the optimal utilisation of the country's resources. "QatarEnergy

will continue to play a vital role in supplying natural gas to all power and water projects. I would like to thank the management and staff of both Kahramaa and QEWC for their outstanding performance in securing Qatar's requirements for water and electricity," he said.

Kahramaa president engineer Issa bin Hilal al-Kuwari said the close co-ordination with QEWC and QatarEnergy is critical for securing the

country's energy and water needs that are essential for the economic growth and development of Qatar.

QEWC managing director and general manager engineer Mohamed Nasser al-Hajri, said the company dedicates significant resources to address and meet the country's demand for electricity and water with high efficiency, in line with the development pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Ministry's cookbook on healthy eating launched

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has launched the 'Cook Healthy, Live Healthy' cookbook, which compiles recipes created by members of the community who won the 'Cook Healthy, Live Healthy' competition organised by the ministry with the aim of encouraging healthy eating.

The launch of the book comes as part of the Ministry of Public Health's continuous efforts to raise awareness among the various segments of society in Qatar about the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles in line with Qatar Vision 2030 and to achieve the objectives of the National Health

Strategy and the Public Health Strategy which aims to reduce the prevalence of obesity, overweight and the risk factors that increase the risk of chronic non-communicable diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some types of cancer.

The book promotes the adoption of a healthy lifestyle by providing healthy recipes from the Qatari cuisine as well as recipes from different food cultures; nutrient analysis for each recipe; and tips for healthy cooking.

To download the cookbook, visit the MoPH website at www.moph.gov.qa (QNA)



Woqod's Gharrafat Al Rayyan petrol station opens at Education City

Qatar Fuel (Woqod) recently opened its Gharrafat Al Rayyan petrol station at Education City. Woqod managing director & CEO Saad Rashid al-Muhammadi said Woqod aspires to expand its petrol station network in the country. The new 24x7 petrol station, spread over an area of 27,300sq m, has four lanes with 12 dispensers for light vehicles. The facilities include a Sidra convenience store, manual car wash, oil change and tyre repair for light vehicles, fast food drive-thru, and sale of Shafaf LPG cylinders, in addition to the sale of gasoline and diesel products for light vehicles.



ANNOUNCEMENT

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holder of

PHILIPPINES Passport No. P6537047A
QID No. 29160816584

hereby change my name

from

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to

LORELYN DE CASTRO CAYABYAB

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

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from

HASHIM AMBALATH VEETIL KUNHI

to

HASHIM MOHAMED

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

MDD offices become first in Qatar to achieve SmartScore certification

Three commercial properties at Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) have become the first buildings in Qatar to achieve SmartScore certification from WiredScore, a global certification body.

The certification identifies best-in-class smart buildings that deliver an exceptional user experience, drive cost efficiency, meet high sustainability standards and are fully future-ready.

MDD, a landmark project of Msheireb Properties, is setting new standards in sustainable urban development. The mixed-use development includes residential, commercial, and cultural spaces, and is designed to promote sustainable living and working.

Msheireb Properties COO engineer Faisal al-Malki said: "This achievement is a testament to our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible infrastructure and services to our tenants, enabling them to operate at the highest levels of efficiency and productivity."

WiredScore Middle East lead John



Engineer Faisal al-Malki at a recent discussion on smart buildings.

Hilliard added: "We are thrilled to be entering the Qatar market at such a competitive time, and for our first buildings to be at Msheireb Downtown Doha.

"We know that tenants' expectations in Qatar are evolving and that international companies entering the market are looking for high-end spaces that meet global standards - particularly with respect to in-

building technology, sustainability, and ESG+R."

WiredScore has certified more than 800mn sqft of prime real estate, impacting more than 8mn people across 36 countries. Recent research shows that technologically enabled buildings achieve up to 15% higher rental values in commercial real estate, lower vacancy rates, and energy savings of up to 25%.



Japanese ambassador Satoshi Maeda with the winners and other participants.

Embassy holds Japanese Speech Contest at QU

More than 15 Japanese language learners in Qatar demonstrated their linguistic abilities in three categories in the recently held 14th Japanese Speech Contest, held at Qatar University's (QU) Research Complex.

The competition was organised by the Japan embassy in Qatar in collaboration with Qatar University and the Japanese Language Teachers' Association in Qatar (Jaltaq). Japanese ambassador Satoshi Maeda expressed his appreciation to the sponsors, judges, participants, QU and Jaltaq for supporting and promoting Japanese language education in Qatar.

The envoy also emphasised that the speech contest leads to further deepening of the amicable relations between Japan and Qatar.

Fatima al-Marzoqi, a Qatari national, won the first-place prize in the advance category. She delivered a speech on the challenges she faced in her journey to master the Japanese language.

Ahmed al-Mohannadi, currently pursuing his master's degree at Tokyo Metropolitan University in Japan under the Japanese government scholar-



Qatari national Fatima al-Marzoqi won the first prize.

ship (MEXT Scholarship), shared his experience about life in Japan during an online talk session. He stressed the importance of studying Japanese language and how it opened up new horizons for him.

The following Japanese and local companies sponsored the contest: Chiyoda Almana Engineering, Chubu Electric Power Company, Darwish Holding (FNAC, Sony, Yamaha), Itochu Corporation (Junco Sushi and Japanese Dining),

Jaltaq, LNG Japan, Marubeni Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, MUFG Bank, Ninja Ramen restaurant and Sumitomo Corporation.

The delegation of Japan's Kyushu University, visiting Qatar on an official mission to promote studying abroad in Japan for Qatari citizens, also attended the event. They set up an information desk during the event where a number of participants asked questions about studying abroad in Japan.

Zakat Fund provides aid worth QR16.8mn in February

Zakat Fund Department at the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (Awqaf) announced that it has provided aid worth QR16,814,589 during February 2023, benefiting 660 families who are eligible for assistance within Qatar.

It included periodic and lump-sum aid; all of these are aids that the Zakat Department disburses to the eligible registered families, in accordance with

the legal controls and approved mechanisms. These amounts were distributed as part of the periodic aid that are provided on a monthly basis to eligible families with a value of QR9,442,840, and lump-sum aids, which are one-time aids as needed, with a value of QR 7,371,749.

Zakat Department said in a statement that it provides the service of calculating corporate zakat free of charge

to facilitate performing zakat for owners of companies. They can also send the company's financial budget to the department's e-mail.

The department's specialists study the budget and determine the value of zakat due by the company. Individuals and companies can also pay their due zakat through the Zakat Department's website or through collection offices and points across the country. (QNA)

Difi releases journal to advance policies supporting Arab families

The Doha International Family Institute (Difi), in partnership with Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press, has launched a scientific journal to support Arab families.

The announcement, which took place at an official ceremony, coincided with the launch of the sixth cycle of Difi's Osra Research Grant.

Both the Difi journal and the Osra Research Grant aim to support innovative and high-quality research development to enhance knowledge on issues facing Arab families, as well as provide policymakers with evidence-based policy and programme recommendations.

Dr Sharifa Noaman al-Emadi, executive director, Difi, a member of Qatar Foundation, spoke at the ceremony, emphasising the ethical and institutional role and commitment of Difi in producing, publishing and



The Difi journal and the Osra Research Grant aim to support innovative and high-quality research development.

supporting scientific research.

Dr Rima Isaifan, head of academic and journals publishing, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Press, and a joint associate professor at HBKU presented an overview of the Difi journal.

Dr Azza Abdel-Moneim, family re-

search expert, and Fatima al-Mutawa, researcher and grants specialist, both from Difi, also provided overviews on the terms and conditions of publishing in the journal, as well as the Osra Research Grant objectives, priority research areas identified for the sixth cycle, and eligibility of participants.

Collective action vital to fight world challenges: Global Security Forum

QNA
Doha

Heads of state, experts, academics and decision-makers stressed the need for solidarity, concerted efforts and collective action in order to face global challenges and address urgent security issues such as wars, conflicts, cyber threats and climate change and awareness of these to create an enabling environment.

During the sessions of the 5th Global Security Forum, which began today under the theme 'Reshaping the Global Order: Conflict, Crises, and Co-operation' at the Sheraton Doha Hotel, the attendees stressed the importance of regional and global co-operation, diversification of the economy and participation in shaping the features of the new world order.

Growing global challenges of wars, conflicts, climate change issues and economic pressures all require everyone to think about a solution, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame said.

"We, as parties, states and lead-



Sheikh Imran Abdulla

ers, must play our role and contribute to solutions before we reach undesired stages, and the major powers should look at it from this perspective", he said.

Kagame added that global leaders should discuss crises and called for a unification at the national, regional and global levels to confront the growing challenges.

The US-African summit, held last December, achieved tangible results and will have more clear results in the future, Kagame said adding he was confident of the efforts of the African Union and leaders in the region in addressing the challenges facing the continent with global assistance.

He highlighted the development in his country and its capabilities in the field of health, raising economic growth rates and strengthening governance as well as fairness and equality for women.



Paul Kagame addressing the forum.

He also noted his country's relations with the United Kingdom and the handling of refugee issues.

Maldives Minister of Home Affairs, Sheikh Imran Abdulla, said terrorism and security issues rank first in terms of importance due to their negative repercussions on everyone, indicating that his country has drawn up comprehensive plans to combat terrorism and terrorist groups and has raised the pace of attention to meet challenges.

He noted the need to diversify collective efforts to face global challenges such as the Russian-Ukrainian war, cyber threats and climate change, and awareness of these issues to create a favourable environment as terrorism affects the sovereignty of states and has economic, security and social repercussions.

He pointed to the importance of finding solutions to security challenges and crises in the region and the world, noting that the Maldives experience shows the importance of regional co-operation and diversification of the economy and the participation of the continent of Asia in shaping the features of the new world order. (QNA)

New generation of politicians 'putting Iraq on the right track'

Iraq has suffered several crises and problems, which necessitates moving toward a reform process that seeks to build the nation positively by selecting qualified people and taking effective steps on the ground, the technical advisor to the prime minister of Iraq, Eng. Mohamed Sahib al-Darraj, stressed. Speaking on the sidelines of the Global Security Forum, al-Darraj said, 20 years after Iraq's invasion, it is now possible to discuss many facts that occurred during the past two decades. Several issues that were earlier seen in Iraq was due to political factions and other negative factors which had led to a lack of governance and management, in addition to foreign interventions that stopped the democratic process by supporting certain political factions.



Al-Darraj explained that there is a new generation of empowered politicians in Iraq looking to direct the country's affairs toward the right path, noting that achieving the issue of economic balance is built in stages through platforms that provide respect for everyone. He added that Iraq plays a vital role in creating a dialogue between neighbours, which was demonstrated during

that past period, despite the troubles it faced. He pointed out Iraq's efforts in the industrial sector as well as its measures to combat terrorism and enhancing security and peace in the region. Al-Darraj stressed the need to invest in human resources in light of the 42mn people in Iraq, of whom 60% are under 20 years old. Iraq has played a focal role in providing energy to the world, he added. As a producer and exporter of energy, Iraq has boosted its production to create a positive balance in the global energy market, he said adding Iraq has joint co-operations with several western countries. Stability of the region will lead to the stability of Iraq, he said. Concluding his speech on the sidelines

of the Global Security Forum, al-Darraj said Iraq has played a historical role on many occasions. He stressed the need for experienced people and good planners in his country to move forward towards more reforms and to restore the role of Iraq in the region, with its great history and heritage. A number of experts and academics participating in the Global Security Forum reviewed the challenges Iraq faced during the past 20 years, referring to the climatic and environmental problems it suffers till this day. The experts noted that Iraq today is going through many problems related to poverty and instability, stressing most Iraqi youths are thinking of travelling abroad in order to search for an opportunity to secure their future. (QNA)

QCAA, AFCAC organise Airport Operations Management training course

Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA), in co-operation with the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), is organising a training course on 'Airport Operations Management', which runs through March 16.

The course, which brings together 20 employees of civil aviation authorities in African countries, and five QCAA employees, is part of the co-operation programme between QCAA and AFCAC, to build the capacities of civil aviation cadres in Africa, and to develop human resources for the international civil aviation industry, as part of Qatar's strategy to contribute to the development of the civil aviation sector globally.

The course will discuss several topics, most notably introducing



airports and the local systems for airport management, various airport departments and their roles in the success of the airport management system, in addition to the airstrip management and safety procedures, and international standards related to safety at airports, as well as aircraft accidents and their investigation.

Also, among the topics to be addressed will be the most important procedures and steps for airport accreditation and licensing, the management of airport buildings and lounges, and the standards of the International Air Transport Association in the management of these buildings, in addition to discussing quality management systems in

airports, crisis and disaster management and ways to confront and fully prepare for them. This year's programme includes two training courses to round off an agreed programme with AFCAC to train about 100 trainees from African civil aviation authorities. Last year's programme included three training courses. (QNA)

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QCS concludes World Cancer Day campaign

Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) concluded the world cancer campaign, held in February and led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

QCS is a member of the UICC as well as the advisory committee for the global campaign for World Cancer Day, launched this year under the slogan "Close the Care Gap." QCS organised an awareness event called "Let's close the Care Gap," which included many awareness competitions and activities. The event also included a car rally in co-operation



with Sealine Circuit Sports Club - Mawater. The campaign included many direct and virtual educational workshops and lectures, targeting and educating several state agencies and institutions, especially schools.

There was also an awareness competition under the auspices of UICC which encouraged community members to adopt a healthy lifestyle and exercise to emphasise the role of sport in preventing cancer.



Al Jazeera Forum highlights gravity of Russia-Ukraine war for world security

QNA
Doha

The 14th Al Jazeera Forum highlighted the gravity of the Russian-Ukrainian war on world security, stressing the importance of reaching a peaceful solution to this war.

The forum's participants said the war will not radically change the structure of the international system, but it may reshape it relatively to become more pluralistic.

The forum sessions noted that putting an end to this war and restoring security and peace to the world is in the interest of the Gulf states in particular, despite the fact that it may appear to be beneficial as a result of high energy prices.

In the long run, the war will lead to global destabilisation and increase polarisation among its influential forces, which will reflect negatively on the Gulf countries later.

The 14th edition of the Al Jazeera Forum

took place under the title, 'The Middle East and the Russian War on Ukraine: Growing Crises and Opportunities', on March 11 and 12, 2023. The forum hosted an elite group of researchers, politicians and experts.

Through discussion and dialogue, this edition addressed the Russian-Ukrainian war and examined direct and indirect implications on its main parties and others who were affected by it both negatively and positively.

In this context, participants in the forum presented their reading of the distribution of power in the world a year later.

In his speech during the opening of the forum, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Media Network, Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani, noted the importance of the topic addressed by the forum, especially after the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war affected neighbouring countries and led to a rise in food prices, an influx of refugees, an intensification of the energy crisis, and a heavy shadow over international relations.



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Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Bond	Tender Fees	Closing Date	Tender Offer
AKH/SS-00491/23	Supply and Shipment of Lobster on Call Off Basis for AKH Managed Restaurants	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	March 23 rd , 2023	One-Envelope (Combined Technical & Financial)

- Company may register and obtain the Electronic Tender Documents (e-TD) upon submission of Company's copy of the following:
 - > Valid Commercial Registration (CR)
 - > Computer Card
 - > Trade License
- Interested Company may send the scanned copy of these three (3) essential documents to AKH E-mail: info@akh.com.qa
- These three (3) documents shall be the prerequisite to register as a Tenderer and to obtain the e-TD.
- **Imperative: Please put the Tender No. and Tender Title as subject in your email**
- AKH shall only accept and send the Electronic Tender Documents (e-TD) via email to interested Company who are in full compliance with the above prerequisites.
- The period for tender registration and obtaining the e-TD shall be from **March 14th, 2023 up to March 19th, 2023 (working days)**.
- All enquiries and requests related to this tender shall be officially in writing to be addressed and delivered to: **Attn: Tender Committee Chairman, Aspire Katara Hospitality, P.O. Box 10737, Doha, Qatar, Fax No. +974 4449 3901**
- Tenderer(s) may also send the scanned copy of its inquiry to AKH E-mail: info@akh.com.qa and tenders@akh.com.qa
- The last day for the Tenderer's to raise queries shall be on **March 16th, 2023** any queries after this date will be disregarded.
- Tenders are to be submitted in **duplicate (1 Original + 1 Copy) and 1 Soft Copy (scanned copy of the "Original" in PDF format)** to be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Tenders Committee Chairman of Aspire Katara Hospitality, endorsed in Arabic and English and to be deposited in the tender box of Aspire Katara Hospitality, 29th Floor, Al-Asmakh Tower, Majlis Al Taawun Street, Dafna, West Bay (Location: https://tinyurl.com/x3d8db5s)
- The closing time will be on or before **12:00 PM**, on the closing date mentioned above, any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- Offer must be valid for 120 days from the Tender Closing Date.
- The successful tenderer shall submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the Contract Sum from approved bank with a registered office in Qatar and valid until thirty (30) calendar days after the expiration of contract period.



Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tenders Announcement: -

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/03-2023	Renovation of the vinyl flooring at AL Hemaila WHC	8,500	500 Q.R	06/04/2023
2	QRC/WHC/05-2023	Contracting with a company to provide a full-time Developer.	10,000	500 Q.R	06/04/2023
3	QRC/WHC/06-2023	Contracting with a company to provide a full-time Cloud Administrator	9,000	500 Q.R	06/04/2023
4	QRC/WHC/07-2023	Miscellaneous civil works at Fereej Abdul Aziz WHC	4,000	500 Q.R	06/04/2023

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 07:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date.

Required Documents:

1. Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
2. Company's Commercial registration copy.
3. Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents (500 qrs) not refunded & account details:
 - Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
 - Bank: Al Rayan.
 - Account Number: 11199970201
 - IBAN Number: QA56MAFR000000000011199970201

For more information: please call: (50044554), or Email whc.tenders@qrcs.org.qa

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Future of healthcare in focus at WCM-Q symposium

The Institute for Population Health (IPH) at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) held a one-day symposium to discuss population health challenges and outcomes, and ways to promote health.

The symposium was designed to enable healthcare practitioners to look to the future of healthcare and sustainability, understand what equitable culturally competent patient care means, and become 'change agents' who can promote physical, mental and social well-being.

Topics under discussion included population health challenges and the emerging paradigm of health and disease, sustainability of the global lifestyle medicine movement, perspectives at the confluence of pandemics, and public health priorities in the region. In addition, an interactive panel discussion focused on public health in Qatar, the future of healthcare, required health curricula for school children, lifestyle health, and health policy and its challenges.

Event speakers included Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Ha-



Participants in the symposium.

mad al-Thani, director of the Public Health Department, Ministry of Public Health, and associate professor of clinical population health sciences at WCM-Q and Qatar University, Dr Javid Sheikh, dean, professor of psychiatry, and professor of population health sciences at WCM-Q, Dr Hanan Abdul Rahim, associate professor of public health (epidemiology) and dean of the College of Health Sciences, Qatar University, Dr Sohaila Cheema, associate professor of clinical population health sciences, and assistant dean for the IPH, WCM-Q, and Dr Ravinder Mamtani, professor of population health sciences

and vice-dean for population health and lifestyle medicine at WCM-Q, and professor of medicine at the Centre for Global Health, New York. Visiting international expert speakers included Dr Wayne Dysinger, past president, American College of Lifestyle Medicine, and CEO, Lifestyle Medical California, US, and Dr David Katz, president and founder, True Health Initiative, founder and CEO, Diet ID, Inc, and past president, American College of Preventive Medicine. Dr Mamtani said: "Data available on chronic illnesses over the past 20 to 25 years shows that we have a serious health crisis on our hands - a pan-

demic of chronic illness. The good news is that we can reduce premature mortality due to heart disease, cancer and other chronic conditions by adopting lifestyle medicine approaches like a healthy diet, physical activity, healthy sleep patterns and so on, thereby improving the health, well-being, and quality of life for a great many people, now and in the future." The symposium, titled 'Fixing the Broken Promise of Health' was accredited locally by the Department of Healthcare Professions at the MoPH and internationally by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

QU launches 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest'

Qatar University (QU) College of Business and Economics (CBE) and College of Engineering (CENG) in collaboration with the Office of Strategic Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Office (SIEED) launched the annual "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest 2023".

This year's contest is distinguished by its focus on creating business ideas and innovations that directly benefit the Qatari economy and help in building a knowledge-based economy.

This year's participating teams will have access to a training programme provided by experts on how to prepare and present effective business models and pitching the essence of their business ideas.

In addition to monetary prizes, winners will get the chance to have their ideas developed further in the SIEED's incubator through vigorous coaching and training, enabling them to develop their business plans, and possibly get funding opportunities and access to the local business community.

Dean of CENG Dr Khalid Kamal Najji, said: "The contest is designed to spread awareness



Dr Khalid Kamal Najji



Prof Rana Sobh



Dr Mahmoud Abdulwahed

Dean of CBE Prof Rana Sobh stressed the importance of innovative ideas to develop a sound business sector and ultimately contribute to the country's development and progress.

Head of Research & Policy at the CEOE Dr Boumediene Ramdani said: "Ideas will be subject to evaluation from academic and industry experts who will share their experiences with our students and assess the ideas based on their desirability in the market (33%), their viability chances of success (33%), and feasibility chances of making it happen (33%)."

In his speech, Director of SIEED, Dr Mahmoud Abdulwahed said: "We encourage all students to participate in this competition to develop their entrepreneurial skills and benefit from the workshops." (QNA)

about the importance of entrepreneurial activities, trigger the entrepreneurial skills of QU students and engage them on how to develop sound business plans. When they graduate, our students will enter a highly competitive business environment in Qatar. They have to acquire the skills and competencies to become the next leaders in the world of business. In this regard, CENG is committed to providing its students with a forum to develop their creative and innovative business ideas which will add value to their education."

Qatar: Bite by Bite author hosts discussion at QNL on culinary scene



Terry Booth at the event.

Qatar National Library (QNL) recently welcomed Terry Booth, the author of *Qatar: Bite by Bite*, for a talk on his journey from food blogger to published author. The event featured an engaging talk from Booth, followed by a Q&A session with the attendees. The author discussed his experiences writing his debut book, as well as his thoughts on the culinary scene in Qatar. As part of its writing support services, the library was also able to support the author from his concept through to publication via writing consultations and the Creative

Writing Circle sessions available at QNL. *Qatar: Bite by Bite* is a lighthearted food lovers' guide to eating out in Qatar, containing reviews of more than 100 dining establishments across the country, representing over 40 types of international cuisine. The reviews are organised by geographical area, and each chapter recounts Booth's experiences dining out, whether alone or with friends, family, or as part of a group, capturing a specific moment in time. Booth went to great lengths to highlight the best deals at some of the finest

eateries Qatar has to offer, including the country's famous weekend brunches and mid-week business lunches. He also highlighted the buy-one-get-one-free discount apps, such as Entertainer, MyBook and Urban Points, which offer a range of deals for diners across Qatar. For a complete list of QNL events, visit the Events page on the library's website (www.qnl.qa/en/events) or the QNL mobile app, which is free and available for download globally on iOS devices from the App Store and for Android from Google Play.

Action over winter camp violations

The camps affairs organising committee at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has spotted and removed a number of winter camps installed without prior licenses across different areas in the country.

The committee has also cleaned the areas after removing the camps. The ministry has affirmed that inspection campaigns at camping areas around the country is continuing to ensure that camp owners have obtained licenses from the entities concerned.

The ministry pointed out that when the license expires, the owners should remove their camps and hand over the place to the entities concerned in the same condition they had received it. The campers are not permitted to dig wells and should abide by all the other related environmental and legal regulations. The inspection patrols and campaigns are set to continue round the clock to spot any violations.

Breaking Stereotypes as Women Towards Sustainability: The Women's Circle Hosts All Female Expert Panel, Powered by Monoprix.



The Women's Circle, an exceptional initiative by Sheraton Grand Doha and Anahi, proudly commemorated International Women's Week by convening over 130 distinguished women in a space that was thoughtfully designed to honor and celebrate their remarkable achievements. The event provided a platform for attendees to connect, network and share their inspiring stories, embodying the essence of women's empowerment and solidarity. Distinguished attendees from diverse backgrounds in Qatar

came together to this awe-inspiring event to listen to a panel of renowned experts that included:
Lady Kitty Chisholm: Leadership Coach, award-winning author, keynote speaker, a Ph.D. student at the Knowledge Media Institute, OU, based in the UK
Miranda Zhao: Risk Managing Director at Lloyds Banking Group, Vital Voices Leadership Council, Inclusion and Diversity lead, based in the UK
Khadeja Albuhaliga: Youth advisor for the Minister of

Culture and Sport, UN-SDG Leader, based in Qatar
Anshu Jain: Presenter, Promoter and Curator based in Qatar
Dana Al Meer: Artist & Singer performed at the opening & closing ceremony of the biggest sports event in 2022, based in Qatar

The Women's Circle provides a safe and enriching environment for women to come together, share their experiences, discuss their journeys, and witness each other's growth. Through unique concepts and collaborations, this initiative folds under the 'Together We're Better' CSR program, inspired by Marriott's spirit to serve the community. This International Women's Day event was sponsored by Monoprix, L'Occitane en Provence, Creatives Amplified, and Golden Gazelle Chocolate. These esteemed organizations firmly believe in empowering women to reach their highest potential and fulfill their aspirations, by providing them with all

the necessary resources and support systems to become global changer makers.
Upcoming Events by The Women's Circle
April 3rd 2023: Generous Womanhood - Committing to Kindness and Charity - A suhoor event focusing on how charity can be a crucial component in sustainability and our growth as a society. Register via Eventbrite.
May 16th 2023: Talking Womanhood and Money with Malu Marsault - A conversation about financial wellness, some of the biggest abundance blocks we have, and how any woman in Qatar can start her journey towards Financial Freedom, regardless of their circumstances and at their own pace. Register via Eventbrite.
June 7th 2023: Women in Career - Balancing Ambition, Profession and Social Life - A conversation about work-life balance and how women can achieve harmony with their professional choices and personal lives. Register via Eventbrite.

Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas welcomes the Holy Month of Ramadan with Ramadan nights like nowhere else



This year, Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas is offering a one-of-a-kind opportunity for guests to experience true Ramadan hospitality. With a collection of rooms, villas, Iftar and Suhoor packages, guests can celebrate the essence of the season with friends, families and colleagues in unique setting like nowhere else.

The accommodation offerings feature contemporary interpretations of Arabian décor and guests can choose between elegant rooms with private balconies and terraces with sea views or lush gardens, beach front villas or Arabian Village Townhouses. Ramadan accommodation offerings start at QAR999 for rooms and QAR 3250 for Villas and include Iftar, Suhoor and water park access. "This year with Ramadan Nights,

our goal is to ensure families and friends are able to celebrate the spirit of togetherness and create long lasting unforgettable memories. Our exclusive Room, Villa, Iftar and Suhoor offerings have been carefully curated to truly reflect the season. On behalf of the entire team and myself, I wish you all a Ramadan Kareem," says General Manager Etienne-Charles Gailliez.

Guests can enjoy a selection of authentic flavours from the Iftar buffet at Souk Kitchen or opt for Suhoor offering at Levantine. Both selections include a wide variety of Arabic and international dishes with mouthwatering desserts. The buffet station for Iftar will be available from sunset till 10:30pm daily at Souk Kitchen for QAR198. For Suhoor, guests can enjoy the evening breeze and the Arabian Village

courtyard at Levantine with a buffet for QAR100. Suhoor is available from 9:00pm till 2:00am.

Adding to the Ramadan Nights ambiance and to create various activities around the resort, the water park Desert Falls Water and Adventure Park will be also open all throughout the holy month for both in-house guests and the general public.





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Despite bravado, Biden chafes at age scrutiny

With voters and opponents raising concerns over Joe Biden's advanced age as he ramps up a still-unofficial 2024 campaign, the 80-year-old president frequently parries such jabs with uneasy humour.

"All the years I was a senator — which were 270..." he joked about his decades-long political career during a speech earlier this month, making a crack at his own expense.

In the face of what is his main handicap in the eyes of voters, the US president, who would be 86 at the end of a second term, has mostly leaned on bravado.

"Look at me!" he says each time he's posed a question on the subject by journalists, underlining his stamina after two years in one of the world's toughest political jobs.

Often, the Democratic leader, who has not officially declared his plans to run but is widely expected to do so, makes the point of taking a few jogging strides before ducking into his helicopter or plane as photographers snap their images.

After a speech, whether to Congress or on a foreign visit, he now often lingers to shake hands, chat and take selfies, as if to show he is undaunted by a new presidential campaign, a gruelling exercise if ever there were one.

"Do you think I need it?" he joked to the press last autumn when asked about the date of his annual medical check-up.

After carrying out the physical exam in February, the presidential physician made assurances that Biden was in good health and "fit for duty."

In a recent interview with CNN, First Lady Jill Biden made it clear it was out of the question for her husband to undergo the mental competency tests required by Republicans for candidates over the age of 75 hoping to clinch their party's nomination.

For the current president, a key re-election campaign challenge would be to find the right tone about his age

"We would never even discuss something like that," she said, dryly.

Despite the bluster, however, the president knows the issue could not be more serious: according to a Yahoo News/YouGov poll conducted in late February, 65% of Americans consider him "too old" for a second term.

But Biden does not shy away from making the occasional joke about the subject that long been taboo among his supporters.

In the March speech at the International Association of

Fire Fighters Legislative Conference, Biden joked that when he was first elected to the Senate in 1972, he "had a little bit of hair."

He even ventured a joke last Monday about a sensitive topic: the operation he underwent in 1988 for brain aneurysms.

"They had to take the top of my head off a couple times, see if I had a brain," said the president, who is notorious for gaffes and has been labelled senile by some Republicans.

Former president Ronald Reagan was also attacked for his age while campaigning for a second term.

The Republican, who was 73 years old — making him the oldest sitting president in US history at the time — also leaned on humour during a 1984 televised debate.

"I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience," he said, in a still-famous quip.

For the current president, a key re-election campaign challenge would be to find the right tone about his age — a matter of numbers but also of perception.

According to the Yahoo News/YouGov poll, only 45% of Americans think ex-president Donald Trump would be too old for a second term, despite him not being much younger than Biden at 76 years old.

Biden, however, will likely want to ensure he is the only one cracking jokes about his age.

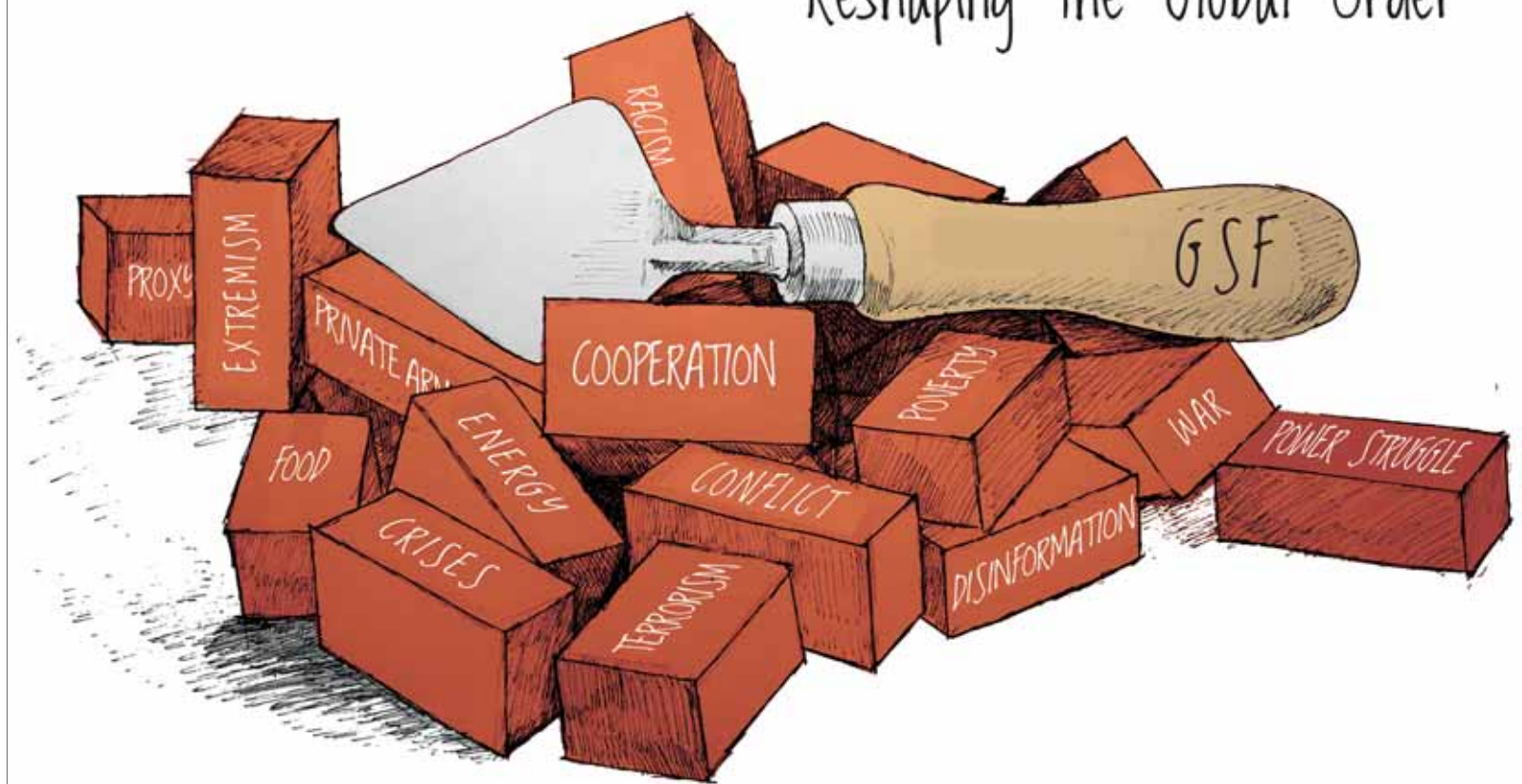
The *Wall Street Journal* noted in a recent article that big-name TV comedians, who until now had mostly spared Biden, had begun to aim more digs at the president.

Jimmy Kimmel, host of a late-night eponymous show on ABC, mocked the recent discovery of classified documents in the president's garage, next to his sports car.

"Which is more dangerous, Joe Biden having classified documents in his garage, or Joe Biden having the keys to a Corvette?" — AFP



Reshaping the Global Order



Tearing down the Big Tech's walls globally

By Margrethe Vestager
Brussels



In the coming months, new laws — the first of their kind anywhere in the world — will come into force in Europe to hold Big Tech companies accountable to the societies where they operate and do business. At this point, we have all heard about the dangers that large online platforms pose to our lives, to our democracies, to our children's mental health, and to economic competition. Now, the European Union is doing something about it.

With each of these threats, the same basic processes are at work. Algorithms narrow down conversations to small groups of data-determined "friends," while gatekeepers narrow down online markets to benefit themselves. With such narrowing comes the risk that we will lose track of the broader world, and the broader market, around us.

For decades, tech platforms were left mostly free to do as they wished, and there was very little legislation to limit them as they seized ever-greater control of the world's information channels. But that began to change a few years ago, when the EU spearheaded a global effort to restore some balance to the digital economy, by ensuring fairness and basic protections for people.

Privacy was the first issue of concern. With major platforms boosting their revenues to record highs by amassing

user data, it was clear that our conception of privacy needed to be modernised. Privacy thus became a non-negotiable right for everyone in Europe. As citizens, we — and only we — now set the boundaries of what we do or do not share about ourselves.

This understanding of privacy as a fundamental right was enshrined in the EU's 2016 General Data Protection Regulation. With the GDPR, Europe was setting a course for democracy to catch up with technology. Today, there is no going back to how things were before the law. The EU's landmark legislation has since inspired similar frameworks in other jurisdictions around the world.

Following closely on the heels of this initial data-privacy initiative came the Cambridge Analytica scandal, when we learned that Facebook had shared 87m user profiles with a researcher who then provided that data to a political consultancy that was working for Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. Suddenly, we all began to wonder whether our digital lives were safe, and to what extent we were being surveilled, influenced, and manipulated online.

Brick by brick, the wall of pseudo-neutrality that the platforms had hidden behind — often claiming that they are mere "pipes" for passing along information — was being dismantled. It was becoming increasingly obvious that the Big Tech companies should take responsibility for the content that they and their algorithms disseminate to the body politic. We responded by establishing this responsibility loud and clear in the Digital Services Act, which

was first presented in December 2020.

The DSA is the central piece of EU legislation that will soon regulate how content is treated on major digital platforms. It requires platforms to remove all illegal content, while also ensuring that their users' freedom of expression remains untouched. It also addresses how platforms use algorithms to determine what we do and do not get to see. We are currently in the process of designating which large platforms and search engines will be subject to these DSA provisions before they enter into force this fall.

The last major issue that the EU's new digital legislation will tackle is the lack of healthy competition in the tech sector. Over the past few years, regulators have pursued important cases against large online platforms, some of which have increased public awareness about the platforms' undue market power. But as digital markets have become more complex, we have needed new systemic tools to supplement the usual antitrust instruments.

The Digital Markets Act was drafted to address this need. It features a list of "dos and don'ts" aimed at preventing so-called gatekeeper platforms from abusing their position in digital markets, and enabling some space for new entrants to compete with incumbents on their merits. Just as the DSA will officially articulate platforms' responsibilities toward their users, the DMA will establish their responsibilities toward other — often smaller — market participants. The result will be a more vibrant, more innovative, and fairer tech market.

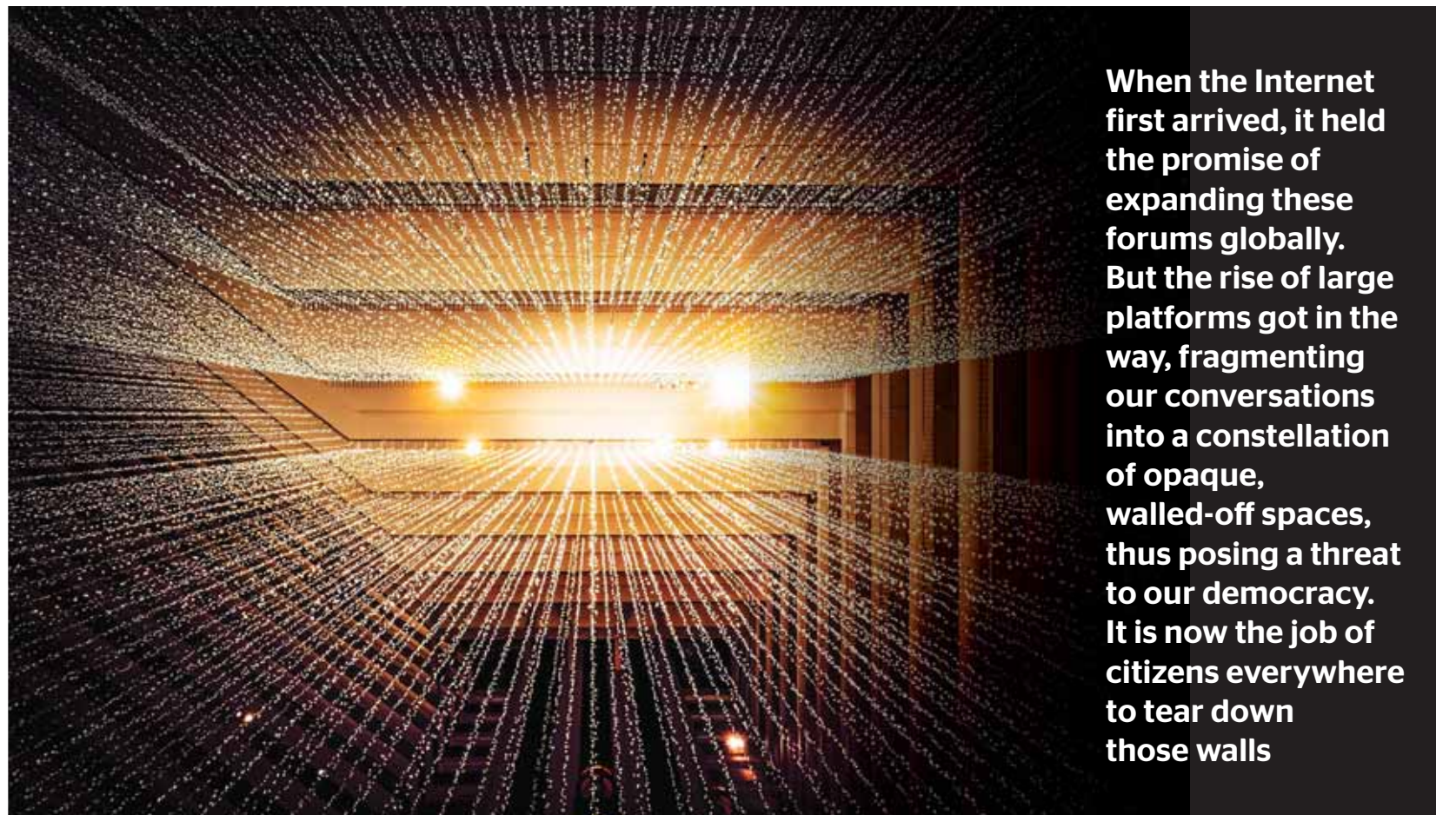
We passed this legislation in record time. Throughout the process, we made sure that our work was guided by values, rather than by the underlying technology. This matters, because while technologies change all the time, values do not.

We are proud that Europe has become the cradle of tech regulation globally. It has been gratifying to see similar laws being drafted in countries that share our democratic and humanist values, and we remain eager to co-ordinate our own regulatory and rule-making efforts with others. The EU-US Trade and Technology Council, launched in 2021, was one early example of how we can deepen international co-operation to ensure that technologies work for everyone. We have now established similar partnerships with India, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea.

For democracy to thrive, it needs open spaces where people can talk, disagree, contradict one another, and find common solutions. In the past, we had public squares, elected chambers, universities, and cafes. When the Internet first arrived, it held the promise of expanding these forums globally. But the rise of large platforms got in the way, fragmenting our conversations into a constellation of opaque, walled-off spaces, thus posing a threat to our democracy.

It is now the job of citizens everywhere to tear down those walls.
— Project Syndicate

● Margrethe Vestager is Executive Vice-President of the European Commission.



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'Ukraine conflict accelerated energy transition'

By Shafeeq Ailngal
Staff Reporter

The energy crisis caused by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has resulted in energy source diversification while accelerating energy transition, experts opined at the Global Security Forum (GSF) yesterday.

Addressing a session on *Fostering Energy Security Amid Shifting Geopolitical Dynamics*, Dr Damilola Olawuyi, professor and Unesco chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)'s College of Law, noted that the Ukraine events showed the need for diversification of energy sources, with



The session in progress.

many European countries looking to Qatar and Nigeria for oil and gas.

The session reflected on the global energy situation and the implications of regional dynamics and implications of the ongoing war in Ukraine for Europe, the Middle East and other actors.

"The world can't rely on one source any more. Qatar was able to step in to address the crisis. It resulted in energy transition," he said, adding that the events underlined that without energy

security there is no global security. Dr Olawuyi emphasised that there should be focus on the climate change emergency just like the energy poverty emergency, adding that these emergencies, if not addressed, would worsen the

threat to global security.

While talking about the energy transition, he said that there is a trend in the making where renewable energy superpowers are being formed.

"Qatar is leading the new trend," he said. "The country is investing over \$1bn in a blue ammonia project and a number of innovative projects are in the making to promote renewable energy." "Countries in the region are taking the lead while concentrating efforts in energy transition," he added. "Several institutions are engaged in research on renewable energy and energy transition, and Qatar will be a hub of research on renewable energy."

Dr Carolyn Kissane, assistant dean at the New York University Centre for

Global Affairs, said the energy crisis is not over, noting that the crisis is ongoing in Eastern Europe and there is a real concern looming over next winter.

Rapid Energy Group chief executive Scott Modell said the world is witnessing protests due to oil price hikes.

Frank Fannon, former US assistant secretary of state for energy resources, noted that political unrest creates high energy prices.

He said that the energy crisis is accelerating the energy transition, adding that there is a need for constructive and comprehensive engagement with producing countries in the Gulf.

Paul Wallace of Middle East Energy and Commodities at Bloomberg, moderated the session.

GSF panel highlights implications of Ukraine war

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

A panel discussion at the Global Security Forum (GSF) 2023, which got underway at Sheraton Doha yesterday, explored the implications arising out of the conflict in Ukraine.

Titled *War in Ukraine: Impacts & Implications*, the discussion provided insights into what is currently happening at the warfront, and reflected on the current state and future prospects of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

In addition to the traditional military dimensions of the conflict, participants discussed the role and impact of various state and non-state

actors and the implications for global security.

The participants at the session were Soufan Centre senior fellow Nathan Sales, chair of the Resilience Track at the Warsaw Security Forum Dr Bilyana Lilly, and Dr Kacper Rekawek, post-doctoral fellow at the University of Oslo Centre for Research on Extremism.

The session was moderated by Jason Blazakis, senior research fellow at the Soufan Centre.

Sales noted that it is critical to defend Ukraine, warning that otherwise it could spread to many other areas.

"What happens in Ukraine will not stop there," he warned. "It is critical to remind people why and how this war is critical to defending their own values and interests."

"It is a war waged on the cyber world so



fiercely," Sales added. "Russia has been targeting the supporters of Ukraine with cyber-attacks and phishing."

"Russia has increased its social media presence over the past year through several social media handles in a number of languages," Dr Lilly said. "Phishing campaigns against North



Participants at the discussion. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) members supporting Ukraine have increased by 300%, which shows the vast activity that has been happening in cyberspace."

According to Rekawek, there is a huge community of humanitarians who provide all sorts of support for the Ukrainian frontline.

He noted that the war, if prolonged, could be far more problematic.

"The longer the war goes on in Ukraine, the greater the risk of certain movements within Russia, where far-right groups dissatisfied with progress on the frontlines are likely to foment violence and instability," he added.

Arab, international filmmakers celebrate Qumra 2023

Filmmakers from the region and beyond, whose projects are nurtured at Qumra, highlighted its role as "one of a kind" and "very important for the world today" to build new voices in cinema, and lauded the Doha Film Institute (DFI)'s support for enhancing the credibility of their projects.

This year, Qumra is mentoring 44 films, including feature narratives, documentaries, Web series and shorts from 23 countries, as part of the DFI's mission to accelerate the success of emerging filmmakers and enable them to take their projects to audiences around the world.

The selected Qumra projects stand out

for their powerful, original, and creative themes and cinematic sensibilities.

One such project is the Web series *Miara* (Morocco, Qatar), directed by Talal Selhami and Jawad Lahlou.

Set in 8th century North Africa, it is about a young Berberian woman who discovers that her murdered father was a fallen Viking king.

"Recreating the period is a painstaking process, which is why financing is central to accomplishing this," said Selhami. "We have already filmed the pilot, and the encouragement we receive from Qumra is exceptional."

"We hope to engage with more producers

and this platform offers us that opportunity," he added.

Merging the worlds of cinema and dance, *Backstage* (Morocco, Tunisia, Belgium, France) by Afef Ben Mahmoud and Khalil Benkirane is about Aida, a member of a contemporary dance troupe that is touring Morocco.

Mahmoud said she drew on her experience as a professional dancer and theatre for the film.

The challenge in their journey was financing.

"Today, we are close to landing our 'ship' safely by the shore," she said.

Benkirane said that Qumra brings the

crème la de crème of the film industry to mentor emerging projects.

Amanda Nell Eu, director of *Tiger Stripes* (Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Indonesia, Qatar), said being at Qumra has given her a wide rope to network with distributors, film festival directors and other professionals.

Laila Abbas from Palestine, who is currently in the production stage of her film *Thank You for Banking with Us!* (Germany, Palestine, Qatar), received initial funding from the DFI.

"When a very credible organisation like the DFI steps in to support you, it makes it easier for others to follow," she said.



DFI artistic adviser Elia Suleiman, chief executive Fatma AlRemaihi, Qumra Master Sir Christopher Hampton, and director of strategy and development and deputy director Hanaa Issa at the Qumra Masterclass photocall.

play's film rights, and soon would enter a race against time to make into a film with Milos Forman, the director of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, who had also expressed his desire to make the novel into a film.

Shot and screened in less than seven months, the film was a breakout moment for Sir Christopher in international cinema.

Making *Carrington*, Sir Christopher said, was not an easy journey either.

From script to screen, it took 18 long years.

Highlighting the value that talented professionals bring to a project, he observes that work-

ing with French cinematographer Denis Lenoir gave the film a distinctive look and feel.

"Lenoir used a technique called flashing, which gave the film a milky sheen and the characters progressively growing older organically without using make-up," he explained.

Sir Christopher says that there is also a large section of films in his life that were never made.

One such was *Nostramo* that was all set to go, but did not materialise with the passing of Sir David Lean, who had invested many years in the project.

However, he acquired many invaluable lessons.

'Focus on power of narrative'

Academy Award-winning screenwriter and director, Qumra Master Sir Christopher Hampton, told emerging scriptwriters and directors to visualise their film frame-by-frame as they write and focus on the power of storytelling.

Addressing the participants of his masterclass at Qumra 2023, the annual industry talent incubator event by the Doha Film Institute (DFI), Sir Christopher reiterated the need for paying attention to all the cinematic necessities right from the scripting stage, and underlined the need to have the best professionals, including actors and crew, to create an engaging film.

"Hire the best people, then let them do their best and intervene as little as possible," he said. "Many first-time directors make the mistake of trying to do everything, thinking that they know everything and try to impose their personality into their projects."

Sir Christopher won the Academy Award for Best Adapted

Screenplay for *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988), directed by Stephen Frears, and a second win in the same category for his screenplay and adaptation of Ian McEwan's *Atonement* (2007), directed by Joe Wright.

He debuted as director with *Carrington* (1995) about the life of painter Dora Carrington, which he also wrote, as well as *Imagining Argentina* (2003) that explored the "forced disappearances" of more than 30,000 people.

With a distinguished oeuvre spanning theatre and film, and a series, *The Singapore Grip*, he told the emerging talent "to do a film, write a script, only when you really want to do it".

It is important to have training across the spectrum.

Born in Portugal, Sir Christopher spent a good part of his childhood in Alexandria, Egypt, where he used to watch at least three movies every week with his father, who was a film enthusiast.

"Going to the movies, probably, made me want to be a writer."

This initial interest was deepened at the boarding school in England, where there were weekly film screenings, "and these films were extremely influential on everybody's thinking at that time".

Sir Christopher started his career at the Royal Court Theatre.

His breakthrough in films was with *Dangerous Liaisons*, based on his own play *Les liaisons dangereuses*, which again was adapted from the 1782 French novel by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos.

When Sir Christopher won a commission from the Royal Shakespeare Company, he decided to take the chance and make the play.

Although planned to be staged at a swanky new theatre, it was demoted to a standard 150-seater.

Sir Christopher calls that serendipitous, like the many strokes of luck, he says, that had defined his career.

"The play worked so well in the smaller space and attracted enormously positive reviews," he says. Sir Christopher held on to the

Oryx Group for Food Services hold beach cleaning



Leading food and beverage company Oryx Group for Food Services recently organised a cleaning activity on Al Wakra beach.

About 70 Oryx Group staff, including employees from Nando's Qatar, Ocean Basket, and Captain Billy's, participated. The initiative was part of the company's ongoing commitment to sustainability and community care, said Oryx Group human

resource manager Tabrez Paloji. The beach cleaning was held under the supervision and support of the Ministry of Municipality, which ensured that the activity was conducted in an effective manner, with proper waste disposal and adherence to environmental regulations. The activity was conducted under the #leavenotrace campaign, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of

keeping beaches clean. Oryx Group is committed to making a positive impact on the environment and the community, and Nando's Qatar and Ocean Basket share the same values. "We are proud of our staff who participated and showed their dedication to making a difference. We believe that by working together, we can create a cleaner, more sustainable future," Paloji added.

QCC to present *A Musical Mosaic*

The Qatar Concert Choir (QCC) will present *A Musical Mosaic*, its first public concert of the year, on March 21 at 7pm at the United School International Auditorium in the Pearl.

Given that the QCC draws its singers from all over the world and from a multitude of cultural backgrounds, artistic director Giovanni Pasini has chosen music representing a range of countries and styles, a statement said.

Together, the songs create a glorious picture of music through the centuries, from ancient Arabian melodies through to Disney musicals, and from opera to the rock opera of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

The performance includes guest appearances from the French soprano Fabienne Conrad, percussionist George Oro, and Qatar's Cinemoon Ensemble



The Qatar Concert Choir

(part of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra).

"It's also our first concert in the United School International," said QCC president Baatrice van

der Haert. "We're really excited to be performing in such a wonderful new venue."

More information is available on the QCC website.

Three winners of Arab Award for 'Political Culture' Research named

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The three winners of the Arab Award for Encouraging Research in the Social and Human Sciences were announced yesterday at the conclusion of the three-day conference on Social and Human Sciences, held by the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies in Doha.

Award committee chairman Dr Abdel-Wahhab al-Afandi presented the 2021/2023 session results. The winners were selected from the 10 shortlisted research papers, out of a total of 20.

The awards were distributed by HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani and Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies director-general Dr Azmi Bishara.

Dr Ahmed Abu El-Ela won an award for his research on *The Political Culture of Nubian Youth in Egypt: The Nubian Movement Towards the Issue of Return as a Model*.

The second award went to Dr Saeed al-Haji for his research on *Consensus in the Culture of the Moroccan Political Elite: On the Relationship between*

the Determinants of Consensus and Democratic Transformation in Morocco.

The third award was won by Dr Mohamed Naimi for his research on *Political Culture and Protest Collective Action in the Context of the Arab Uprisings (2011-2019)*.

The Arab Award for Social Sciences and Humanities was launched by the Arab Centre in 2011 to encourage creative scientific research on the development of Arab societies in the field of social and human sciences.

It is held every two years.

More than 250 papers have competed for the Arab Award in its nine sessions, and more than 50 researchers from various Arab countries have received recognition, namely Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine, Syria and Algeria.

At the conclusion of the award ceremony, Dr Bishara introduced the theme for the 10th session for the Social and Human Sciences Conference and for the Arab Award for Encouraging Research in the Social and Human Sciences, which will be *Social Media: Dialectic of Freedom of Expression, Censorship and Regulation*.



HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani with officials and winners of the Arab Award.

More rain expected today

Cloudy conditions and light to moderate rain were reported from Doha and other places in Qatar yesterday. The conditions also turned thundery in some places at times. Today's forecast says thundery rain is expected in offshore areas along with strong winds and high seas at first. The wind speed may go up to 25 knots in these areas at first, with the sea level rising to 8'. The forecast for inshore areas says hazy and cloudy conditions are expected today and there is a chance of scattered rain in the early hours.

The temperature is expected to range from 20-26° Celsius in Doha today. Pictured are cloudy and rainy conditions in the Qatar capital yesterday.

PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Expatriate workforce, Qatarisation discussed at Shura Council session

- Hiring of Qataris in private sector sees five-fold increase in past year
- Draft law stipulates penalties for establishments violating Qatarisation rules
- Labour ministry working to implement seven initiatives to attract and classify expatriate workers
- MoL in the process of establishing national centre for accreditation and testing of professions and skills for expat workers

The Shura Council held its regular weekly meeting yesterday at Tamim bin Hamad Hall under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem.

In the presence of HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Saeed bin Smaikh al-Marri, the Shura Council discussed the Ministry of Labour (MoL)'s efforts in terms of the Qatarisation of jobs in the private sector, qualifying the national workforce, attracting and classifying expatriate workers, regulating labour recruitment offices and the progress made in developing the ministry's electronic services and digital transformation towards simplifying and facilitating procedures for citizens and companies.

HE the Speaker and the Shura Council members welcomed HE the Minister of Labour, praising the efforts made by the MoL to improve its services with the aim of developing the labour market, qualifying national cadres, and realising the partnership between the public and private sectors.

In his presentation to the members of the Shura Council, HE Dr al-Marri said that the ministry is working on an "axis" to attract and classify expatriate workers, which will contribute to increasing productivity in the work environment, through vital initiatives that will provide classification methods for workers, the extent of their skills, and the need of the local market for them.

He explained that organising the expatriate workforce in the local market will have a fundamental role in benefiting from the existing labour skills, in addition to increasing the rate of attracting skilled workers.

The minister stressed that these measures will work to reduce the percentage of non-skilled workers and replace them with skilled workers that benefit employers and increase the productive capacity of the private sector.

HE Dr al-Marri revealed that the ministry is working on the implementation of seven initiatives to attract and classify expatriate workers, including the launch of the Qatari guide for classifying occupations, the labour rotation programme, a programme pertaining to "talent visas", and the provision of different types of work permits based on workers' skill levels.

Meanwhile, the minister confirmed that hiring Qataris in the private sector during the past year increased by about five-fold to reach 1,850 employees, while the number of establishments that co-operated with the Qatarisation programme reached 331 in various sectors.

He said that the Ministry of Labour is implementing six initiatives within the Qatarisation programme in the private sector, and noted that these initiatives take into account various aspects of job creation, holding training programmes for citizens and strengthening communication with private sector establishments to achieve the desired goals.

HE Dr al-Marri pointed out that the draft law on the Qatarisation of jobs in the private sector, which was approved in principle by the cabinet in February, addresses many of the challenges facing the Ministry of Labour in increasing the rate of hiring Qataris in the sector.

He explained that the draft law gives the MoL more flexibility in the field of attracting and motivating Qataris, and hiring them in the private sector, and also created legal frameworks to encourage companies to hire citizens.

HE Dr al-Marri also explained that the draft law grants the Minister of Labour regulatory powers to implement the law by



The Shura Council meeting in progress.

setting conditions, incentives, facilities and privileges, setting conditions and controls for training Qatari students, and approving scholarship policies in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

He stressed that a set of penalties will be imposed on violating establishments under the new draft law.

The ministry has the right to issue warnings as well as sanction and fine violating companies.

HE added that the work environment requires offering some incentives, facilities and privileges to attract Qataris to the private sector.

HE Dr al-Marri also said the ministry is in the process of establishing a national centre for accreditation and testing of professions and skills for expatriate workers.

On another issue, the minister said the main priorities of the MoL include the development of policies and procedures of labour recruitment offices, by finding solutions to the most important challenges facing the ministry's teams in implementing the development and modernisation policy for the recruitment offices sector.

HE Dr al-Marri said that the MoL has implemented a series of measures to improve the work environment and preserve the rights of employers, indicating that it was decided to extend the probation period for domestic workers from three to nine months, and set the maximum cost for the recruitment of domestic workers to prevent exaggeration in prices, while also studying the application of insurance for domestic workers.

He noted that the ministry carried out inspection campaigns at recruitment offices and places that might employ runaway workers, informing that the licences of 54 recruitment offices were revoked as part of its ongoing inspection campaigns to ensure the application of the law and ministerial decisions.

Regarding the digital transformation programme, HE the Minister of Labour explained that the programme constituted a qualitative leap in the speed of development, and launch and delivery of high-quality services to the public.

It mainly contributed to reducing the time for completing transactions, in addition to establishing an effective information link with some government agencies related to the work of the ministry.

He confirmed that the number of services that have been offered since the launch of the Digital Transformation Unit last May amounted to about 30 electronic services, highlighting the ministry's preparedness during the coming period to launch a package of new services of interest to a large segment of the public.

The Shura Council members appreciated the role of the Ministry of Labour, stressing their keenness to support the MoL in its efforts to improve the reality of the labour market.

They focused on the role of the private sector in absorbing national cadres, and the need to reorganise recruitment offices, in a way that guarantees the rights of all parties, noting the developments in laws and legislation related to this aspect.

They also highlighted the role of the private sector in supporting national efforts in terms of development, and the role of partnerships between the public and private sectors in absorbing national competencies and cadres, and qualifying them for the labour market.

The members drew attention to complaints related to some of these offices violating the requirements and laws of the MoL, highlighting the importance of intensifying efforts to monitor and audit them.

Further, they demanded that private sector companies, particularly large and semi-governmental companies, attract retired citizens to fill job vacancies and hire people with disabilities in the private sector, in light of their functional skills and capabilities.

They called on the MoL to strengthen its efforts to set regulatory controls and regulations, and take the necessary measures to curb the phenomenon of runaway labourers because of the material, social and cultural damage it causes to society.

Members of the Shura Council also touched on the developments taking place in the country regarding the digitisation of services provided to the public, pointing out that the MoL is one of the bodies to which the interests of a large segment of citizens and residents are linked.

They stressed the need to take the necessary measures to enhance the ministry's services, provide them electronically, reduce the necessary steps to complete them, and exempt users from having to visit the ministry's offices to complete them, by taking advantage of the country's advanced digital infrastructure. - QNA

Fire Station: Artist in Residence opens two exhibitions

The Fire Station: Artist in Residence opened two exhibitions yesterday, during Qatar Creates week, by Qatar-based artists titled *Picnic '88* and *Curator in Residence 2023*, on display until May 14 at Gallery 3 and Gallery 4.

Picnic '88, by Kuwaiti/Qatari artist Anfal Alkandari, continues the conversation of the inner child theme and parallel universes.

The installation is a reimagination of a picnic that she had in 1988 at the age of six.

The second exhibition, *Curator in Residence 2023*, highlights the research and process of two residents of the Curator in Residence programme, Ahmad Soliman (Egypt) and Abdulla al-Mutairi (Kuwait).

The programme launched in 2020, allows regional and international curators to apply for a three-month residency at the Fire Station.

In collaboration with Qatar - Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) 2022 Year of Culture, Fire Station accepted four curators for the years 2022-2023.

Soliman's project, titled *By the Sun and its Radiant Brightness*, started during the Curator in Residence programme at the Fire Station, and are paintings that aim to highlight the diversity of plant species in Qatar.

The exhibition will also include an archive of dried plants part of Soliman's continuous research and process.



In parallel, al-Mutairi's project will present scanned photographs and handwritten documents from Kuwaiti artist Khalifa al-Qattan's personal archive.

Al-Mutairi's research gives a glimpse into al-Qattan's influence in the Arabian Peninsula during the Modern period.



The display will shed light on the art scene in the region from pre-independence to the year 2000.

In a press statement, Fire Station director Khalifa Ahmad al-Obaidli said: "We invite the public to join us in experiencing these thought-provoking and inspiring exhibitions



at Fire Station Artist in Residence?"

Alkandari was a resident at Cité internationale des arts in Paris as part of the nine-month Paris Residency Programme at the Fire Station (2022).

Her work has been exhibited at the Fire Station, Al-markhiya Gallery and Ajyal Film Festival.

Soliman is a writer, illustrator, designer and researcher from Egypt.

He has a background in biological sciences, botany, plant taxonomy, archaeology and Egyptology.

He contributed to book publishing, developed content of visual materials, participated in illustration exhibitions, organised workshops, conducted lectures and received many awards.

Al-Mutairi, an artist and writer based in Kuwait and a founding member of the contemporary art collective "GCC".

His writing has been featured in publications such as the *Journal of Arabian Studies* and *ArtAsiaPacific*, and his work has been exhibited at institutions such as Sharjah Art Foundation, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Fridericianum in Kassel, Germany.

Entry to the exhibitions will be free for adult residents of Qatar or GCC countries.

Garage Gallery hours - Saturday to Thursday: 9am-7pm, Friday: 1.30pm-7pm.